

SOWER



American
Farm School
Thessaloniki
Greece
Spring/
Summer '85
Number 118

SCHOOL CELEBRATES 80 YEARS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE OCEAN



Virginia McCurdy, a loyal supporter of the School, greeting Bruce Lansdale and joined by Rochester Trustee David M. Allyn and Eve Curie Labouisse, wife of Farm School Chairman Henry R. Labouisse.

"**ROCHESTER, N.Y.** On November 4th, 1984, friends of the American Farm School, 130 in all, gathered in the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum and Science Center to celebrate the School's Eightieth

Anniversary and conduct the Rochester Committee's Annual Meeting.

High points of the program were a report by Director Bruce Lansdale on current activities at the School and comments by Henry Labouisse, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, on "Eighty Years of Building Character and Agricultural Leadership." This was followed by an update by Trustee **Dave Allyn** on the excellent progress of the Capital Funds Drive locally, which is closing in on its \$250,000 goal.

Rochesterians have long memories. **Mrs. Clarence Wynd**, had recalled Eve Curie Labouisse's last visit to Rochester in 1941 when she received an Honorary Degree from the University of Rochester. President **Dennis O'Brien**, asked Rochester Committee member, **George Angle**, to present Eve with a memento from the University commemorating that earlier occasion.

Following the formal meeting there was a Lucullan Feast of Greek food and wine, music and native Greek dancing, arranged by **John and Pat Paliouras**, Co-Chairmen of the Annual Meeting."

Jim Atwater, former Chairman of the Rochester Committee, filed this report on the events of the Rochester 80th Anniversary celebration.

ATHENS, GREECE. On April 28, 1985 over 900 Athenians attended a celebration at the new theater of Athens College to honor the Farm School's 80th Anniversary.

Sponsored by the Alumni Association of Athens College, Harvard and the French Advanced Management Institute or INSEAD, the evening consisted of poetry, food, music and laughter with Director Bruce Lansdale reading his "Why I Love Greece" and telling Hodja stories, a reception of hors d'oeuvres and Farm School turkey, and entertainment by well-known pianist-composer George Hadjinassios and his band and singers.

In his speech to those assembled, **Alexander Samaras**, Representative of the Harvard Club, said of the Farm School, "This School for 80 years now has offered to Greek Society both scientific minds and hard workers; and those scientific minds and hard workers have significantly raised the level of Greek agriculture through the knowledge of contemporary management, agriculture and livestock production."

The evening was a great success, and thanks go to the Farm School 80th Anniversary Committee without whom it would not have been possible.



Director Bruce M. Lansdale addresses celebrants of 80th Anniversary gathering in the Athens College theater

Farm School Notes



Athena Krali spraying fungicide on the young trees. This year the orchard should produce a significant fruit crop.



Nico Kaplatzis, a second year Scholi student, demonstrates the use of a 2 wheel mini-tractor to **Mr. Kunz and Mr. Grater** (left to right), visitors representing the Royal Smithfield Show of London at this year's Agrotica Fair in Thessaloniki.



Fotini Tzimiranka, a first year Lyceum student, planting a eucalyptus tree in the Industrial Quadrangle. The trees are grown in the School's nursery, and besides being marketed outside the School, they are used to beautify the AFS campus.

The (Electric) Power of Giving

Electricity at the Farm School means much more than lights for the students to study by at night. It pumps water from the wells, refrigerates farm produce and powers milking machines, welders, lathes, and poultry feeders. There are 400 electric motors in the School and approximately 3,500 lights.

During World War II the School's power system was partly destroyed so that electricity went off each night at 10 p.m. When Paul Orvis, Director of the State Agriculture Institute at Alfred, New York visited the Farm School in 1953, the only generator had broken down and the staff had been working for 36 hours steadily to put it back in order.

He reported that his Institute had received about 40 war surplus diesel generators from the army and suggested that someone from the School come to Alfred. When Bruce Lansdale, then a young engineer, selected a Caterpillar generator, Orvis said to him, "Of



Pictured in front of the Caterpillar generator, from left to right, are **Aleco Michaelides** (Farm Manager), **Bruce M. Lansdale** (Director), **Fokos Stamatopoulos** (the top rose grower in Northern Greece) and **Andreas Gadjolis** (Engineering Foreman).

course we can't give this to you as it is New York State property," but after seeing the crestfallen look on the young visitor's face, he continued "But I guess we can loan it to you, and if the State wants it back, they can come to Greece and get it!"

Thirty years later, **Phokion Stamatopoulos**, the top rose grower in Northern Greece with more than 17,000 square feet of

greenhouse and Chairman of one of the associations of Friends of the American Farm School, sent an SOS message—his generator had been completely destroyed and he had no standby power. By this time the School was connected to the Public Power Corporation with a new and larger standby system, the gift of the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad of AID. The Caterpillar unit was still in operating condition having been maintained by the staff and students over the years.

