



# The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

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## FOURTH GENERATION OF HOUSE FAMILY ARRIVES AS VOLUNTEER ENGLISH TEACHER



Arthur E. House, Jr., studies bust of his great-grandfather, School Founder John Henry House

A new face of the House family has made its appearance on campus with the arrival of "Kelley" House, great-grandson of School Founder John Henry House. "I spent a month this summer traveling in Europe, but cut my travels short because I was anxious to get to the Farm School," said Kelley, who graduated in June from Bates College in Maine with a B.A. degree in philosophy. "I had heard so much about the School that I felt I was coming home rather than going to a new place."

Kelley, whose full name is Arthur Emerson House, Jr., is the grandson of John House, the brother of former Director Charles House. John House was a well-known architect who designed the New York Supreme Court building, as well as such Farm School structures as Princeton Hall, the Industrial Quadrangle, and the Director's house. Kelley's first impressions of the Farm School, however, came from childhood visits to Charles and Ann House, who, after Charles's retirement in 1955, lived in Orient, Long Island, just across the Sound from Kelley's family home in Waterford, Conn.

"As John died quite young, Charles was in some respects like a grandfather to me, and I grew up feeling that the Farm School was part of my life. I particularly remember Charles's enthusiasm for doing things, and his zeal for building. His attitude was always that 'nothing is impossible.' When he returned to Orient, he was 67. One day when my family went over to their place, I remember Charles and my father crawling under the house to put in

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## IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY TO FLY AGAIN — 360 CALVES FINALLY GO

Early last spring the Farm School signed a contract with the Government of Greece, agreeing to import at their expense 360 four-week-old calves. The pilot shipment was to test whether extensive importation of livestock could help satisfy increasing public demand for beef and reduce the serious drain on foreign exchange caused by importation of almost 100 million dollars in meat and dairy products. A special barn was built at the School as each calf must be kept in a separate stall, feed was shipped from the Netherlands to supplement local grains and elaborate arrangements were made to land the four-engine jet.

The staff was ready and everyone, including the calves, was waiting . . . and waiting and waiting . . . as the airline strike in the United States continued into late August. The animals grew bigger and bigger until they would no longer fit into the plane.

Now all the plans have been made again, and finally—only three months late—new animals have crossed the Atlantic and are safely in their stalls.

Experts feel that, if a source of livestock can be found, Greece can substantially increase her production of home-grown meat, using locally grown soft wheat as feed. The calves will remain at the School for three months, when they will be sold to Greek farmers.

The Trustees and staff were pleased that the Greek Ministry of Agriculture chose the Farm School to conduct so important an experiment, and hope that its successful conclusion will lead to increased calf production in the years ahead. And many thanks go to the several companies and individuals who helped—despite numerous frustrations—make this shipment possible.

Farm School Director Bruce Lansdale will return to the United States in February, 1967, for a period of five to six weeks. Tentatively his plans call for consultations with members of the Board of Trustees, visits to a number of communities where friends have been active on behalf of the School and calls on foundations and public agencies interested in the School's program. Unfortunately his time will be limited and he will not be able to travel as extensively as in the past.

Mr. Lansdale's schedule is currently being arranged and groups wishing to meet him and interested in hearing about the current activities at the Farm School should contact the Office of the Trustees as soon as possible.





## FARM SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

### Short Courses Attract Trade Fair Visitors

New methods in the feeding and fattening of calves and in the care of poultry were demonstrated to 528 farmers taking part in short courses given this fall. This is the seventh year that the Farm School has scheduled an intensive short-course program to coincide with the dates of the annual Thessaloniki International Trade Fair, thus offering farmers the advantage of receiving training while visiting the Fair.

The farmers came in six groups, and their three days at the School included lectures and demonstrations, as well as a tour of nearby regions designed to let them see new agricultural methods in practice. Visits to the Animal Husbandry Institute, a cooperative dairy and a cooperative mill, and also discussions with local farmers employing advanced agricultural techniques were on the schedule.

Approximately 2,800 adults take part annually in the Farm School's short-course program.

### International Boy Scouts Gather For Summer Jamboree

The varied uniforms of more than 300 Boy Scouts from twelve countries were a familiar sight on Farm School grounds, as the School was the site of a Scouting Jamboree this summer. Boys from France, Germany, Britain, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Egypt, Cyprus and Greece took part.

