



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . Also called SALONICA

Spring-Summer
1962
Volume XII
Number 2-3



The east side of Rochester Hall shows entrance and offices wing.

GRADUATION UNDER LIGHTS PROVIDES UNIQUE SETTING FOR ANNUAL PARADE AND PAGEANT

Graduation, 1962, began as usual with the traditional entrance of the fourth class assembled on a horse-drawn cart, the passing of the reins of leadership to the third class, and the presentation of the symbolic farmer's straw hat and a CARE tool kit to each graduate.

But this was a special ceremony. It was the first Farm School graduation to take place under the lights — against the night sky. The model village appeared so real that children in the audience ran onto the athletic field to play in the three-dimensional "village square."

Director Bruce M. Lansdale greeted families of students, friends and trustees of the School, the consular corps, the Bishop of Salonica, the Nomarch and Director of the Nomarchy, and the Minister of Northern Greece. He recalled to the boys that the year before, on the very spot where he stood, had stood Dr. Charles House, and he advised the graduates to make the life and philosophy of Dr. House an example to themselves. Before an audience of 3,000, Theodosios Papanicolaou, student body president, responded, "Our gratitude to you who have made our education possible will be told not in words today, but in action tomorrow."

Then there was the parade of livestock, from the big Black Aberdeen Angus bull who seemed to march in perfect time with the music of the orphanage brass band, to the black piglet which scurried along in quadruple time, followed by machinery and all the School farm equipment. The boys then demonstrated what they had learned in each practical department such as harvesting, making cement blocks, completing an electrical system, milking, and building a hot shower from two oil tanks.

(continued on page 5)

ROCHESTER HALL, NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND CONFERENCE CENTER, OFFICIALLY OPENS AT SCHOOL

The newest and one of the most impressive stops on a Farm School tour commands a breathtaking view of Mount Olympus, and a no less breathtaking view of the School's fields, roads, homes and buildings. It is Rochester Hall, and recently there was a general exodus of office staff from Princeton Hall to the new white building across the road.

Besides fourteen offices, Rochester Hall includes the new memorial conference center and a new assembly hall for student programs, such as presentation of the farm boys' creed before the lighted fire: "Like the fire which blazes brightly, may the flames of modern agriculture burn in me; like the smoke which rises, may my good works appear to serve as an example to others; even as the sparks which flare up but extinguish themselves, may every spark of egotism be extinguished in me that I may serve my country through my work."

The conference center and the assembly hall have been serving their purposes for some months. A January Community Development Conference was the first held in the center. Numerous student programs, including last year's Thanksgiving program, given before the hall was completed, with makeshift curtains serving as doors, have already taken place in the assembly hall. Last summer, when not much more than the shell had been built, a birthday and farewell reception was held for Charles and Ann House and Dr. House's sisters.

Though built primarily with U.S. capital grants and foundation support, Rochester Hall is named in honor of the City of Rochester, New York, long the home of the Lansdale family. It was almost by accident that the citizens of Rochester first took a serious interest in the School, however. It all began with a shipment of first-quality goats delivered to Greece as a token of friendship and interest. From there the activities grew, other items of equipment were collected and forwarded abroad and soon a committee was formed to solicit contributions. Today, friends of the American Farm School collect over \$10,000 a year to help support the education and training of deserving Greek youngsters. As a token of the School's appreciation and a gesture of lasting thanks, Rochester Hall has been so named.

One sign of the School's growth is Rochester Hall. But the spirit of the Farm School stays, even as the fireplace stays, to recall the School's humble, hopeful and inspired beginnings at the turn of the century, with twelve boys, an adobe hut, and a prayer.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMES OF AGE IN GREECE AND OFFERS PROVEN EXPERIENCE TO OTHER NATIONS

Five-year Project Adopted Widely Throughout Greece

Begun but five years ago, Thessaloniki's Community Development Program has since spread throughout the whole of Greece, and has now gone abroad to be presented at an international seminar on Community Development at Dublin, Ireland. Coordinated by Antonios Trimis at the Farm School, the program has sponsored 18 conferences, covered all but one of the prefecture's 150 villages, and reached nearly 3,300 village leaders and 250,000 individuals.



