



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER 1950. Final examinations for the first semester were held from the 16th to the 21st. Some of the third year students had trouble with agricultural engineering; they got along quite well in the other examinations. Some of the second year boys had trouble with mathematics and agricultural chemistry. Mathematics and biology were the subjects which made the first year boys scratch their heads.

Two first year boys and two second year boys have been dropped from the rolls, in part because of failure in the examinations, in part because we had come to feel that we were wasting our money on them. We try always to keep in mind that this is primarily a vocational training school. We place more importance upon a boy's aptitude and interest in agriculture than we do upon his scholastic achievement. At the same time, unless he is reasonably intelligent we feel it is unfair to keep him in the school, and leave out many better prospects.

Our forester, Paul Shank, has taken over the class in horticulture for a time and will give the students two lectures per week and one half day in the field. Some of the things he hopes to teach the boys are: (1) Physical tests of forest soils for comparison with agricultural soils; (2) Selection and cutting of trees for the improvement of the stand; (3) Measurement of cubic and board foot volume of logs; (4) Destructive agencies such as insects, diseases, fire, wind; (5) Identification of the more important local species; and (6) Forest nurseries and problems of reforestation.

Many of our field activities have been handicapped during the month by frequent heavy rains. A total of 10.65 inches fell; there were only 14 days without rain. As is usual at this season, the vegetable garden suffered badly. Pastures, on the other hand, are in beautiful condition.

We have received the first number of "Turrialba", a technical journal published by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba, Costa Rica. This journal will prove extremely useful to workers in the field of tropical agriculture and allied sciences. We congratulate Dr. Ralph H. Allee, Director of the Institute, and his associates.

On the 8th we had the pleasure of a visit from Ing. Antonio García S., Director Técnico de Agricultura of the Republic of Ecuador. He was accompanied by Ing. Miguel A. Cevallos, entomologist. On the 11th the American Ambassador at Tegucigalpa brought out Senator Dennis Chavez of New Mexico, accompanied by Dennis Chavez Jr. On Sunday the 15th the staff of the American Embassy brought out their families for lunch and a swim. On the 17th Dr. Vernon D. Bailey and Ing. Guillermo Sagrera of the Centro Nacional de Agronomía, El Salvador, arrived in a pick-up and took back to Santa Tecla some pure-blooded Nubian and Toggenburg goats, also propagating material of numerous fruit varieties. On the 18th John and Ruth Kobler of Westport, Connecticut, were here for the night. On the 26th and 27th we had an interesting group here from Costa Rica - Dr. Jorge de Alba and family, and Ing. Fernando Solís, Jefe de la Sección de Café, Ministerio de Agricultura. Dr. de Alba will spend some time in Honduras investigating conditions in the livestock industry. He is attached to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba.