

THE SOWER

IMAGES OF THE FARM SCHOOL COMPARE 1967 AND 1987. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT DESCRIBES CHANGES.

**Grandson of Founder John Henry
House Commends the Lasting
Spirit of the Place and its People.**

SOME IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL, 1967-1987

It has been many years since I had the privilege of spending an extended time—a month or more—at the American Farm School in Greece. The last time was 1967, twenty years ago. Now, back from a five week stay, my eyes have been reopened to the endless evolution of the institution and the unique magic of the place and its people. Much of what I saw was made possible by generous support of individual Americans everywhere. About an equal amount represents a gift from the American people through their government: especially through the Agency for International Development and its division of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad which has left its creative imprint on the campus. The rest comes from the work of the students and staff, earned through the sale of crops and livestock and the distribution of shop and loom products.

Two decades have wrought enormous changes, probably the most obvious of which is the 'round-the-calendar, 12-month pace of the School's operations. Never a day or a week goes by when something significant is not taking place somewhere at the School. Statistically this means an automatic 25% increase in its use and usefulness, from nine months to twelve. Practically it means that everyone is working harder, performing a greater variety of tasks, and, it seems, enjoying it more. Functionally it means the School is serving ever more numerous and varied constituencies—Greek, American, European, Third World—in increasingly interesting ways.

One recent visitor from Holland, an acknowledged expert in international agricultural development, admitted, "Frankly, I did not think it was going to be worth my time coming to see the School. Now I know better. Everyone interested in development, agriculture and world hunger should have a chance to see what you are doing here and how well you are doing it."

Much of this added activity is sponsored by the School itself—Greek Summer, SWAP the Summer Work and Activities Program, TITP the Thessaloniki International Training Program, etc. A surprising amount, however, is self-generated, springing like a Phoenix from the ashes of all that has gone before. On any given day you may see teams from local high schools competing for the championship on the School's basketball court, a hundred youngsters in leotards demonstrating their gymnastic skills to parents and friends in Rochester Hall, scores of teachers gathering for ten days of training in new teaching methods, a busload of sightseers gazing in admiration at the healthy livestock and 6-foot tomato plants. All are drawn to the School's unusually fine facilities and inspired by the message of sharing and caring which can be felt everywhere on the campus.

Ordered chaos? Perhaps. Bruce Lansdale, who manages to keep the chaos well-ordered feels there will be even greater demand for the School's facilities when the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center is finished next year. Yet it is hard to imagine a fuller schedule. Could John Henry House, or his son Charles, envision all that is happening at their School?

Continued over

July 25, 1987

Dear Sandy Allport,

Thank you for your vivid and heartening account of your impression and assessment of the current state of the Farm School. Even with the changes of recent times (and when was the AFS ever static?) I feel the spirit of the place unchanged. One of the things that means a great deal to me is the fact that the School still exemplifies Grandfather House's world perspective.

I recall the many times I heard him tell of writing in the very early days to some authority in the Western US to get first hand advice on developing dry-farming methods. And only last week I was working at some covers in my stamp collection, three of which were from a Russian Agricultural Experiment Station. Grandfather had read in a Soviet journal of a new more prolific strain of wheat they had developed, and wrote to ask for a sample of seed. They agreed to send him a small packet. I recall his counting them out, and it was just one or two short of 100 grains. He had one of the boys in my class prepare a square meter of soil on the south side of Kinnaird House (where he lived) and planted, watered and tended the plot daily. That was in 1930. Next year I recall there had been a sufficient harvest so that a quarter stremma was planted, and two or three of my classmates of '31 who knew how to harvest with a sickle, gathered the second crop—a thorough success and a great improvement on available strains of wheat then being planted.

So I am not surprised—and certainly greatly pleased, that the School is now a force in international development. I am just now in receipt of Bruce's new book on the subject and look forward to reading it in the next week or so.

Thank you again for the good letter. With best personal regards, I am,

Yours truly

(Canon) Edward Williams ("Ned")

The Rev. Edward Williams was the first student at the American Farm School to be elected a member of the Board of Trustees. He studied for two years at the institution founded by his mother's father, John Henry House at the time when his Uncle, Charles House, was Director. Later he graduated from Williams, was ordained in 1942 and had a distinguished career in the Episcopal Church until his recent retirement.

My second observation concerns the stability, proficiency and dedication of the staff, about 80 men and women who create the dynamic of the School and oversee every aspect of its operations.

While I'm writing several are aboard the combine harvesting the wheat. They will work late into the summer evening to bring it in and immediately prepare the fields for a planting of corn. One is teaching Greek Folk Dances to the forty-five young Americans participating in Greek Summer. One is leading an advanced English class for fifteen highly motivated AFS juniors and seniors using their language skills to advance their education and personal lives. Several are organizing a School tour and lunch for a distinguished group of Harvard University Museum visitors. Even the cook is involved. He's watching with a combination of awe and skepticism as one half of the SWAP students prepare a "typical" American meal for the other half, their European counterparts.