Every year the Greek Boy Scouts make the Farm School their base of operations, while meeting together and enjoying the outdoor activities of hiking, swimming and sailing that Northern Greece has to offer. The Boy Scouts were housed in the dormitory, the short-course building, and—the more adventuresome—in tents under the pine trees in Memorial Grove.



### Helicopter Lifts Farm School Ice Cream To NATO Troops

The most up-to-date distribution and packing procedures were employed in the pickup and delivery of some 20 gallons of Farm School ice cream and over 80 dozen eggs destined for the Saturday lunch and Sunday breakfast of American troops taking part in NATO maneuvers on the coast 40 miles east of Thessaloniki.

The only way to prevent the ice cream from melting en route was to land a U.S. Army helicopter on Litsas Memorial Athletic Field at noon Saturday and airlift the ice cream to the troops, some 20 minutes away as the crow would fly. A special technique devised by the Army to maintain the temperature of the ice cream during flight involved freezing it in waterproof insulating bags, thus eliminating the need for dry ice.

The U.S. forces were members of the 19th Infantry Battalion and were participating, alongside troops from Greece, Germany, Belgium and Britain, in the NATO field training exercise "Summer Express." We hope when they come home they will recall a cold spot in their hearts—or stomachs—for the Farm School.



Trustees pause briefly in their meeting to pose

### Trustees Meet Again At School

For the second time in the history of the Farm School the Board of Trustees held an official meeting on the premises and discussed the many opportunities and some of the problems confronting the institution in the coming years. Major decisions included further implementation of the new Gymnasium curriculum and taking over responsibility for the operation of the 21-year-old school for village girls on property nearby. A highlight of the trip was a three-hour tour in a farm wagon pulled by tractor, a sort of agricultural survey, without fringe. At strategic points along the way members of the staff joined the twelve Trustees to explain the function of their departments.

### Farm School Film Now Available In Short Version

The highly popular film about The American Farm School, *Greek Earth Reborn*, has been brought out in a shortened version for sponsoring groups not able to allow the hour needed for showing the entire film. Also in 16mm color with sound and music, the 25-minute edition eliminates description of the special programs, such as community development, and concentrates on the four-year course for village boys. Thus while less than complete, it still tells an effective story and is especially suited to civic luncheon or chapel meetings and TV showings.

A limited number of prints is available on loan through the Office of the Trustees.





## U. S. COMMUNITIES COOPERATE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GREEK YOUNGSTERS

Stephanos Kaiserlides is one of several bright Farm School youngsters benefiting from an increasingly popular scholarship plan. Charalambos Papadopoulos is another. So is Demetrios Gerakis. Citizens of Hartford, Conn., are following Stephanos' progress at the School, which they made possible, as in the case of Charalambos, is the Greek-American community of Providence, R. I. Demetrios, who graduated in June, was aided by friends in Tuxedo Park, N. Y., who this year are launched on a drive to raise \$1,000 for their second boy, George Karageorgiou.



Community Scholarship boys at School

Let's visit Stephanos in his village, Xirohorion, just an hour from the School by car. It appears to lie low, hugging the surrounding wheat fields, on gently sloping land slipping off to a fresh-water lake on one side and ending abruptly at a dirt road along a ridge of land leading eventually to the sea on the other. Like many Greek villages, Xirohorion seems to be in the middle of nowhere, though actually it is in the center of land owned by 100 families.

An afternoon with Stephanos and his family is an inspiring experience. His father and mother join in greeting the visitor, and they are as proud as Stephanos of their whitewashed brick-and-plaster home on the edge of the village. The 4-room house, barn and vegetable garden form something of a three-sided courtyard within which much of their life goes on. At one end is the outdoor brick oven used to cook varied foods, not just flavorful brown village bread. A few feet away are the flowerpots young Stephanos tends, for he is taught that beautification is part of progress too. Then comes the woodpile, the chicken coop and barn, if such a term can be used to describe an 8-foot-square enclosure housing one cow and one horse. Across the yard, at the highest corner, is the hand-dug family well, full of vital water to supply the animals and irrigate the garden.

Stephanos has three older brothers: one a merchant seaman, one a garage worker in Thessaloniki and one in the Greek Army. It will be up to Stephanos, now in his second year at the School, to run the farm's four acres, care for the animals and vegetables. His father's yearly income is

low, only a few hundred dollars, and the \$150 share he must pay of the Farm School's costs for Stephanos comes hard (he recently sold 35 of the family's 50 chickens). Yet he knows that, with the proper training, the son will do better—for himself, his family, his village and society.

