

American Farm  
School

Thessaloniki  
Greece

# SOWER

Autumn 85

Number 119

## A N N U A L R E P O R T





## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**T**



his has been a good year for the American Farm School. In addition to maintaining—and strengthening—the academic courses in the 3-year Lyceum and the 2-year SCOLI (Special Vocational School), a number of impressive physical improvements were made on the School grounds. These, in turn, were made possible by the success of a major fund-raising effort, the Capital Campaign. The Farm School, today, finds itself stronger in several ways—academically, financially, and in its renovated structure. My admiration and deep gratitude go to all the men and women whose combined efforts brought about these results: our efficient and dedicated faculty and staff, the Farm School's management, its Greek and American Trustees, and each of its individual friends and supporters in the United States, Greece and elsewhere.

Let me comment briefly on just a few specific points: Some 220 young men and women are registered for the new school year and we are proud of our very fine student body. The new "teaching packages" prepared by the faculty over the past few months are now in use and we anticipate that they will add substance and flavor to the courses.

The renovation of Princeton Hall is now complete, except for some details, and we all look forward eagerly to its formal rededication at the time of the Board of Trustees' meeting at the School next April. Other physical improvements provided for in the Capital Campaign are in various stages of completion.

This year also saw the start-up and testing of the new biogas project for the transformation of farm manure to energy. It is the most recent in a number of innovative projects carried out at the School over the years. Because of its newness, it will be a while before it is functioning to complete satisfaction. The experiment is a fascinating one and we are confident that it will bring excellent results.

Among the difficult problems which, in my opinion, have been dealt with satisfactorily by the staff during the year were the complicated negotiations concerning the government's construction of a new highway on a segment of the School's property. Another was the maintenance of our

*“The Farm School today . . . provides a very fine bridge between the two countries.”*

farm income in the face of adverse natural conditions: a prolonged and intense freezing spell, followed by very serious drought.

Some words, now, about finances: I am, indeed, happy to report that the Capital Campaign has very nearly reached its target of 4,500,000 million dollars. From the most recent indications, it is within just over quarter of a million dollars of that figure. This is a remarkable achievement and we are all profoundly grateful to Mrs. Charles Lowrey and her Capital Campaign Committee for the splen-

did work they have done and continue to do.

The annual giving results are, unfortunately, not as encouraging and have fallen short of the expected goals. It had, of course, been anticipated that this might happen because of the extraordinary effort made by friends of the School in response to the Capital Campaign. The short fall is, in fact, not as much as we feared earlier in the year. All in all, I feel that the hard work of the Staff and Trustees and the loyalty and generosity of our friends has enabled us to come very close to the various targets which have been set for the year and, with all my heart, I thank all who made it possible.

This will be my last Report as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and I am particularly happy to welcome as my successor the Chairman-designate, Mrs. Charles F. Lowrey. She comes to the post with a superb background of service to the School as a dynamic and dedicated trustee who has a true understanding of the Farm School's mission, of its needs and long range goals. We all wish her every success. For my part, I expect to continue to work actively for the School. My interest in, and affection for The American Farm School, my affection for Greece and its peoples, are now a matter of a quarter of a century and they are not about to weaken. In these sometimes difficult times, the School, which is esteemed and loved both in Greece and in the United States, provides a very fine bridge between the two countries. I am proud of my association with the school and I have a deep faith in the importance of the work it is doing for the young Greek men and women that it serves.

**Henry  
R. Labouisse**

## CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE'S MESSAGE

**T**



o follow Henry R. Labouisse is not only an enormous honor but a tremendous challenge. So very much has been accomplished during Harry's years of leadership that my first objective is to maintain the momentum and assure that there will be continuity of purpose as the School faces the future. There are new ideas afoot and as the Trustees of a unique institution we must, with close cooperation with Bruce Lansdale and his able team, assure that careful planning is done in all areas to keep the Farm School evolving as it always has, in concert with the needs of agricultural training and abreast of new developments.

