

SOWER



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Greek Summer celebrates
10th anniversary/page 2



Greek Summer



the village welcome



challenge

Cover photo: Lisa Wilcox, GS '79, from Ross, California, learns how to make delectable Greek pita from Farm School employee Effie Karamouta.



discovery

Every year the spirit and richness of GREEK SUMMER seems to grow and this year was no exception. This year GREEK SUMMER celebrated its 10th anniversary as a cross-cultural program which has enriched the lives of so many young Americans and village Greeks alike.

The focus of GS '79 was the beautiful mountain village of Geroplatanos (meaning "old plane tree"). A more hospitable place doesn't exist and from the group's cheerful first arrival to their sad farewell, the kids were treated like precious sons and daughters.

The group of 44 high school students from all over the USA showed their tremendous bond of fellowship in many ways. They entertained the villagers at their first meeting by singing songs in Greek and performing intricate Greek dances (learned during orientation) with great gusto and dexterity. They poured a record amount of cement to complete a road leading from the village square to the school and the church.

They kept an around-the-clock vigil at the Aghios Lukas hospital where one of their most popular members, Robbie Campbell, had to spend a month recuperating from an emergency appendectomy. They shared an exciting tour of Classical Greece and a two-day climb to the top of Mt. Olympus.

When not in the village or traveling around Greece, GREEK SUMMER made the Farm School home base, where the kids baled hay, milked cows and caught a glimpse of the valuable work the School does for rural Greece.

Participants and their counselors all contributed greatly to new and affectionate ties between Greece and America. And the Greek families which "adopted" the hard-working Americans share with them memories that can only come from the heart — which is what GREEK SUMMER is all about.



commitment

Transatlantic Travellers

Traffic was brisk over the Atlantic Ocean this summer — with visitors coming and going to and from the Farm School in both directions.

From Greece to USA: Executive staff members Bruce Lansdale, David Willis, and Takis Litsas attended Farm School meetings in New York; Mrs. Theodore Litsas wife of the late Associate Director, Theodore Litsas, enjoyed a heart-warming visit with Ann House in Princeton; two graduates of AFS came to study — John Hatzirsufas in Iowa on an FFA program, and John Kaletzoglou in California on the 4-H program; Jessie and Herb Lansdale flew over for a brief vacation in USA.

From USA to Greece: New York director Phil Geier and his wife Amy visited both Athens and AFS, and Nancy Worcester joined the 44 GREEK SUMMER participants. Barbara Boyd, Co-Chairman of the Cincinnati Committee of Friends along with her husband Bill, stopped by during their vacation in northern and southern Greece; and Trustees Dina McCabe, Mike Keeley, Sperry Lea, and Spyros Papalexioiu all came to School this past summer.

Some of the numerous visitors taking tours of AFS, both individually and in groups were members of the Princeton Class of '39; 20 young representatives of an International Lions Organization from Europe, Africa and Asia; the Paris-based American students of Hollins College in Virginia; a folk dance group from Germany; an American high school soccer team from Spokane, Washington; and members of the Educational Opportunities for Clergy and Laity Group led by the Reverend and Mrs. Robert Gemmer of Florida. Veterinarian William Julien from London, and Dr. Tony Trimis, representing the U.S. Feed Grains Council from Athens, were at the School. And the list goes on and on . . . It was a busy time and the FS continues to welcome friends whenever they can come.



Bruce Lansdale shows Mary and Mimi Lowrey some of the exciting developments around the campus.

A Trustee's Perspective

Trustee Mimi Lowrey along with her husband Charles and daughter, Mary (Greek Summer '71), visited the Farm School last May. The following are some of her personal impressions.

"I think the overriding impression that I became aware of while at the School and thereafter was the sense of excitement and purpose engendered by the new program of the School, the new management team, and by the palpable success of both . . . The extraordinary willingness among the staff, old timers and new comers alike, to face changes, to try innovation and to listen to all sides impressed me again and again . . . I am convinced that the School, our School, is moving ahead wisely, with expediency . . . saw progress on all sides but more than that I felt a realization of that progress and real desire to continue to grow and learn and lead."

"Our final evening was spent in a village with three students and their families. Here too the same ambiance prevailed. The children were challenged and proud, their parents thrilled with the growth and achievement of the young and

future students waiting in line for their turn to experience the School's potential. It was a tremendously exhilarating experience and one I had not foreseen.