The Greek Minister of the Interior addresses a conference in Rochester Hall for Thessaloniki's neighboring prefecture, Halkidhiki, which has since set up its own Community Development program.

Community Development has been defined as "the cultivation of a spirit of initiative, action and cooperation among the members of a community to achieve greatest possible use of human and natural resources in facing the community's needs and raising its standard of living." The Thessaloniki Prefecture Community Development Program has been jointly sponsored by the Greek Royal National Foundation, the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, an independent, voluntary non-denominational relief and rehabilitation agency, and the American Farm School. It began in 1957 under the guidance of a prefecture committee, which included the American Farm School Director, the project coordinator, and 43 officials who served as volunteer workers.

Explaining the program to a group of Cypriot teachers attending the 18th conference, Mr. Trimis pointed out that the idea of community development is by no means a new one; it may have had its roots, in fact, in the ancient Greek *agora*, where noted citizens publicly attacked their problems and worked toward their solution.

"However," he said, "even where the spirit of community development exists, a program is necessary to channel existing forces and resources, and to develop the spirit of cooperation present in the village."

"Each aspect of the village mirrors a portion of the villager. The school, his mind; the church, his soul; agriculture, his stomach; hygiene and athletics, his body's development. By developing the potentialities of the village, one develops the villager. By answering the villager's needs in each field, one helps the village."

When the program started, villagers were told about its plans, and village leaders — officers, priests and church committee members, teachers and school committee members, doctors, cooperative presidents, and presidents of athletic organizations — were invited to attend an area conference. These leaders then formed a nucleus for the village Community Development committee.

At these conferences, church, agriculture, hygiene, schools, athletics, and village beautification were discussed, after which the village's needs and resources were carefully assessed. Each village Community Development committee then drew up a program of its own and presented it to the conference.

So far six evaluation conferences have been held. Out of 1,100 projects planned at the original meetings, 600 have become actualities. These included church repair projects, schools and child-care centers construction, irrigation installations, road improvements and bringing in electric power. While many of these projects had been previously thought of, the goal of the Community Development program was to increase the number of the projects, to involve the villagers in their planning and execution, and to insure their completion.

When the Thessaloniki program was described to 17 nations at an international conference on Community Development in Athens, it was recommended that countries planning similar programs seriously consider the simplicity and grassroots nature of the Thessaloniki program as an effective way to create procedures in other parts of the world. Now the Thessaloniki program has again been presented to an international assembly at the seminar, this time in Dublin.

Mr. Trimis sums it up this way, "Man exists in five separate worlds: that of himself, alone; that of the family, of the community, of his country, and of the world of nations. Community Development, beginning with the first of these worlds, the individual, also reaches the fifth and is showing itself to be a force for betterment everywhere." The Farm School is pleased to have had a role in initiating and furthering this important part of any nation's development. Community Development is but one more way in which the School helps Greece to help itself.



LETTER FROM GREECE

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Farm School Vice President Alexander W. Allport and Mrs. Allport recently spent more than five weeks at the School. Their report, in the form of a letter mailed from abroad, provides some interesting insights into the activities of the School and the life of Greece.*

Dear Friends:

One of Bruce Lansdale's favorite words is "hectic" and the more one stays around the American Farm School the more one begins to comprehend just how fitting a term this is for the daily round of welcomes, tours, meetings, services, inspections, conferences, receptions, dinners, discussions, appointments, interruptions and unexpected events which constitute the normal life of the students and staff. Just to give you one example, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. last Friday afternoon, the School received notice that 15 community development specialists from Asia, Latin America and Africa were arriving on an international study tour from Holland at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, and that they wished to have a three-day program at the School; the newly-appointed United States Ambassador, Mr. Henry R. Labouisse, and his wife arrived for a three-hour reception, tour and luncheon; a U.S. Navy helicopter appeared over the school and landed on the playing field, completely disrupting classes for thirty minutes before taking wing again; and a visiting basketball team of Navy personnel showed up for a game against the Farm School team. In the meantime, the boys had their lunch and attended classes, construction of two new buildings and one substantial extension proceeded on schedule; fire-fighting equipment was installed around the school grounds; and we do not know how many calves and lambs were born and how many other activities occurred simultaneously of which we were not aware. The day finally ended with a special pre-Easter Church service and individual members of the staff making plans for an equally varied Saturday to follow.

