

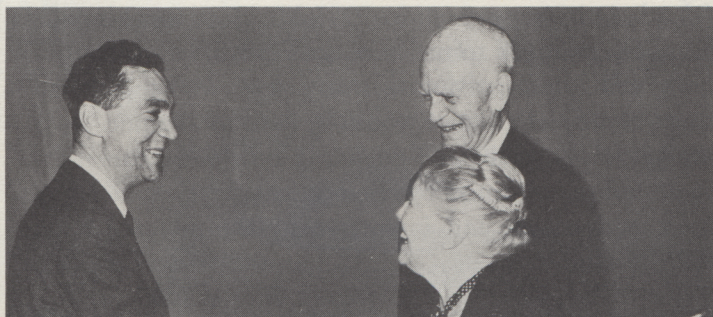


# The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . Also called SALONICA

Spring  
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Mr. James Trainor, left, receives congratulations from Mrs. Charles L. House and Mr. Craig R. Smith following premiere of his film *Greek Earth Reborn*, depicting work of The American Farm School.

## FOUR YOUNG BULLS ARRIVE AT SCHOOL AFTER ATLANTIC CROSSING ABOARD S.S. EXPORT BANNER

First Santa Gertrudis in Greece Among Other Animals Shipped as Replacement Stock

A unique project of private cooperation culminated in four young bulls being unloaded at the piers of Thessaloniki, while a welcoming committee of two hundred students and many members of the staff cheered their debarkation. It all started about a year ago when Mrs. Eslie Asbury of Cincinnati visited the School and, with her husband, offered to contribute a Santa Gertrudis yearling from their herd at Forest Retreat Farms in Kentucky. The offer was most gratefully accepted as no Santa Gertrudis had ever set foot, or should we say hoof, in Greece, and the availability of such an animal would provide opportunities for further experimental breeding with local stock.

It happened, however, that the School was also in need of a Black Angus, Jersey and Guernsey bull and so the quartet was formed. Through the generosity of individual

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## IN MEMORIAM

The Board of Trustees of The American Farm School and the students and staff in Thessaloniki, note with profound regret the passing of His Royal Highness, King Paul I of the Hellenes. During difficult years he reigned in wisdom, justice and patience and won the love and respect of his people.

Now Greece has a new monarch in his son, King Constantine XIII. He succeeds to great responsibilities. We are pleased to record that in 1955 the new King, then Crown Prince, was made an Honorary Graduate of The American Farm School. We share with the new monarch his hopes, and the hopes of his people, for the future of Greece.

## SCHOOL PRESIDENT CRAIG R. SMITH PRESIDES AT PREMIERE OF "GREEK EARTH REBORN," NEW 16mm COLOR-SOUND FILM

More than 200 Guests see Documentary on History and Function of The American Farm School

"We had three reasons for wanting to make a motion picture about the School at this time. During the coming academic year we will celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of its organization, and we felt a film would document the growth and development of the School as nothing else could. Second, the time had come when we needed to tell the story of the School to increasing numbers of people throughout the country. We believe the film can help our Director, Bruce M. Lansdale, in this task, and thus enable the School to find needed financial support for its current program and future growth. And third, we realize that to a large extent the work of the School symbolizes something of which every American can be proud . . . a particular quality in our heritage, an almost unique quality, that spirit of sharing with others, which has contributed to the greatness of our land. We realize that many persons like to know about the School, if only to appreciate that efforts of this sort are being undertaken by private citizens for the benefit of those in need abroad."

With these words, School President Craig Smith welcomed the more than 200 guests who had gathered in the auditorium of the Carnegie Endowment International Center to witness the first showing of the new Farm School film.

Produced and directed by James Trainor, the film was completed on an absolutely minimum budget. Most of the money and many of the services the film required were especially donated by several individuals and foundations and by the American Export and Isbrandtsen Lines, the Mobil International Oil Company and the New Holland Machine Company.

Following the showing, Mr. Smith presented a bouquet to Mrs. Charles L. House, wife of the School's late Director, and to Mrs. James Trainor. He congratulated Mr. Trainor for his fine achievement and for the great contribution to the School this film represents.

Individuals and organizations wishing to sponsor *Greek Earth Reborn* may reserve it directly by writing to Sterling Movies, Inc., 43 West 61st Street, New York, N. Y. 10023.

There is no charge, but sponsors are required to pay one-way postage. Additional information about the film may be obtained from the Office of the Trustees.





## NELLIE DODD SPEERS 1890-1964

Nellie Dodd Speers was born on February 21, 1890 in Turkey. Her father, a medical missionary, had built a hospital in Talas, near ancient Caesarea. During her high school years Mrs. Speers came to the United States and, after having graduated from Mt. Holyoke College, taught school to assure the education of her younger brothers.

