



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

### MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

APRIL 1952. About fifty new students were on the campus at the end of the month. We set the limit at 65 for this year, but we suspect that a few candidates will show up at the last minute who just simply look so good that we will feel we must give them a chance. To cooperate more fully in the agricultural development of Ecuador we increased this year our quota for that country.

Thirty-seven of our students, who are entering upon their second and third years, assisted in taking the Censo Agro-pecuario (Agricultural and Livestock Census) of Honduras. They were sent to many remote parts of the Republic; they were gone about one month; and they came back reporting many interesting experiences.

The unusually severe dry season came to an end (we hope it is not wishful thinking) with two inches of rain during the last week of April. Our pastures are coming back into useful condition. For the first time in our ten years here, we lost a number of Guatemalan cypress trees (Cupressus Benthami) - perhaps due to the long drought.

Our horticulturist Horace Clay continues to report remarkable success with mangos grafted by the veneer method. At the suggestion of Dr George M. Darrow, plants of the Klommore strawberry were imported from Delaware, U. S. A. The problem of plant introduction in this part of the world is an interesting one. How to get strawberry plants here from Delaware? We needed only a few, just enough for a start. Twenty five, which cost a dollar, came by air mail, which cost six dollars. Another interesting example of what the air has done for Latin America is the case of baby chicks. Three hundred arrived this month from Modesto, California, after being three days on the road, or more properly speaking, in the air. It is rather an exciting experience to see the "Baby Chick Pullmans" - cartons with numerous holes for ventilation - come out of the airplane with the little fellows all chirping vigorously. Only five out of the 300 had failed to survive the long journey.

Nearly a quarter of a century ago, Dr David Fairchild of the U. S. Department of Agriculture introduced from Java one of the finest Asiatic bamboos - Gigantochloa asper. We brought it here from Lancetilla Experiment Station when the school was founded, and today we have many magnificent clumps with culms eight inches in diameter. Every visitor who sees these is impressed by the possibilities of timber bamboos in tropical America - possibilities which have been partly realised in some regions thru the use of native guaduas, but which will be increased greatly through the planting of fine Asiatic species.

In last month's report we did not have space to mention visitors, but as a rule these are not many in March anyway. Some day we shall plot a nice graph showing the incidence of visitors month by month; it will show a strong positive correlation with the flight of migratory birds. In March we had with us Dr B. A. Krukoff, botanist of Merck and Co. Inc.; Dr Diego Sequeira, Ambassador of Nicaragua to Honduras, accompanied by two distinguished Nicaraguan agriculturists; and a group from the Banco Nacional de Fomento de Honduras, the Banco Central, and the FAO. In April we received Dr Norton C. Ives of the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas; Mr and Mrs. Morris Weeks Jr. of Vision magazine, accompanied by don Vicente Machado Valle of the Tela Railroad Co.; and the Military Mission from Guatemala, which came to decorate the Honduran Minister of War, General Leonidas Pineda. This group was accompanied by outstanding military men of Honduras. Dr Jose Grossman of the Escola de Agronomia, Porto Alegre, Brasil, came at the end of the month.