For the Farm School family, all this is what makes life interesting and worthwhile, and in addition keeps them in close touch with events in other parts of the world. When one is at the School one does not think of it as an isolated outpost of American influence and interest, but rather as a center of American activity, in Greece at least, if not in this whole part of the world. This is no doubt a rather exaggerated attitude, but it is somewhat contagious and harmless if kept in proper proportion to other events and places. The Greeks have a popular song praising the beautiful color of their sky, but ending with the thought that other lands have blue sky, too.

Arriving in Greece is always a pleasure. The customs

agents are serious but not dour, the border gift shop and café is more inviting and both Mobil Oil and British Petroleum have stations right near the line, topped by large signs welcoming the traveler to the country. We were even more fortunate, for within five minutes of our arrival at the customs station, the Associate Director of the School, the magnificent Theo Litsas, two members of the staff and three honor students drove up to greet us with flowers, a banner and a picnic lunch of School milk, butter, bread, cheese and assorted Greek goodies, which were promptly spread out on a table on a terrace in an orchard with a panoramic view and devoured with toasts and greetings for one and all.

Two hours later, our arrival at the School was the occasion for another reception. A bright red tractor and haywagon draped with rugs and bearing two "thrones" met us at the gate. We boarded it as gracefully as possible, and were then pulled along the cypress-bordered road



Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Allport view School beside memorial fountain in front of James Hall.

through lines of waving boys and staff, greeting many of them as old friends as we passed. Once in front of the Director's house, we paused for formal greetings and pictures, the singing of the welcome song, and a brief response in rather poor Greek.

No sooner was this reception over, however, than the day's business went on. A traveling photographer and his wife were in for a visit and tour, a Navy doctor and his wife ended their trip around the School, several young Englishmen appeared for a stopover from Oxford, and things returned to normal. The following day the entire staff, their wives and families entertained us at an early evening reception, for which Bruce and I arrived just in time after driving in pouring rain from a community development committee meeting fifty miles away across the mountains.

(continued on page 4)



Our trip from the United States to Greece constituted ten days of extremely interesting and varied travel: First, from New York via Iceland to Luxembourg and a night and delicious French dinner in this quaint, but evidently prosperous and useful Grand Duchy. I found nothing to complain of on the trip over, though my wife correctly points out that the three hops of between four and six hours were akin to taking three trans-Atlantic jet trips in quick succession. The service on Icelandic Airlines was excellent, even though they were flying their DC6B at 100 percent capacity and unloaded all of us twice, at Gander and at Reykjavik, where they took us by bus in town for the morning meal at midnight, New York time.

Then, driving south, the sun began to shine as though it really wanted to, the grass turned from cold brown to warm, lush green, more villagers were seen in the fields and at various spring tasks, and everywhere the blossoms of the plum, cherry and apple trees enveloped both one's eyes and sense of smell. Intermittent showers since our arrival have not spoiled this awareness of spring and all it means to the farmers and visitor. The winter wheat stands about eighteen inches high and sways in the breezes. Corn-planting time has come and at the School early tomatoes started under plastic covers will begin to be picked shortly.

Coming again to the Farm School after two years is almost like arriving for the first time. Those of you who know the School, or have seen it recently, will appreciate this most — though we hope also that those of you who know it only through words and pictures will appreciate some of the changes which have taken place. One is immediately, though not wholly favorably, impressed by the extension of the outskirts of Thessaloniki directly to the School property line. Four-story cooperative apartments are rising in clusters everywhere and all are sold before construction is begun. In time, if new construction continues at the same rate, the School could be surrounded by the suburbs and its beautiful view of the Gulf of Salonica endangered.

More pleasingly impressive is the development of the School plant itself. Three major new structures, Rochester Hall, Cincinnati Hall, and a new staff house have occupied blank spots in the existing mosaic of buildings. Many smaller structures have been finished and put to use, and renovation of some of the older buildings has given the School an up-to-date and cared-for look. Much of this construction has been made possible by U.S. Government grants from counterpart funds, though as usual the students and staff, our generous contributors, as well as Charles House during his last year here, pitched in to do their share.