More! Two very nervous members of the staff are in Athens delivering important lectures on the impact of practical training to a national convention of Greek civil service teachers. Another is drafting a report on the recent conference of the International Training Program to submit to the European Common Market. Two others are scheduling a series of meetings to help integrate the School's computer programs with those at the Office of the Trustees in New York. Another is supervising the delivery of free fill to construct a "berm" to separate the farm property from the new highway being completed nearby and coordinating the harvesting of the wheat with the bulldozing of a new access road leading to it across the fields. Meanwhile the Dean of Students is interviewing an applicant for admission next fall and advising her parents on the rigors of a Farm School curriculum. Others are certainly off doing something else, and Bruce? He's formulating plans for next year's graduation, making sure our newest building will be finished on time, entertaining one squad of Greek Summer students for dinner, flying to Athens to meet with the Greek Development Committee, a very important source of funds, while packing his computer to compose "thank-you" letters on the beach over the weekend. All this, and School is not even in session!

I'll spare you the names of everyone mentioned. You get the idea, however, that these are not ordinary agriculturists, teachers and administrators. Each is special, and makes a special contribution to the life and success of the Farm School. Each has what we so often call the Spirit of John Henry House and when you know what that means, you know what it means. If you don't, you can only discover it by experiencing it.

Finally, there have been major changes in the physical plant since 1967. Staff houses, individual, duplex and multi-family dwellings now dot many sections of the campus. Far from becoming clutter, these buildings serve as links between the larger, less personal institutional structures, like stepping stones across the stream, shortening the way from one part of the campus to the next. These twenty or more buildings remind me that, above all, the Farm School is a family, a family of families, interacting to create a unique human community called the American Farm School.

Virtually all staff homes have several things in common: a neatly tended flower garden, usually in front, featuring a variety of roses, an almond tree, grapes or figs, sweet peas and Oleander; a personal vegetable plot nearby, sometimes filled with interesting fragrant plants, more often carefully staked with a plentiful supply of vegetables and herbs; a child or two playing near the front door; and, on certain days, a line of clothes drying in the warm Greek Sun.

Today, about 140 people live on the Farm School campus, including 63 children and a number of inlaws. They constitute the family of families, closely connected by common hopes, mutual concerns, shared joys and respect for a tradition of work, prayer and service going back almost 100 years. Nor is this a forgotten history. Many of these homes carry marble plaques identifying a generous donor or agency which made its construction possible.

More imposing, and no less interesting, are the recent major structural additions to the campus—the Short Course Center, reborn Princeton Hall, the one-acre greenhouse signalling the increased importance of horticulture in the School's program, and the rapidly rising Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center being built in memory of the School's long-time Chairman and former Ambassador to Greece, Harry Labouisse with funds from A.I.D. and private contributions given in his memory.

Princeton Hall clearly deserves its place among the wonders of the Farm School world and its name as the Parthenon of the School. Its mere survival following the tragic earthquake of 1978 is a miracle. Its reincarnation as The Center for student activities is a tribute to the foresight and inspiration of the Trustees. It is a testimony to the determination and willpower of Friends of the School and the Agency for International Development, for never in the history of the School had anything of this size and cost been attempted. It is a bold leap into the future, saving the best of the old and meeting the needs of the students today while planning for their futures well into the 21st Century.

If you can imagine a building which combines food service and cooking classes, ping pong tables and washing machines, looms and libraries, computers and typewriters, meeting rooms and student lounges, audio visual facilities and living quarters, all sympathetically and practically, you get an idea of the role of Princeton Hall in the new life at the Farm School. What a pleasure it was just a few days ago to accompany the retiring president of Princeton University, and his immediate predecessor, on their private tour of Princeton Hall.

There is more I could write about the School today. Here I've tried only to capture what impressed me most on this visit. Other items of news appear elsewhere in this issue of *The Sower*.

The ideal way, however, to experience what I felt, is to visit there yourself this year or next. If you do make plans to go to Greece, please get in touch with us at the Office of the Trustees so that we can help to schedule your visit to the School and make it a most enjoyable one.

Alexander W. Allport
Associate Director, USA

THE SOWER



Fall-Winter, 1987-88

American Farm School

No. 123



Director Bruce M. Lansdale, and Mrs. Lansdale, join hands with Minister Hazipetrou and Father George Gallos to close the graduation ceremonies with a traditional singing of Auld Lange Syngae.

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES MOVES TO LARGER, MORE ECONOMICAL HEADQUARTERS IN LOWER MIDTOWN MANHATTAN

When, on 5/1/87, the Farm School's Office of the Trustees moved to the 16th floor of 1133 Broadway at 26th Street very near 5th Avenue, and signed a 7-year lease on 1666 Sq.Ft. of space (about 20% more than it previously occupied), at only \$20 a Sq.Ft., about 33% less than it previously paid for three rooms on the 18th floor of 850 3rd Avenue at 51st Street, the numbers added up. Big savings, roomier and better quarters, and the prospect of a happy home for the School's 44 Trustees, its Director and senior staff in Greece, the 4 US staff, and scores of visitors, volunteers and temporary helpers became the result of 24 months of searching. Now, it really looks like the Office of the Trustees has found its future well into the 21st Century.