*“The challenges of Greece as a member of the European Common Market, must be dealt with if the Farm School is to maintain its leadership position.”*

The changes and challenges of Greece's economic situation as a member of the EEC, the needs of Third World countries for trained agricultural trainers, and many more issues must be considered and dealt with if the Farm School is to maintain its position of leadership as we approach the next decade and, indeed, the next century.

I foresee a busy time but a time of great interest and excitement. I look forward to the next few years with much eagerness and with deep gratitude that I am part of a superb team.

**Mrs. Charles  
F. Lowrey**



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

# The Almost Dream

89.6% (\$4,033,907)  
Amount Raised



100% (\$4,500,000)  
GOAL

93.9% (\$4,229,777)  
Includes a \$195,870  
pledge from Greek  
Friends of the Farm  
School

**D**riving up Charles House Road from Thessaloniki Airport I wondered again as I had many times before what would it feel like to actually see the changes on the campus that I have actually thought about, talked about, written about non-stop for the past two and a half years. Would the restored buildings and new programs and equipment really be as useful and handsome as I had dreamed? Would the kids be proud of the looks of their school, and on and on? Through the main gate with its wonderful, dear welcome sign we came and it all began to happen. There was poor old Brush cottage, unused and unloved when last seen, standing proudly, new windows gleaming in the afternoon sun, shutters on straight now and painted a snappy green waiting to welcome its family, once again a home instead of a hulk. On past the "forest", past John Henry and Charlie House who seemed to be positively grinning as if they knew the surprise just around the next bend. There it stood! Princeton Hall all but completed. Walls strong and safe, windows open to the warm breeze, doors wide and welcoming, and two tiny residents of one of the top floor apartments playing happily in the sand pile that will ultimately go into one of the flower beds. Would that each and every one who helped to make this miracle come to pass had been there to share the wonder of that moment.

The next morning we walked every square inch of the inside of Princeton. Only the Ceramics Lab, the common room and the dining hall are in use as yet but the potential of the rest of the rooms is tremendous. Do the kids care? I'll say they do! I was in the common room talking to a parent when they first came in to wait for

supper. The leaders hung back until one asked the lady in charge of the building if it was alright to sit on one of the big sofas. She said, "Of course, they are for you." He looked at her in awe and then slowly sank into the big cushions. Two seconds later there was not one empty space in the room and everyone was grinning at everyone else. The next day in ceramics

**“All this and much more has been made possible by the caring of those who have given...”**

class as the children unpacked and lovingly set up their new potter's wheels, one girl turned to me and said, "There is only one thing wrong with the building." Nervously, I inquired what it was. "Oh," she said sadly, "I have only one year left to stay here."

As I left Princeton and headed back to Cincinnati, to catch my breath I stopped for a moment to watch basketball practice. What was new? Then I realized four balls were in use. Oh joy! Gone are the days of only one ball which often wore out before the end of the season. All this and much more has been made possible by the caring of those who have given to the Capital Campaign. The kids, the faculty, everyone who works for the School knows just that and they are thrilled.

Now at the end of two and a half years, we are within \$477,000 of the 4.5 million dollar goal. The Greek friends at the School are working hard on their share and doing wonders despite the incredibly difficult economic situation in their country. Now it is up to the American friends of the Farm School to raise the final \$266,000. The funds still remaining to be raised mean equipment for Princeton and the completion of a dream. Do the Greek kids appreciate what has been done? No question, nor is there any question of their genuine liking and respect for Americans. It is my fervent hope that we will find the remaining dollars and complete what so many have already made possible. My warmest thanks to those who have given and may I extend a hearty invitation to those of you who have yet to join in. It is truly a "happening" of the first order. Come and see for yourselves!

—Mrs. Charles F. Lowrey  
Capital Campaign Committee

•••••

Thanks to the tremendous support of over 150 Greek Summer "Alums", the GS Capital Campaign has reached and surpassed the goal of raising \$5,000 to refloor the Hog Building at the School. The Hog Building is one of the centers for the Greek students' livestock projects, where valuable first-hand experience raising hogs is gained. The gift of a new floor for this facility demonstrates a commitment of GS'ers to the quality of education at the Farm School and is greatly appreciated by everyone at the School. To all who pitched in, many thanks for making this possible!

