



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 1952. Our seventh graduation took place on Saturday, March first. We will describe this event in the present News Letter instead of waiting another month.

Forty-four young men, representing nine countries, received diplomas attesting the successful completion of three years of study and practical training. The countries represented, and the number of graduates from each, were as follows: Guatemala 7, El Salvador 2, Honduras 6, Nicaragua 6, Costa Rica 10, Panama 4, Colombia 5, Cuba 2, and the Dominican Republic 2.

The graduation exercises, which took place at 10.30 a.m. in Zemurray Hall and were broadcast over HRN, were attended by an unusually large number of distinguished visitors. Upon the platform sat the following: The President of Honduras, Dr Juan Manuel Galvez; Ing. Benjamín Membreño, representing Vice-President don Julio Lozano; The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Edgardo Valenzuela; the Minister of Education, Sr Julio Palacio; the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of El Salvador, don Roberto Quiñónez; the Costa Rican Inspector of Schools, Prof. José María Chaverri; the Presidents of the National Congresses of Honduras and El Salvador; the Ambassadors of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Guatemala, and the Ministers of Panama and the Dominican Republic. The Board of Regents of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana was represented by Doris Stone.

The principal address of the day was delivered by don Roberto Quiñónez, who was followed by Ing. Benjamín Membreño, speaking on behalf of the government of Honduras. Doris Stone spoke briefly to the graduating class, in the name of the school. Rodolfo Barrenechea Bolandi of Costa Rica then delivered an excellent Valedictory address in which he expressed the gratitude of himself and his classmates for the hospitable reception extended by the people of Honduras, and the educational opportunities given them by the school. About 400 guests were entertained at luncheon.

Government agencies in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and one or two other countries are taking all of this year's graduates who desire employment. Some will serve as extension agents; others will assist in the placing and supervision of agricultural loans; and a few will go into experiment station work. The demand for our graduates, on the part of tropical American governments, has never been so keen as it has this year.

One of our most successful graduates, who lives in El Salvador, has raised an interesting question regarding the desirability of so many of our boys going into government service. He thinks they might do a more effective job of demonstrating the value of modern practices if they went into farming for themselves. At the same time, he realises that not many are financially prepared, at the start, to do this; and that if they return to family farms they often meet with some opposition from ultra-conservative parents.

There were numerous visitors during the month of February. One of the most interesting and helpful was Dr. George M. Darrow of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who spent a week with us, studying our experimental plantings of Temperate Zone fruits on Uyuca. Dr Darrow expressed himself as feeling that our collection of apples, peaches, plums, pears and berries will prove of great value in determining suitable varieties for tropical America. Doris Stone brought Thomas Willard and Peter Smith to film scenes in the school and neighborhood. These are to be used in connection with a picture of Honduras and Honduran life in general.