



### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 1951. Rodrigo Chon, a member of our class of 1951, writes from his home at Cobán, Guatemala: "At present I am working for the Instituto Bíblico Industrial in this town, and I have made several trips to nearby coffee plantations, giving lectures on agriculture and soil conservation in the Kekchi dialect. I have been very well received everywhere." This is the first time one of our graduates has done what might be termed extension work in a language other than Spanish and we think the fact is worthy of note. Kekchi is a dialect of the Mayan linguistic stock, spoken by the Indians of a considerable region in northern Guatemala.

The event of the month - though not exactly connected with the operation of the school - was the meeting held here from the 13th to the 16th for the purpose of organising a Caribbean Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Elected to hold office until the next meeting (which will probably take place next spring in or near Cuba) were the following: Chairman, Dr Jaime Guiscafré Arrillaga of the Centro Nacional de Agronomía, El Salvador; Vice-Chairman, Dr Pierre Sylvain of the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba; and Secretary, Dr William H. Cowgill, of the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional, Guatemala. We quote the following paragraph from Dr Cowgill's report: "Among the interesting talks were included a paper on vegetable variety trials in Costa Rica by Dr Florence Thomas; a resumé of vegetable trials in El Salvador, by Mr. Aguila; Vegetative propagation of coffee by Mr Fiester of Turrialba; the coffee research program in El Salvador by Mr. Vilanova; recent findings of the coffee program in Guatemala by Mr. Davies; associated tree-crop plantings such as rubber-coffee and rubber-cacao by Dr Imle of Costa Rica; propagation of rubber by cuttings, by Dr Gregory; and a resumé of fruit improvement work in Colombia by Mr. Sierra. All of these talks were well received and led to discussions at the meetings and among interested groups outside the meetings. Several of the members also served as guest lecturers in the classrooms of the school during their stay."

Twenty-one people came from Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Several members of the school's staff also took part, including George Freytag, who discussed the work he is conducting here for the improvement of beans which was described in our last News Letter. A note regarding this work was published recently in the Miami Herald, and we have had a request from "La Hacienda" of New York for an article in Spanish on the subject.

Other visitors during the month included Mr and Mrs John C McClintock, Mr. Richard Dyer, and Mr and Mrs Martin J. Connelly, all of the United Fruit Company; Mr. J. F. Aycock, Manager of the Tela Railroad Company; Mr Fernando del Rio of the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences; The Ministers of Italy and Brazil; and on Sunday the 23rd, the British Minister and a large group of Central American diplomats with their respective families.

The brochure entitled "The Story of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana" which was published in English by the United Fruit Company last spring has now appeared in a Spanish edition, the translation having been made by Mr Julio Moeller of our staff. Readers of this News Letter (and others) who do not receive copies can obtain them by addressing Mr Edmund S. Whitman, United Fruit Company, Pier 3, North River, New York City. The text of the brochure, based on the ten most important questions asked by visitors, describes in detail the genesis, objectives, and operation of the school. There are numerous illustrations depicting the physical plant and activities of the students.