—David Straut  
Chairman  
Greek Summer  
Capital Campaign



EIGHTY  
YEARS OF*P. r. o. g. r. e. s. s**Dr. John Henry House  
Founder*

**M**y chief interest during my long years of service in the Balkans, has been the development of the spiritual element in the life of these lands...in the hearts and affections of men, but at the same time, always along side of this object of my life, there has been the interest in bettering the material and social life of the people as well. (JHH 1932).

A high point in the School's 80th Anniversary Year, celebrated during 1984-1985, was the visit of Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland who visited Greece during August to develop a first hand understanding of the problems that exist in Greek-American relations and attempt to bridge any misunderstandings which may exist between our two countries. The letter which he wrote following his visit to the School expresses an understanding of the Spirit of the Farm School which was such a vital element of Dr. House's underlying philosophy.

**THE SCHOOL**

**E**arly in my taking up educational work I discovered what seems to me to be a great defect in our educational system. I found that boys who had a secondary education were supposed not to dirty their hands with manual labor. My mind immediately started to work out a plan of education which should train children along the

heart, the head and the hands.

Now more than ever as the School draws applicants from all over the country, it is clear that this goal of the founder has been realized. There is an industrial quadrangle with wood, metal, electrical, automotive, alternative energy, and architectural drawing shops which opens a wide variety of doors for students with either the 3 year Lyceum program or the 2 year technical training program. The hog unit solely run by students, tests their planning, organizational, marketing and decision making skills. In their garden, dairy and poultry projects they are stretched in the same ways. Special courses on weekends allow them to develop even more their broad base of abilities. There are weekend classes in computers, typing, ceramics, mechanics, construction and beekeeping.

The teacher must be out of doors working with the students. That is where one can get a hold of students and learn to know them. Perhaps this is the most important thing...a chance to become acquainted naturally teaches that I am not bigger than they and I can learn too, that we are working together. If a teacher does this he gains the respect and friendship of the students and gets to their hearts. Law and commands do not do much good, but when one has gotten the hearts of the boys they will do anything. (JHH circa 1920)

Father House would be proud of his school if he could walk along its landscaped paths and drives today and see the bustle of activity everywhere just as Adoni Stambolidis, Associate Director of Education, was when he returned from a study tour in Texas, Virginia, and Minnesota last fall.

**THE CURRICULUM**

**T**hrough the kind of education that will replace the bitter social and religious antagonism, the jealousy and misunderstandings that have helped to make this region the storm center of Europe, by the Christian ideals of brotherhood and service. Dr. House believed that his

school could improve the lot of the Balkan peoples.

Now, more than ever, as the school draws applicants from all over the country, it is clear that this goal of the founder has been realized. The graduates each year take their theoretical and practical knowledge, learned in either the three year Lyceum program or the two year technical training program, to all corners of the country. Their skills are numerous.

The staff who oversee and share their knowledge with the students are a dedicated and diverse group of administrators and teachers, many of whom have studied abroad, are Farm School graduates, or have been extensively involved in the agricultural sector of Greece.

**CONTINUING  
EDUCATION**

**T**he teacher must be out of doors working with the students. That is where one can get a hold of the hearts of the students and learn to know them. Perhaps this is the most important thing...a chance to become acquainted naturally teaches that I am not bigger than they and I can learn too, that we are working together. If a teacher does this he gains the respect and friendship of the students and gets to their hearts. Law and commands do not do much good, but when one has gotten the hearts of the boys they will do anything.

Dr. House never expressly said he had plans to train adults as well as young people, but he surely would see the value of the refresher and updating courses which the Farm School, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, has held on campus since the 1940's. "An institution of this kind which looks toward the education of the mind, heart, and hand" cannot ignore the fact that learning is a continuing process to be kept up all through life." The School now houses the Short Course Center in its own modern facility and offers to 3,500 men and women, who pass through the center each year over 60 different



subjects including: new dairy technology, irrigation management, machine embroidery, traditional Greek textiles, fire protection, and environmental protection.

