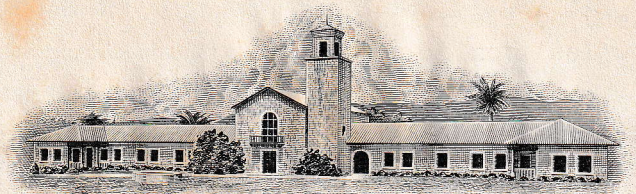

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

NEWSLETTER - April 1959. During our graduation ceremony March 14th, we conferred the first title in the history of the school.

The title of AGRONOMO was earned by 36 members of the Class of 1959 and by 162 graduates of previous years. The previous graduates had to submit proof that they had worked three or more continuous years in agriculture after graduation. A committee passed on the level of this work to determine if they had increased their basic knowledge of agriculture during this period.

But, what is a title?

Simply, it is proof of work accomplished. The boys who graduated in March can say the title represents 5,900 hours of work--2600 hours in our field laboratories, 1600 hours in the classroom and 1700 hours of supervised study. But such figures are meaningless unless one specifies the level of this work.

Can we indicate this level by stating the fact that we graduated 36 boys in March, but the class had had originally 32 more boys--boys that failed the course during its three years? To us, it is extremely disturbing that only 52% of the class graduated!

And now, with the Class of 1962 just arrived on the campus and seeing the 70 boys that comprise it, we know that we must do more, we know that our professors must work harder to stimulate a greater number to meet our graduation standards. We want them all to graduate. Nothing is harder than to tell a boy he must leave the school because his work is not satisfactory. And when we tell him this, we wonder why was it not satisfactory? Did we fail to help him when he needed help? Were we incapable of recognizing his need? Or are our standards too high? Are our standards justified?

Each student who comes is here because he passed his personal interview--an interview he can have only if he has first passed our competitive examinations. No influence or letter of recommendation is considered. Each boy remains in this school because of how he uses the ability we know he has. We have not compromised our standards to make it easier for some to remain than for others.

We are proud of the title we offer and in fairness to those who have earned the title from the Escuela Agricola Panamericana, we do not feel we can make such a compromise.

FOR THE TITLE WILL BE RECOGNIZED ONLY IF ALL HAVE FAITH IN THE INSTITUTION CONFERRING THAT TITLE

And so, with regret we remember those who failed in the Class of 1959. With pride, we salute our new AGRONOMOS.

And with humility we start a new academic year determined to do a better job of helping students through our school, humility which recognizes our own inadequacies but which does not permit lowering of the school's standards. Those boys who have earned the title deserve the recognition which will come to them--recognition which will come first from the faith their associates have in the institution that conferred the title.