



## ***The Ann Campana Judge Foundation Fall 2014 Newsletter***

### ***Greetings!***

We at the ACJF wish you all a joyful, peaceful holiday season and hope your 2015 will be a good one. Our 2014 has been busy, what with two trips to Honduras in March and early September. Rolando López, our very dear amigo, continues to be a Godsend, working on behalf of the ACJF as our ‘agent’ and troubleshooter. None of our work in Honduras would be possible without this man. He seems to be once or (at most) twice removed from almost everyone in the country.

Alex Uriel del Cid Vásquez, with whom we have worked for twelve years and whose visit to the USA was reported in the Fall 2013 newsletter, is no longer regularly contributing to our work on the ground. He is working for Mayor Ricardo Alvarez of the Municipality of Omoa. We will miss him and thank him for his years of service. We are training mason Jorge Chávez to assume many of Alex’s duties.

### ***March 2014 Visit***

#### **Las Palmas**

I checked on the Las Palmas project, first reported in the Fall 2013 missive. Most things were in good shape except for the dam, which was leaking. A close inspection revealed a fissure in the rock near the edge of the reservoir that was discovered only after the dam was nearly completed. After consulting with Ing. Denis Gutierrez of SANAA (Servicio Autonomo Nacional de Acueductos y Alcantarillados), the Honduran government agency responsible for water and sanitation, we decided to grout the fissure with

concrete. That proved successful, and as of today, the small reservoir behind the dam is still holding water just fine.

We did not have a formal dedication ceremony for the Las Palmas water system but the villagers were indeed grateful. We celebrated with lunch prepared by several villagers.

### ***El Tamarindo***

As reported in the Fall 2013 newsletter we had started a water project in El Tamarindo, a small community (approximately 150 persons) in the Sierra del Merendón, a mountain range just northwest of San Pedro Sula, the financial capital of Honduras. The village is in the Municipality of Choloma, a region of about 250,000 persons and a major clothing manufacturing center. If you have an article of clothing that says 'Hecho en Honduras' the odds are good that it was made in the vicinity of Choloma.

Some background: El Tamarindo is isolated from the rest of the municipality and does not have potable water. The villagers started building their own project but ran out of money and materials. Alex had checked out their work and was impressed with what they had accomplished. We decided to fund the rest of the project. The villagers had hoped to finish the project by March 2014 but that proved impossible.

To expedite the work in El Tamarindo Rolando, the leaders of El Tamarindo's *junta de agua* (water committee), and I met with officials of Choloma's water department. After some discussion the head of the water department agreed to provide a 5,000 gallon tank and to maintain the system upon its completion. The community had to incorporate, providing legal status for the *junta de agua*.

As I write this Jorge Chávez is resurveying the system and getting me specifications for the pressure relief valves that will be necessary. I plan to travel there in March 2015 to check on things and pay the bills.



**Jorge Chávez and Rolando López at the Las Palmas tank.**

### **Los Achiotes**

Rolando and I had been told of this village (the name refers to small, fruit-bearing trees) in the Municipality of Omoa. It's quite accessible, right off the main highway that runs along the sea to the Guatemala border - quite a far cry from our usual work environment. The community has about 350 residents but no potable water. But they have a big new, water tank – just no pipes to fill it up. What happened? An Engineers Without Borders student chapter from a US university had worked with them, designed a water system, and provided funding. The students were slated to return in June 2013 to help the villagers finish the project. But the students' university forbade them from returning. Why?

Perhaps you haven't heard, but Honduras has the highest murder rate in the world and San Pedro Sula, its financial capital where Rolando López lives and into which I fly, is the world's most dangerous city (sometimes alternating with Caracas). These rankings are widely quoted and you can

bet that a university is not going to allow its students to go there on an official university-sanctioned trip. Can you imagine the liability issues if something happened? That's the main reason I no longer take students there. It's unfortunate. I have visited Honduras about thirty times since 2001 with nary a problem. I stay out of places where I shouldn't be, use common sense, and work with locals.

In any case, we are considering helping the Los Achiotes folks finish the water project. They have a good, protected supply and worked hard to get where they are. The engineering and training have been done. The pipe needs to be laid, not a small task but easily doable. And I want to emphasize that the EWB chapter was not responsible for this fiasco; they meant well and the villagers are working from the chapter's schematics.