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GREEK SUMMER IN REVERSE, KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY PLAYS HOST TO SIX EXCITED FARM SCHOOL STUDENTS

There is no similarity between Thessaloniki, Greece, and Meriden, New Hampshire, USA, and little enough between Kimball Union Academy there and the American Farm School. Yet, when six lucky Farm School boys arrived at KUA for a six-week exchange program this summer, they soon started to look and act just like teenagers anywhere: trudging to class in bluejeans and T-shirts, arguing knowingly about the comparative merits of the new cars, girl watching, and expressing an incessant concern for "when do we eat?"

For Nick Tsampoulatides, Kostas Dimopoulos, Peter Thiveos, Ted Aretakis, Greg Saliaras, and Billy Bibis this was the summer of their temporary metamorphosis from being Greek to becoming American. Almost by magic they were beamed from their familiar rural setting on the shores of the Aegean to an alien one near the White Mountains of New England, a land of neat farms and dense woodland where English is the *lingua franca* and hotdogs more common fare than souvlakia.

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COME TO THE EDGE AND FLY PROVIDES CHALLENGE FOR 85 BOYS AND GIRLS GRADUATING FROM AFS IN 1987.

Minister of Northern Greece, Deputy Director of A.I.D., and numerous dignitaries on hand for ceremony.

The solemn procession of flaming torches lighted the dark assembly hall. One bearer dipped his to ignite a central flame. In a strong voice he announced "Greetings," to hundreds of assembled parents and friends, "from the Farm Youth of Central Greece."

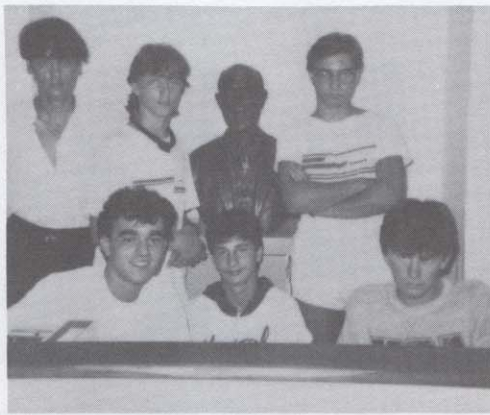
One after the other the torch-bearers delivered greetings from their home areas all over Greece, deeply touching the guests with their sincerity and clear purpose. For the 85 young men and women about to graduate it was a final opportunity to share the experiences of their lives together at the School.

A number of dignitaries were on hand for the colorful ceremonies. Mr. Argyris Hadjipetrou, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Northern Greece, making his first visit, stressed that the work being done at the School was of vital importance to Greece, and that he knew

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Christos Yiannakopoulos accepts the Folsom Prize, a valued calf, from the General Secretary of Northern Greece, Argyenis Hazipetrou, for his outstanding performance in both the academic and practical program.



Six happy Farm School students pose with the bust of Dr. John Henry House during their recent visit to the United States and their summer program at Kimball Union Academy.

GREEK SUMMER IN REVERSE

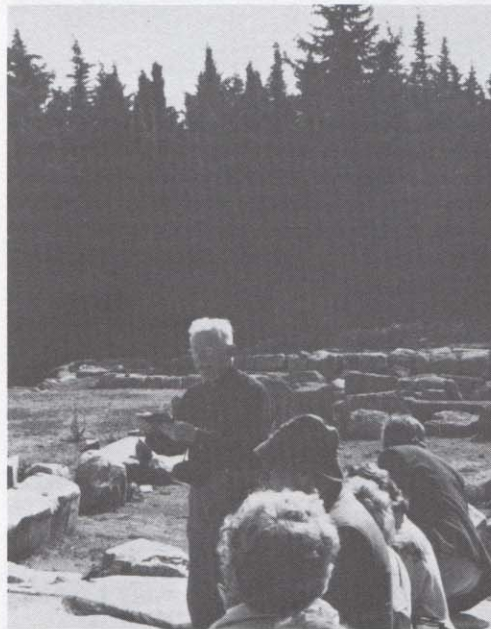
The exchange is another spin-off of Greek Summer. Jamie Bishop, Geoffrey Douglas, Janis Hall, Grantley Pyke, Ben Townsend, Richard Searle and Scott Warner were able to join GS thanks partly to a scholarship program at KUA designed to provide two summers of enrichment experiences for its students. Appreciating what his students were getting from Greek Summer, Headmaster Thomas M. Mikula made the Farm School an offer it could not refuse: If you can get six of your students here, we will provide, food, lodging and a supervised program for six weeks this summer.

Program! Never have so few been offered so much by so many, would be one way of describing the opportunity it presented. Fortunately it is seen as a pilot program, and most of what is learned will be applied to similar exchanges next year and thereafter. The core is intensive English study, three hours every morning while the boys are at KUA, taught by John Donaghy, head of the English Department and an enthusiastic participant in the program. In May he and his wife, Anne, went to the Farm School to interview the applicants, and make sure each of them knew enough English to get there and were motivated enough to learn a lot more during the summer. Often, in Greece, knowledge of English is the key to advancement in agriculture or business, and the youngsters who applied for this program were clearly achievers-in-good standing at the Farm School.