"I am most grateful to have had the opportunity to partake of this extraordinary operation in such depth. Last but not least I am convinced that the charisma and the leadership of Bruce has a large amount to do with what exists. He very much needs the team that he now has, managers, staff, trustees, dollars and drachs, but somehow it is this man who makes it all stick together."

"American and Greek, Colorado bulls and New England chickens, Ministers of Agriculture and Education, and British financial wizards, earthquakes and AID — it is a mind-boggling combination. As a Trustee I am humbly grateful for the devotion and leadership of those on the firing line. I came away with a fervent hope that we on the policy end can make the right decisions and find enough resources to allow the able and dedicated professionals to realize the full potential of which I am convinced they are capable."

Farm School Revisited 50 Years Later

The following article was written by Margaret and Russell Dudley after their Farm School visit last May. The Dudleys were married at the School in 1931 by Dr. John Henry House while Mr. Dudley was serving as farm manager.

Fifty years ago we crossed the Atlantic in six days on that majestic ocean liner, the Mauretania; took a day to get to Paris by train; then crossed Europe on the Simplon Orient Express, taking four more days to reach Saloniki.

In May 1979, we left Kennedy International Airport via Olympic Airlines on a 747, the Olympic Eagle, arriving 8½ hours later in Athens, with a second flight of forty-five minutes bringing us to Saloniki. As the plane circled to land, we looked eagerly for the American Farm School. We were amazed to see the School on the edge of a bustling city, nestled in trees grown taller than the buildings.



The Dudleys during their May visit to the School.

On our first arrival in northern Greece in August 1929, we saw, in and around the edges of the city, many shanty-type houses where refugees from Turkey were still living, waiting to be resettled by the government. The countryside was rocky, barren, and brown — an arid land with few trees, where roving herds of sheep and goats found meager fare on thistles and hardy weeds. We had been prepared by Ann House *not* to expect trees and greenery, but she did not tell us of the beauty of the land, the rugged mountains, the blue, blue sea, and the clear shining air! At sunrise the fields were a rosy hue; at sunset they were enveloped in shadows of misty violet and blue.

But — the land was poor! The people, dressed mostly in homespun black and dark colors, were poor! It was not uncommon to see shoes made out of pieces of tires, but the proper length and held in place with twine. Bread was truly the staff of their life along with olives and hard white cheese. Nor was it uncommon to hear the greeting, "Have you had bread today?" How surprised we were this year to find that potatoes, which were almost never served 50 years ago, have become a staple in Greek meals. And what successful crops of potatoes they now raise!

In '29 an unpaved road, often deep in mud or holes and dust, led from Saloniki to the School four miles outside the city limits. Many horsedrawn carts and wagons rattled along the streets. Speed was hardly the object. Walking was the most common and dependable means of transportation. Because gasoline was so expensive at a dollar a gallon, taxi-drivers often collected part of their fare first — in order to go and buy gas for the trip out to the School. Flat tires often occurred and many times the pas-



This photo taken in 1931 shows (l. to r.) Charles House, Christos Starche (F.S. student), Margaret and Russell Dudley, Ann House, Father John Henry House following the Dudley's wedding performed by Father House.

sengers had to help push, when the mud was deep or the engine failing.

What a change it is to see the streets filled with new, very small cars of every imaginable make, in which their owners take the greatest pride!!

In those early days the students, all boys, came from the rural areas. They all wore overalls because they worked half a day on the School farm and spent the other half in the classroom. Overalls were the badge of the School. Today they dress in blue jeans.

But was that more of a change than finding coeducation on the campus? Who would have dreamed 50 years ago that this could happen? Who? The House family dreamed of it, talked of it — long before it could have been an accepted practice. But Greek women always worked on the farm. It can't be so strange after all to see these lovely girls taking basic courses along with the boys now. The Founders would be pleased!

(continued next page)

One thing we loved in the old days was to hear the boys sing in chapel — and, when, on Founder's Day this year, we heard the student Jody sing "O School of Macedonia," we were thrilled again. How beautiful it sounded!

There are other ways where we felt *no* change, too, over the span of years — and that is in the Farm School's friendliness and hospitality. The Lansdales welcomed us into their home, into School and social functions, making us feel like returning members of a family after a long separation.

Our visit was all too short. But we sensed that the spirit of dedication and service so typical of Dr. House and his family is still very much alive, — that spirit, unchanged, is what makes the American Farm School really a *Special Place!!*



The FS student folk dance group performed stunning dance feats at the Full Moon Dance.

