



THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL *Sower*



NO. 78

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

SUMMER 1972



Nostalgic 70th Founders Day Celebrated Amid Change and Growth

Founders Day at the American Farm School has always been a time to reflect briefly on the past — and then to turn quickly to the ever-changing problems of the present. But Founders Day 1972 was livelier, the nostalgia was deeper, and the sense of change was sharper than ever.

This year, the day marked the 70th Anniversary of the formal founding of the school by John

Henry House on May 11, 1902. And the day was only the start of a series of events. Among them:

- Graduation ceremonies were held for 51 boys and girls. Several boys will return in the fall for the new advanced courses.

- A bumper wheat crop, by far the largest per-acre yield in the school's history, was harvested by modern mechanized equipment.

- Two veteran staffers retired — Nicos Mikos and Theodosius Hadjichristou.

- The annual charter flight brought 150 American friends for a 2-day visit.

- Four grand ladies, whose links with the school go back to its very beginning, were reunited at the school.

- The main Girls School building was dedicated to Joice Loch, a pioneer builder of the Girls School.

- Janey Storer Hamilton was named Girls School Headmistress, succeeding retiring Mrs. Elizabeth Woodlock.

- The Trustees elected six new members during their triennial meeting at the school.

- And 16,000 hens were moved into a new, automated laying house.

You'll find stories and photos about these and other happenings in this issue of *The Sower*, which is dedicated to all the friends of the school, down the years, who have made the 70th Anniversary possible.



STUDENTS PLACE WREATH at bust of John Henry House on Founders Day 1972 — 70 years after the formal founding of the school. In photo below, charter-flight visitors tour the school in the traditional manner. Drawn by a modern tractor, the wagon passes historic Haskell cottage, where Dr. House taught his first class of ten boys.



Visitors Welcomed With Flowers, Smiles and Dances



FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL were 'home' from the moment their charter-flight jet touched down at Thessaloniki. Students (giving out flowers, above) and staff were at the airport. At top left, President Bruce Lansdale (in bow tie) greets former Ambassador to Greece Phillips Talbot and Mrs. Talbot. Among the younger jet-setters were Kevin Cruickshank, 2, and Albert Salsich, 5. At the school, a star attraction was Paula Xantopoulos — director of student programs at the Girls School — showing the girls at their looms. The entire group (including Mr. and Mrs. William Gaston, below left) enjoyed a fine Greek supper at a nearby taverna-by-the-sea. And students in village costumes danced for their guests.





Wives Donate Gift-Shop Profits So Weaver-Designer Can Teach Girls

This year, for the first time, the Girls School had a weaver-designer in residence, thanks to the efforts of the Farm School staff wives.

A committee of wives organized and operated a small Thrift-Gift Shop which sold items of all descriptions, from cuckoo clocks to puppies. When the wives learned of the possibility of bringing a young Norwegian designer to teach the girls their first lessons in creative design, they offered to put all the shop profits into her traveling and living expenses.

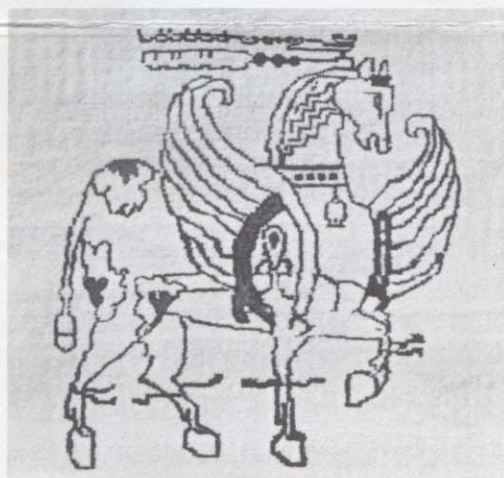
And so Bjorg Syvertson, a graduate of the Oslo Handicraft School, came for a year in Greece. She taught exciting new color classes to both students and staff and introduced painting, design and

interpretive weaving. The staff wives, Elli Trimis, Mary Theocharidies, Brenda Pechlivanos, Anna Rotsios and Tad Lansdale, took turns as interpreters. The crowning moment of their efforts was on the last day, when they were asked to judge the beautiful and original paintings that the very proud students had created from nature, music, and geometric patterns.

Another first for the Girls School this year was the opportunity to have Mrs. Elsa Regensteiner, world famous weaver and designer from the Chicago Art Museum, come to teach for a month.

