



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA  
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 1953. As the end of the school year approaches, we face the difficult task of selecting new students. Five to fifteen letters have been received daily during the month under review; the total number of applications now in hand is close to 700. El Salvador continues to lead the list with some 300, while from Colombia, where there was not much interest in this school a few years ago, we have about a hundred requests for scholarships.

The year 1952 was a satisfactory one. We graduated 44 students from 9 republics, and took in 73 new ones of whom 68 were still on the campus at the end of the calendar year. Our second-year students, under the direction of Luis Morcillo, produced 47,000 lbs of corn; 48,000 lbs of rice (in the hull); 4,000 lbs of red beans; 18 tons of sweet potatoes; 24 tons of yuca or sweet cassava; and 430 tons of sweet sorghum for ensilage. Production of vegetables by the first year students was adequate to meet our needs throughout the year. The dairy turned out 209,088 quarts of milk, 4,406 lbs of butter, and 3,782 lbs of cheese. The swine department produced 33,666 lbs of fresh pork and 1,856 lbs of ham and bacon. The poultry department 3,172 chickens and 110,038 eggs. All of these items were for our own use.

It cost \$265,000 to operate the school during the year, which figure does not include \$42,000 spent on betterments. Dividing the operating cost by the average number of students, each boy cost us \$1,703, as against \$1,629 in 1951 and \$1,406 in 1950.

Scholarships given by this school provide practically everything needed by the student. In discussing this matter recently with one of our boys who will graduate on 28 February, we asked him how much money he had received from home during his three years here. "About \$30" he replied. During 1952, to provide each boy with clothing (khaki and blue denim), including shoes, cost \$51. To feed him, the out-of-pocket cost was 14 cents per meal - which indicates that we buy little food, most of it being produced on our own farm. To give a student medical and dental attention cost us \$40; to wash his clothes cost \$32; while to provide him with classroom materials cost only \$7, due to the fact that we do not purchase many printed texts. Most texts are prepared by our own teachers in multigraphed form - because there are so few in Spanish adapted to our needs.

On New Year's Eve, a group of students trained by our teacher of English, Julio Pineda, put on the well-known comedy "La Tía de Carlos" (Charley's Aunt) which made such a hit that it was later taken to the town of Danlí, where it was staged for the benefit of local charities. Sports were popular during the month, several teams having come out from Tegucigalpa to play soccer, baseball, and basketball. Richard Desmond, agricultural attaché to the Embassies of the United States in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, spent several days here; as did also a group from the Instituto Tropical de Investigaciones Científicas in El Salvador; this was composed of Dr Crookewit, interested principally in collecting bees; Dr Dieterichs, meteorologist; and Dr Shuster, zoologist. Hon. Gerald Stockley, H.E.M. Minister in Tegucigalpa, spent a day with us. Dr Elmer D. Merrill, Arnold Professor of Botany at Harvard University, and a member of our Board of Directors, arrived with Mrs. Merrill, to spend several weeks.