One is also greatly impressed by the number and caliber of the new, younger members of the staff. Two years ago only the Director and a few of the staff could be classified as younger men. Now they are conspicuous by their presence, energy and activity, and one has the feeling that a new generation of trained men, equal in dedication and ability, is gradually developing within the Farm School family.

Our stay at the Farm School is lasting somewhat longer than expected, but is providing many opportunities for becoming even more familiar with the School's operations and its relation to village life in Greece. Among other things, the longer stay enables us to see the extensive community development program in action in a cluster of nine villages in the mountainous areas bordering on the Gulf of Strimonikos, to pay a visit on the Mayor of Thessaloniki to discuss the newly formed sister-city affiliation with Hartford, Connecticut, and to spend a day in Sultouyiannis, a village of sixteen related families near the Yugoslavian border. Between them, the various members of the Sultouyianni family (the village is named for them) have sent eight boys to the Farm School over a period of about 20 years, and the progress in their small remote village is evidence of the effectiveness of their decisions.

There is little question that Greece has passed beyond the point where bare subsistence in the rural areas is the rule, to the point where some of the minimum refinements of civilization begin to fall within the reach of the majority of citizens. People dress better than even two years ago, there is more traffic in the cities and many smaller villages now boast one car owner where, until recently, there were none. At night small clusters of lights identify villages that, except for the dim glow of kerosene lamps, formerly remained dark from sundown to sunrise. Shops carry a greater variety of manufactured items, and many more of these are now made in Greece. Radio music is much more in evidence, and with it a greater flow of news from over the world. The Greek himself is traveling more — on business, for family occasions, and even just for pleasure and relaxation. But in spite of this very encouraging progress, Greece remains about the poorest western country in Europe and may face almost devastating problems stemming from the Common Market and her hope to compete with such skilled and efficient nations as exist in Europe. The potential for American influence and assistance in this situation is great and much help is still needed.

Best wishes to all the School's many friends,

Sandy and Mary Lou Allport



GRADUATION (continued from page 1)

The day after graduation, as their return to the village drew nearer, thirty-two boys were giving serious thought to the goals they had set for themselves. Tsamaslides would return to the small refugee village of Xeropotamo with his new calf and try to apply his practical knowledge on his father's small farm. George Anastasiou, from Zervohori, Epiros, and George Papalexiou of the large village Vasilika, outside Salonica, looked forward to purchasing a tractor, a quite attainable goal, as they may be able to obtain credit by being Farm School graduates. Anastasios Kiosoglou and Emmanuel Daskalakis, residing in almost opposite geographical extremes of Greece, are two of the graduates who are determined to organize 4-H Clubs in their villages in order to spread the agricultural knowledge they themselves have gained.



Graduates hold ribbons showing their homes throughout Greece.

From overhearing graduates' conversations, from seeing them proudly show the Farm School to their families, one truly believes the student who had spoken in the graduation pageant on behalf of Greek rural youth. He said, "I believe in the beauty of the country and in the life of the farmer, in his hopes and ambitions, in his faith and ability and strength to improve his way of life and to care for the happiness of those he loves."

FARM SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

Staffers Travel to the U.S.A.

Two Farm School staff members left in June for trips to America. Philip Foote, teacher of English, is on home leave and lecturing in selected communities. John Kanellopoulos is attending a Cornell summer course in Hotel and Restaurant Management, training which will equip him for his new duties as head of the consolidated stores and boarding departments.

Class Projects Teach and Pay

The first fruits of the third class's extensive garden project were recently presented to Director and Mrs. Lansdale. Onions, carrots, lettuce and radishes, braided into wreaths, testified to the boys' efforts. The balance of their produce was sold to Farm School staff families, earning welcome pocket money for the students. Small projects such as these cooperative garden plots demonstrate the practicality of truck-farming on a limited scale, such as is often necessary in the rural villages of Greece.