Mrs. Speers served longer as a Trustee of The American Farm School than any other member of the Board. She was completing her thirty-second year and most recently had served as a Vice-President.

During one long period of illness, a lifetime interest in art, particularly sculpture, was started and proved to be a continuing vocation. Among her recognized works is a standing Madonna for which she was presented an award by the New Jersey Artists Professional League. Only last year she completed a bronze bust of former Farm School Director Dr. Charles L. House, and herself traveled to Thessaloniki to see it installed.

Following her husband's death in 1943, Mrs. Speers returned to university studies and obtained a Master's Degree from New York University and then remained there for eight years to teach religious education. Later she worked with students at Union Theological Seminary in the religious education of children.

Nellie Dodd Speers had visited The American Farm School on three occasions, first in 1928, and later in 1947 when the School was just recovering from war and occupation. Her service to the School was always distinguished by the penetrating quality of her mind and the enthusiasm of her spirit. A woman of strong and scholarly religious conviction, Nellie Dodd Speers brought her faith to the School and drew further inspiration from it.

Family, the School, church and her community alike have been shocked and deeply grieved by the death of such a gentle person. No words can be adequate channels of the deep anguish we have felt.

Memorial services were held for Mrs. Speers in both Yorktown Heights, N. Y. and Montclair, N. J. Recently *The Montclair Times* editorialized as follows: "If ever there was an individual who lived by the guiding principles of the Christian religion, 'faith, hope and love,' it was Mrs. Nellie Dodd Speers, who before her death made lasting contributions to the field of religious education . . . While no eulogy could do her justice, she indeed lived the famous last words of the Thirteenth Chapter of First Corinthians: 'And now abideth faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love!'"

## HENRY HOPE REED 1890-1963

When Henry Hope Reed died at The American Farm School, the institution lost a staunch and loyal friend. At his retirement in 1953 Mr. Reed and his wife, Eleanor, arranged to reside at the School, in which they had been interested for so many years. A happier and more beneficial alliance would be hard to imagine. Over the years a constant and unending flow of visitors filled their house, charmed by their hospitality, captured by their enthusiasm and impressed by the escorted tours they conducted around the campus and frequently, too, to Thessaloniki and to the remote villages of Greece.

As a Trustee, Henry Hope Reed's solid and unflagging counsel was of special value to Bruce Lansdale in the innumerable daily problems that inevitably arise. Recently he was able also to participate in the first meeting of the Board of Trustees ever held at the School.

Mr. Reed was born on August 30, 1890. A native of Philadelphia, he joined the Insurance Company of North America as a young man and was associated with it for most of his career, retiring as General Manager in 1953. From 1929 to 1931 he was President of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters and the Board of Underwriters in New York. He was also a former Chairman of the Board of Managers of the American Hull Insurance Syndicate.

Henry Hope Reed's interests were many and varied. He was a past President of the Metropolitan Opera Club, a vestryman of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York, a trustee of the New Hampshire state memorial to the sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. He was a member of several prominent clubs and had served in World War I as an artillery captain. In Greece, too, he was interested in many activities in addition to the Farm School.

As a living tribute to Mr. Reed, the Trustees of the School have recently voted to establish a Memorial Fund the income from which would provide a scholarship for a deserving boy at The American Farm School. While no general public solicitation will be made, it is hoped that his many friends throughout the country will wish to share in this tribute.

It is fitting that Henry Hope Reed, who gave so many years of his life to the interest of The American Farm School, should have been buried in its small cemetery at the foot of the road. His contributions to the School, and the spirit he brought to its life will long remain with the students, staff and Trustees.





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donors to the Heifer Project, Inc., an organization specializing in the shipment of livestock overseas, contributions of the three additional animals were received.

But dispatching a bull to Greece is not like mailing a Christmas package. The U.S. Government lays down stringent rules for the export of cattle. They must be vaccinated, tattooed, and wear identifying tags. The exact amount of space, food, ventilation and type of stall are specified. And finally it is certainly advisable to have them accompanied by a competent handler.



The four bulls received a joyous welcome upon arrival in Thessaloniki. Photo at right shows two of the animals still in their stalls with Bruce Lansdale and with Tobias Schneebaum, who cared for the bulls during the Atlantic crossing.

