

NEWSLETTER - March 1959. Sixteen years ago, when our first class was enrolled, we were in the midst of the Second World War. Equipment was nearly impossible to find and our farm mechanization consisted of an old John Deere tractor, Model AR, which was given the school by the United Fruit Company division at Tiquisate, Guatemala. When it arrived, it was already 9 years old and our students immediately gave it the nickname of Payaso (clown).

Through the years we have become more mechanized and now have ten tractors, numerous mowers, sprayers, etc. While the Payaso watched this development and gradually became a museum piece, he never missed a day's work and every graduate of the school practiced with him. He suffered nobly the abuse our novice students gave him (gasoline more than once was put in his radiator and oil in the gas tank), and through it all his steady chug-chug never lost a beat. One of the first things returning graduates ask is "Where's the Payaso?"

This month we graduate the Class of 1959. We believe it to be one of our best classes. Its work has been uniformly good and each member has contributed much to the development of the School. Like the Payaso, it has not only seen the School change, but it has helped with that change. Our students spend their last year in the Animal Husbandry Department and our graduating seniors have been a part of considerable change in that department.

For instance, this past year they have helped with our new beef cattle herd of Santa Gertrudis, purchased as the result of the Norris farms of Ocala, Florida giving us a special price for the prize animals. The class was the first group of students in Latin America to work with imported frozen semen, and a specially built freezer will shortly arrive to better teach the course they started. New breeding stock was imported for our swine department and the 59's will be the ones to say they initiated our change from Hampshires to Durocs. And while they had the unpleasantness of working in our creamery while it was being remodeled (a new ice plant, five new walk-in refrigerators, a new ice cream section--but, alas, the milk homogenizer did not arrive in time for them to use), they had the pleasure of initiating its work.

As the Class of 1959 leaves, we have decided to let progress pass by the Payaso and put him to pasture. The Class of 1959 felt that a true pioneer should be recognized and built him a fitting monument to which the 25 year old tractor traveled under his own power. The monument's bronze plaque says:

P A Y A S O
Pionero de Nuestra Mecanización
Descanza Has Triunfado*
Clase 1959

And we see a similar future triumph for the Class of 1959 which to each of us has clearly demonstrated its ability for success.

(*Pioneer of our mechanization, rest, you have triumphed)