Somewhat to his surprise Mr. Donaghy found the Greek students more proficient, by virtue of their earlier education, in grammar than most American students. So, he was able to focus more on vocabulary building, idioms and broad concepts. When last seen the students were reading Hemingway's *Old Man of the Sea* and Euripides in English.

Scientific forestry, and forest resource management are terms little known in Greece, yet the need is there. Fortunately KUA owns more than 800 acres of second growth where the Farm School boys could get to know the woods, primarily cutting trails to the summit of Mt. Snow, rising some 2,000 feet above Meriden, still a wild and wooded hiking and hunting area. Led by Jamie Bishop, Greek Summer '86 and a KUA graduate, the boys worked daily in the woods under the supervision of a professional forester to clear hiking trails. Gradually they came to appreciate the value of a good tree cover such as is badly needed in parts of Greece.

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Dr. Charles Stevenson leads a special service at the Temple of Asklepios during recent Pauline pilgrimage to Greece, visiting the Farm School along the way.

TRUSTEE GEORGE POST ACCOMPANIES PAULIAN PILGRIMS TO FARM SCHOOL WHILE TOURING HISTORIC NORTHERN GREECE.

By George B. Post, Trustee

A happy band of forty-five pilgrims affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan, Connecticut, followed "In the Footsteps of St. Paul" for two weeks during the coldest spring in Greek memory. They found that the warmest place around was the American Farm School, itself astride the road from Phillippi to Thessaloniki.

Those who started the trip in Athens under the leadership of the Reverend T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., had experiences of their own: a stranded bus, a trudge through snow drifts and a motel without heat or food. Yet everyone remembers the kindness of Greeks along the way.

REGIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES, FROM BOSTON TO SAN FRANCISCO, ORGANIZE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL

Rochester, NY, Leads the Way in Raising Funds, Recruiting Greek Summer Students and Hosting Members of the Extended Farm School Family.

Whenever there's talk of community support for the American Farm School, the conversation turns immediately to Rochester, NY. The reason is clear. That forward-thinking city in upstate New York regularly raises more than \$20,000 for the School and builds numerous program bridges between the American people and the youth of rural Greece. No part of the country, no regional Community Committee, has done so much, given so much, or sent so many of its residents to the School as visitors and Greek Summer participants. Few if any other communities have accepted so many Farm Schoolers into its arms, providing homes, hospitality and education for key members of the staff, including, of course, Director Bruce Lansdale who has always called Rochester "home."

Others who have been to the School have admired Rochester Hall, the central administration building, as a token of thanks to the City of Rochester, a small "thank-you" for the deep interest, spirit and generosity of its citizens. Their love of the Lansdales is one special bond. Perhaps they also see the School as an extension of their own pioneering history and struggle and achievement in a harsh environment.

Outstanding, and singular, as the Flower City's contribution is, Rochester is not, fortunately, alone as an active regional Community Committee. Though Rochester's precedents are frequently cited and its role emulated, Cincinnati, too, boasts a long and strong tradition of involvement with AFS. Several group/charter flights to Greece and a substantial number of Greek Summer graduates are among its accomplishments. Cincinnati Hall, the guest house where many have stayed while visiting the School, is also a tribute to its dedication.

Like all regional Community Committees, Rochester and Cincinnati trace their roots to a personal connection with someone at the School or a visit by someone whom it touched deeply enough to become involved. Boston, Washington, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco, Greenwich (CT), Louisville, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Fort Myers, and now Atlanta are some of the other major cities where individual leaders, or well-organized committees have assumed some responsibility for the financial well-being of the Farm School, often having a very good time in the process. Together they comprise one of the School's most important constituencies,

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GREEK SUMMER 1987

GREEK SUMMER '87, RELIVED IN PICTURES AND REMEMBRANCES OF THE PAST. A TIME OF ECSTASY AND TRIAL, RAIN AND HEAT, NEW TASTES, NEW SOUNDS, NEW EXPERIENCES AND NEW FRIENDS.

In seventeen years no one has adequately defined Greek Summer, the experience almost 800 American teenagers have shared since 1970 when the first experimental group pioneered what has now become a Farm School tradition. Each year a theme dominates the varied activities: guts, the seed, bus stop, metamorphosis, craziness and more. Themes provide a convenient focus, a central idea around which others rally, yet even these do not define what Greek Summer is. Nor do they tell you what it means to each participant.

Here, in this Sower centerfold, in the words of those who have experienced Greek Summer, or helped to lead and organize it, are several attempts to recapture its meaning, knowing that they, too, will fall short of the reality.



'87 Greek Summer Coordinator Ingrid Wassmann commits shovels of gravel to Varvara's pavement.



With music, Greek Summer reaches out to touch residents of a Greek nursing home.



Farm School beekeeper Panos Missirlis introduces us to the hive's queen.



