



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JUNE 1953. We note with great satisfaction that Monthly News Letters are springing up all around us. We get them from schools, experiment stations, and research centers. We get them from Guatemala, from El Salvador, from Nicaragua, from Colombia, and various other countries. We like it. We believe these, little "publications" can assist materially in developing useful contact between all sorts of institutions operating in this part of the world.

It seems to us that there are two rather distinct types of News Letters - intra-mural and extra-mural; that is to say, letters aimed primarily at staff members of the institution concerned, and in the second, letters aimed primarily at outsiders. Our letter definitely belongs in the second category. It was started, back in the 1940s, to keep officials of the United Fruit Company informed of the school's progress; in fact, it was started at the request of Walter E. Turnbull, then a vice-president of the Company, who wanted to know especially about visitors to the school. It has become, however, extra-mural. We now send out about 200 copies monthly, at least three-fourths of which go to individuals, schools, and institutions not connected with the Company.

Whether we are talking about intra-mural or extra-mural News Letters, we think there are three points of major importance to be kept in mind. The first is length. If the letter goes to readers not intimately connected with the institution, it probably should be short. We have been urged time and again to keep ours down to one page, which we fully intend to do. Secondly, it should be issued promptly; and thirdly, it should be sent by air mail in those countries where other mail is slow. A News Letter covering the month of February, which is received and read in May, is not a News Letter; it is History.

We shall continue this discussion next month. We would like to receive comments, for the benefit of editors of News Letters in general. How far should we go in reporting visitors? Several people have told us "We like to see who has been at the school, but we would also like to hear what they did or said". So, for example:

Early this month Claud Horn and William H Cowgill of the Foreign Agricultural Service, U S Department of Agriculture, spent a day with us. Dr Cogwill has recently returned from a trip around the world (on which he was accompanied by our erstwhile colleague Dr Frederick Wellman), the purpose of which was the study of problems connected with coffee production. Dr Cowgill, while here, outlined an experiment which we shall carry out: the cultivation of coffee without overhead shade. Jose Coronel Urtecho, distinguished Nicaraguan intellectual, and father of the first and only twins we have had in this school, spent two days here, accompanied by señora de Coronel, and the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Honduras, Dr Diego Manuel Sequeira. Dr Coronel gave our students an excellent talk on "Culture and Agriculture"; one of the most popular speeches ever made here. M. L. Wilson, for many years head of Extension Service in the U S Dept of Agriculture, came on the 19th with Robert Peterson of Stica. Since many of our graduates are in extension work with Latin American governments, Mr Wilson's comments to us were valuable. Frank Bartholomew, Vice-president of the United Press, was here on the 21st, accompanied by Mrs Bartholomew. Dr George Zentmyer of the University of California spent several days here, studying the root diseases of avocados; while Dr W P Duruz of STAN (Nicaragua) and Francisco Fonseca Poveda, one of our Nicaraguan graduates, now teaching in the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura at Managua, were here for several days.