

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Monthly News Letter

August 1947

Classroom work continued without interruption. Mr. Henry Holland, who spent the summer with us to organize the class in conversational English, returned to his post-graduate studies at Harvard and the group was taken over by Mr. Hogaboom. The third year class in Rural Engineering was given field practice in the laying out of drainage systems and drains.

The weather has been favorable (seven inches of rain during the month; 8 inches this year, to date) and crops are coming along nicely. Our planting of rice is in beautiful condition, and the planting of corn (variety "Venezuela No. 1" received from the originator, Dr. Derald Langham of Caracas) promises well. Fourteen varieties of sorghums received from the Texas Experiment Station are making good growth, as are the Napier Grass x Cattail Millet hybrids received from the Centro Nacional de Agronomia at Santa Tecla, El Salvador. The vegetable garden is feeling the effects of the wet season, as is customary at this time of year; it was set back somewhat by a rain of 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ inches which fell on one of the last days of the month.

We are this year increasing greatly the nursery area, to provide more material on which the boys can practice budding and grafting. We have established about 5000 sour orange seedlings, 5000 mango seedlings, and 5000 rose stocks; and are now putting in 5000 avocados. As has been mentioned previously, the boys take more interest in this work than in any other phase of horticulture.

This month set an all-time high for interesting visitors. Fifty three signed the book; and this number does not include some who came only for a few hours' stay. Colonel Alfred Hasbrouck, one-time U.S. Military Attaché for Central America, now professor of Latin American History at Rollins College, came on the third and stayed several days. Jean Hersey, well-known writer from New York, spent several days here, accompanied by her son Robert. Two more teachers from the Instituto Nacional de Agricultura at Divisa, Panama, spent several days with us - in continuance of the policy established by the Director of that Institution, Dr. Menalco Solís, to send two of his staff monthly until all have visited this school. On the 7th, we had an overnight visit from Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Bernays of New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Edmund S. Whitman of the United Fruit Co. On the 8th we were visited by Miss Catherine Scribner and Miss Jewel Gardiner, educators from Sacramento, California. Ing. Guillermo Villegas, head of the extension department of the government of Panamá in the province of Chiriquí, spent two days here and was particularly interested in the possibility of securing more of our Panamanian graduates for his department. Miss Mary Quinlan, head of the new American School in Tegucigalpa, accompanied by one of her teachers, spent the week-end here around the 10th, particularly with a view to sitting in with Mr. Arnold's classes in Basic English. On Sunday the 10th we had a brief visit from Mrs. Doris Zemurray Stone, member of our Board of Regents, accompanied by several people from Tegucigalpa; on this same day we were visited by Monseñor Turcios, distinguished ecclesiastic of this country. During the week 10 - 16 we had an extremely interesting visit of several days from Dr. Eduardo Mejía Velez, Director General de Agricultura; Dr. Carlos Madrid, Decano de la Facultad Nacional de Agronomia; and Ing. Ramon Nibez - three Colombians who are outstanding figures in the agricultural life of their country. On the 16th we had our second visit from the President of our Board of Directors, Mr. Samuel Zemurray, who was accompanied by Mr. Joseph W.

Montgomery, Vice-President of the United Fruit Company, Mrs Montgomery, and Mr. Walter E. Turnbull, Assistant Vice-President. Another interesting visitor at this time was Mr. Robert P. Russell, formerly with the Standard Oil Co., now taking up new duties as field director of Nelson Rockefeller's Inter-American Development Corporation. Mr. Russell was on his way to Venezuela, where he will make his headquarters, and expressed great interest in the possibility of developing schools like this in other Latin American countries. On the 18th we had an overnight visit from Prof. Robert W. Hess, of the Yale School of Forestry, who discussed mutual interests with our prester Paul Shank. On the 20th we were visited by a group of North American ladies who had been attending summer session at the University of Guatemala. At this same time we were visited by two Venezuelan agricultural scientists, Ing. Rubén Ortega and Ing. Gustavo Jaen, who were returning from the United States and spent the night with us. On the 20th Mr. Honiball brought for an overnight stay a highly interesting and enjoyable group, including Senator Thomas of Utah and wife, and Dr. H. L. Marshall and wife. On the 22nd we had an overnight visit from a group of Texans, including Mrs. Henrietta Kleberg Larkin, sister of the Klebergs who own the famous King ranch, Mrs. Sarita Kenedy East, owner of the Kenedy Ranch, and Mr. Thomas R. Armstrong.


Wilson Popenoe
Director