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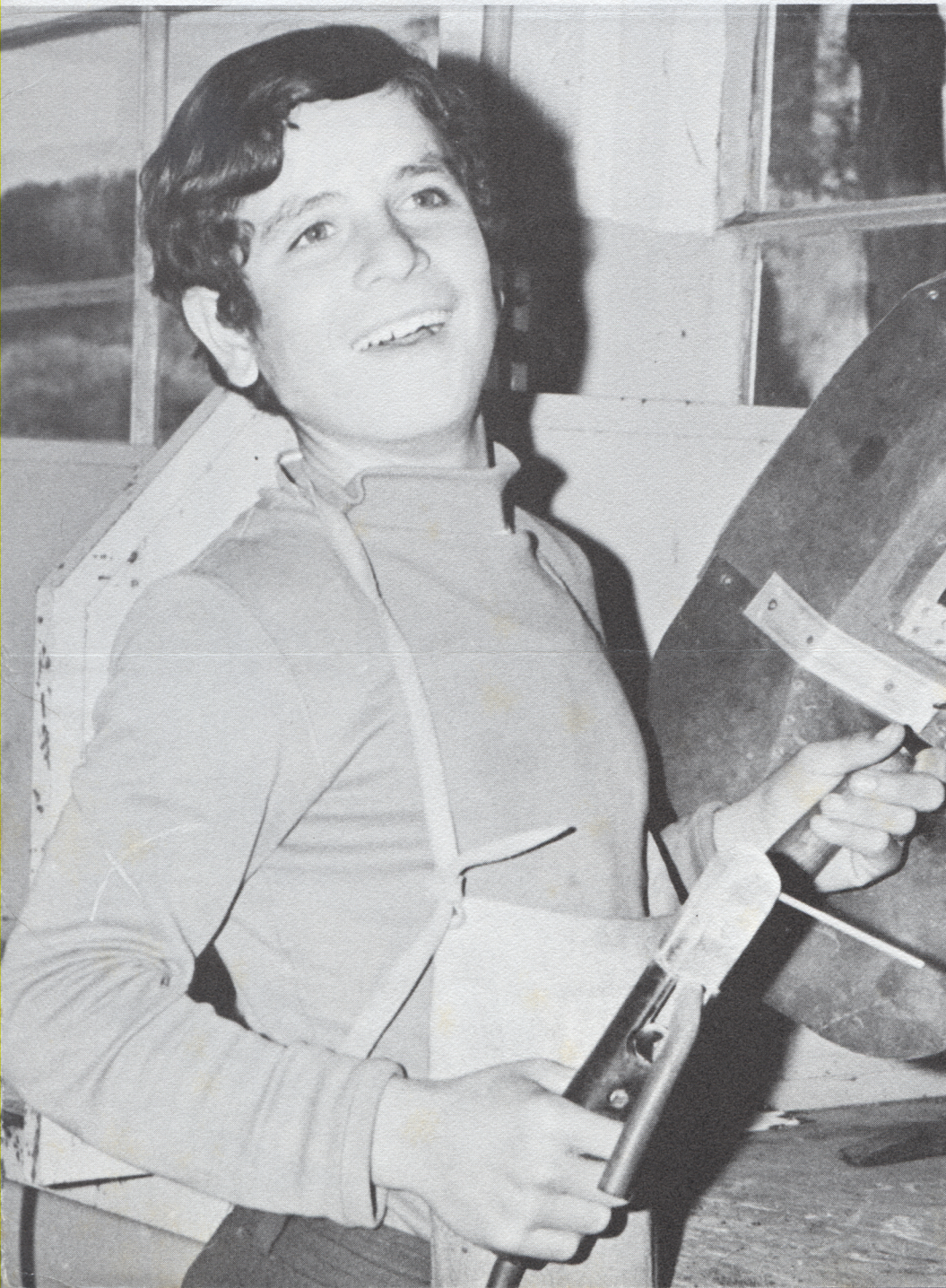
# THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL Sower



NO. 84

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

WINTER 1975-76



## Group Flight Is Welcomed With Flowers and Music

*By George Post  
Chairman, Board of Trustees*

SOME CAME as curious visitors. Many had been to the school before. Several members of this summer's group flight were Trustees, who came to work as well as to visit.

All 50 were welcomed by students with flower pins, music, and Greek dancing. All caught the *kefi* — or good spirit — of the staff, teachers, and students.

And when the last of the visitors departed days later, all knew the truth of the old saying: Once you see The American Farm School in action, you become a friend forever.

