



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JULY 1951. Classroom work has progressed satisfactorily during the month. Donald Delgado, who was for many years with Harold I. Brosious, at his remarkable Malcotal school in Honduras, has been added to our staff to take charge of most of the student discipline and to make it possible for us to intensify the teaching of the English language. Arrangements have been completed for sending two of our graduates, Mario Jalil of Ecuador and Carlos Cuevas of Nicaragua, to the Florida State College of Agriculture for a year of specialised training in subtropical horticulture.

Throughout the highlands of tropical America there is much interest in the cultivation of such northern fruits as apples, pears, plums and peaches. The major problem in this connection is the securing of varieties of these fruits which have a relatively low chilling requirement - that is, ones which make satisfactory growth and produce good crops in regions where the winters are too warm for most varieties. Two and a half years ago we established a small experimental orchard at an elevation of 5900 feet on Uyuca mountain, which overlooks our valley. This month we have seen the first results of this work in the development of which we have been materially assisted by Professor W. H. Chandler of the University of California. His Beverly Hills apple has produced its first fruit. The Pineapple pear is carrying a good crop; Kieffer bore one fruit. Excelsior, Terrell and Beauty plums have produced a few fruits each. Babcock, Jewel, Angel, Luttichau, Waldo and Dorothy N. peaches have all come into bearing this year. Youngberries, Boysenberries, Nessberries and the Shankberry have all born good crops. Of special interest is this last-named species (Rubus Shankii) as it is indigenous in this immediate region. The plant is not a large grower, but it is very productive, and the fruits are blackberries of good size and flavor, juicy and with small and soft seeds. We consider it one of the best wild berries of tropical America. It is doubtful, however, that it can be cultivated here successfully at elevations much below 4000 feet. Thinking that it may prove useful in breeding work, seeds have been sent to Dr. George M. Darrow of the United States Department of Agriculture.

There were numerous interesting visitors during the month. We were specially happy to receive, on the 4th, Ing. Eduardo Mejia Velez, formerly Director General de Agricultura for the Republic of Colombia, who now occupies a similar position in the Department of Antioquia of that country. He was accompanied by his colleague Ing. Luis Posada. On the 11th we received a distinguished group of visitors from the United States, including ex-Senator Robert M. LaFollette and family and Mr. Turner Catledge of the New York Times. They were accompanied by Mr and Mrs Henry Hogaboom of the United Fruit Company and their son Peter. Dr Arthur T. Semple of the FAO and Dr. Clair Butterfield of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs were here on the 12th. Ing. Pompilio Ortega, Director General of Agriculture for the Republic of Honduras brought to the school on the 16th the Nicaraguan Minister of Agriculture Dr Enrique Sánchez, and Dr. Emilio Viale, entomologist of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Two prominent priests of the Maryknoll Order, Father Edward Koechel and Father James Curtin, spent three days with us around the 20th.