Lovely Varvara, nestled into a wooded pocket of the Halkidiki's western mountains, nurtured the hearts and minds of this year's group.

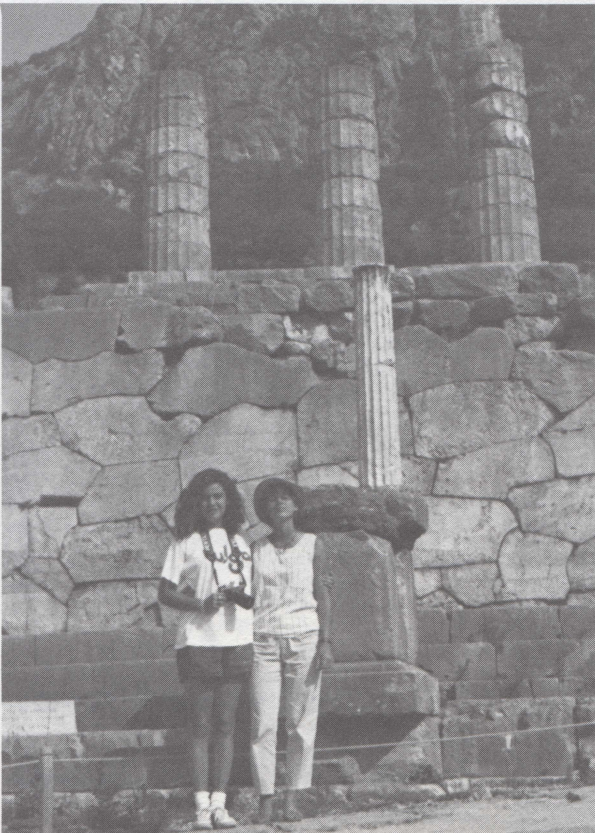
“Nothing but fond memories.”

Frances Tracy Wenzell, Roanoke College, GS '85



New Greek Summer Coordinator Henry Crawford basks in the warmth of a 1987 visit to his family in Geroplatanos, GS '79's loving village.

Ek-Stasi, the root of ecstasy, can liberally be interpreted from the Greek as getting away from your Bus Stop. "A trip to help you get off all the old stops, to become unstuck, to find new positions, new ways of looking at things, at people, at oneself. It implies taking a chance, stretching your personal bow further than before even if you think you'll break. You seldom do..." These are some of Bruce Lansdale's words to Greek Summer '87 participants as they gathered in the Lansdale cottage by the sea before the end of the program. Is that what Greek Summer is about?



Clare Winter and Janis Hall animate a view of Delphi with a perfect tourist pose.



Enthusiasm is the rule when celebrating life with your Greek brother at the local taverna. Ted Hampton and Donald Miller are extremely pleased to be back in Doumbia, the village of their GS '81 experience, to do it again with Ted's Greek brother, Georgos.



Director Christine Lansdale delightedly surveys participants as they toil on their project.

“Hardly a month goes by when I don't think about Greece and Monopigado. They will always be with me. Mt. Athos taught me so much about commitment; Ed Howell about faith; Monopigado about the oneness of the human family; the Lansdales about seeking and finding oneself.”

Luther M. Ragin, Jr., New York, GS '72



Joann Ryding takes what Mary Ellen Crain can give her for a final stretch of Varvara's road project.

GREEK SUMMER

Every Greek Summer has its theme. It also has its village, and the village gives a special personality to the experience. For GS '87, it was VARVARA, remote, wooded, unspoiled, a moderately sized village perched on the mountains of eastern Halkidiki. The bonds that tie the GS *pethia* (the youngsters) to the villagers grew strong through the trust, love and sharing, qualities that Varvara exuded from the first time it was seen. Is that what Greek Summer is about?

The participants came together as strangers, a pool of energy and nervous enthusiasm, to discover the secret of Greek generosity. Removed from their familiar surroundings, amid strange faces, they learned, became a part of ancient Greek traditions, living with modern Greeks, becoming themselves a part of Greece. Is that what Greek Summer is about?

In Varvara they learned the meaning of community: young, old and in between participating in village life. The platia where the villagers celebrate. The kafenion where the "wise" men talk. The disco where the young dance. The soccer field where the children play. All have a place in this community, at work, at play, at home. Is that what Greek Summer is about?

Paving two dirt roads requires team effort, peer support. The young men and women sweat, laugh, struggle to mix sand, water and cement, and to pour concrete. They delight in the progress, foot by foot, yard by yard. Villagers watch with caring eyes, nourish them with fresh baked bread and cakes, ice creams, coffees, and sodas. And mostly with warm smiles. Is that what Greek Summer is about?



Olymbiakos takes some satisfaction in the completion of the road in Varvara.



Benjamin Crawford finds an ebullient mother and family delighted to meet him for the first time, with the rest of Greek Summer and Varvara to witness the event.



Varvara's kafenion of "wise" men. Every Greek Summer knows this scene, and learns to operate under their watchful gaze.