### ***September 2014 Visit***

#### **!No hay lluvia!**

No rain! I usually avoid travel during this period, which is the middle of the rainy season, which roughly corresponds to the Atlantic hurricane season: 1 June through 30 November. But this year another bullet was dodged: no rain. Main tasks were to check on potential projects and ensure that the Las Palmas dam was holding up (yes!). I also wanted to attend a library (say what?) dedication on 2 September. More about that later.

#### **El Tamarindo**

It looks as though the funding for the water tank will not materialize. The Municipality of Choloma is undergoing some turmoil. Suffice it to say that some funds have been 'misplaced'. They were not funds that belonged to the ACJF but they were to be used for the water tank. The ACJF has the funds to build the tank, and if that's what it takes, we'll do that.

#### **Children's Library at Monte Vista**

Monte Vista is a village in the Sierra de Omoa, our normal stomping ground. It is a hub village among six villages: centrally located and the gathering point and commercial center. It has the area's elementary school that serves all villages. A kindergarten has been started by Maria del

Carmen Ramirez and now she runs the new library as well – without taking a salary!

Read more and see photos here: <http://is.gd/Rbing8> Here is a bit of what I wrote in the aforementioned post:

*After 35 years a professional librarian, why not?*

*Today, in the village of Monte Vista in Honduras, villagers dedicated a library in honor of Mary Frances. It is part of the kindergarten school building, and, like the school, serves six communities in the rugged region in the Municipio of Omoa. The library serves all but will focus on the children.*

*The library was the villagers' idea. They know the importance of reading and knowledge and wanted their children to have a better education in a country where only a sixth-grade education is required and provided by the 'benevolent souls' in Tegucigalpa. Why give your citizens a high-school education when one half as much will do fine, thank you very much.*

*Amigo Rolando López will donate a computer or two. Wireless Internet? Perhaps that will come to pass.*

*The villagers donated 370 person-days and 95 mule-days (hauling stuff) in time to construct the library. The ACJF used several hundred dollars left over from village water projects in the area to help purchase building materials. Mary Frances and I also made up the shortfall.*

Pretty neat!

### ***Other Projects Completed/Funded***

Towards the end of 2014 we granted El Porvenir (<http://elporvenir.org>) \$5,000 for its latrine project in Terrabona, Nicaragua.

El Porvenir's project, *Improved Sanitation in El Rodeo, Nicaragua*, was completed on schedule and submitted on March 2014. View it here: <http://is.gd/GElhhP>

Our support of Steve Schneider, who produces the book, *Water Supply Well*

*Guidelines for Use in Developing Countries*, continues. We have supported Steve (\$500) and are acting as a collection/disbursement agent for tax-free contributions. So far, we have collected \$12,350 for this seminal publication. His work is drawing raves worldwide and our logo is right there on the back cover! Thousands of hard copies (5 x 8 inch booklets, spiral-bound, on weatherproof paper) have been distributed, not to mention hundreds of downloaded PDFs. Steve has produced third editions of the guidelines in English, French, Spanish, and Chinese (Mandarin) <http://is.gd/NBj64a> The Swahili translation will soon be updated to a third edition.

If you want all or some of your donation to go to Steve's project, be sure to let me know.

### ***Finances, Donations, and Amazon Smile***

We have \$26,600 in the bank with about \$20,000 of that committed to current projects. We have collected \$10,980 so far in 2014. There is still some time left to make your contributions for tax year 2014. You can write a check to the ACJ Foundation and mail it to the ACJF (3359 NW Poppy Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330-3476) or use PayPal for a secure, online credit card transaction. Visit <http://www.acjfoundation.org> and click on 'Contributions'. If the letter containing your check is postmarked no later than 31 December 2014 it can be deducted from your 2014 Federal income tax. We are also now registered with Amazon Smile – when you buy from Amazon Smile 0.5% goes to us. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Our 2013 990-EZ form was posted last May; visit our website and click on 'Financials'. You can see what we've done with limited funds. Recall that we have no paid USA staff and all Board of Director travel, including my trips to Honduras, is self-funded. Other than fees to the State of Oregon, PayPal for credit-card processing, and our Internet hosting we don't spend much money for administration.