The planning for the visit was the work of Vice President Joe Cruickshank and President Bruce Lansdale. The execution would have left Dr. Kissinger breathless. As one panting Trustee said later: "I was on a dead run the whole time."

Events seemed to mesh with wondrous smoothness: A mobile tour of the campus melded into a

*(To next page)*

**VISITORS GET** a happy hello from Antonios Solomou when they stop by the welding class. He's one of 18 boys who came to the American Farm School after fleeing their native Cyprus in 1974. Friends of the school are paying for the boys' tuition, board and other expenses.



## Warm Welcome For Group Flight

(From page 1)

presentation of a big, badly needed new tractor by the John Deere Company. A ceremony marking a generous donation from Mobil Oil Hellas for scholarships panned gracefully into the dedication of a path to the Girls School in memory of Eleanor Reed, longtime resident and official "greeter" of the school.

Early one morning, on a hilltop above the school, a beautiful grove of pine trees was named in honor of the late Andrew Carey, a strong and towering figure as a Trustee.

The Trustees in the group, after attending the memorials to dear friends, settled down to work.

What made the meetings particularly valuable and productive was the person-to-person exchange — Greeks and Americans planning together across the table, instead of over the ocean.

The Trustees found time for tours with the other visitors: Tours of the Girls School where bright-faced young women displayed their own weaving patterns based on Greek designs; tours of the machine shops, poultry houses, dairies and fields, where Greek boys were eager to demonstrate their new skills. And a memorable tour of the village of Aghios Antonios, where the visitors discovered a group of young Americans — participants in the school's Greek Village Springtime program — working and living with Greek families who had adopted them for five weeks. Enthusiasm, friendship and a sense of sharing were some of the things the young visitors were learning.

Everything came together on a clear night on the campus. It was graduation time. A pageant of student dancers, singers, speakers, torchbearers — plus a tender parade of baby animals and a roaring column of farm machinery — all brought the spectators to their feet.

The Minister of Northern Greece, Nicholas Martis, was there. He praised the school's immense contribution to the modernization of agriculture in Greece, and arranged for a film to be made for Greek television.

The graduation ceremonies ended with the awarding of straw hats to the boys and mandila to the girls. It was a deeply moving experience for all the visitors.

The ceremony held international significance too, as several visitors pointed out, because it was held beneath the flags of both Greece and America, softly waving side by side.





# FEEDING THE HUNGRY CHILDREN OF THE WORLD: FARM SCHOOL IDEAS, INSPIRATION ARE HELPING

*Feeding the Children of the World*  
By Henry R. Labouisse

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, as you read this issue of *The Sower*, more than 200 million young children on several continents are suffering from undernutrition or malnutrition. Many are starving.

Last November, I attended the World Food Conference in Rome and presented a statement on behalf of UNICEF which pointed out that the world food problem is really two problems. The first is the threat of famine following natural or man-made disasters, like drought and war.

The second problem is the ever-present hunger of the poorer people of the world. It is the inability of people to feed themselves and their children, often even in areas of sufficient rainfall and potentially fertile soil.

Must this be so? Not if there is the will in both developed and developing countries to solve the problems.

The World Food Conference did not produce any easy answers. In fact, I believe that one of the benefits of the conference was the general realization that for food supplies the main new efforts must stress production and distribution in the developing countries. A few agricultural nations like the United States cannot continue to fill the gap indefinitely.

For the world's international shipments, American farmers have already been supplying some 90% of the soybeans, 60% of the corn and other feed grains and 40% of the wheat. They also supply a substantial part of the rice that enters international trade but this is a very small percentage of the world's rice production. Possibilities of expanding U.S. production of grains and soybeans, already at a high level of efficiency, are limited.

Similar limitations apply to other major producers. It is, therefore, increasingly important that the developing countries themselves augment their efforts to increase



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the indigenous production of needed foodstuffs.

The developing countries must make selective use of both modern technology and traditional agricultural practices appropriate to local ecological conditions. Much more than planting and harvesting is involved. Improved marketing systems can play an important role, as can better storage and distribution facilities in countries where rats and other pests consume 20% of all the grain. Improved varieties, diversification of crops and more efficient cropping patterns are other important considerations. The benefits must be brought to the small farmer and to the village and home level.