GREEK SUMMER

Always the generous concern of the village and its villagers. A hearty meal waiting on the dinning room table. Clean, ironed clothes neatly folded on the bed. A big, affectionate hug before leaving the house. A farewell gift wrapped in ornate paper. A sense of belonging. A cultural metamorphosis, profound, lasting and enlightening. Is that what Greek Summer is about?

At the Farm School another kind of learning. A practical "hands on" encounter with skills training, a new dimension to Greek Summer. Faucet leak? No need to call the plumber. Electrical wiring is no longer the province of a costly electrician. Feed the pigs? But... don't they feed US? Yes, but only as a payoff for hours of toil, which Greek Summer can now appreciate. Collect the honey? Where are the jars? You mean "Into the Hive?" "With all those Bees?" And so it went through a roster of doing things not done before. Is that what Greek Summer is about?

Mt. Olympus (Roman) Olympos (Greek), a reaching to touch the heavens, to knock on the home of the gods. Almost 10,000 feet up into the clouds and snow. To celebrate the victory of the climb, all for one and one for all, for no one stays behind. And that, too, is what Greek Summer is about.

APPLICATIONS FOR GREEK SUMMER

are accepted between September 15 and January 15 of the year for which you are applying. The program is limited to 44 participants, normally juniors in high school, generally 17 years old.

If you think Greek Summer may be for you, a sibling, child or friend, write for an application to:

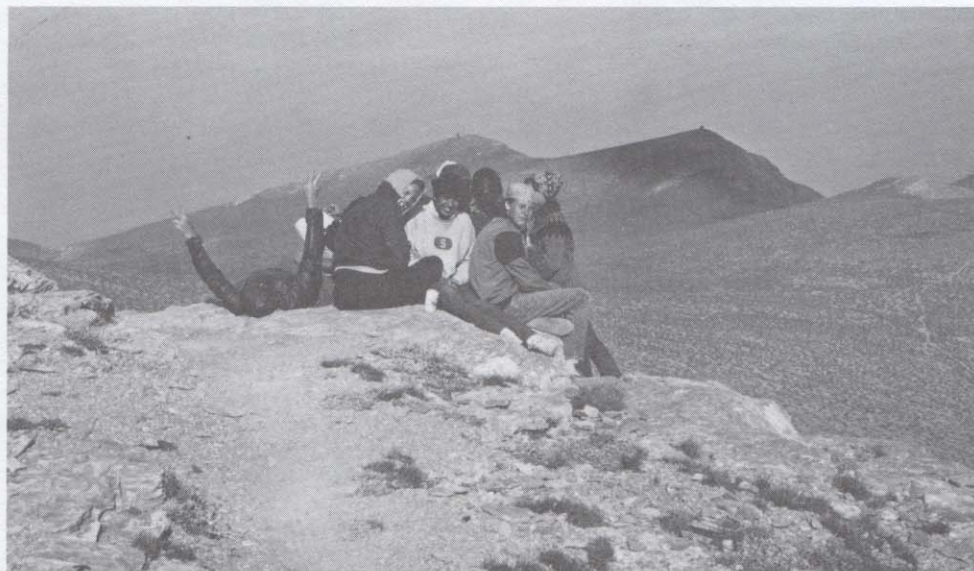
GREEK SUMMER
The American Farm School
1133 Broadway @ 26th Street
New York, NY 10010
212-463-8433



A panorama of the Greek Summer work ethic.



Bill Bennington makes his bid at living the craziness theme, preparing to launch his frisbee in classical Greek Style.

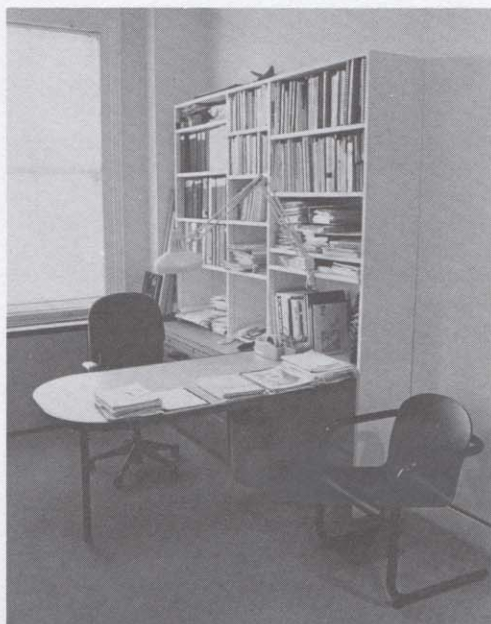


On Mount Olympos, a special challenge and chance for comraderie, if only to stay warm!

"I had a fantastic summer thanks to Greek Summer."
Elizabeth Owen, Louisville, KY,
GS '87

OPEN HOUSE FOR GREEK SUMMER GRADUATES

The Farm School's Office of the Trustees is hosting an Open House for Greek Summer graduates and their families in the Greater New York area from 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Saturday, November 21, 1987. Plan on it. Bruce Lansdale will be here to greet you, along with other past members of the Greek Summer staff.



Though less expensive and more spacious, the new Office of the Trustees came with work spaces for each member of the staff as well as for Trustees working on special projects for the School.