### ***Activities***

A repeat from the Fall 2013 Newsletter: I have been fortunate enough to have been interviewed and asked to write about 'hydrophilanthropy' and the work of the foundation. My editorial was published in the November

2013 issue of *Water Well Journal* [<http://is.gd/3j3YCt>]. An interview also appeared in *National Driller* [<http://is.gd/mRxnJV>]. I was a keynote speaker at NGWA's Groundwater Expo in Nashville [<http://groundwaterexpo.com/>] and also spoke at NGWA's Groundwater Summit [<http://www.groundwatersummit.org>] in May 2014.

I am now on the Board of Directors of the National Ground Water Research and Educational Foundation [<http://is.gd/XGFPxq>], a 501(c)(3) that supports hydrophilanthropic work, among other things. I was recently (22 December 2014) interviewed about water on the Sharon Kleyne Radio Hour (<http://www.sharonkleynehour.com/>) and spoke about the need to ensure that those less fortunate than we have access to safe water and sanitation. You will be able to find this in Sharon's archives.

### ***El Fin y El Futuro***

That's the end, as in the newsletter, and the future, as in our plans.

I plan to take a brief trip (one week or so) to Honduras in late March 2015. I will check on the El Tamarindo project and further investigate the Los Achiotes project. Our reputation is spreading; other NGOs have heard of us and some partnerships might be in the offing.

Thanks go to the ACJF's Directors, Loring Green and Mary Frances Campana, and Webmaster Jeanine McGann, who have been with the ACJF since the beginning. None of the above would have been possible without their work. And **THANKS** to our donors, because they make us go – no money, no work!

Special thanks to my spouse and *best friend* Mary Frances for unfailing support, love, and encouragement.

Please email ([aguadoc@live.com](mailto:aguadoc@live.com)) or call +1 541 602 4085 (Skype: aguadoc) if you want to chat.

Enjoy the holidays and 2015! Thank you all for your continued, generous support!

- Michael

***Pictures Follow!***



**Las Palmas dam. The grouted fissure is between the two men in the foreground, at the waterline.**



**Las Palmas pressure break tank. Rolando López is on the right.**



**Inside the pressure break tank.**



Library signs – front door and side of building.



