



MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

MAY 1955. The new school year will commence Monday 6 June. As usual, our dormitories are going to be more than full. We are taking in 22 new Honduran students - seven more than in past years and we have increased the quotas for Guatemala and Ecuador. We shall start the year with about 80 new boys. We are glad to say that the hazing which worried us in past years has practically been eliminated. This was possible in part because of the example set by the University of Honduras; in part because we had become so fed up ourselves that we decided to clamp down.

During the month we have spent a good deal of time lining up graduates who are going to the University of Florida. Apparently there will be nearly ten this year, four of them on funds provided by the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Fruit Company, others on Point Four funds or under their own steam. Three of our graduates will receive the B. S.A. degree at Gainesville on 6 June; one an M.Sc., as we have mentioned previously. We are happy about the close relations which have been established during the past ten years between our school and the University of Florida, and we are happy that J. Wayne Reitz, formerly Provost for Agriculture and a member of our Board of Directors, has recently been named President of the University. Florida is to be congratulated.

John Sutherland, head of Sutherland Productions of Los Angeles, California, came with his colleagues Harry Burrell and Howard Roessel to make a film of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana. Other films have been made, but we suspect nothing which will compare with this one. We spent a week cooperating and were impressed by the imagination shown by Director Sutherland and the technique of his colleagues. The job ended with a trip to Comayagua, to film our graduates in action - to show what they do when they leave Zamorano. This trip was an eye opener. William Bailey Pace, head of the Servicio Técnico Interamericano de Cooperación Agrícola (STICA) in Honduras, welcomed us at the Centro Nacional de Ganadería y Agronomía and told us that forty of our boys are now working in the agricultural extension service of this country. In other words, pretty nearly all of the extension agents and their assistants have come from our school. Miguel Ángel Elvir, one of our graduates who subsequently went to the University of Florida, has recently been appointed Assistant Director of Extension.

Hernán Pinel, one of our early graduates, has charge of livestock at the Centro, and another, Víctor Muñoz, has charge of field crops and nurseries. From the Centro we went to the Escuela Normal Rural de Varones, two or three miles distant, where pictures were taken of four of our boys leading out a group of students to put them to work in the field. Then we went into the town of Comayagua where the extension agent, Miguel Ángel Morales and his assistant Enrique Aguiluz (both graduates of Zamorano) staged demonstrations with small farmers. All in all, two days at Comayagua showed us what our boys are doing and probably impressed us more than it did the visiting firemen. We must say, at least, that we were considerably impressed.

Our football team, nineteen strong boys, went to Guatemala accompanied by Student Inspector Juan Fernández and School Physician Adán Zepeda, complete with stethoscope (for ocular effect) to pass several days at the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura. The boys were received by the Minister of Agriculture don Lázaro Chacón; and by Ing. Rigoberto Chacón, Director of the school; they planted some grafted avocados at the school on Arbor Day, 30 May; and so on. The more all of us can do to build up close relations between the schools of vocational agriculture in tropical America, the better, say we.