Mrs. Regensteiner brought many innovations of color, texture, and techniques into the weaving department. When her multi-talents and tireless energies became known, she was also asked to teach a short course in color design and macrame to the home economics teachers of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The staff and students are all looking forward to Mrs. Regensteiner's return in the fall.



PROUD STUDENTS (above left) show their handiwork to Ann House, daughter-in-law of the founder of the Farm School. The woven rug's design features Pegasus of Greek mythology.

New Portico Is Dedicated To Memory of Estella Maresi

When the charter-flight visitors assembled for the dedication of Loch Hall (see story about Joice Loch on next pages), the very balcony upon which they were seated also was dedicated.

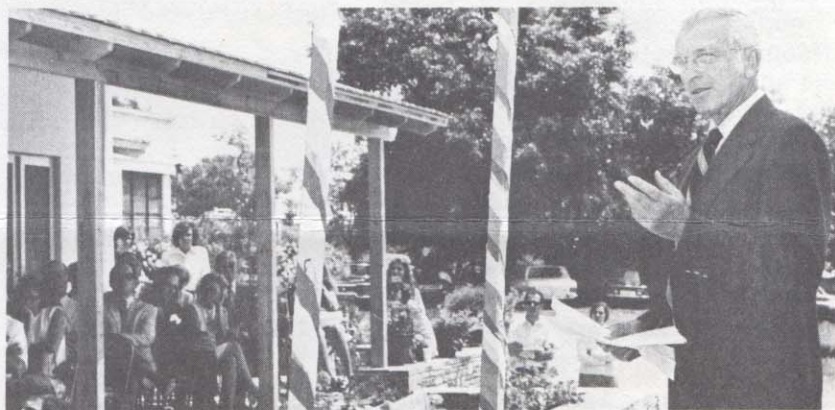
Chairman Harvey Breckenridge (photo at right) said:

"It is particularly fitting that we dedicate this portico in memory of the late Estella Maresi." He pointed out that the Maresi family has played a major role in the development of the school during the past decade.

Pompeo H. Maresi is a member of the Board of Trustees as well as a long-time friend of the school.

Mr. Breckenridge noted that the new portico at the Girls School is just one of the special projects sponsored by Mr. Maresi.

In the photo at right, Mrs. Breckenridge (far right) and Mrs. Clarence W. Bartow examine the newly placed plaque.



Founders Day Brings Historic Reunion

Four Grand Ladies Meet Once Again to Help Celebrate the A

By Iphigene Bettman

Trustee, American Farm

Undaunted by the weight of 80-plus years, four grand ladies who have known the Farm School from its earliest days gathered for a reunion when the Trustees met at the school in May.

First, from Woodstock, Vermont, came the youngest of the founder's seven children, Gladys House Williams, accompanied by her son, a Trustee, handsome Canon Edward William IV, of Albany Cathedral, and by her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Sewall Butler of Cromwell, Conn. This was Gladys Williams' first return since the 1930's when her mother was alive.

When Gladys House was a young girl, she and her father walked all around the land he hoped to buy for a farm school. Then she was sent to be educated in Germany. At 17, in 1902, just about the time of the founding of the American Farm School, she came back. Dr. House put her to work teaching drawing to the ten husky farm boy students. Discipline for pupils almost her age — and much bigger — might have become a problem. Gladys found the answer. She threatened to leave and not teach any more. That terrified the boys into good behavior.

Back in the States for higher education at Wilson College, Gladys House met her husband-to-be. For some years, she confined her teaching to her own four children.

Ann House

To look at Ann House is a beatification; such is the light that shines from her face. The elder Mrs. House once said of her new daughter-in-law, "I have never heard Henry boast, but he certainly had every reason to do so when Charlie married Ann Kellogg Chapman." Dr. House performed the ceremony at the Farm School in 1923.

"Only a person who could take the school to heart could do the work she does," Mrs. House later commented.



CHARLES HOUSE SEEMS TO SMILE from his pedestal as four friends get together. Left to right: Joice Loch

From a tractor-drawn platform ambling around the grounds to show visitors the improvements since their last visit, Ann House looked down on a familiar but changed scene. Trees now grow where once the land was bare. The fields are contour plowed. Early vegetables grow in greenhouses, and flowers bloom everywhere. The cow barn is new. In the efficient new chicken hatchery, hens have settled into their clean modern surroundings. Even the hogs and sheep are larger and sleeker.