This process has been under way to various degrees in the developing nations. One of the leading countries is Greece. In this ancient land of olives and sheep, poor soil and rocky hillsides, subsistence farming has been yielding to scientific agriculture for many years — slowly, stubbornly, but surely. Since the American Farm School was founded in 1902, thousands of boys have been learning important things about farming in addition to what their parents or grandparents could teach them.

And each boy who returns to his village does more than practice good farming. He teaches others. So the ripples of learning go out from the Farm School in ever-widening circles.

Many a Farm School graduate has introduced a "first" to his village: the first modern poultry

house, the first pear orchard, the first tractor, the first running water, the first rat-proof silo.

Drive through the Greek countryside and you will see the results of Farm School teaching: simple greenhouses made of wood frames covered by sheets of clear plastic; box beehives instead of the ancient straw domes; grape vines pruned in a new way for a more bountiful crop.

In recent years, agriculturalists from colleges and government agencies have visited the school from many other developing countries — including India, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Jordan and Lesotho.

There has been a fruitful interchange. These visitors have brought new ideas and concepts to the school and they, in turn, have received two valuable gifts. One gift is specific knowledge, such as how to build and operate a one-man dairy barn.

The other gift is inspiration. If the Greek farmer can apply certain technology to his own small, barren, arid strips of land — then so can the farmer of Egypt or India or Bangladesh.

American and other modern technology cannot, of course, be simply transferred to the developing countries. Greek farmers, for example, do not have the tremendous acreage of fertile land and mechanization of the typical American farmer. Nor can they afford the massive application of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides. They can, however, afford more man-hours of work per acre, which means more intensive care of each crop.

You can see the results of this intensive care, and of the selective application of modern technology, in the grain fields of the American Farm School's own farm. This past year, the farm's yield of corn for silage was more than double the average yield in the United States.

I believe that with cooperation in their own communities and with help from their governments and from the outside, the poorer people of the world can feed themselves and their children. And I know that every friend of the Farm School can be proud of the help he or she has given — not just to Greece, but to millions of children who may survive, in the years to come, because of the ripples of knowledge that flow into and out from The American Farm School.

**ON THE ROAD to knowledge, Farm School boys pilot a tractor from learning/maintenance shop to learning/producing fields. Other countries often send observers to see how the school's programs can help them feed their own people.**



# Wheat Crop Is Good (and Radishes Crunchy) Despite a Very Dry Year

THE SPRING OF '75 was a joy for the tourists. The Greek sunshine was never warmer; the skies never bluer. But as Costas Evangelou scanned the skies day after day, his hopes for another year of record-breaking crops slowly evaporated.

In late August, after the crops were finally in, Costas commented:

"It was an old story. The school is in a valley between mountains and sea, and the air seems to move the rainclouds right out of our way. You see rain falling on Mount Hortiach and extending to villages 22 kilometers east. But it misses us completely."

Costas is Supervisor of the Field Crops Department. His "old story" had long since taught him to hedge against years of sparse rainfall by selecting drought-resistant seeds and plowing the field to retain the precious moisture.

So when the rains came in May, they were late — but not too late. This year's harvest averaged 2,200 pounds per acre. It was short of the hoped-for 2,500 pounds. But considering that the rainfall from July 1974 through June 1975 was only 350 millimeters (14 inches) it was still a very good year.

The crop includes 180 acres of wheat and more than 150 acres of barley, hay, silage corn, oats and vetch for pasture grazing, and even

a half-acre each of onions, garlic, and popcorn.

While Costas was waiting for rain, Stavros Kaloumenos was enjoying the sunshine. At least in his few spare moments. Stavros is Supervisor of the Gardens Department, and his crops are irrigated.

Think of almost any garden goodie, and Stavros grows it. Peas that the Green Giant would envy. Three varieties of lettuce. And this year a new hybrid sweet corn. His greenhouses are bursting with peppers, cucumbers, lima beans, and fat watermelons.

The farm serves four vital functions. It provides:

- *Education for the students.* Working in the fields and gardens under the watchful eyes of the staff gives the kind of practical training that no amount of classroom study could match.

- *Inspiration for visitors.* Greek farmers in the summer short courses, agriculturists and government officials from Greece and many other countries, all can see the dramatic results of modern farming methods.

- *Introduction of new crops.* From broccoli to silage, the crops help the school fulfill its mission of increasing the variety of healthful foods available to Greek families, and of increasing the overall productivity of Greek agriculture. The wheat, for example, is always an advanced strain; it is sold not to bakers for breadmaking but to farmers for seed.

- *Income for the school.* The sale of both vegetables and field crops is a sizable factor in covering the school's annual operating expenses.