Zorba Meets Disco

A major social event each summer in Thessaloniki is the Full Moon Dance at the American Farm School. The basketball court and outdoor black-topped area are transformed by strings of small lights, yellow and white checked tablecloths, wheelbarrows filled with potted plants, and pulsing music into the action center of northern Greece.

Farm School friends in summer formal wear filled the tables with their groups of friends, and at 10:30 p.m. the buffet was open for a supper of potato salad, baked beans, barbecued chicken and wine. The dinner music turned into a mixture of disco and Greek music! This year's dance included a demonstration by the student folk dancing group, which got everyone up on the floor dancing variations of "Zorba's" dance.

One of the highlights of the evening was the lottery drawing for

such prizes as trips to the islands, weekends at luxury resorts and a fur coat. This year's lottery tickets took the shape of a stylized cow. When the numbered front half of the cow was found to match the numbered rear half in Master of Ceremonies Bruce Lansdale's hand, the prize was awarded. Fun and excitement for all.

Who does the work behind this extravaganza? The Friends of the Farm School organization which puts in months of preparation, hectic days of last minute details and then that long clean-up day afterwards. Is it all worthwhile? All of the satisfied guests vote a resounding yes! The fund-raising committee also says yes! as each year proves more profitable for the School. This year cleared enough money for four student scholarships. A very worthwhile evening indeed.



Student Photo Contest Winner

Each year photographs are submitted by student photographers and are judged by a committee of amateur photographers on the staff. The theme for last year's photo contest was a portrayal of "Student Life." The first place winner, who received a prize of 1,000 drachmas (\$28), was John Hadjirooufas from Aghias, Larissa, who developed and printed this picture himself in the School's darkroom facilities.

The American Farm School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the School.



TRADITIONS HAVE A PLACE AT AFS

A tradition at the Farm School is to begin every morning with a student assembly. The entire student body and faculty gather in James Hall (the first and still very picturesque classroom building) for approximately 20 minutes to sing, say morning prayers, make announcements and prepare for the day ahead. A highlight of the assembly is a five minute talk by a different student each day on a favorite subject of his or her choice.

ADC: An International Mix

Why is Betsy Hallenbeck of Rochester, N.Y., smiling so happily in this ADC group picture? She has just completed eight weeks in the Agricultural Development Center program, a practical work program at the Farm School. In 1976, Betsy came to the Farm School with the Greek Summer group and returned this year to the special "hands on" ADC program which included poultry work, milking shifts with the 110 dairy herd, baling sessions in the fields, horticulture in the greenhouses, plus lectures and field trips related to agricultural subjects.

Other students in the 6-week program included four students from Holland — Sonja Kindhout and Petra Kas, specializing in horticulture, and Catarina Wit and Wiebren Stellingwerf interested in water and land management. Taiwo Oguwomoju, from Nigeria, was especially interested in the poultry activities. Under the guidance of Dr. Harry Peirce, and FS graduate

Dimitri Adamopoulos, the group worked with the managers of the various Farm projects, and ended their summer program by touring Northern Greece, climbing Mt. Olympus, and enjoying the beaches of Corfu.



ADC participants pictured above include (front row, from left) Dimitri Adamopoulos, Betsy Hallenbeck; (back, from left) Petra Kas, Wiebren Stellingwerf, Taiwo Oguwomoju, Catarina Wit and Sonja Kindhout.

4-H Exchange

Two young American women had their first taste of Greek culture and hospitality at the American Farm School this summer as they began a five-month visit designed to "help promote international understanding and to develop better informed youth leaders" in the International 4-H Youth Exchange. Cynthia Quetsch of Lombard, Illinois, and Marilyn Mier of Clarinda, Iowa, spent a month at the School before setting off on their individual tours of Greek rural centers under the direction of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture.

While at the Farm School, Cindy and Marilyn received instruction in Greek, as well as an introduction to all aspects of Greek culture. Walking tours of Thessaloniki, visits to the ancient sites, the museums, the copper, flower and open-air markets, the local tavernas, and even Greek cooking lessons filled their days.

In late July, Cindy and Marilyn went their separate ways to Greek villages to spend the next four months building upon the foundations of international understanding which they began at AFS.

Farm School History Published

Brenda Marder, a long time FS friend, has just published a new book on the School, entitled *Stewards of the Land: The American Farm School and Modern Greece*, (Columbia University Press).

