



Aurora Sporealis

Wherein are recorded the recollections, the ruminations and the raspitations of those who have drunk from the foaming fount of the Department of Plant Pathology of the University of Minnesota and who now spout forth in divers ways

Let the fount foam and never run dry
 Let the spout squirt and never lose power

The first part of this issue was prepared by Old Timers in Mexico in response to invitation from Aurora. Submitted in February.

Old Timers:

These are the people that have visited Old Mexico since I^{a/} got back from the land of Thousand Lakes and the most beautiful climate (according to Dr. Stakman) that I have ever known. Never too cold, never too warm, but too cold and too warm.

1) Dr. St. J. Chilton, he came in a short trip to make a survey of the sugar cane diseases having found some that had not been reported. He was working all the time outside of Mexico City and we didn't have the chance to get his opinion about our climate.

2) Miss Laurita Hamilton visited us on October 1946 and brought with her lots of remembrances and the cheerful spirit of the Minnesotans. She visited Cuernavaca, Taxco, Teotihuacan pyramids and Mexico City from end to end. She tried our "hot food" "Tacos con Chile", "Tamales", "Carnes con chile", and "Tequila" of course! And finally said that she found Mexico also too hot.

3) Dr. Ellis F. Darley came first by himself and after visiting Estudios Especiales Experiment Station (Rockefeller Foundation's program) he left for Guatemala again. His second visit was made with the whole family on his way back to Colorado.

4) Bill Loegering crossed the Rio Bravo in the summer of 1948 on a Rust Survey trip. He first visited Leonel Robles in Monterrey and then got here and beat the Mexican team of soft-ball.

5) Dr. E. C. Stakman "El Gran Jefe" has visited his Mexican students several times and always brings with him good news for his "amigos". He knows more Mexicans than the natives and we all make a real "Fiesta" of every trip of his. He has taught us how to eat chile and drink Tequila con limon (good for colds), and is a favorite among the girls of Estudios Especiales.

6) Dr. H. A. Rodenhiser has visited Mexico several times, most recently in January 1951 in company with the famous J. J. Christensen. Dr. Tervet was here last spring.

There are still many friends from Minnesota that have not visited us yet and all the Old Timers living in Mexico would be very happy to see them here.

Locals

Just as you have "Big Chief" business travelling all the time, we have here "Dutch" Harrar always busy flying back and forth to the States, but every time he comes back home he brings with him 10 lbs. overweight. He speaks much Spanish

a/ Presumably refers to Ing. José Rodríguez, M.S. Minnesota 1945.

but when he speaks with his two daughters who speak it beautifully, they ask him to better speak English. He enjoys the bullfights, "Posadas", "Piñatas", and almost all our native customs. He is very popular among his staff and friends.

Dr. Borlaug loves his work and is as proud of the new wheat varieties bred by him (El Yaqui, Chapingo, Kentana, etc.) as he is of his record of duck shooting and golf. He is anxiously expecting the coming of the race 15 because one of his varieties, Kentana, has some resistance to it and he will certainly enjoy this work.

José Rodríguez Vallejo is still the secretary of the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura in Chapingo, and in charge of the plant pathology class. He lives in the school grounds and enjoys the country life that has made of domino his favorite sport. He was about to kill himself in a recent automobile accident, but fortunately he only injured his upper lip which made him look as if he were about to give a kiss. He plans to get rid of his radio because he says that his daughter Patricia speaks as much as Billie and he's got plenty with that.

Living in Monterrey and happy with his job at the Instituto Tecnológico is Leonel Robles with his wife and three children who recently visited Mexico on a vacation. The Robles family has increased with two girls after their return from Minnesota. Working with Leonel is Luis Carlos Felix who has defended himself from marriage and is dedicated to teaching and doing research work.

Ing. Benjamin Ortega Cantero is working near the border, in Torreon, our main cotton region, increasing the best wheat varieties made by Dr. Borlaug and assistants. His wife, Manina, and his two daughters enjoy living up there very much. Working in the same program is Carlos Barbosa, another of the Old Timers. Cordova is there also working with Barbosa and Ortega.

Once upon a time a charming Mexican girl named Angelita Melendez went to Minnesota to learn more about Toad Stools, mushrooms and rusts. She worked so hard that she got sick and came home, but since then is not so happy and spends all her time dreaming to go back to Minnesota to obtain her Master's. She was also deeply impressed by the climate of the greenhouses during the winter and at present is working inside one built in the experiment station at Chapingo, identifying races of bean anthracnose fungus. She sings our Mexican songs more beautifully every day, and also the "Mambo", at present the most popular music down here.

Working with Estudios Especiales is Alfredo Campos, another of the admirers of Minnesota who has practically forgotten how to speak Spanish and speaks only English, and who, as all of the Mexican Old Timers, wishes to go back to Plant Pathology some day.

Marino, living at Leon, Gto., is also working in the wheat seed increase program. He got married and now the family has increased by one son.

From September 25 to October 6, the first Latin American Plant Parasitology Meeting was held in Mexico. This meeting, organized by the Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería de Mexico, together with the Rockefeller Foundation and the Governments of the Latin American countries, has been one of the best in Mexico. Brazilians, Uruguayans, Colombians, etc. together with Mexicans, presented papers on the most important plant diseases and pests of their own countries. The United States were represented by Dr. E. C. Stakman and Dr. W. H. Tisdale.