Costas Evangelou has been with the school some 25 years, counting his student days. He graduated in 1952, continued his studies at California Polytechnic Institute, and has a B.S. degree specializing in crop production.

Stavros Kaloumenos has been with the school less than two years, but already has introduced new methods and crops to the Gardens Department. Stavros won his Masters degree in Agriculture from the University of Thessaloniki.

It's said that although Stavros grows the finest leeks, broccoli and brussels sprouts in Greece, the most loved of all are his crunchy radishes.

Seems they go just fine with ouzo.

## Trimis, Cruickshank Back 'Home' Again

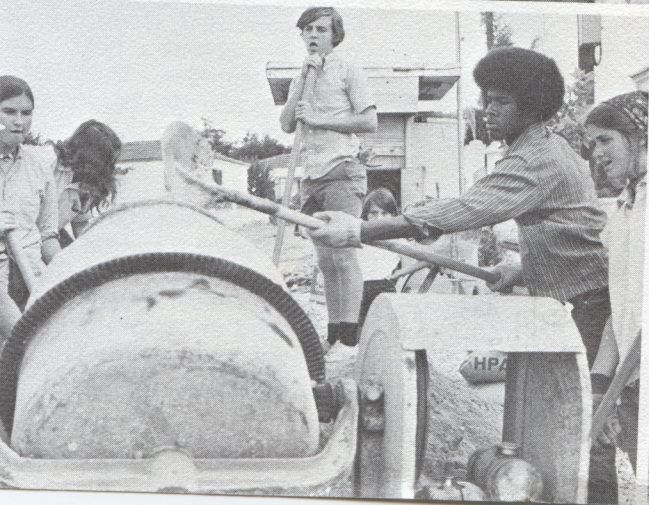
TOTAL IMMERSION for a year in another job in another country can best be described as demanding, educational, difficult and rewarding. That's the conclusion of two Farm School staffers who should know.

In 1974 Director A.E. (Tony) Trimis and his family moved to the U.S. for a year, trading jobs with Vice President Joe Cruickshank — who moved with his family to the Farm School campus.

Joe comments: "Living with the students, sharing their problems, hearing their thank you's after teaching a class, watching them play with our two little ones, gave us a lifetime of experience in a few short months."

Tony says: "Our stay in America has been an inspiration to all of us. Come see us soon in Greece!"







# Is One of These Three Great Programs for You?

THREE WONDERFUL PROGRAMS for U.S. teen-agers and adults are now sponsored by the American Farm School. Here's a summary of each, followed by a brief report on the first Greek Craft Summer:

*GREEK VILLAGE SPRINGTIME* is for high school seniors who can do 5 weeks of independent study before graduation. The students see the Acropolis (photo at left) and other sites, but concentrate on a study of community life while living with a Greek family in a village near the Farm School.

*GREEK SUMMER* offers 6 weeks of summertime travel, fun, and plain hard work. The teen-agers travel Greece, work on a project to help the people of a Greek village (photo at left, below) and finally scale Mount Olympos (center photo below) just for fun.

*GREEK CRAFT SUMMER* is a new program for adults of all ages (this year's span was 22 to 65) who want to learn more about the art of weaving. In the photo below, Jean Dormont (left) of Minot, N.D., learns a Greek weaving technique from instructor Vaso Godinou.

Philip E. Smith, the Farm School's resident weaver-designer, is the director of Greek Craft Summer. Phil and his wife Nancy met the group at Athens airport on July 2 and were the hosts until the plane left for home on July 28.

The ladies admired Athens. But they loved the wool-spinners of Arakhova, a weaving village near Delphi. At each turn they discovered a loom or a spinner, and found a friend.

On July 8 they arrived at the Farm School for two weeks of intensive instruction. They worked the Greek looms as well as the new LeClerc looms, making wall hangings, bags, and shawls. On week ends they visited more weaving villages. At Ouranopolis they saw rugs created by Joice and Sidney Loch, who founded the village rug industry. At Vlasti — an isolated mountain village where tourists seldom go — they found the hospitality warm and loving, the pride in craftsmanship almost beyond belief.

It was almost (but not really) an anticlimax when the first Greek Craft Summer ended with a 3-day cruise among the Greek Islands.

*YOU ARE INVITED* to join a 1976 Farm School program. Call or write Ms. Sarah Holland (address on back page) for more information.





