

At the end of November we reported that we were commencing work on the selection of students for 1948. At that time 272 applicants had qualified and were up for consideration. During December 24 new applications were received. Toward the end of this month the Director interviewed personally a good many of the applicants in Guatemala and El Salvador. After the end of the school year - 28 February - a trip will be made to Panama and Costa Rica for the same purpose. While we find it helpful to interview applicants personally we are convinced that impressions thus obtained must be checked against information from other sources. At best it is impossible to make no mistakes in the selection of students, but as time goes on, and we gain experience, we believe mistakes should be reduced to a minimum.

Silo No. 1 was opened on the 12th of the month as our pastures are beginning to show the results of dry weather. With the addition of a new silo this year we believe we shall have sufficient ensilage to maintain our milk production at a satisfactory figure for six months. This will carry us through the dry season in good shape. Four of our pure-bred Hampshire sows farrowed during the month. Work continued on the construction of a small building for the goat dairy. We are rapidly building up a herd of Toggenburg and Nubian goats, and crosses between these two breeds. Some of the Toggenburgs have given as much as three quarts of milk daily, which is just about as much as is produced by many cows in this country under the usual conditions of feeding.

Five hundred pounds of seed corn, Venezuela No. 1, were given to the Comisión Nacional de Alimentación y Agricultura at Tegucigalpa for distribution to farmers. The vegetable garden is back in fine condition again, after the usual difficulties caused by the late summer rains. A good crop of celery was harvested, and Great Lakes lettuce is doing exceptionally well. We are surprised to find that heads can be produced at this altitude which are comparable in quality to the best Iceberg types grown in the United States.

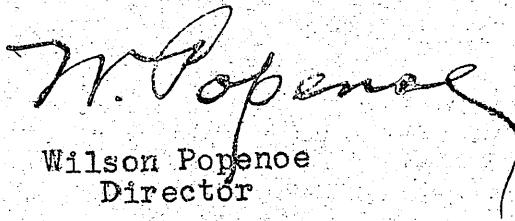
Rainfall for the year totalled 44.44 inches, distributed by months as follows:

January	0.84
February	0.51
March	0.29
April	0.10
May	1.12
June	6.40
July	8.69
August	6.97
September	5.85
October	7.66
November	4.65
December	1.36
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	44.44

The highest temperature of the year was 93.5 F., on March 20th. and the lowest 45.5 F. on February 16th. Distribution of rainfall during the year was perhaps the most favorable experienced here since the school opened.

Among interesting visitors of the month were the following: Mrs. A. Kingsley Porter and Miss Mabel Colgate of Cambridge, Mass. Mrs Porter is

the widow of a former professor at Harvard, well known as an authority on Spanish architecture. They came on the first of the month and stayed overnight. Ing. Gregorio Beltrán and Ing. Cardona Alvarez, of the Facultad Nacional de Agronomía at Medellín, Colombia, were here for a couple of days around the 7th, after having studied in the United States on Rockefeller fellowships. Mr. Walter W. Schuyler, vice-president of the United Fruit Sugar Company, spent several days here around the 9th, accompanied by his niece, Miss Jean Printz. Robert Howard and Lyall E. Peterson, both of the American International Association at Caracas, Venezuela, were here overnight on the 10th. J. A. Cox and wife, of the Compañía Bananera del Ecuador, spent several days here at about the same time. William H. Casseres of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization stayed overnight on the 14th; we greatly enjoyed talking with him because of his familiarity with agricultural conditions throughout the Americas. The well-known Colombian educator, Agustín Nieto Caballero, came on the 15th, accompanied by a group of officials from Tegucigalpa.



Wilson Popenoe
Director