



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . Also called SALONICA

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U. S. TOURISTS TO GREECE EXPECTED TO EXCEED 100,000 IN 1961

What can a hundred thousand Americans expect to find when, if current predictions are correct, they will travel to and through Greece this year? The question was recently answered by His Excellency Alexis S. Liatis, Greece's Ambassador to the U. S.

"Greece offers many advantages to guests from the U. S. A.," he said, "among them being one of the finest year-round climates in the world, top quality and economical tourist accommodations, friendly people, one of the lowest crime rates anywhere, unsurpassed scenery, a 12,000-mile coastline, hundreds of beautiful islands and unique archaeological treasures.

"In addition," he added, "we have good water everywhere, excellent beaches with no tides, a virtual absence of any language barrier, two golf courses near Athens and a fine variety of water sports such as sailing, fishing and skindiving."

It was the Ambassador who predicted that U. S. visitors would number more than 100,000 in 1961 compared to the previous level of 70,000. Many of these will wander from the beaten paths and visit parts of Greece seldom seen by Americans. Some too will go north and enjoy a glass of milk at the American Farm School in Salonica.

On the inside pages of this newsletter is some additional information on travel in Greece, printed in the hope that many Americans will have an opportunity to visit there this year.

GEORGE V. ALLEN ACCEPTS SERVICE AS TRUSTEE

The Honorable George V. Allen, until recently Director of the United States Information Agency, has accepted an invitation to join the Board of Trustees of the American Farm School. Ambassador Allen began his long career in government service as Vice Consul in Kingston, Jamaica in 1930 and subsequently served in Shanghai, Patras and Cairo. Subsequently he served as Ambassador to Iran, Yugoslavia, India and Nepal and Greece where he became thoroughly familiar with the work of the School. He has also served in Washington as Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs and is an expert on the problems of underdeveloped countries.

Ambassador Allen resigned from government service to assume the presidency of the Tobacco Institute in Washington. A native of North Carolina, Mr. Allen graduated from Duke University in 1924. He is married and lives with his wife and children in Washington.

A LITTLE HELP GOES A LONG WAY IN GREECE AS RECENT GRADUATE'S EXPERIENCE SHOWS

Charalambos is in debt . . . but both he and his parents are pleased that he is. For village families such as Charalambos', trying to make ends meet on five acres of land, debt is not unusual, but to be pleased about it is something else again.

Charalambos lives in Myriophyton in the midst of an underdeveloped area lacking transportation or sufficient land. What cash the family has comes from cotton and corn, but seldom is there anything left over to improve the farm or save for a rainy day. Already in debt to the Agricultural Bank, Charalambos' father had to be convinced that the opportunities for his son on the farm were better than in government service.

During his four years at the Farm School, Charalambos learned a lot and became convinced that egg and broiler production would work in his village. With his own hands he began to haul rock from a nearby quarry to build a proper poultry house. He could dig the foundation, build the walls and install the wire, but without some additional funds he could not buy the cement, lime and lumber needed. Lacking credit at the Bank it looked as though he would have to abandon his plans and be satisfied with his traditional lot.

Fortunately, however, the Farm School retains an interest in its graduates. And even more fortunately one of the School's Trustees recently provided the funds to establish a small revolving loan fund for important projects which could not receive financing elsewhere.

Through the Graduate Follow-Up Program Charalambos' problem came to the attention of the Director. As the Loan Fund is extremely small each case must be carefully investigated before it is approved. But in time \$300 was made available for the materials needed and an initial supply of broiler chicks bred at the School.

Today Charalambos has his chicken house and 300 broilers on the way. Tomorrow he will begin to repay his loan from the sale of the broilers. He knows, as do all the graduates who have received help in this manner, that unless he repays promptly there will not be funds available to assist others.

This is but one example of the Farm School's approach to helping people to help themselves. A little loan to a properly trained person, dedicated to the work he wishes to undertake will accomplish seeming wonders . . . not only for Charalambos and his family, but for his village as well. Soon others will be following his example in the poultry business and soon, one feels certain, the entire village will benefit from an additional cash crop requiring little land but ample care and labor.



NEW SOUNDS AND SIGHTS ABOUND

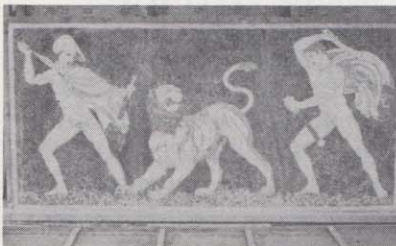
In the shadow of the Albanian mountains, an Olympic Airways hour from the coast of Italy or a hundred minutes from ancient Athens, lies the beautiful Greek island of Corfu, known as Kerkyra, renowned as the summer pleasure palace of European kings in times gone by. Here fine hotels, grotto-ringed coves, lush olive groves and giant cacti greet the discriminating traveler as a first or final stop on his way through new—or Northern—Greece, too seldom savored by those seeking an understanding of this picturesque nation of friendly people.