For Ann House, half a century holds memories of Balkan refugees, of twice occupying Germans, of blown-up buildings, of Communist guerrillas. "There is one Communist buried here in the cemetery," she said as her cumbersome vehicle stopped at the shaded graveyard.

"There were many guerrillas around here. They kidnapped the whole senior class from Princeton

Hall. But all the boys escaped and in three months had returned to graduate."

Ann and Charles House were taken away, too, but by the Germans when the U.S. entered World War II. "We were sent to different camps, but they treated us decently. Theo Litsas kept things at the school together all during the occupation."

"We came back and reopened the school with one class. James Hall had been blown up. Gradually the buildings were rebuilt and more added."

A fourth generation House accompanied Ann. Her grandniece, Wendy Loring, viewed with interest the work of her forebears.

Joice Loch

Joice Nankivell Loch didn't have as far to come to the reunion as her three stateside friends. Her home is a Byzantine tower, Prosforian, in

American Farm School's 70th Anniversary



Aletheia Pattison, Gladys House Williams, and Ann House.

the village of Ouranoupolis at the foot of Mt. Athos.

On May 15, 1972, guests crowded the terrace of the Girls School looking toward Olympus. Around the bend drove the tractor with its trailer-load of guests. In the middle, with short-cropped hair, sat Joice Loch, with a twinkle in her eyes.

Her eyes — eyes which have seen so much of hunger, violence, and cruelty — now rested on the sunny terrace with eager, admiring young girls looking up. She listened imperturbably to the Greek priest's prayers, to eulogies, and watched the unveiling of a plaque which reads:

LOCH HALL

DEDICATED TO JOICE AND SYDNEY LOCH
FOR FIFTY YEARS OF LOVING SERVICE
IN THE VILLAGES OF GREECE

Joice Loch was the first

headmistress of the Girls School, which was recently taken over by the Farm School from the Quakers. "Mother House always wanted to have girls at the school," she said.

Now that it is a part of the Farm School, Joice Loch has given the Girls School her precious Pyrgos rug designs. These were created in the days of the exchange of Turkish and Greek populations. The Greeks from Turkey knew how to weave, but not to farm. Joice's husband Sydney photographed manuscript designs at Mt. Athos. Vegetable dyes from local plants provided the colors. A rug business was founded — and it saved the starving refugees.

Aletheia Pattison

Walk through the weaving room of the Girls School and you will see on many looms little brass plates reading *Gift of Aletheia Pattison*.

Aletheia, too, has been in and out of the Farm School for half a century. This time she came on the charter jet flight, stumping triumphantly into the Farm School on her cane, having broken a hip about a year ago.

But no broken hip will keep Miss Pattison from doing what she wants to do. This time she wanted to see the progress of the Farm School — and to be reunited with her old friends. She missed nothing, climbing the steps to the apartment of Chrysanthé Litsas where she stayed; being boosted onto the wagon to be jolted around the farm; hobbling in and out to inspect the new cow barn, the hatchery, the Self-Service Store. Aletheia saw it all.

Stories about her escapades among the Germans characterize her spirit. Jailed in Thessaloniki, she embarrassed the German officer into letting her go. To the anxiety of Charles House, she would not leave the country until she was told she could not go. Then, roads being blocked, she drove her car along the railroad ties and through a tunnel to freedom.

In Cincinnati, her home, Farm School committee chairmen come and go — but Aletheia goes on forever as gadfly. Any slackening

Trustees Meet At School, Elect Six New Members

Harvey K. Breckenridge, Chairman of the American Farm School Board of Trustees, convened a meeting of the Board at the school in May. More than half the Trustees were on hand — even though most had to travel more than 6,000 miles to attend.

Six outgoing Trustees were honored for their services to the school, and six new members were elected. (Under the by-laws, Trustees who have served six years are not eligible for re-election for at least one year.)

The outgoing Trustees are:

Mrs. Clarence W. Bartow
Herbert P. Lansdale Jr.
Charles H. Morgan
Charles Page
Irwin T. Sanders
Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff

The newly elected members of the Board are:

Alexander W. Allport
David M. Allyn
Mrs. George Gallowhur
Mrs. Douglas Haskell
Arthur L. Lanckton
Paul S. Morgan

Among other actions, the Board elected Herbert P. Lansdale Jr. to the National Committee and approved the appointment of Janey (Mrs. William) Hamilton as Headmistress of the Girls School as of Sept. 1, 1972.

brings a faint but timely sting. She talks softly, she smiles, and things get done.