Farm School friends have traditionally financed by their individual contributions most of the tuition and boarding costs of our students, over and above what the boy's family pays toward his food and the boy earns by his work on the School farm. Such gifts—of \$150, \$300, \$450 or even more—continue to be and are a most essential part of the School's financing. Yet, no matter how much they wish to help, few individuals can by themselves give the \$1,000 now required for an annual scholarship. Communities working together, however, can. Procedures have been established to pool all gifts from a specified location—whether a town, metropolitan area, county or state—and assign one or more scholarship boys to that location.

The price of education has been rising everywhere, no less in Greece than in the United States, despite all the School's efforts to economize and increase the income from its own productive farm. The Farm School has not escaped the upward pressure on food, clothing, faculty salary and construction costs and the growing need for more complex—and costly—teaching tools and laboratory equipment.



And working on home farms

Any person or group can organize a Community Scholarship. The Farm School and the Office of the Trustees will be happy to help you work out sponsorship of a student. Reports and photographs of the boy's progress at School and in his village are sent to the community's designated representative during the year. Stephanos, Charalambos, Demetrios, George and their fellow Community Scholarship students send their heartfelt thanks to the many friends of Greece and the Farm School who have made their education possible. What better link between Greece which has given so much and the United States which has so much to give.



## "KELLEY" HOUSE ARRIVES TO TEACH

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central heating. He also helped organize and run the historical museum in Orient."

It was Charles House's wife, Ann, "the warmest and nicest person I've ever known," who encouraged Kelley to come to the Farm School, and he thought the way in which he could best serve was in the English department. He will also coach the boys in basketball.

This is his first experience teaching, and he is "very enthusiastic about the boys and how responsive they are in classes." Kelley admitted that students, or visitors to the School, sometimes question him about his name, asking if he is related to John Henry House. Their faces light up when they find out.

Although a newcomer to Greece, both his initial bus trip coming to the School from Igoumenitsa on the western coast of Greece and subsequent visits to nearby villages have impressed upon him the country's agricultural needs, and also the importance of the School's role in introducing new approaches to help farmers get a better output from their land.

Kelley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. House of Waterford, Conn. His father is a nuclear designer, and Kelley has one younger sister, Mimi. His future plans include a possible career in the foreign service.

"We hope," said Kelley, "to have a reunion of three generations of the House family at the Farm School this summer, with Ann House, my parents and myself. This would be my parents' first visit to Greece."

*The brief item to the right announces a decision of fundamental importance to the American Farm School, having program, staff and financial implications which will only become clear in time. Future issues of THE SOWER will report more extensively on the operation of the Girls School, and explain how friends can help.*

## SCHOOL FOR 50 VILLAGE GIRLS COMES UNDER FARM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

When the Farm School began in 1902, the Founder dreamed also of enrolling village girls. "Educate a boy and you train an individual," he remarked, "but educate a woman and you teach the whole family." As early as 1930 a prospective site was purchased, but not until 1945 could a beginning be made. For token rent the School made two acres of land and a temporary war-time barracks available to the British Society of Friends to enable them to start a school for rural girls.



Girls School campus a half-mile west of the American Farm School entrance

With a teaching staff of four and fifty girls enrolled in a two-year course, the school has established an enviable reputation in Greece. In 1960 the Society of Friends completed a new dormitory and classroom building at a cost of almost \$50,000. Last year, however, the Society notified the Farm School Trustees of their wish to cease operation of the school, and asked whether the program could be continued under the supervision of Director Lansdale and his staff. The Trustees gave their affirmative decision in June.

With the pledge of some financial assistance for a few years from the Society of Friends and others, the Trustees will undertake administration of the Girls School on an experimental basis. In the meantime, a permanent directress will be sought and a careful study of the program made to determine how best the school could meet the evolving needs of Greek rural women.

# The Sower

FROM

Return Requested

## The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

Office of the Trustees

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Dear Friends:

With this issue we begin mailing *The Sower* using Zip Codes for the first time. The change-over, mandatory by Post Office regulations, has taken a good part of the summer and we hope it results in faster delivery to you. However, if you change your address or wish your mailing plate corrected or removed, please tear off your address imprint on the right and send it with your instructions.

Thank you.

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

TO.