From the summit of the town's Venetian fortress, across the bay and beyond to Igoumenitsa on the mainland, unfolds a little-known world of fascination, easily reached by regular ferry from Corfu or frequent flights from Athens. Lake cities such as Ioannina, with its Turkish minarets, and Kastoria, center of a flourishing fur industry where fine coats made from mink cuttings can be bought for \$400, lie along the scenic route to the east coast. Farther on, the falls at Edessa and the new excavations at Pella, reputed birthplace of Alexander the Great, provide especially interesting stops just off the road to Salonica, second largest city in Greece and today a most important center of surviving Byzantine art.

Somewhat to the South, the pinnacles at Meteora in Thessaly offer the opportunity of seeing how monks lived six centuries ago and of staying overnight in one of the monasteries perched on rock spires a third of a mile above sea level. Not far away the road passes by the foot of Mount Olympus, snow-clad home of gods and goddesses, as well as Frankish forts which dot strategic hills along the winding coast.

There are many roads to Salonica, chief city of Northern Greece, and much to see upon arrival. From Athens it is only an hour and ten minutes by air or a day's scenic travel by train or modern shore highway.

In Salonica, or Thessaloniki as it is now known, traditional copper, brass and silver crafts flourish among a



Pella, new found mosaics at the Great Alexander's birthplace.



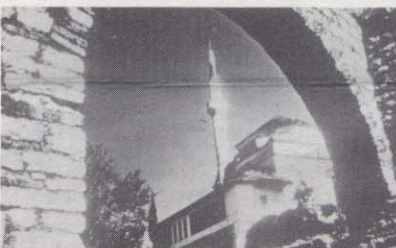
Thessaloniki, Byzantine churches abound in this historic city.



Kastoria, center of a flourishing fur trade with bargains galore.



Corfu, beautiful isle and playground of former kings.



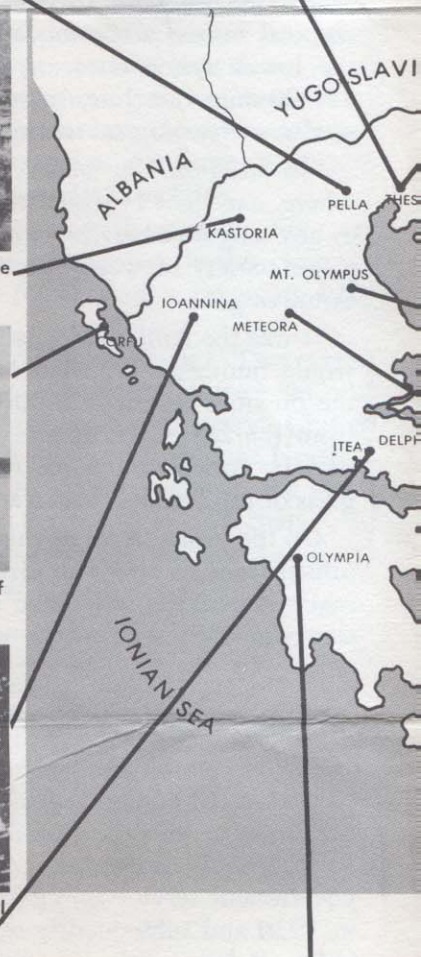
Ioannina, where lakeside minarets still loom.



Delphi, home of the oracle which spoke in riddles.



Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic games





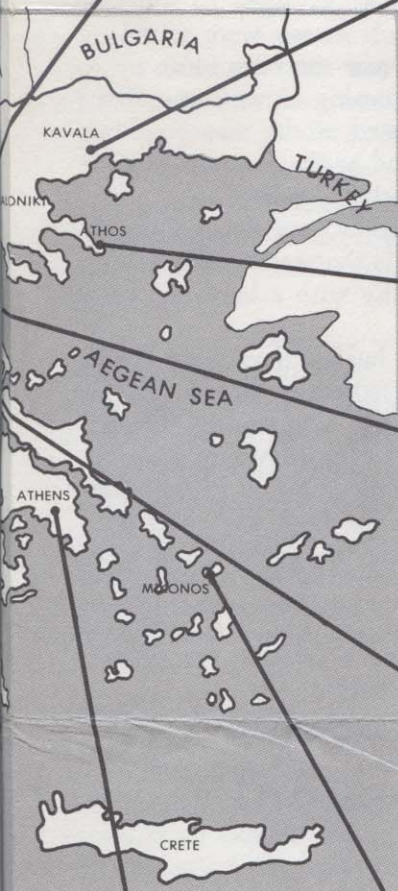
IN LITTLE KNOWN NORTHERN GREECE



American Farm School, only five miles from Salonica's center.



Kavala, Roman influence beside ancient Greek monuments and ruins.



Athos, now celebrating its millennium as a monastery.



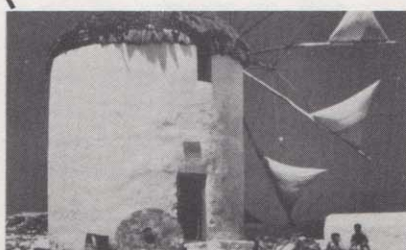
Mt. Olympus, source of myths and sanctuary of the gods.



Meteora, monastic castles perched high on barren rocks.