This is where the cooperation of so many others became absolutely necessary. First a private foundation was prevailed upon to contribute \$2,500 to cover the actual transportation costs, and the American Export and Isbrandtsen Lines guaranteed to make Thessaloniki a port of call. The Ralston Purina Company shipped in as a gift 3,000 pounds of feed and bedding to sustain the animals during the almost three weeks they would be at sea, and Dr. Walter Cobb, Manager of the Merck Chemical Ex-

perimental Farm in Branchburg, New Jersey, arranged, with the help of local contractors, to build the two extra-strong stalls to house them. As the stalls would be lashed to the deck, they needed to be able to withstand even the roughest crossing without injury or threat to their occupants. Finally finished, the stalls, each built from more than a thousand board feet of lumber, were delivered to the pier in Hoboken amidst one of the most severe storms of the winter.



As for the bull-handler, he was Mr. Tobias Schneebaum, an artist and writer who was on his way to Africa and so volunteered his services. Before sailing he received a special orientation from the Rutgers University Experimental Farm. His love of animals was quickly shown when he first met them dockside, and they seem to have enjoyed the entire crossing together.

Some token of the School appreciation was expressed by naming three of the bulls American Export, Checkerboard Square and Carolina Duke, in honor of three of the participants in the project. But also at the School is a "cherry-red" Santa Gertrudis, part Brahma, part Shorthorn, the animal which started the entire project. As yet he has no name, but we hope the Asburys and Mr. Hughes and Mr. Selva of the Forest Retreat Farms know how much we appreciate their help.

Tear off along dotted line and mail this panel to

AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL, OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES  
36 EAST 61st STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



## DIRECTOR BRUCE LANSDALE REPORTS TO TRUSTEES ON FARM SCHOOL YEAR AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

*Thessaloniki* — With these hopeful words. Director Bruce M. Lansdale opened his report to the Board of Trustees:



Director Bruce M. Lansdale

In spite of some slowing up in all sectors of Greek life resulting from the instability of four temporary governments in the last six months, the over-all economic development of the country has been most satisfying. In the first ten months of the year the index of industrial production increased 7%. The new government of Mr. George Papandreou has pledged to

make a thorough study of the education program of the country and other changes are certainly planned. Generally speaking, it is fair to say that real progress is being made.

It is a great source of satisfaction to note how well the general pattern of administration has settled down since the tragic death of Associate Director Theo Litsas. The willingness of the staff to step in and take responsibilities has been most encouraging and indicative of the loyal and capable people the School has. Without such people it would certainly be impossible to carry on the expanded program we now have.

Last year more than 1,500 trainees attended short courses at the School. These are, of course, in addition to the 206 youngsters enrolled in the four-year course. In addition, we are expecting shortly eighty graduates, returning for a five-day refresher course in many fields of agricultural development. It has been a pleasure to hear the comments of various speakers, many of whom are the senior experts in their fields in Greece, expressing such

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enthusiasm over the interest and ability of our graduates. There is no better measure of the School's effectiveness than to visit these graduates in their villages and see what they have accomplished.

This fall we played host to a group of thirteen agriculturalists from Tanganyika. They spent a month here and in the villages. We have already scheduled two other international groups from several different countries, as diverse as Lebanon and Basutoland, and are also looking forward to a delegation from Hartford, Connecticut, a city which maintains a sister-city affiliation with Thessaloniki, Greece.

Thanks to special assistance, we have been able to carry on extensive plant renovation. More than half the buildings have been rewired according to approved electrical codes and the external work on the new dormitory wing on Princeton Hall which will house the kitchen and dining hall has been completed. We are most excited at the prospect of sinking a new well in a more promising location and hope that this will go a long way to alleviating our chronic water shortage. Many other changes, big and little, are taking place, and we hope you will soon be coming over to visit and see for yourself. We even have high hopes of finally replacing the greenhouse which was destroyed during World War II.

We often have occasion to think of our many friends in the United States who have made this whole project possible. Here, of course, we earn a good deal of what we need to carry out this program, and it is gratifying to know that in spite of rising costs we have been able each year to earn something more for our produce. However, we would fall completely short of our needs without the generous support of the Trustees and our other American contributors. All of us are grateful for this assistance, and hope you enjoy sharing this important endeavor with us.

*Editor's note: Mr. Lansdale's periodic reports to the Board of Trustees provide an illuminating insight into many aspects of the School. We hope you have enjoyed sharing these excerpts from his most recent report.*

# NEWSLETTER

FROM

## The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

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

36 East 61st Street • New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Friends:

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see a report on the new Farm School film entitled GREEK EARTH REBORN. It depicts in an interesting, inspiring and colorful way the purpose, history and function of The American Farm School and shows much about the rural life of Greece today.

I hope you too will want to see this film, and that you will urge your church, civic organization or school to sponsor a showing of it soon. Reservations can be made easily and I know you will be well-rewarded.

Sincerely yours,  
CRAIG R. SMITH  
President

TO.