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES MOVES

Over the decades the Office of the Trustees has been a peripatetic tenant around Manhattan. In the 40s it was on 42nd Street for quite some time. In the 50s it occupied space on 65th Street. In the 60s it was on 61st Street, and in the 70s it faced a truly explosive situation on Second Avenue. During most of the 80s so far it has lived midtown, moving to its last Third Avenue location in 1979. Now it has moved into the resurgent Flatiron District with a small view of Madison Square Park and handy public access by bus and subway to virtually all parts of the City: less than half a block from 5th Avenue for those cabbing down.

Our building, The St. James, was designed in 1896 by Bruce Price (designer of Tuxedo Park and father of Emily Post), and is an early example of the Beaux-Arts style, an eclectic combination of stone, brick, terra cotta, iron and copper with a rather unusual painting by Arthur Brounet in the newly restored 3-elevator lobby. Though over the years the building has had its ups and downs, it is now in a major up-swing, as is the entire lower midtown area.

Visitors are always welcome at the new Office of the Trustees, and a steady stream of them have been coming through this summer from Greece as well as the United States. Greek Summer candidates will soon have a chance to see it during their interviews and in November the Trustees will be holding their regular Trustees meetings in the newly renovated conference room on the 2nd floor. Literature, picture books, films and video tapes about the School and its work are available and a cup of tea or coffee is usually on hand.

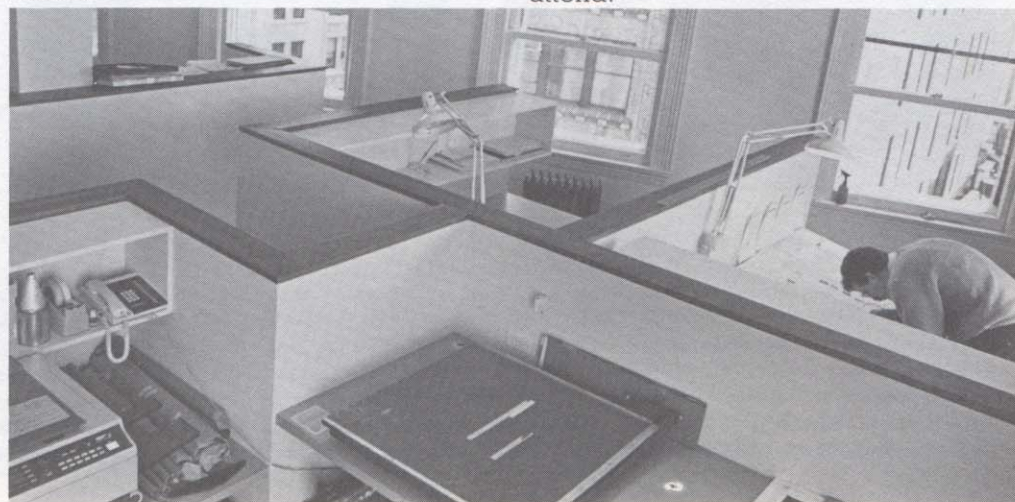
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GREEK SUMMER IN REVERSE

The third program component could be classified as play-time, though actually it has as much to do with understanding America as it had to do with recreation. Weekend visits to Boston, Montreal, Burlington, Hartford, New York and Washington were included to give the young men a greater sense of the size and variety of their host country and to help them meet average Americans in their own home settings. In most cases the boys were the guests of Kimball Union graduates. In New York and Washington they were hosted by Farm School Trustees and staff. When asked what they wanted to see in New York, they answered in unison, "Everything," which was typical of their enthusiasm for seeing all there was to see. Even an "out of service" elevator at the Statue of Liberty didn't daunt most of them in making it to the top. Their own journals and letters home are the only true guide to their experiences, but, to repeat, never has so much been seen in so short a time. "Stories to last a lifetime" is all this writer could think of as he accompanied them around Manhattan.

One special treat was breakfast at the Philip Morris Company, as guests of Vice Chairman Hugh Cullman, himself a KUA graduate, along with a number of his staff who knew Greece and spoke Greek. Mr. Cullman and PM have also been supporters of the Farm School and have helped the School to develop a program of agricultural quality and diversity for some of the tobacco growing villages of Greece.

Now Nick, Costa, Peter, Ted, Greg and Bill are back in Greece, perhaps sharing some of their experiences with younger Farm School students who hope to participate in a similar experience next year. Many people, too many to mention in this article, helped make this unique experience possible for them. To all go the Farm School's thanks, as well as our hope for a continuing and growing relationship with the students, staff and extended family of Kimball Union Academy, a school whose philosophy comes very close to that of the American Farm School.



GRADUATION 1987

these graduates would make an important contribution to their country. At the last minute the Minister of Northern Greece was unable to attend, but took the trouble to come to the School before the ceremonies and meet the graduates.

Nan Frederick, Deputy Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development, helped award the traditional Farm School pins and toured the campus toward which A.I.D. has contributed generously over many years. Inspecting Princeton Hall she pronounced it "probably the nicest result of A.I.D. funding" she had seen in action.

