



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 1953. Sometimes we feel like agreeing with José Cabnal. It was back in those "dear dead days beyond recall". We broke camp one December morning in the highlands of Guatemala, saddled our animals, and started up the trail. An hour later, when the first streaks of dawn appeared in the eastern sky, we turned in the saddle and remarked to José; "The nights are long at this time of year, aren't they?" "Yes", replied that Kekchi philosopher, "and so are the days".

A busy month, what with the festivities of the season, the interesting visitors, and the usual job of trying to convince ourselves that we could save money by deferring until 1954 expenditures which properly should be made right now.

The Director travelled to the University of Florida, in order to take part in the Fourth Conference on the Caribbean. On reaching Gainesville December first, he and Mrs. Popenoe were entertained at dinner by a group which illustrates in admirable fashion the close relationship which has developed between the University and Escuela Agrícola Panamericana. Professor Albert S. Muller, Counselor for Latin American Students in Agriculture, was formerly our Assistant Director. Jaime Villegas, studying on a Fellowship of the Rockefeller Foundation, taught here for ten years, having been, in fact, one of the first members of our staff. Eight graduates of our school, now in the College of Agriculture, deserve individual comments: Eduardo Jimenez Saenz of Costa Rica, who is on one of our scholarships, is doing outstanding work and expects to get his B.S.A. next June. He is majoring in horticulture and hopes to remain in the States until he earns the degree of Master of Science. If he does so, he will be the first of our graduates to obtain an advanced degree. -- Federico Malo of Ecuador, Roberto Jarquín of Guatemala, and Ligio Tavarez of the Dominican Republic, all three of them members of our Class of 1953, are on scholarships provided by the United Fruit Company and are making good progress. -- Bernardo Roehrs of Guatemala, who was graduated with our Class of 1948, and who subsequently worked with us as assistant in forestry, then with STICA here in Honduras, hopes to get his degree in the School of Forestry in 1954, after which he will occupy an important position in the Ministry of Agriculture at Tegucigalpa. -- Humberto Alvarez of Panama, member of our Class of 1950, who was sent by us to the College of Agriculture at Davis, California, for one year, is majoring in agricultural education. -- Francisco Fonseca Poveda of Nicaragua, one of our early graduates, is finishing his education at Florida, after having taught at the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura in Managua. -- Miguel Angel Elvir of Honduras, one of our first graduates, taught in the Escuela Normal Rural in Tegucigalpa, later worked with STICA, where his record was so good as to earn him a scholarship for study abroad.

The wide range of countries, interests and activities represented by our visitors has always been a source of surprise and satisfaction. December's list is a good cross section. T. Jefferson Coolidge, Chairman of the Board of Directors, United Fruit Co., came for two days, accompanied by Mrs. Coolidge and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander C. Forbes and Mr. and Mrs. George P. Gardner, all of Boston. -- A man came from the North Coast of Honduras, to talk about going into agriculture, and did we think castor beans a good crop? -- Dr. and Mrs. Lorus J. Milne came from the University of New Hampshire, to spend a week taking photographs for use in lecturing on Central American biology. -- André Comelli and Jean Champion of the Institut des Fruits et Agrumes Coloniaux at Paris, spent three days with us, discussing tropical fruit culture. -- Dr. G. A. C. Herklots, Principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, B. W. I., accompanied by Charles Wright of the Soils Bureau, Wellington, New Zealand (presently conducting investigations in British Honduras), spent Christmas week here.