



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1957. The school year commenced on Monday the 3rd, with 171 students enrolled. This total was made up as follows: Mexico, 2; Guatemala, 17; El Salvador, 24; Honduras, 39; Nicaragua, 16; Costa Rica, 24; Panamá, 6; Colombia, 9; Ecuador, 20; Bolivia, 1; Cuba, 8; and the Dominican Republic, 5 — twelve countries in all. Venezuela and Peru are not represented this year. For the first time we have a Bolivian. He is Rosalino Gómez, from the hot Amazonian side of that country, who was recommended by the Maryknoll Missionaries who had already sent him to the United States for a year.

The first-year class is composed of 68 students (here called by their schoolmates "reclutas" or recruits), representing the following countries: Mexico, 2; Guatemala, 8; El Salvador, 9; Honduras, 13; Nicaragua, 5; Costa Rica, 11; Panama, 2; Colombia, 4; Ecuador, 7; Bolivia, 1; Cuba, 3; and the Dominican Republic, 3.

There are few important changes in the teaching program, and these have been made primarily with a view to synchronising classroom work with field practice. For example, Professor Morcillo is giving his course in Farm Machinery to the second-year, instead of the third-year students, because it is during the second year that they work with tractors and farm implements in the field. Much emphasis is being placed on the course in Agricultural Extension, which is given by Ing. Armando Valle and Miguel Angel Elvir, who are in charge of agricultural extension in Honduras. Because so many of our graduates go into extension work this course is important and we are grateful to STICA for its cooperation. The third-year course in English Conversation has been eliminated, because we have come to believe that students can get more practice in spoken English if this language is used extensively in the daily "prácticas". Students become familiar with the vocabularies and pronunciation of several people rather than one person only.

Annually Escuela Agrícola Panamericana sends several of its outstanding graduates to the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, with two-year scholarship if they show that they can obtain the degree of B.S.A. in that time. There is a growing tendency to continue for the Master's degree. This month, Hernán Fonseca of Costa Rica obtained this degree in animal husbandry, and returns to Zamorano. Mario Jalil of Ecuador obtained the same degree in horticulture and also returns to us. Simón Malo of Ecuador obtained his B.S.A. and will probably work with STAN in Nicaragua, for a time at least (we always hope that most of our boys will gravitate back to their own countries in the end). Juan Leiva of Costa Rica got his B.S.A. and returns to Honduras to work with STICA, with which he was associated before he went to Florida. Mario Nufio of Honduras, also with his B.S.A., returns to his native country.

On the first of this month, Wilson Popenoe, who has been Director of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana since it was organized in 1941, was appointed Director Emeritus and moved to his home in Antigua, Guatemala. Dr. William C. Paddock was named to take over the post of Director, but will not be on the campus until about the first of August. In the meantime, Robert M. Beasley, Assistant Manager of the Tela Railroad Company, will be Acting Director. There will be two new teachers on the staff with the arrival of Hernán Fonseca and Mario Jalil, bringing the total number well up to our standard of one teacher for ten or twelve students.