Scholarship Donor Sees "Adopted" Boy Graduate

For Nicos Bidjios, a quiet fourth-class boy from Ouranopolis, near Mount Athos, graduation brought a special surprise. Besides his family, Mrs. William F. Lamb, who had sponsored him through four years at the School, made a special trip from the United States to see him graduate and wish him well in the future.

Director Lansdale Schedules Fall Return

Bruce M. Lansdale, Director of the American Farm School, has now made plans to be in the United States from October 16th through December 5th. His program and schedule is being coordinated through the Office of the Trustees in New York.

Tear off along dotted line and mail this panel to

**AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL, OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES
45 EAST 65th STREET, NEW YORK 21, N. Y.**

PLANNING A TRIP TO GREECE?

Please check below

- Please send additional information about the School and Northern Greece.
- Please send a free booklet of useful Greek words and phrases.

If you wish, this form may also be used to make a contribution to the School. Simply complete the information spaces provided.

Enclosed please find \$_____ to help train a Greek boy.

- This is a new gift, or a renewal of my previous gift.

I (we) plan to be in Greece from _____ to _____

I (we) wish to visit the School about _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____

STATE _____

NEWLY APPOINTED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GREECE AND WIFE ENJOY TOUR OF FARM SCHOOL

Mrs. Labouisse Returns Later with Mrs. Dean Rusk

This spring the Farm School was honored by a number of distinguished visitors who, like the interested tourist, are always welcome and usually leave with fond memories of their visit and tour. It was an especially great pleasure to receive His Excellency Henry R. Labouisse, President Kennedy's newly appointed Ambassador to Greece, and Mrs. Labouisse shortly after their arrival on post.



United States Ambassador Henry R. Labouisse (right) with Mrs. Labouisse arrive at school to be greeted by Director Lansdale and Mrs. Robert Folsom, wife of American Consul General in Thessaloniki.

Mr. and Mrs. Labouisse, accompanied by U.S. Consul General and Mrs. Robert Folsom, toured the School for almost two hours after receiving a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the students and staff. In addition, they participated in a boys' program, and the Ambassador showed his skill by catching the "wild rooster" in one of the School's favorite and most difficult games.

The Ambassador was no novice to farming and during his tour took a keen interest in all aspects of the School's work and sought answers to innumerable penetrating questions.

Later in the month, Mrs. Labouisse returned with Mrs. Dean Rusk, in Athens with the Secretary of State for the recent NATO conference.

The School also played host to Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fasseas of Chicago, and Mrs. George Brotsis, President of the Daughters of Penelope, the distaff AHEPA. Mr. Fasseas, publisher of *The Greek Star*, and his party were received in a bright red dump truck which he had arranged to be donated to the School last year. While at the School Mr. Fasseas distributed CARE tool kits to members of the graduating class. This year's kits were the gift of AHEPA, a leading organization of Americans of Greek descent.



Andrew Fasseas, Chicago publisher, with Mrs. Fasseas (right rear) and Mrs. George Brotsis, President of the Daughters of Penelope, arrive for CARE kit distribution at School.

Other distinguished visitors during recent months have included Mr. Phillips Talbot, Assistant Secretary of State, who in writing after his visit said, "Of all the places I visited during my recent rather extended travels, I carried away from my hour and a half at the Farm School a particular sense of exuberant purpose with which young people can be imbued under imaginative leadership . . . My one real concern is how its particular work can be duplicated in other needy areas."

Visitors from far and near are frequent callers at the School and always welcome. We hope we will see you there soon.

NEWSLETTER

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

Α Μ Ε Ρ Ι Κ Α Ν Ι Κ Η Γ Ε Ω Ρ Γ Ι Κ Η Σ Χ Ο Λ Η

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

Dear Friends:

Traveling to Greece this year? Then you will certainly wish to consider including the American Farm School and some of the numerous exciting sights of Northern Greece in your plans. Thessaloniki, or Salonica as it is often still called, is but fifty minutes from Athens by air, or a scenic day's trip by car, bus or train.

The School would be more than pleased to receive you. For further information or help in planning your schedule, simply tear off this panel and complete the blanks provided on the reverse side. As they say in Greece,

ΚΑΛΟ ΤΑΞΕΙΔΙ
CRAIG R. SMITH
President

TO.