## THE PHYSICAL PLANT

There have obviously been many changes since the first cottage, housing 13 orphan boys and a farmer/teacher, and the brick dairy were built in 1904. At that time Dr. Haskell outlined the expenses the School would incur to establish and operate itself for 6 months. His total was \$1,209. Today with over 50 buildings, 375 acres, 220 students, numerous cows, pigs, chickens and field crops, and 100 staff members, the Farm School budget is around 3 million dollars.

Some of the major changes on the campus in recent years include the complete renovation of the "Parthenon," Princeton Hall. Finished this autumn, it will serve as a student union, which will also house the library, computer and communication center, four staff apartments and the School's dining facilities. The old brick dairy, Brush Cottage, is nearly fully converted into a comfortable staff home. The hog unit has been completely renovated with new pens, food storage and automatic feeding system. Plans are underway for a multi-purpose building especially suited to athletic facilities.

One of the most exciting projects on the farm is the Biogas Plant now in its first stages of operations. Waste from the farm is being processed anaerobically in the special airtight tanks to produce methane gas and sludge good for fertilizer. The initial test runs produced 90% of design specifications. The gas will be used to run an electric generator, heat the nursery greenhouse, and dairy boilers.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Celebration...celebrating what the Farm School has meant to the graduates who have passed through its gates over the past 80 years means sharing that knowledge and expertise gained from its programs with the more than 10,000 visitors the School receives annually from all over the world, with the 44 American high school students who come for a work/living experience for six weeks each summer (Greek Summer), and with the SWAP'ies (Summer Work Activities Program) from Dutch and American universities who help take the place of staff each summer on the farm.

In 1977 Irwin Sanders conducted an intensive study which produced long term planning recommendations for



*Student working on the Practical Program*

the directors. He foresaw the School sharing the accumulated knowledge of agricultural techniques, management, and leadership skills with agriculturalists and educators from the developing world. The Farm School staff is now in the process of organizing seminars of varying lengths to do just this as a regular program on campus. The goal will be to offer courses designed to fill a gap left by other international agriculture institutions.

## THE GRADUATES THROUGHOUT GREECE

Dr. House can see his boys scattered through many villages, farming their own land, building more comfortable homes, dairying, raising chickens and pigs, planting fruit trees and gardens and making paths, awake to the possibilities of using the resources at hand for better ways of living and with hope in the future. (Report on JHH 1920)

At the 80th Anniversary Commencement exercises, the Director of Agriculture of the Nomos of Thessaloniki,

made the following comments based on 35 years of observing the Farm School graduates in the villages.

*Dear Friends,*

*In my 34 years of Government service I had the opportunity, the good fortune I might say, to work with a large number of School graduates. Three things impressed me about them:*

*a. They were fully trained in their respective fields, both in theory and most important in practice.*

*b. They were hard workers, had sound principles and they would carry out their assigned tasks in an impeccable manner.*

*c. They had high morals and were very close to their fellow men. They were outstanding in every sense of the word. It would be unfair not to say that to a great extent it was the School itself with its staff and curriculum that contributed to the creation of such high standing characters.*

*My wish to you, wish to all of us, is for you to succeed in your new endeavors. If you demonstrate the same diligence, zeal, persistence and patience you should be sure you will be very successful.*

**Constantine Anagnostou**  
Thessaloniki Director of Agriculture

*Dairy cow at the Farm School*



## VISITORS' REFLECTIONS

*Dear Bruce*

*What is left to say when after so many years of eager anticipation one finally makes the pilgrimage and actually watches and experiences the patriarch—you—ministering in the primary see. My recent visit to Greece—after a ten year lapse—will be memorable for many reasons but none as unforgettable as the Lansdale personal tour of the Farm School. As you know, I have had on a number of occasions in Washington heard your inspiring sermons about the Farm School's mission—revolutionizing Greek agriculture—but I did not fully appreciate the message or give it a tangible meaning until I visited with you.*

