



NEWSLETTER - December 1958 - Shortly after dawn on November 22nd, we looked up from our work to see a string of cars pulling up to Zemurray Hall. Leading the group was the President of Guatemala, Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes, whom we knew was making an official visit to Honduras but was not scheduled to visit the school--or at least we didn't know that he was.

The President apologized for arriving suddenly and without warning but said that he had done so intentionally.

"Anyone can prepare for a visit by an official and make a place look presentable," he said. "I've heard so much about this school, for so long, that the only way I can be certain that it is as I've heard it is, is to come unexpectedly."

We asked him what it was he particularly would like to see.

"I've seen enough buildings. Show me the students working. That's what you're famous for. I don't want to see a single building!"

We made the usual tour through Horticulture, Agronomy and Animal Husbandry, hoping everything would be in order and somewhat nervous about it. The President had a chance to see several of our 18 Guatemalan students who explained the work they were doing.

The President is quoted by some of his countrymen as saying:

"You boys are working like mules. Its wonderful!"

We are glad that he added the last, "It's wonderful", for maybe some of our students might disagree with him!

After the tour of the field work, the President asked if we could return to Zemurray Hall, saying that he was more than satisfied that "the school was all he had heard it was." He then brought forth a large, beautiful, three foot bronze trophy which he presented to the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in the name of his government in "Recognition of the contribution that the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana has made to the agriculture of Latin America".

We thought that the inscription on the award reading "Latin America" rather than "Guatemala" was singularly significant of President Ydigoras because the pan-americanism we preach is often overlooked when observing the details of the school.

Then, leaving a radio as a personal gift for our Guatemalan students, the President returned to Tegucigalpa.

We have never had a visit quite like this one. And seldom have we had a person who knew better what he wanted to see when visiting us!