"We have a generator," was Lansdale's reply, "but we can't give it to you or sell it either as it was imported duty free and is charged in the customs books." Remembering another crestfallen young man years earlier, he continued, "but we can loan it to you and if the customs house wants it they can come to your farm and get it." Stamatopoulos has given an extra generous contribution to the School this year from his thriving rose business.

Capital Campaign Honors Dr. John N. Nicholson

A year from now Princeton Hall, affectionately dubbed the "Farm School Parthenon" and so tragically damaged in the terrible 1978 earthquake, will have re-opened its doors.

The new library, as a vital part of the lovingly restored Princeton Hall, will contain at its entrance a simple plaque which, according to the modest instructions of its benefactor, will bear the simple inscription:

DR. JOHN N. NICHOLSON
- KEFALIDES -

And this is the story of an extraordinary man and of his extraordinary gift—a gift to future generations of village boys and girls, a gift to the process of *learning*.

His story closely parallels that of the Farm School itself:

- both were born and raised in the tragedies and dislocations of the Balkan wars and the final days of the Ottoman Empire;
- both have risen out of adversity, dedicated to serving others;
- both have combined the best of Greece with the best of America

Born in 1901 into the family of Nicholas and Eudoxia Kefalides, he grew up in the Thracian town of Saranta Eklessies (Forty Churches), not far from Constantinople. As a

boy he was witness to the wars which swirled around his birthplace. In his teens he became a refugee. Possessed, however, of an indomitable will and independent spirit, he was determined to triumph over adversity. Years later, reviewing those desperate years, he said "You either succeeded or perished. It was that simple."

He emigrated to the United States, arriving penniless in New York City in July, 1920. Supporting himself through whatever jobs he could find, he set about learning English, four years later enrolling in college; gradually, he discovered his native interest in the sciences, which led him to medical school. In 1930 he completed his medical studies; in 1931 his internship, and later the same year obtained his M.D. It was then that he anglicized his name; moving to Chicago he set up his practice as a physician, **Dr. John N. Nicholson**. His professional skills and dedication to his patients saw his admission to the Illinois and Chicago Medical Societies as well as the American Medical Association. He was elected to the prestigious International College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Nicholson had known of the



American Farm School for many years, of course, but it was the Capital Campaign, it was Princeton Hall, that inspired him. It was at this time, late in 1983, that he first talked with **Mrs. Charles F. Lowrey**, Chairman of the Farm School's Capital Campaign. She recalls those conversations: "Doctor Nicholson is modest about his accomplishments. He remembered the terrible adversity of the Balkans at the turn of the century, his early life as a refugee.

I think he sensed that the Farm School's history and his own life are, in an amazing way, very similar. He wanted to help."

Wonderfully, out of these conversations grew the vision of the new Farm School Library—the **NICHOLSON LIBRARY**. Reflecting on his own life, Dr. Nicholson said:

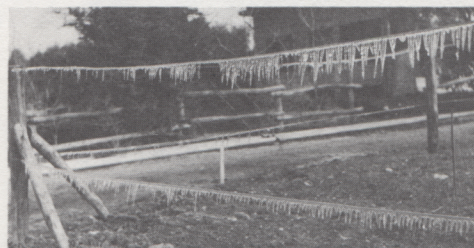
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Winter Freeze Followed by Severe Drought But diversified production saves the Farm

The vegetables froze, the pipes froze, the vet slipped and broke his arm so badly he has been out of commission until just recently; the kids were so cold that we had to send them home for several days; and everyone came down with the flu!

The Winter freeze was followed, this Spring, by a drought so severe that once again, wheat had to be abandoned.

Happily, though, the poultry and dairy departments have so far exceeded the budget estimates that they will more than make up for the loss in wheat. The agricultural department as a whole will make a positive contribution to the School's educational mission.



It was a COLD winter

Mrs. Maria Iliadon
sorting and packing
fresh Farm School eggs.



Farm School milk
being freshly bottled.

"Exposure to learning, scholarship, intelligent endeavor kindled higher expectations in me. Some had remained unfulfilled. I remember Andrew Carnegie saying that it was a disgrace to die rich. I was advancing in years; I also knew I was not immortal. I had to do something—and soon!"

Dr. Nicholson's pledge to the new Library of more than two hundred thousand dollars was, in Mrs. Lowrey's words, ". . . a real inspiration. It lifted our spirits! I think he was determined that the Farm School, for this generation of young people—and for all future generations of Greek village boys and girls—will have the best opportunities for learning."

