



## MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1956. The school year opened with a total of 182 students on the rolls, representing ten countries, as follows: Guatemala 22, El Salvador 24, Honduras 43, Nicaragua 21, Costa Rica 20, Panamá 11, Colombia 9, Ecuador 22, Cuba 5, and the Dominican Republic 5. New students - the Class of 1959 - came from these same countries as follows: Guatemala 10, El Salvador 8, Honduras 15, Nicaragua 7, Costa Rica 7, Panamá 3, Colombia 3, Ecuador 10, Cuba 3, and the Dominican Republic 3. Though from time to time we have had in the student body - and hope to have again - students from Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico, there are not any at present, due to the lack of applicants in these countries.

The usefulness of our Intelligence Test, which has been improved from year to year, was again demonstrated - or so we believe. Six applicants from Ecuador made grades above 90. If all of these boys want to study they are practically certain to be successful here. There were applicants in most of the countries mentioned above who made grades between 25 and 50. In view of the fact that it is now costing us more than \$1800 per year to maintain a student in the school, we do not feel justified in accepting students who in all probability cannot take advantage of the opportunity given them. We never want to forget that this is a vocational school, but we can only receive about 10% of the boys who apply for admission, and we must try to choose the best.

We have just received from Professor Albert S. Muller, Counselor for Latin American Students in Agriculture at the University of Florida, the grades made in this last semester by our graduates who have been studying there. Three of these received their B.S.A. degrees this month, with grades as follows: Carlos Gieseke of El Salvador, AAAABB; Hernan Fonseca of Costa Rica, AAAAB; and Jose R. Calvo, also of Costa Rica, AABBB.

In our orchards, the mango season has been in full blast. Two Haden trees, the first to be planted here (1943) have produced between 700 and 800 fruits each. Trees of the Amini variety are carrying tremendous crops; Mulgoba is also showing up handsomely. Incidentally, a group of técnicos came during the month to see if they could find the Mediterranean fruit fly. They found none, but plenty of Anastrephas who have always been with us. Our temperate zone fruits on Uyuca (6000 feet) have been in season and much appreciated. We still think the Santa Rosa plum is just about the best of those we have under trial, - and we have a dozen or more. Only the peaches from Florida have proved satisfactory with us: Angel, Jewel and Waldo the best of the white-fleshed freestones, Dorothy N. and Hall's Yellow the best of the yellow-fleshed freestones - but they do not have the spicy flavor of the white-fleshed varieties.

The school has received considerable publicity recently. Miguel Villegas Rodas, who spent a week with us, published four lengthy and excellent articles in the daily paper "El Imparcial" of Guatemala City; he went into detail regarding all of our activities. José Raul Flores wrote several articles which were published in the press of San Salvador. He commented particularly - and favorably - on the practical nature of the training received here.