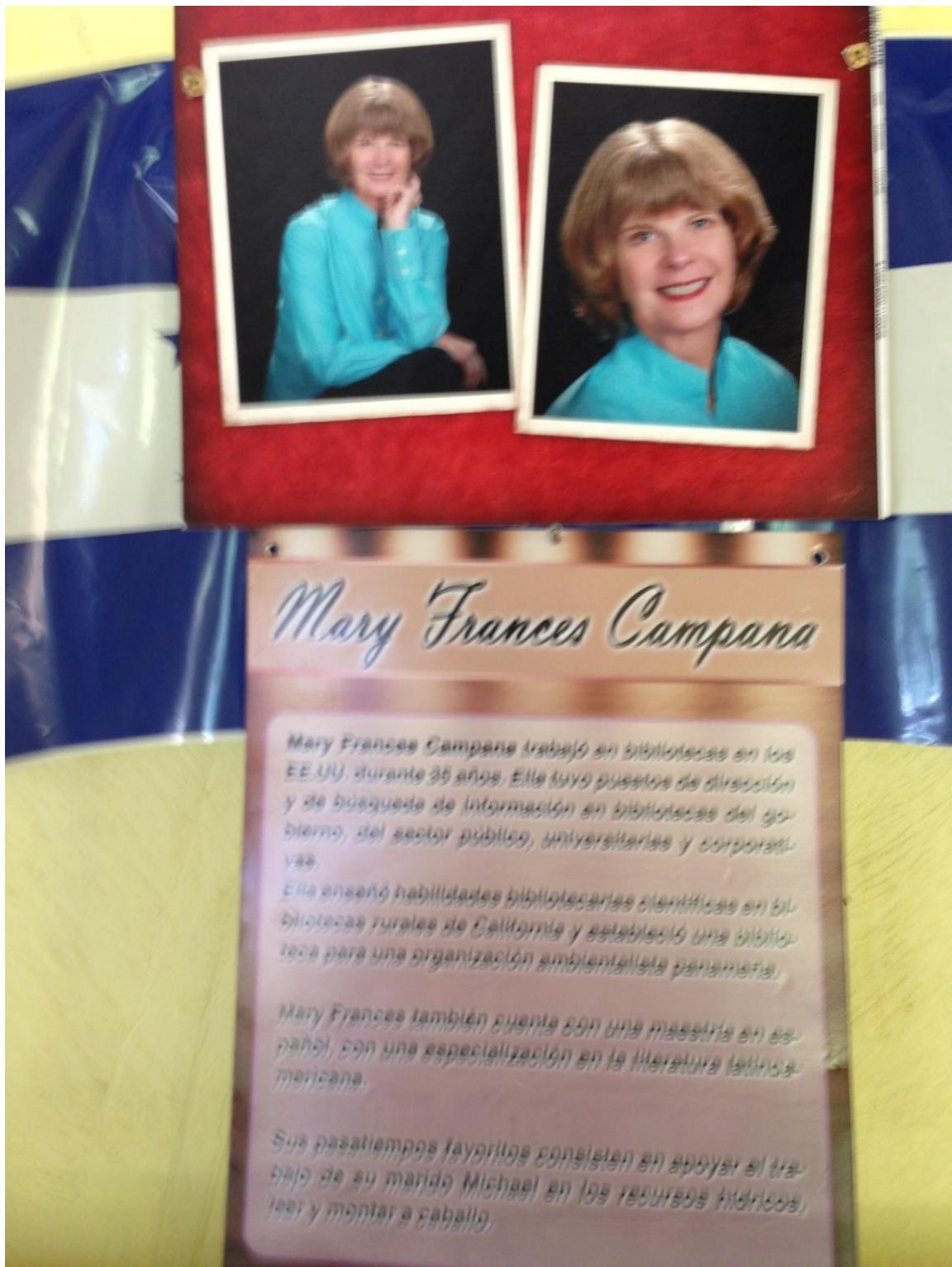
**Monte Vista kindergarten (left door) and library (right door).**



**Maria del Carmen Ramirez and Rolando.**



**Maria del Carmen Ramirez and some reluctant performers.**

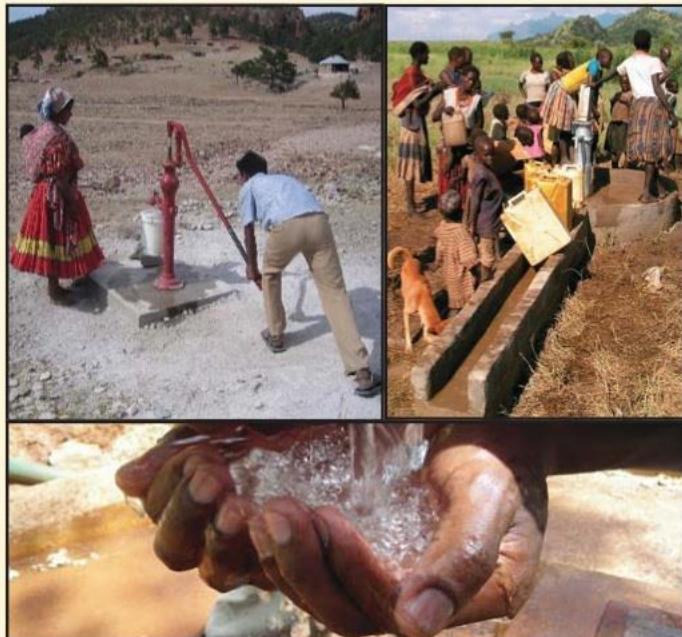


**Mary Frances' library sign with pictures and biography.**

**Text of the biography:**

*Mary Frances Campana worked in libraries in the U.S. for 35 years. She held management and information research positions in government, public, university and corporate libraries. She taught library science skills in rural California libraries and set up a library for a Panamanian environmental organization. Mary Frances also holds a Masters degree in Spanish, with a specialization in Latin American literature. Her favorite pastimes are supporting her husband Michael's work in water resources, reading and riding horses.*

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**Steve Schneider's water well book – Spanish.**