*It is clear that the school's accomplishment is not just purely in teaching the most contemporary agricultural techniques and practices. But that its great intangible is the strength of a vision that*

*sees the student as an independent and unique individual with community obligations as well as personal ambitions. Homer and Hesoid could not have said it better than your description that the school's task is to turn a "Kakomeris" into a "Nikokeris". A concept so simple yet all encompassing which conveys with great clarity the quest to which you have devoted your life.*

*Christine, the children and I were most pleased and indeed proud to have been touched by the "experience" known as the American Farm School. As always we stand by your side as we seek to perpetuate and enhance the relationship between the democratic and freedom loving peoples of America and Greece.*

**The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes**  
United States Senate  
August 2, 1985



*Greek Summer participant with her host family*



# N O T E S

## EASTER REUNION

Spring came to the Farm School in a special fashion this year. Easter weekend saw the campus come alive with many voices from the past. Graduates from the Girls' School and the Boys' classes of '46-'50 came with their families to reminisce and catch-up on each others' news. Some, like John Stoikos '49 came from as far away as America.

## JUNE DANCE UNDER THE STARS

Each year the social event of Thessaloniki takes place under the stars on the Farm School campus. Over 700 people have come over the past two years to enjoy the music from a disc jockey and live band, the delicious barbecued Farm School chicken dinner, and the exciting suspense of the 50 prize lottery. Not only do the guests have a wonderful time, but in the process, they are also helping the school in its fund raising efforts for the endowed scholarship fund. This year the School had the pleasure of entertaining American Ambassador Stearns and his wife and the American Consul General, Michael Sternburg, and his wife.

*Senator Paul Sarbanes (third from the left) and his family*



*Ambassador Monteugle Stearns dancing with Ms. Katerina Vellidou, Editor of the Newspaper MAKEDONIA at our June "Dance Under The Stars"*



## VISITORS

Senator Sarbanes, of Maryland, arrived on a sunny afternoon this past summer with his family for a wagon tour of the campus. Originally from a village in the Peloponnesus, he was very appreciative of the contribution the school has made to Greek rural society.

Jack and Myrka Kakis, also originally from Greece but now settled in California, have been a great part of the Farm School this past summer as they visited family and friends all over Greece. Mr. Kakis, a Trustee of the School, volunteered his time and

energy to review the Horticultural Department of the School, a great help for the planning and executing of future projects.

Another Trustee, Phil Foote, who previously worked and lived in Greece for ten years, part of which was spent at the Farm School, brought a large group of parents and students from Greenhill School in Texas, where he is headmaster, to visit Greece and the Farm School. Their visit included a Greek program of dancing for the Greenhill kids with some Farm School students which proved to be an instant catalyst for the formation of new friendships.

At a recent meeting of the Capital Campaign in Greece at the headquarters of the Vassilopoulos Bros. Co. Jerry Vassilopoulos shared some thoughts from Ghandi which serve as the logo of his company—

The Seven Great Qualities You Must *NOT* Have

Wealth without effort  
Politics without principles  
Pleasure without sentiment  
Knowledge without character  
Business without ethics  
Science without humanity  
Worship without sacrifice

Mhandis Ghandi

## NEW PHONE NUMBERS OF THE SCHOOL:

471.880 (switch)  
471.803 (gate)  
471.802 (gate)





# CURRENT FUNDS BALANCE SHEET AUGUST 31, 1984

ASSETS	
<b>Unrestricted</b>	
Cash and equivalents .....	\$ 7,221
Accounts and Grants Receivable .....	235,277
Inventories .....	304,864
Prepaid Expenses .....	7,511
<i>Total unrestricted assets</i> .....	<u>554,873</u>
<b>Restricted</b>	
Cash and equivalents .....	51,350
Inventories .....	1,424
<i>Total restricted assets</i> .....	<u>52,774</u>
<i>Total current fund assets</i> .....	<u>607,647</u>

## LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

<b>Unrestricted</b>	
Account payable and accrued expenses .....	184,658
Bank loans .....	120,214
Deferred revenue .....	13,955
Due to plant and quasi-endowment funds .....	340,000
<i>Total unrestricted liabilities</i> .....	<u>658,827</u>
Fund balance .....	
Unappropriated (deficit) .....	(323,954)
Appropriated for working capital and other purposes .....	200,000
<i>Total unrestricted liabilities and fund balance</i> .....	<u>103,954</u>
<i>Total unrestricted liabilities and fund balance</i> .....	<u>554,873</u>
<b>Restricted</b>	
Funds balances .....	52,774
<i>Total restricted liabilities and fund balance</i> .....	<u>52,774</u>
<i>Total current fund liabilities and fund balances</i> .....	<u>\$ 607,647</u>

# CURRENT FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 1984

## REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Private Gifts and Grants (U.S. and Greece) .....	\$ 543,083
Government Grants .....	261,956
Endowment and Other Income .....	204,332
Demonstration and Training Farm .....	1,547,521
Fee Income .....	90,031
Greek Summer and Other Special Programs .....	426,978
<i>Total Revenues and Support</i> .....	<u>\$3,073,901</u>

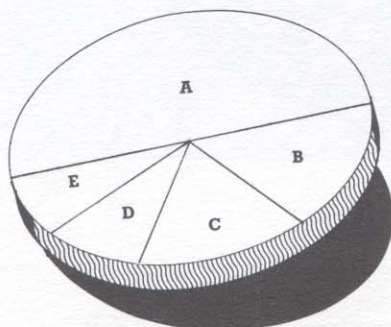
## EXPENDITURES

<b>Training Programs:</b>	
Instruction and Student Services .....	\$ 718,303
Demonstration and Training Farm .....	1,229,493
Greek Summer & Other Special Programs .....	389,702
Operation and Maintenance of Plant and Grounds .....	75,104
General Administration and Trustee Affairs (Greece and New York) .....	390,004
General Institutional (professional fees, security and other costs) .....	68,632
Development (Greece and New York) .....	162,738
Transfers for Additions to Plant .....	71,234
<i>Total Expenditures</i> .....	<u>\$3,105,210</u>

## 1983-84 REVENUES

### 1983-1984 REVENUES

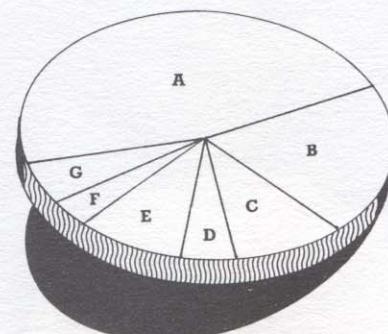
<b>A</b> Demonstration & training farm	50.4
<b>B</b> Private contributions (U.S. and Greece)	17.7
<b>C</b> Fee income, Greek summer & other programs	16.6
<b>D</b> Greek government student aid	8.6
<b>E</b> Endowment	6.7



### 1983-1984 EXPENDITURES

<b>A</b> Demonstration & training farm	39.6
<b>B</b> Instruction and student services	23.1
<b>C</b> Greek summer & other programs	12.6
<b>D</b> Operation & maintenance of physical facilities & grounds	4.7
<b>E</b> General administration & trustee affairs	12.5
<b>F</b> General institutional	2.2
<b>G</b> Development	5.3

