



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1954. When we announced in our April letter that 50 students were on the campus, we meant new students. At the end of May there were 69, with two or three yet to come. Ten countries are represented in the new class - the Class of 1957.

Much attention has had to be given the teaching program for the new school year, which commences on Monday 7 June. We are losing, temporarily, three of our staff members: Luis E. Morcillo D., who has been with us for nine years as head of the Department of Agronomy, left for Michigan State College where he will pursue post-graduate studies under a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation. Francisco Sierra, a graduate of this school who worked for several years in the Research Department of the United Fruit Company, and had one year at the College of Agriculture, University of Florida, returns to that institution for another year to major in soil chemistry; while Hernán Fonseca, also a graduate of EAP, goes to the same institution to major in animal husbandry. Both are on United Fruit scholarships. In addition to these three, Van Baldwin Jackson, one of our graduates who had a scholarship for one year at the College of Agriculture, University of California, and subsequently taught truck crops here and had charge of the vegetable garden, returned to the United States to complete his studies.

All this, it might appear, leaves us short-handed; but it is mainly a matter of adjusting the program. Guillermo Herrera, an early graduate of our school, who subsequently was sent to Mississippi State College for a year, then came back and managed our creamery, returned after another year at Mississippi with his B.S. degree, and is again managing the creamery. Incidentally, Guillermo was among the highest 10% in his class at Mississippi. Mario Jalil, who returned from the University of Florida last year, has been placed in charge of the Department of Horticulture, where he is assisted by Juan Leiva and Simón Malo, two of our graduates.

The rains set in early, which made it possible for Professor Morcillo to carry out most of our planting program before he left at the end of the month. Principal plantings for this year are corn (Rocol V-101); rice (Palmira 203 and Magnolia); kafir corn (the local variety); we have had too much trouble with the combine-type sorghums from the States); Gainesville sweet sorghum for the silos; pigeon peas for the silos and for stock feed; sweet potatoes (Puerto Rico) and yuca or sweet cassava (EPC 3) for man and beast. Now all we have to do is pray for a favorable growing season.

For the first time in our history, we have built up our dairy to the point where we can dispose of a few 1/2 and 3/4 Guernsey and Jersey heifers. Previously we have only been able to spare bull calves, of which we have sent out a good many. The heifers are getting us into no end of trouble, because everybody wants them. Rodolfo Zamora, in charge of the dairy, has worked up the following figures which will not sound high to a dairyman in Wisconsin but which are more than adequate to make a Central American dairyman's mouth water: Our half-blood Guernseys, through all lactations, have averaged 19.37 pounds of milk per day; 3/4 Guernseys 22.1 lbs. per day. Half-blood Jerseys, through all lactations, 18.91 lbs. per day; we do not yet have figures on 3/4 Jerseys. During the past twelve months the average daily production of our dairy herd has ranged from 22 lbs. per cow in March and April to 30 lbs. in August and September. Average number of cows, 60.