Acropolis, to ancients the center of the universe.



Mikonos, only one of the many beautiful and interesting islands.

dozen or more churches of Byzantium, claimed by many to be the finest in existence. Here the famous Ignatian Way serves as North Main Street and passes beside the Roman Arch of Galerius, built astride Saint Paul's route from the East. At the sea's edge still stands the famous Venetian White Tower, marking one end of the wall once surrounding the entire city.

Only five miles east of Salonica stands the American Farm School, a must for those interested in the life of modern Greece. Here the tourist or student will be warmly greeted, then treated to a tour of the carefully developed property and a glass of the finest milk in all of Greece. For some an hour or two will suffice to gain an appreciation of the role of this fifty-five-year old institution.

For those who can stay a while, a trip to neighboring rural villages with a member of the staff can usually be arranged. Here is a unique opportunity to meet the people of Greece, proudly struggling to wrest a living from the reluctant soil. The warmth of their hospitality, the graciousness of their simple homes and the openness of their conversation leave an indelible impression on those making the trip.

For the slightly more adventurous, Salonica is the gateway to the easternmost parts of Greece: Philippi with its extensive Roman ruins, and (for men only) Mount Athos, where the most famous monastery in the world is now celebrating its millennium.

Of course, no trip to Greece is complete without a visit to such noble sights as Delphi, Olympia, Athens, or at least some of the islands. Whether your trip starts in the North and concludes at the Acropolis or begins there and ends at Corfu on the way to Italy, Evzonias on the Yugoslavian border or Alexandropolis before crossing into Turkey, a little time left for the sights of Northern Greece will pay large rewards in unique and memorable experiences and more memorable memories. As they say in Greece, "Kalo Taxidi" — "Have a wonderful trip!"

DIARY FROM SALONICA



Ed. Note: Charles and Ann House returned to Greece and the School in mid-October. Since then we have received frequent "family" letters which have kept us both informed and amused. We hope the Houses' many friends among our readers will enjoy sharing vicariously some of their pleasures through these excerpts from their letters.

October 26, 1960 . . . Our welcome was overwhelming. We were first met at the Greek border and drove to Salonica along the new road by the sea to the School. There the staff and students were waiting at the gate with a platform and armchair on the new truck. We drove between rows of cheering boys to Eleanor and Henry Reed's home. There were no serious consequences except the deep feeling of thanksgiving for the spirit and blessing of the work being done here.

October 30, 1960 . . . Sunday was Charlie's birthday. Soon after dinner guests began to arrive for a reception around the fountain in front of James Hall. Socrates appeared resplendent in coat and tall white cap bearing aloft a huge three-tiered birthday cake. At evening service Charlie told the boys of what had led to his decision to come out here in 1917, of what he had found when he came and some of the difficulties and of the ways the School has grown and been blessed, through the great

and triumphant faith of Father and Mother House and the many who have followed them.

November 25, 1960 . . . Charlie has left his drafting board and is getting some real exercise. This morning I walked up to the Girls' School and found him on top of the roof of the last of the German barracks, which with a few men to help him he is tearing down. He is back at his old job of salvaging materials for the construction he is supervising.

December 18, 1960 . . . The sisters (Grace and Ruth House) arrived today, and what a wonderful welcome.

January 1, 1961 . . . A Happy New Year to you, each one. The year has started here with lovely sunshine, cold and snappy . . . The children's Christmas tree was held Friday, with Tony Trimis as Santa and, as always, the children were darling and several were too excited to say their "pieces" and the wings of one of the angels fell off.

January 10, 1961 . . . Phil Foote (teacher of English) came back from his vacation a week ahead of time and couldn't wait to drive his blue Volkswagen to some of the villages to visit his boys. Just as we were returning from a meeting in Salonica, we saw the boys filing up to the Patio and knew they were coming to welcome Grace and Ruth. Grace was so impressed at the way each boy looked her straight in the eye and at the firmness of their handshakes. It's so good to have the boys back.

January 25, 1961 . . . Two weeks have flown since my last family letter. Our big news is that early this morning Mikie Trimis presented her family with a bouncing baby boy . . . both doing fine.

Our Sundays are almost our busiest days. Two weeks ago this was our program. Orthodox service in our School Chapel, Anglo-American Community Church service at Anatolia College, a drive up to Mount Hortisch before dinner, tea at a staff member's house in the afternoon, then Evening Service for the boys and chats with various members of the staff after the service. And so to bed after a snack with Charlie.

Ed. P. S. Charlie and Ann have greatly enjoyed hearing from their many friends since their return to Greece. The School's address is P.O. Box 140, Thessaloniki, Greece.

NEWSLETTER

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

45 East 65th Street • New York 21, New York

A NOTE ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS

Regular readers of the Farm School Newsletter will have noted the use of mailing plates to facilitate our service to you. In the preparation of these plates, there were unfortunately a number of opportunities for errors.

If your name and address is not correct as shown, please tear off this section of the *Sower*, indicate the correct name and address, and mail both the incorrect and the corrected address to us. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
CRAIG R. SMITH,
President.

TO.