This, then is the story of his gift, his life. Summing up his philosophy of life Dr. Nicholson has said:

"I still believe that it is in the libraries that the accumulated wisdom of the world will be found—if we search for it. I believe struggle and adversity hastens maturity. I also believe—conversely—affluence, early and for the young, smothers ambition and initiative for achievement.

I believe that learning and scholarship needs to be taught and nurtured constantly, and indefinitely - democracies depend on well-informed intelligent voters for their survival.

No magic formula - just this blueprint for success - hard work, defer gratification, and the nose to the grindstone.

Let us not delude ourselves; achievement does not come cheap. Achievement exacts a price only few are willing to pay."

The Farm School honors Dr. John N. Nicholson.



The American Farm School class of '49, pictured on the steps of Princeton Hall, sending their best wishes to Ann House when they were together for a reunion at the School Easter weekend 1985.

Notable & Quotable

"I salute on behalf of everybody, the Farm School, which for a long time now has offered knowledge, labor and precious contributions to Greek agriculture."

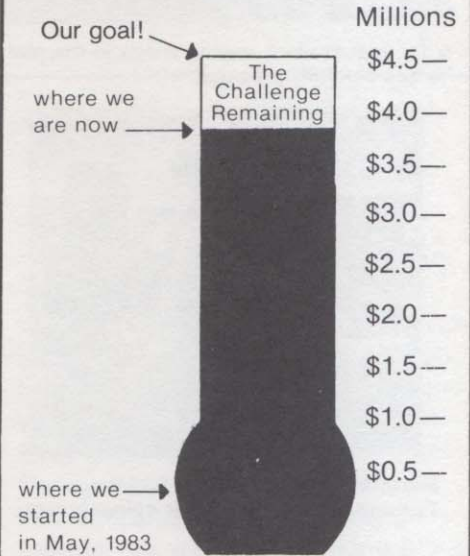
—George Dragonas, Pres. of Athens College Graduates Association on the occasion of the Farm School 80th Anniversary celebration at Athens College.

Former President **Tsatsos** could not attend the celebration at Athens College, but he sent a message, part of which says, "I had the opportunity to visit the School and appreciate in person the invaluable work it does in educating our village youth without publicity and with much love for the Greek farmer. The 80 years steadfastness of this work, which constantly continues to progress, shows how deep its roots are and how useful its presence to all the generations from its foundation through all the governments and political situations which our country has known."

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION AND WITH ENDURING HONOR

The Farm School Pays Tribute To All Those Friends Who Have Pledged Support to the **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Pledges Received as of June 1985



TO GIVE STRENGTH TO THE FARM SCHOOL, the Trustees established these objectives for the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The restoration of Princeton Hall . . .	\$1,330,000
Agricultural and campus facilities . . .	909,000
Programs for library, computers, English language, extra-curricular . . .	511,000
Perpetual Endowment	1,500,000
Campaign expenses	250,000
TOTAL	\$4,500,000

Obituaries

The Farm School is saddened to report the passing of four members of its community:

Frank Gerbode, M.D., a member of the Farm School's National Committee and San Francisco Committee, died in December 1984 in San Francisco at the age of 77. A pioneer in the field of cardiovascular surgery, Dr. Gerbode believed in the importance of the international exchange of ideas.

The Honorable James Hugh Keeley died in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, January 10, 1985. Mr.

Keeley, formerly American Consul in Thessaloniki, was a friend of Charles House and first became associated with the Farm School in 1936. Son Edmund Keeley is a professor at Princeton University and Trustee of the Farm School; son Robert Keeley, former Ambassador to Zimbabwe, is currently serving in Washington, D.C.

The Reverend William H. Hudnut Jr., a leader in the Presbyterian Church and the father of Mayor William H. Hudnut III of Indianapolis, died May 31, 1985. A graduate of Princeton University's Class of '27, Dr. Hudnut became in-

involved with the Farm School in 1954. He was Chairman of the School's Capital Campaign Advisory Committee.

Cuthbert Dufour Lamb, widow of William F. Lamb, died on June 24, 1985. Mrs. Lamb, a long-standing friend of Ann and Charles House and Tad and Bruce Lansdale, served as a loyal and valued trustee of the School from 1955 to 1974 and was elected to the School's National Committee in 1975.

In loving memory of Charlotte Wilkinson and Jan Bies, participants in SWAP, both tragically killed in an automobile accident in Greece in June, 1985.



A 1st year student sowing seeds in the plot he has carefully prepared.



Maria Magoudi, left, and Fotini Tzimiranka washing their spinach crop.

Student Projects

Working with pigs, chickens and vegetable gardens give first-hand training to the students in the skills needed for each enterprise: problem solving, management, and organizational skills which can be applied to whatever the students choose to pursue after graduation from the Farm School.



Piglets being weighed to see if they are ready for marketing.



Maria Kokona, packing the broilers raised, dressed and marketed by the students themselves.



Polikarpus Tsikritzis examining his sow for the movements of little ones inside.

It was a sad day indeed in 1978 when an earthquake rendered Princeton Hall almost entirely unsafe and therefore unusable.

With funds from the School's first Capital Campaign, which has a goal of \$4.5 million, the "Parthenon" of the Farm School is being restored to its original dignity—indeed, many believe that the renovated building will be far more useful and far more beautiful than the original.

Despite the coldest winter since 1968, construction progress on Princeton Hall has been excellent. The windows and floors are in place, electrical panels and plumbing are almost complete and the parapet over the main entrance has been constructed.

The main structural elements of the renovation should be complete at the end of July, about three months ahead of schedule. Then come the finishing touches and the equipping of the internal spaces.

The dedication of the building is tentatively scheduled for May, 1986.

THREE CHEERS TO ALL WHO ARE MAKING IT POSSIBLE!!

Flash Progress Report on Princeton Hall



Bruce Lansdale points out various details to (left to right) Glen Grant (Fulbright professor), George Legakis (Trustee), Mary Keeley, and Mike Keeley (Trustee).

Lansdale digs the restoration!
Even our Director couldn't resist helping with the reconstruction of the Farm School's "Parthenon"



The Farm School Remembers . . .

The Farm School has been a witness to history. It has been a partner in the process of agricultural change and development in Greece. Among these changes, none is quite so dramatic as the story of the village of Anthele in Central Greece and, with it, the story of a remarkable American, an official of the post-war U.S. economic aid program and a good friend of the Farm School, Walter Packard. This story goes back more than thirty years and we reprint here the article which appeared in TIME magazine of June 21, 1954:

GREECE

The Winged Victory of Papou

For centuries before and after King Xerxes camped there with his Persians waiting to do battle at Thermopylae in 480 B.C., the plain of Anthele lay bleached and barren. No trees grew to shade its parched acres from the relentless Grecian sun; no water flowed over the banks of the winding Sperchios River to wash them clear of salt and alkali. For generations no local farmer even bothered to put his plow to the 9,000 useless acres of the plain, and even those who worked the stingy lands on its edge were forced to content themselves with only the scantiest yields.

On a February day in 1949, however, an elderly American agricultural expert named Walter Eugene Packard drove out to Anthele from Athens. As plainly and

unmistakably American as the prostyle of a Midwestern bank, he joined the villagers for coffee and sweets at the local inn and promptly got down to business. "Some of us," he told his listeners, "think you can grow things on this land of yours. Rice, for instance." Torn between skepticism and wonder, the farmers of Anthele listened respectfully as Packard went on to outline a plan whereby U.S. money and Greek labor might be combined to test the fertility of the plain of Anthele.

From the Gods. The Greeks have little trust in bureaucratic schemes, but, said a Greek recalling the incident later, "here in this village, we like what we like, and when we don't like something, we speak up. Somehow, we liked the way this American spoke to us."

Some 40 local landowners turned over 100 acres to Packard's project; other villagers abandoned the idleness of the coffee shops to man picks and shovels for \$1.50 a day; a small army of American tractors and bulldozers moved in to divert the course of the Sperchios River. In the midst of it all, usually coatless and with shirt-sleeves rolled high, Walter Packard worked side by side with his Greek friends. In a few weeks, the dubious villagers who came down each evening at dusk to watch work on the newly flooded paddyfields were rewarded with the sight of tender green shoots reaching skyward. "It was like a miracle from the gods," said one of them. By that time, all

the people of Anthele plain had come to know Walter Packard as "papou" (Grandfather). Children picked wildflowers for him. Church bells in all the villages rang when his familiar jeep was spotted bumping along the road from Athens. Even the road itself was renamed Packard in his honor. But Papou Packard was not one to rest on laurels. He was busy making plans to turn the 100 acres of rice into 1,000 and the 1,000 into 2,000. By last year, his vision and enthusiasm had helped the Greeks put 4,000 acres of the Anthele plain under cultivation. For the first time in history Greece was able to export rice. The gain to the Greek economy on an original U.S. overseas-aid investment of \$43,000 was over \$10 million. More important, perhaps, was the fact that the farmers of Anthele for the first time in human memory were prosperous and self-supporting.

For a Hero. Last week, as 70-year-old Walter Packard of Berkeley, Calif. prepared to complete his six-year assignment in Greece, the people of Anthele honored him as the Greeks have honored their heroes for centuries—with a marble statue in the village square. It was quarried from the same stone which went into the Parthenon and the Winged Victory of Samothrace.