Mrs. Marder's history explains the spirit and survival of this unique agricultural and vocational institution throughout some of the most violent eruptions in European history. Brenda examined many historical events of the Balkans to determine in what measure they affected the internal development of the School. She also describes the ways in which the School was able to play a positive role in the lives of the Greek people as they struggled to survive.

The book emphasizes how the of the School was forged. It focuses on the personalities of the founder, a Presbyterian missionary and his wife, and his son and daughter-in-law, whose determination and courage in the Balkan wilderness sustained the School through thick and thin.

The School was founded by Dr. John Henry House in 1904 when he gathered ten peasant boys who had been orphaned by a massacre. His educational concepts — the education of the heart, hand and mind — were opposed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, which considered the education of peasant youth outside the scope of missionary endeavor. Thus, the institution was founded by private funds and has been independent ever since. The book begins at the turn of the century and brings the reader up to the present day. It demonstrates how the School has conveyed the founder's philosophy to its students and how that philosophy has guided students through difficult times.



Mrs. Marder pages through the Archives for historical photographs.

Brenda and her husband Everett J. Marder have lived in Greece off and on since 1966. For two years they lived on the Farm School campus where Brenda became interested in the School's history. In 1971, with the cooperation of Mrs. Charles House and the permission of Bruce Lansdale, Mrs. Marder established the Archives of the School and began writing its his-

tory as a volunteer project. Over the past eight years she has completed the project and is proud, as we at the School are, to see her work in published form. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of *Stewards of the Land* should write to the New York office of the American Farm School, 380 Madison Ave. NY, NY, 10017.



Every May 29th the School celebrates "Founder's Day," a tribute to John Henry House and his colleagues who began the School. This May's celebration, with students and alumni joining trustees and staff, was a special tribute to the School's 75th anniversary.

Pictured above are five alumni and former staff members, (r. to l. Iracles Iassonides, Argerios Demertzis, Nikolaos Mikos, Alexander Andreau, and Dimitri Hatzis), Director Bruce Lansdale, and former Farm Manager, Russell Dudley.

Athenaeum Fund

Archimedes Koulaouzides, one of the famous Farm School Class of 1949 that was kidnapped by guerillas, but whose members all managed to escape in time for graduation, is now Personnel Manager of the School. He has just completed three months of intensive study in the USA at the Rochester Institute of Technology. His course work included Social Psychology, Personnel Administration, and Sociology. Archimedes was sponsored by the Athenaeum Fund, designed as a link between the American Farm School and R.I.T.

Spearheading Archimedes' welcome was Mr. Richard Eisenhart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of R.I.T. and a close friend of the Farm School, who was a moving force behind the creation of the Athenaeum Fund. Between the Greek faculty members and the large community which Archimedes met at the Greek Orthodox Church, he soon experienced that special kind of hospitality for which both Greeks and Americans are famous. Archimedes' presence in Rochester is only one example of how proponents of the Athenaeum Fund feel a reciprocal friendship between the people of Greece and of the United States can be perpetuated.

School Ready to Welcome New Cows

The Farm School is looking for cattle. Thanks to a grant from AID, the Farm School is in the market for 40-50 high-quality dairy cattle to be imported into Greece.

"We are seeking very exceptional animals," explains Farm Manager, Panayiotis Rotsios, "which will give us the opportunity to upgrade the herd and improve production."

The main difficulty facing the School is that 40-50 animals will only fill half a plane, so a search is underway to find someone else with a cargo to fill the other half of the plane. As soon as that problem is solved, the final selection of animals will be made.

The animals purchased will be Holstein-Friesians and Brown

Swiss of varying ages — all purebred with pedigrees of two generations. Some of the cows will be heifers 20-24 months old — impregnated by top-quality bulls. The best resulting daughters will be kept to fill in the Farm School herd. Later, the others will be sold to local Greek farmers. The resulting bulls will be used for reproduction.

The Farm School herd is already a very good herd by Greek standards, having an average annual production record of 6 tons of milk per cow. With this importation of high-quality animals, the hope is to jump Farm School milk production to 7 tons per cow per year . . . That's how many quarts of milk per cow per year?



Whether around the farm or on the highway you can't miss Farm School vehicles these days. All of the official School cars and vans have been painted a bright blue with the symbolic gold wheat sheave on each door. The vans also carry the name of the School on the side in Greek — good advertising to go along with the good looks!

SOWER

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