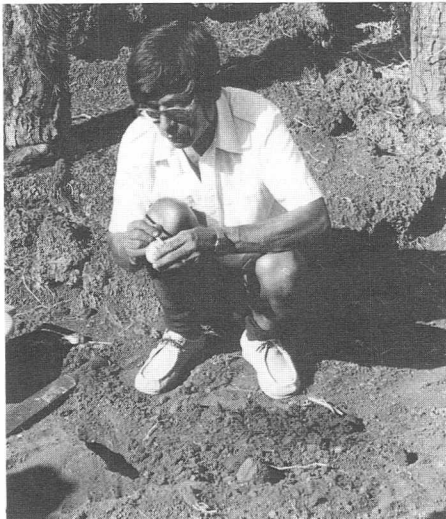


RECOGNIZING FAMILIAR FACES

By: Thomas H. Fritts

The Galápagos community includes many dedicated people whose commitment to conservation, research, and the quality of life in the Archipelago contributes significantly to the programs of the Galápagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station. As a means of recognizing the contributions of a few of these people, *Noticias de Galápagos* will periodically include brief profiles of people (some with familiar faces) who have given much and continue to give to Galápagos. This is our way of saying thank you to these people and to the many other dedicated employees of the Park and Station. The dedication, experience, and creativity of employees like those described below are the keys to continued success in the conservation and management of the Galápagos.



Fausto Llerena S. excavating a tortoise nest deposited by a female in captivity. Fausto Llerena S. excavando el nido de un galapágo en cautiverio.

FAUSTO LLERENA SANCHEZ
Park Warden, Galápagos National Park
Service

Fausto Llerena was born on the mainland of Ecuador, but he and his family moved to the highlands of Santa Cruz in Galápagos when Fausto was a young boy. He has worked as a warden with the Park Service since 1971 when the National Park Service was first organized under the Ministry of Agriculture. At present, Fausto works behind the scenes for the Park on Santa Cruz in a position of major importance to the success of the conservation programs. The

captive reproduction and rearing programs for land iguanas and giant tortoises involve endless monitoring, problem solving, and record keeping. Fausto first worked with the iguana program, but for several years has been supervising the tortoise program, handling both the paperwork and the maintenance of nesting females, incubating eggs, and growing tortoises. People needing information on the status of the reptile breeding program frequently seek out Fausto in his crowded office near the pens where the young tortoises from five islands are reared.

Fausto was one of several early Park wardens who endured difficult field conditions in exploring the fledgling National Park, censusing the native animals, and initiating control of introduced mammals.

In October 1987, Fausto's field experience was again called into play when he assisted five other Park wardens in an intensive tortoise census on the island of Pinzón. The census was a resounding success. Forty-five tortoise nests were found, and all participants agreed that it was Don Fausto who recognized the best nesting areas, found the most nests, and ensured the success of the trip.

Fausto is also well known and admired for his talents as a wood carver. His carvings of both saddleback and domed tortoises are so distinctive that they are recognizable thousands of miles from Galápagos. He occasionally, by special request, carves other animals ranging from penquins to land iguanas, but his tortoises are particularly prized by Galápagos residents and visitors alike. As a person who has lived near tortoises since his early childhood, and as a warden who has worked with them in the field and in captivity, Fausto is uniquely suited to conceptualize a tortoise and to turn a block of wood into a work of art.

LUIS RAMOS VELOZ
Chief Purchasing Agent, Charles Darwin
Research Station

Luis Ramos (respectfully and affectionately known to nearly everyone as Don Ramos) has worked for the Charles Darwin Research Station since November 1971. For many years he has served as the principal person responsible for purchasing food, supplies, equipment, and other miscellaneous items needed from local suppliers. He also receives all purchases arriving by cargo ship from the mainland.

In times past, when motor vehicles were less reliable and less available, it was Don Ramos in his indispensable *panga* (skiff) who ferried scientists, supplies, and equipment from the Station to the boats anchored in Academy Bay waiting to carry them to their research sites on outlying islands. He was always there to pick them up on their return and take them back to the Station. He has made countless trips

by *panga* through the narrow channel from town across Academy Bay to the Station with materials arriving on supply ships from the continent. When drinking water was in short supply, he provisioned the Station with fresh water acquired from supply ships.



Luis Ramos V. in his mobile office. Luis Ramos V. en su oficina móvil.

But, as roads improved and the Station grew, Don Ramos began to use Station vehicles to complete his daily rounds for purchases, deliveries, and errands. No matter how busy he is, Ramos always seems to find time to provide a ride for someone needing to go to town or to offer his advice on where something can be most conveniently purchased. Everyone, from Station employees to visiting scientists, has benefited from his ability to find those items in short supply, buy them at a reasonable price, and even secure credit in times when cash is unavailable.

Don Ramos' creativity also evidences itself in his personal hobby of sewing. When zippers, cloth, and a need exist, he skillfully fabricates a variety of field and camping equipment including daypacks and tents. He has successfully duplicated the quality of professionally-made equipment and incorporated modifications specifically useful to Galápagos situations. "Hecho por Ramos" (Made by Ramos) may not be a world-famous designer label, but it is one greatly appreciated by people in Galápagos who have a variety of needs ranging from equipment for the field, puppets for environmental education programs, or upholstery for a vehicle.

RECONOCIENDO CARAS FAMILIARES

Por: Thomas H. Fritts

La comunidad de las Islas Galápagos incluye mucha gente dedicada comprometida a la conservación, la investigación, y la calidad de vida en el Archipiélago quienes contribuye grandemente a los programas del Servicio Parque Nacional Galápagos y de la Estación Científica Charles Darwin. Como una manera de reconocimiento a las contribuciones de algunas de estas personas, *Noticias de Galápagos* incluirá periódicamente breves representaciones de personas (algunas con caras familiares) quienes se han dedicado y continuarán dedicando para el bien de las Galápagos. Esta es una manera de dar gracias a esta gente y a muchos otros empleados del Parque y de la Estación. La dedicación, experiencia, y creatividad de empleados como estos descritos más abajo son los factores determinantes del éxito continuo en la conservación y manejo de las Galápagos.

FAUSTO LLERENA SANCHEZ
Guardaparque, Servicio Parque Nacional
Galápagos

Fausto Llerena nació en la tierra continental del Ecuador, pero su familia mudó a la parte alta de Isla Santa Cruz en Galápagos cuando Fausto fue muy joven. El ha trabajado como un guardaparque con el Servicio Parque Nacional Galápagos desde el año 1971 cuando el Servicio estuvo organizado dentro del Ministerio de Agricultura.

Actualmente Fausto se encuentra trabajando para el Parque en Santa Cruz en una posición de gran importancia para el éxito de los programas de conservación. Los programas de reproducción y crianza en cautiverio de iguanas de tierra y tortugas gigantes consiste en un interminable monitoreo y solución de problemas. Fausto trabajó primeramente con iguanas, pero en los últimos años ha estado supervisando el programa de tortugas, balanceando el trabajo de control de datos y la vigilancia de hembras con nidos, huevos baja incubación, y las pequeñas tortugas. Las personas con necesidades de información sobre el programa de la reproducción de reptiles frecuentemente buscan a Fausto quien se encuentra en medio de su oficina estrecha cerca de las jaulas donde se crían tortugas jóvenes procedentes de cinco islas.

Fausto fue uno de los primeros guardaparques quienes sobrellevó las difíciles condiciones del campo explorando el naciente Parque Nacional, censando los animales nativos e iniciando el control de los mamíferos introducidos.