



NEWSLETTER - MAY 1959. May is the last month of our "vacation", period which goes from Graduation (March 14th) to June 1st. It differs from the rest of the time by not having classroom work everyone. But the field work continues! Four hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon.

But it is a time when both our professors and students go home on one month vacations, leaving in two groups so that there are always students to run the farm, and professors to supervise the students. All students do not return home for the distance is often prohibitively expensive, but often their compañeros, who live closer, will invite one to spend his vacation with him. This year, all but 25 students took a vacation away from the school.

While there isn't much we can do for those students who cannot go home for vacation, we do try. For instance, this year, the 25 went to Danlí for a weekend dance (Danlí is something like Guadalajara or Dallas--famous for its beautiful women!) and in addition spent a week fishing at lake Yojoa (caught two minnows). For, while we quite frankly admit the Zamorano valley is the most beautiful in the world with the finest climate thrown in--paradise isn't paradise 365 days of the year! A change is necessary and we want our students to have the change so when classes start, they do their best.

During this same "vacation" period, our new students arrive. This is an adjustment for all of us! The reclutas are rather quickly assimilated into the life of the school and are given placement examinations in English and Mathematics during the first weeks. Those who do poorly on these receive daily classes (outside of work hours) to bring them up to our level for classes in June. But mostly, this period is used to allow the new students to become used to the work in our field laboratories, for we know that if they are not previously prepared for the field work, they will be unable to handle both field and classroom work when classes begin--thus, our "vacation" is a time to develop the calluses.

While during this period no grades are given in either the field work or the special English and Mathematics classes, the work is taken seriously by all. In some areas, the work is actually more difficult at this time than in other periods of the year.

The "vacation" period falls at the end of our dry season and the equivalent of "Spring" plowing and land preparation must be done at this time. Our second year students, then, work long hours with many of the tractors working 16 hours a day and one group taking turns to keep the land leveler going 24 hours a day! (and incidentally, all this work during the "vacation" is in addition to the 5900 hours of supervised work and study we require to earn our title of AGRONOMO).

As unusual as our "vacation" period might seem with its emphasis on field work, we know that it is effective--for our students are always glad to see classes begin again in June. We would like to think that this is because all of our boys are true scholars and simply can't wait for the stimulation of the classroom. On the other hand, perhaps they bear out the only thing we remember from Homer's Odessey:

"Too much rest itself becomes a pain"