



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1951. The work of the first semester was terminated by the usual final examinations and without loss of time the second semester was commenced on the 8th. It was necessary to drop from the rolls eleven students of the second year class. All of these boys had failed to do satisfactory work during their first year but because of our hope and belief that they would improve and their own promises to make greater efforts we had given them another opportunity.

A clipping from a newspaper published in San Salvador, received recently at the school, carried a picture of Agricultural Extension workers in that Republic. Behind four chiefs of the service stood the staff of eleven Extension Agents. Nine of these were graduates of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana; another had studied here for two years. The demand for our graduates in this field of action continues to increase in several countries.

Filling trench silos has been a major operation during the month. For two of them, we have used a mixture of sweet sorghum and pigeon pea (*Cajanus indicus*) tops, in the proportion of about two-thirds of the former to one-third of the latter. The topped pigeon peas are developing new foliage and will give us a good crop of seed during the dry season, after which they will be disked into the soil. From four trench silos now in operation we expect to have about 600 tons of silage for use during the long dry season.

Our old planting of butucos (cooking bananas) was abandoned as having outlived its usefulness and a new one established. The butuco, a rather inferior fruit, from the standpoint of quality, is the only variety which has been successful here. Commercial varieties of bananas and plantains do not thrive with us even when irrigated abundantly. The butuco, variously known in this and other regions as chato, majoncho, topocho, cuatro filos, burro, etc., is cultivated successfully on the poorest soils and in relatively dry climates, throughout many parts of tropical America. It is a boon to small farmers on rocky hillsides in Honduras. As served in our Mess Hall it is a popular item with our students.

Our Forester, Paul Shank, has been absent during the month, engaged on a timber survey for the United Fruit Company in Costa Rica. He was accompanied by Antonio Molina of our staff, who has been collecting botanical specimens to permit accurate identification of the trees concerned. Our Director, Wilson Popenoe, has been absent since the 10th studying the needs of vocational agricultural schools in Ecuador at the invitation of President Galo Plaza of that Republic.

The month passed with few visitors overnighing with us. Dr Nevin Schrimshaw of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, came with Mrs. Schrimshaw to discuss problems of nutrition. Mr Robert Armour of Lancetilla Experiment Station, Tela Railroad Company, accompanied by Dr John Greene of the Research Department, came to go over our collection of economic plants. Dr Edgardo Valenzuela, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Honduras, made us a brief visit, accompanied by señor Leland de Villafranca, Honduran Consul in Mexico.