## 1983-84 EXPENDITURES

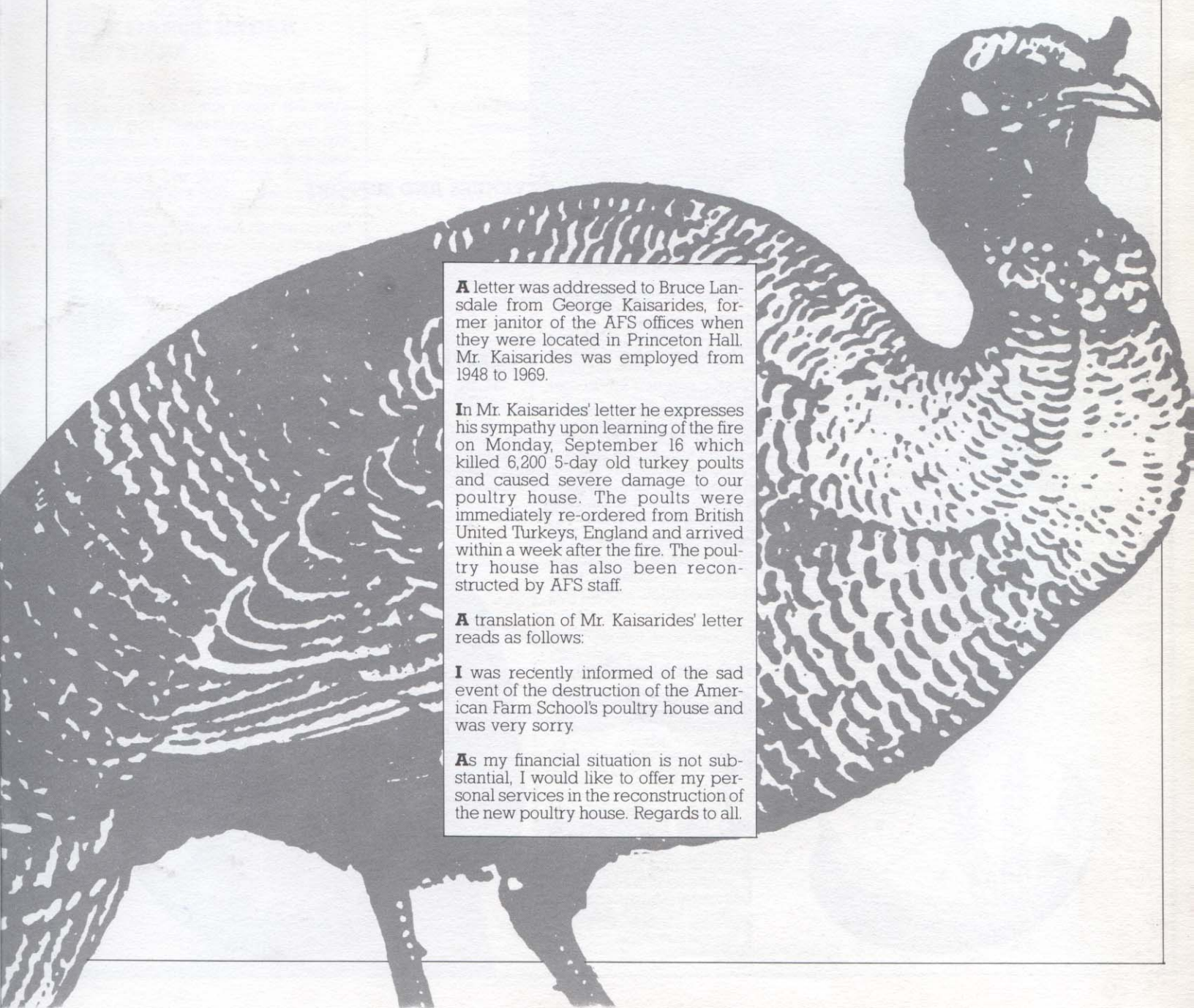




# SOWER

AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL  
OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES  
850 THIRD AVENUE  
NEW YORK, NY 10022  
(212) 319-2456  
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**A** letter was addressed to Bruce Lansdale from George Kaisarides, former janitor of the AFS offices when they were located in Princeton Hall. Mr. Kaisarides was employed from 1948 to 1969.

**I**n Mr. Kaisarides' letter he expresses his sympathy upon learning of the fire on Monday, September 16 which killed 6,200 5-day old turkey poults and caused severe damage to our poultry house. The poults were immediately re-ordered from British United Turkeys, England and arrived within a week after the fire. The poultry house has also been reconstructed by AFS staff.

**A** translation of Mr. Kaisarides' letter reads as follows:

**I** was recently informed of the sad event of the destruction of the American Farm School's poultry house and was very sorry.

**A**s my financial situation is not substantial, I would like to offer my personal services in the reconstruction of the new poultry house. Regards to all.