## Trustees Come to Big Apple

# Harry Fowler to Head New Planning and Development Committee

By Joseph Cruickshank  
Vice President

TRUSTEE MIMI LOWRY took the "red eye special" from San Francisco, arriving in New York just in time for the Trustees Meeting on October 2. Mary Harrison also was here from San Francisco.

Merrill Guild came early from Indiana to discuss the school's agricultural training needs with Ruth Wells from Massachusetts.

Katherine Pappas and Irwin Sanders came from Boston, David Allyn from Rochester, Sperry Lea from Washington, D.C., Harvey Breckenridge from Arizona, Chairman George Post from Connecticut, and President Bruce Lansdale from Thessaloniki.

Ten trustees from the Big Apple area came by bus, subway and train.

High on the agenda of October's busy meeting were progress reports on the new short-course center, piggery, and greenhouse. Funds for these projects are being provided by

### Boys Ready to Move In

THE NEW BOYS DORM is nearly completed, and in December the students will move from Princeton Hall to their sparkling new quarters. The boys will live 4 to 6 in a room, instead of 40 to 60 in the old wards. Each will have his own desk for study — a symbol of the school's new higher educational level.

Dedication ceremonies are planned for April.

the World Bank. Inflation has driven up the cost, but they are essentially on schedule.

The most exciting item for discussion (as it was when the trustees met at the Farm School last spring) was a land planning study by Andreas Simeon, the noted Greek land planner.

Mr. Simeon is advising the school on the future use of its land in the face of Thessaloniki's oncoming tide of suburbs. The study recommends that a green belt be preserved around the school. Any commercial development would be to the south (toward the sea) where a new highway is scheduled to be built.

Before the suburbs surround the school, it must consolidate its land into one contiguous campus-and-farm. To do this it must purchase several privately owned plots within its boundaries, and ultimately sell other land on the periphery. One day the sales may offset the costs, but meantime a \$100,000 revolving fund is desperately needed to finance the program.

This and other future-oriented programs prompted the trustees to create a new Planning and Development Committee at the October meeting. The new committee was assigned the task of assessing the current and future needs of the school, and finding sources of funds to support these needs.

Chairman of the new Planning and Development Committee is Harry Fowler, Chairman of the Board of the Fiduciary Trust

### George Livanos Elected A Farm School Trustee

AT THE OCTOBER Trustees Meeting George Livanos was elected a trustee and was warmly welcomed by Chairman George Post and other members of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Livanos was born in New Orleans. He attended Athens College and studied business administration at Hofstra University in New York City.

At the age of 24 he founded Seres Shipping Inc., a firm of shipping brokers and agents. Today he is president of Seres and of Caroline Navigation Inc., and is a director of several other companies.

Company (see story below). In accepting the task Mr. Fowler pledged to make all of us — trustees, staff, volunteers — work harder and with better coordination toward meeting the future needs of the Farm School.

The first step, Mr. Fowler said, is to meet the critical financial problems of today — so the school can prepare to meet the needs and opportunities of tomorrow.

President Lansdale consolidated the key financial problems into a list of twelve. We've printed them on the opposite page for the information (and inspiration) of all the Farm School's many friends.

**HARRY'S HIDEAWAY:** When Harry Fowler was proposed for election as a Farm School trustee, some busybody pointed to the by-laws: they stipulate that all trustees must have visited the school. There was no record of any visit by Harry Fowler. His daughter Angela had been a Greek Village Springtime student, but that didn't count.

So Harry scratched around in his memory and finally said: "Sure I've been to the Farm School. It was during World War II. I was running guns to the Greeks."

And so the tale unfolded. Impatient with America's slow entry into the war, Harry Fowler joined the British army and was posted to the Mediterranean. After Greece fell, he found himself running guns to the Greek resistance. One night, with the Germans breathing down his neck, he found shelter in a barn.

Whose barn? The American Farm School's barn, of course — as Harry learned the next morning. Eventually the Germans (who occupied the school) gave up the search, and Harry was on his way.

Is the barn still there? Trustee Harry Fowler intends to look for it on his second visit to the school, this December. Then perhaps it can properly be affixed with a plaque reading *Harry's Hideaway*.





