



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 1957. On Saturday the 23rd of this month we celebrated our twelfth Commencement. Forty-four young men were graduated, representing eight Latin American republics as follows: Colombia, three; Costa Rica, five; Ecuador, five; Guatemala, four; Honduras, eight; Nicaragua, eight, Panama, three; and El Salvador, eight.

Commencement exercises were attended by some 400 visitors, including more than the usual number of families who had sons in the graduating class. On the platform were seated two members of the Honorable Junta Militar de Gobierno de Honduras, Colonel Héctor Caraccioli and Major and Engineer Roberto Gálvez Barnes; an ex-President of Honduras, Doctor Juan Manuel Gálvez; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Education, Dr. Jorge Fidel Durón; the Minister of Interior, Colonel Raúl Flores Gómez; diplomatic representatives of the countries represented in the graduating class; doña Doris Stone, representing our Board of Regents; don Francisco de Sola, principal speaker of the day; Dr. Víctor Ortiz, Director of the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura in the neighboring republic of El Salvador, and several others.

After opening remarks by the Director of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Dr. Jorge Fidel Durón addressed the graduates on behalf of the Government of Honduras, pointing out the importance of agriculture in tropical America and the excellent future which lies in the hands of the young men who have here received practical as well as theoretical training. He then announced that the government of Honduras had conferred the decoration "Order of Morazan", with the rank of Comendador, on Doris Stone and Wilson Popenoe. Dr. Durón was followed by don Francisco de Sola of El Salvador, founder and present President of the society "Amigos de la Tierra" in that country, an organization which has done, and is doing, remarkable work in the education of people toward a better understanding of the importance of soil conservation and improved agricultural techniques. "As in past years", said don Francisco, "the graduates of Zamorano have before them a future of great promise, full of opportunities, and lives of usefulness." He pointed out that these young men have assumed a social responsibility in connection with the conservation of our natural resources and their protection for the use of future generations.

Doris Stone, who as Godmother of the school has bid farewell to each of the previous eleven graduating classes, spoke warmly of the future which lies before this new group and wished them well. She was followed by the Valedictorian of the Class of 1957, Fernando Fernández de Córdova of Quito, Ecuador, whose well-delivered speech earned a hearty ovation.

Dr. Víctor Ortiz, on behalf of the government of El Salvador, presented a handsome silver cup on which is to be engraved annually the name of the graduating student who is considered by the staff of Escuela Agrícola Panamericana to be the outstanding member of his year. His classroom work, his character, and other factors are to be taken into account. On the following day, our staff voted that the first name to be engraved on this cup should be that of José Carvajal of Ecuador.

Four scholarships at the University of Florida, leading to the degree of Bachelor in Science in Agriculture (if earned) were granted to members of this class. They went to José Carvajal of Ecuador, Frank Bendaña of Nicaragua, Luis Solórzano of Guatemala, and Fernando Fernández de Córdova of Ecuador. Similar scholarships are granted annually by us to those students who are considered best qualified to take advantage of further agricultural training.