



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1957. Visitors to the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana always have an opportunity to see the field work of our students and to become familiar with the work of our professors. But there is one important group here that visitors seldom hear about.

The wives of the staff members!

They are every bit as interesting a group as are the professors. The variety of personalities present in this cosmopolitan (there are seven nationalities) group of wives might be reflected in the commonplace manner of greeting, which may be buenos días, qué tal vos, hola, adiós, or Hi! Methods and recipes for food preparation bring forth more divergent views--such as how to make Tamales, the universal Central American dish. Is it with rice, only with corn masa, raisins or no, meat and a spicy hot sauce or sweet with prunes? Some say black beans are the best, others red beans and others no beans.

Such may give a hint of the variegated customs found among the wives of the staff members--all adding up to a charming whole.

But it is interesting to note that no matter what the unique customs may be of each person or nationality, there are certain common activities that occupy the life of any home maker, whether in Zamorano or a New York City suburb.

Home, husband and children place first on the list. They take an active part in the welfare of our local school which is supported equally by the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana and the parents of the 23 children in it. Our facilities for children need greater development, and the wives are working towards this with the three teachers we employ for their school. We have more than 30 pre-school age children who will soon be starting school, making our present facilities inadequate. Thus, the wives are developing a new school plan for us.

And then there is the universal compassion for the needy which finds expression in our group also. For the past five years the wives have been actively helping a small village, Jicarito, which is on our property (it was here long before the school). While the school owns all of the houses and property of Jicarito we have allowed the families to continue using the houses since they had no place to move. We try to employ as many as possible, but there are still several hundred in the village who have no employment.

The wives of our staff have done, and are doing, a remarkable job with these people. And in so doing have helped the school. For instance, to raise money, they have a movie every Saturday night (admission 25¢) which is highly appreciated entertainment for the students. Incidentally, if any boy lacks the money for the movie, the wives have given the Inspector a pocketfull of tickets to pass out "on the quiet". From the proceeds there has been money for emergency medicines when there has been an outbreak of whooping cough in Jicarito, and for an annual Christmas basket. Last year, the wives prepared 120 baskets which, among other things, contained two blankets! More recently the wives have become an arm of the international CARE organization distributing food to Jicarito. This month, for instance, the women distributed 1060 pounds of red beans, 740 pounds of dried milk and 1200 pounds of rice, which was actually hard, physical work.

The wives deserve considerable credit for the success of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana and we hereby give it to them!