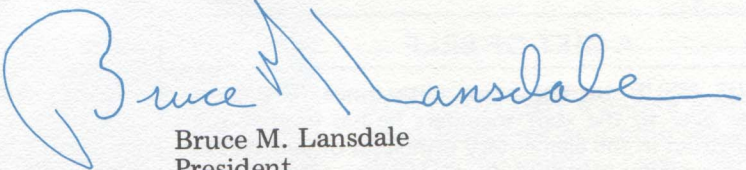
Dear Friends of the American Farm School:

Over the next several months, letters will be going out to all of you, pointing out the school's urgent need to strengthen its financial foundations so we can meet the challenges and changes of the future. Here are 12 basic problems and problem areas that somehow must be solved:

1. We have an urgent need for \$100,000 to purchase plots of land within our own boundaries. This money would eventually be repayed by the sale of other land on the periphery of present holdings. Meanwhile, a \$100,000 revolving fund is absolutely vital.
2. The absence of a revolving fund for the Craft Center has made it necessary to borrow from already scarce current funds.
3. The budget allows no provision for contingencies or a "President's Fund" to provide for unanticipated emergencies.
4. Despite the importance of staff training, the school has had to cut back 70% of its funds in this area to meet more urgent needs.
5. More than \$200,000 has been borrowed from quasi-endowment (non-dedicated) funds to provide revolving funds for current operations and inventories.
6. The school is developing a new education program with the Ministry of Agriculture. This will be significant for the Farm School and for the three new agricultural schools which will be patterned after it. But there are no funds set aside for new books, outlines, or visual aids for the new program.
7. The school is operating five and six year old vehicles because funds for the purchase of new vehicles have been cut from the budget each year.
8. The staff member responsible for visitors was eliminated because of budget limitations. This has placed a great burden on staff and staff wives.
9. Lack of funds to provide for increased inventory costs growing from inflation result in delays in payments to our creditors and embarrassment to the school.
10. Each year the school must wait until the end of June to know whether it will end the year with a deficit or a surplus. Such hand-to-mouth financing in a million dollar budget does not make sense.
11. The school's ever increasing dependence on income from agricultural production could lead to more emphasis on production and less on education.
12. AID funds have been used for maintenance over the years. But AID funds are diminishing. Even minimum maintenance is inadequate because of limitations in the budget.

Thanks for your interest. And on behalf of Tad and myself and all the students and staff members, I should like to say "Happy Holidays" to all the many friends of the school.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce M. Lansdale  
President



# Archbishop Iakovos Makes a Return Visit

THE CHURCH BELL pealed. The girls threw flower petals in his path. The students sang a song of welcome for Archbishop Iakovos, spiritual leader of all Orthodox Greeks in North and South America.

The Archbishop arrived at the School accompanied by Bishop Ezekiel and by the Minister of Northern Greece, Mr. Martis, and the Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Karapeperis.

After a brief prayer in the church, the Archbishop told the boys and girls how much it meant for him to return to the School and visit his friend, President Bruce Lansdale. He spoke of the great need for middle level technicians, and how vital they were to the development of agriculture in their country.

"Your training not only in agricultural machinery and home economics but also in the Spirit is preparing you for vital roles of leadership in your country tomorrow," said the Archbishop.

Mr. Karapeperis said, "The American Farm School is a project upon which we in the Greek Government look with great interest. We expect to start three more schools in Greece patterned after this school."

As the visitors left the church, they climbed into a tractor-drawn wagon for a tour of the 50 buildings on the 350-acre campus.

During the tour Mr. Karapeperis pointed out that the School is not just a farm school, but a complex agricultural and technical institute. They visited the shops where students are specializing in farm machinery, and passed demonstration units designed to show that one man can care for 24 cows, or 5,000 broilers, or 16,000 laying hens. They passed plastic covered greenhouses, the feed mill, carpentry shop, machine shop, paint shop, drafting room, and the electric repair shop.

At the Girls School they visited the home economics departments where village girls learn cooking, sewing, preserving and embroidery, and the crafts center where the girls become proficient in rug making and weaving skills.

Before departing, Archbishop Iakovos said, "I am so happy to see how the school has developed in its new program, and I want you to know that we will help in any way we can."



IT'S TRIMMING TIME AGAIN at the Girls School, and Director Janey Hamilton lends a hand as the girls trim the traditional Christmas tree.

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ  
**Sower**

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## A GIFT OF SELF

WITH THIS ISSUE our volunteer editor since 1970 turns *The Sower* over to the staff members he has tried so valiantly to instruct in the elementary principles of journalism. Those of us who are left holding the bag can only say that Willard Colton has given of himself in a most personal way and that we will try to maintain his high standards. We can put up a brave front because we know that as editor emeritus, Willard will be on hand for guidance, knuckle rapping, and last-minute rescue operations. Thanks, Willard!

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