One of the highlights of the evening was the ceremonial presentation of a Holstein calf to the outstanding student of the year. Christos Yiannakopoulos from nearby Petralona in Halkidiki, took possession of the Folsom Prize, a small black and white Holstein calf, to the cheers of his classmates. Other top students won prizes such as sets of agricultural tools through awards provided by Dr. Paul P. Vouras, recently endowed by the donor, and Mr. H. Daniel Brewster.

In closing the ceremony Director Bruce Lansdale summarized what the Farm School experience was really all about. "Come to the edge," he said, and they were afraid. "Come to the edge," he said, and they came. "We pushed you and you flew." Though often told, the metaphor applies to everyone who has been challenged by the Farm School to go beyond all previous limits.

Under the direction of Presbyter Anna Gallos, the newly-formed student choir provided music for the evening, which ended on a highly emotional note when the students, teachers, families and friends all clasped hands to sing a Greek version of Auld Lang Syne.

Graduation next year is already scheduled for May 19, 1988. It will coincide with the bi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in Greece, and with the dedication of the Henry R. Labouisse Youth Recreation Center, a combination of events which is sure to thrill everyone able to attend.

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

Some, who don't know the Farm School too well, wonder why an institution 6,000 miles to the East needs an office in New York, the Farm School West as it is sometimes called. The reasons are as many as the Farm School family is diverse. Bruce Lansdale and others from Greece use it as a vital headquarters during visits to the US. For the active Board of Trustees it serves as a central Secretariat, organizing the three major annual meetings, scores of Committee meetings, keeping minutes, processing mailings and coordinating the policy decisions of the School. For Greek Summer applicants it is a program center, providing information, personal guidance, and a first taste of what is in store for them when they are interviewed at the Office of the Trustees. And for the School itself it is the center of US fundraising and finance, each year raising the money essential to the success and survival of the School and overseeing the accounting functions so necessary to a non-profit institution. Helping visitors plan a trip to Greece, writing and disseminating information about the School, working with staff members studying in the US (virtually every member of the staff has studied in the US at one time or another), coordinating the efforts of several community committees, relating to numerous governmental agencies in New York and Washington, are some of its other functions. As Henry Crawford, the newest member of the NY staff recently said, "at the very least there is always something more to do."

That about sums up every day at the Farm School's Office of the Trustees. Come and see us!

PAULIAN PILGRIMS TOUR GREECE

At Phillippi, a larger group met for communion by the riverside. The next day all hands were at the Farm School to enjoy an unforgettable day seeing it all, meeting students and teachers, dancing Greek dances (after some spirited instruction from teacher Dimitri Pantazis), and generally reviving, thanks to the warmth of our Greek hospitality. The highlight was a candlelight dinner provided by ladies of the Thessaloniki Student Services Committee and Friends of the Farm School.

The next day, with rewarmed hearts and lasting memories, the group flew to Rhodes and boarded two motorships to tour the islands. At Kos the several physicians and nurses on the tour led a worship service at the Temple of Asklepios, honoring the physician-hero of Greek mythology. On Patmos they sang and prayed in the cave where St. John dictated *Revelations*. After stops at Kalymnos and Samos they disembarked near Ephesus, the last stop of the cruise.

"In the Footsteps of St. Paul," a voyage which adroitly mingled the Pauline with both Classic and modern Greece, was organized by Allan Ballantine, whose wife, Marilyn, is the Church's organist and choir director. Mr. Ballantine had "walked over" every foot of the journey months before. If asked to name the highest spots most of the travelers would agree: Patmos, Ephesus and the American Farm School.

Ed. Note: Trustee George Post, a participant on this trip, was responsible for inviting the group to visit the American Farm School. His suggestion: don't go to Greece without going to the Farm School yourself.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES ORGANIZE SUPPORT

and one which we hope will grow in the years to come.

Yes, regional Community Committees raise money for the American Farm School. No, that is not all they do, and often the money-raising is secondary to other activities which are more fun, educational, social and of lasting value.

Recruiting for Greek Summer and SWAP, the Summer Work Activities Program, are two ways people get involved with other people. They suggest candidates for either program, help to evaluate their applications and interest in the program and, upon their return, share their Greek experiences with them and with the community at large. Some communities have sent enough youngsters to the School to organize a reunion of their own, allowing those who shared a common experience at one point in their lives to relive it in part at home.

Taverna parties provide a unique opportunity to socialize in a cross-cultural setting, bringing a little of the flavor of Greece to an American community and introducing Americans of Greek descent to others who share an interest in the country of their origin and the Farm School.

Hosting a visit by Bruce Lansdale, or another representative of the School, provides a third way to help and become involved. While the number of places Bruce himself can visit are limited, others on the staff, from Greece or from New York, or Trustees residing in various parts of the country can often fill the bill. Films, slides, and video tapes can supplement the experience.

The Office of the Trustees in New York can cover only a minute number of the Farm School events which take place across the country. The staff there stands ready to help, to share the experience of others and to provide supporting materials and visual aids. The rest is up to you.



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