So our four grand ladies had a great time renewing friendships and their faith in the Farm School.

How different they are, yet how united in pride of this 70-year old achievement of John Henry House, Charles House, Bruce Lansdale — and uncounted thousands of Farm School friends who have given, and worked, down the years.

School's Chief Builder Retires

Among the flood of refugees that poured into Northern Greece from Turkey in 1922 — the same refugees who were helped by Joice and Sydney Loch; the same refugees who brought Nicos Micos — was a boy named Theodosius Hadjichristou.

Theodosius came from the village of Kios near Istanbul, in an area where Greeks had lived since ancient times.

The boy entered the American Farm School in 1923. He has been there ever since. After graduation in 1928 he joined the staff, working in several departments before starting to specialize in farm construction in 1932.

He remembers making a stone path to the founder's first home, with Dr. House working at his side. He remembers how he and Charlie House spent one Christmas eve together — laying pipe from a new well, to have running water on Christmas morning. Today there's not a building, road, fence, or storage bin at the school that was not built, rebuilt, repaired, paved,



THEODOSIUS HADJICHRISTOU

or expanded by Theodosius Hadjichristou.

This year Mr. Hadjichristou is retiring. He has worked more years at the school than any other person in its history.

Calf is Donated To Top Student As 51 Graduate

Down the aisles trooped the 34 boys and 17 girls of the graduating class, bearing samples of their work during the past year — aprons, rugs, canned olives, fruits, vegetables, scarves, even a shoulder-pack insecticide sprayer. During the commencement, the Representative of the Metropolitan of Thessaloniki and the Director of Agriculture of Thessaloniki spoke to the students on the good work the school is doing for the young people of Greece.

Later President Bruce Lansdale spoke about the long careers of Nicos Mikos and Theodosius Hadjichristou, who are retiring this year. Both men were present and were honored for their great service to the School and the rural youth of Greece.

During the dinner for students, parents and staff that followed, Athanasius Godjulis was honored as the number one student. The honor was based on his scholastic record and character over the past four years. Each year, the Number One student is given a calf donated by a former United States Consul General of Thessaloniki, Mr. Robert Folsom.

When the calf donated to Athanasius bears *her* first calf, it will be given to Elias Perthikes. He is the Number Two student of the Class of 1972.



QUEEN FOR THE DAY: When the students learned that Mrs. Elizabeth Woodlock was retiring as Director of the Girls School, they elected her Queen for the Spring Field Day. The Board of Trustees voted their deep gratitude to Betty "for your dedicated service, which has resulted in remarkable progress during your two-year term in office." The Trustees noted that the two years "have been a time of experiment and change, with many new ideas and goals for the development of our 50 village girls."

Record-Breaking Wheat Crop Is Harvested By Students

The highest yield of wheat in Farm School history has been harvested. The yield was 575 kilos per stremma — or 84 bushels per acre. It's double the best previous harvest. And it's more than double the 1970 average yield in the United States of 31 bushels per acre.

This amazing wheat is a Mexican variety — one of several varieties developed by the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations that have been tested under Greek conditions by the school and by graduates. It shows promise of making a major contribution to the worldwide Green Revolution.



THE BIG CLAYSON AT WORK

The wheat was harvested with the school's Clayson "Armada" combine, a gift of the New Holland Division of the Rand Corporation

and the Grigoriades Brothers of Thessaloniki. The equipment was operated and maintained by students specializing in farm machinery in the new foreman-level program.

The wheat will be sold to villagers for seed; the income will provide scholarships for more village boys and girls to learn how to increase farm production.

As President Bruce Lansdale often says, "If you give a man a loaf of bread you feed him for a day. Teach a boy to plant a seed, and you feed his village for a lifetime."

Memories of Dorothea Hughes

Nicos Micos, "Mr. Farm School" in the Villages, to Retire

It was late in the spring of 1927. The snow on Olympus was just beginning to melt. But the Senior Class had climbed the mountain — determined to have one last outing together. Their leader was their indomitable English teacher of the past four years, Dorothea Hughes.

On the way down they had stopped for the night at the hut and were sitting around the fire, triumphant over their climb to the summit but somewhat in doubt about their future below. They talked about their limited land holdings, Greece's need for mechanization, and the demand for more highly trained technicians in the Greek villages. Each spoke of what he might do if only there were money. Two wanted machinery, three wanted to buy additional land, some would invest in livestock, and two of them wanted to continue their studies at universities in the States.

By the next afternoon, when they reached the malaria-infested plain at the foot of the mountain, the dreams of the night before were all but forgotten — except by Dorothea Hughes.

Two weeks later, after graduation, she held a tea party in their honor along with the school staff. At the party she told of the Olympus experience, and quietly announced that a "friend" had been found who had made it



NICOS MICOS

possible for the boys' dreams to come true. The machinery would be purchased, the land would be found, and all the fellowships provided, as a part of a revolving fund to help these and future Farm School graduates.

One of that group of graduates was Nicos Micos. Born and raised outside Istanbul by the Black Sea, he came with his family to Greece in 1922 among the million and a half refugees who were settled on abandoned Turkish holdings throughout northern Greece.

The fellowship sent Nicos off to Penn State, where he majored in agriculture and animal husbandry.

He returned to Greece ideally trained to be among the first workers in a village extension service established by the Near East Foundation. From that moment to this, his life has never been separated from that of the Greek villagers. He has loved and served then for four decades.

In 1955, Mr. Micos joined the Farm School to direct a new program sponsored by the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation. In this program he worked with the graduates in the villages, helping them apply their new skills and teach others.

There are few corners of Greece and few villages in Macedonia where Nicos Micos has not been. More than anyone else, he is in a position to evaluate the effectiveness of the graduates and their impact on the villages. From poultry farmer to dairy farmer, from truck farmer to combine owner, and from youth worker to community president, they all know Nicos Micos.

Those who know about that long-ago climb to the top of Olympus also are grateful to Dorothea Hughes — who helped create Mr. Farm School in the villages of Greece.

When Mr. Micos retires this year, he leaves behind a great legend and a great challenge to his replacement.

"Taverna" Earns \$1,600 for Girls School Scholarships

"Taverna New Jersey" had a short life for a taverna. It opened and closed the same night. But it was a great success. It was a party for the benefit of the Girls School, organized by two intrepid friends of the Farm School — Mrs. James Paterson and Mrs. William Larson.

With the help of 13 hard-working ladies from the Montclair, N. J., area — and of Mr. and Mrs. S. Barksdale Pennick, at whose home the "Taverna" was held — the two ladies ran a sell-out party that won new friends as well as new dollars for the school.

The 150 guests listened to a band play Greek music and watched the young people from St. Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Church perform authentic Greek dances amid the Greek columns and statues of the Pennick's pool and gardens. Several of the guests had returned from Greece only two days before, on the 1972 charter flight, bearing fresh news of the school's progress. Among them was Mrs. Alfred Clapp, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who showed Greek handicrafts to the guests.

The menu was Greek, of course, and the conversation, as befits a taverna, flowed long into the night.

When Taverna New Jersey finally closed, the proprietresses added up the profits: more than \$1,600. It would be enough to provide a

scholarship for one village girl plus more than half of a second.

Taverna New Jersey was one of several recent events that have provided a lot of fun for the sponsors and their guests — as well as badly needed scholarships for Greek girls or boys. One of these was a party in Rowayton, Conn., by Mrs. Arthur Lanckton, which yielded \$700 for the Girls School.

Want to give a party of your own? Write or call Vice President Joe Cruickshank, at the Office of the Trustees in New York. The address is below. Joe will be happy to give you guidance, counseling, and even professional advice. (He loves tavernas.)



CHICKS HELP MOVE HENS: Early one recent morning, 200 boys began moving 16,000 chickens from an old brooding house to their new home in a just-completed automatic egg-production unit. Each boy carried four hens per trip. Fortified by candy bars and soda pop, they moved 10,000 hens by noontime. But after lunch the warm Greek sunshine caused ever-lengthening rest stops for the tiring boys. Suddenly 50 pretty girls appeared. The pace quickened, and by late afternoon the boys and girls had moved all 16,000 hens. A "no vacancy" sign went up at the new poultry unit.

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ
Sower

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

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LANSDALE TO VISIT U.S.

Farm School President Bruce Lansdale will be in the U.S. Nov. 1 to Nov. 21 on a working visit. He has scheduled a number of speaking engagements and visits to Community Committees. Please contact the New York office if you would like Bruce to speak to your group.