

Farm School dancers dazzle Los Angeles dance festival and make friends for AFS



Twelve excited AFS dancers gather for a memorable photograph with former School Director Bruce M. Lansdale and Tad, the current Director George Draper and Charlotte and Dimitri Pantazis, the Dance instructor. Top row, from left to right the women dancers are: Olga Mandraveli, Maria Koumartsoudi, Aleandra Chatzimichail, Christine Mandani, Sunodi-Eugenia Pantazis, Kerasoula Theophilou. Bottom row, the men are: Niko Eleftheroglou, Pericles Kravvas, Petros Kanakis, Stamatis Pantazis, Emmanuel Kokosis, Costas Lambrinos.

Students have been performing Greek national and regional dances at the Farm School throughout its history, but this year, for the first time, they were invited to come to the United States to perform. The scene was the 15th annual Folk Dance Festival, held in Los Angeles. The festival is organized with the support of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco. All told, 1,000 or more dancers, mostly teenagers and young adults from Greek Orthodox Churches all over the West, performed in this vibrant celebration of Greek music, dance and costume.

The School's twelve dancers were rehearsed for weeks by Dimitri Pantazis, director of the group and a dancer equal in skill to his daughter, Zina, one of the "stars" of the troupe. Special touches were added to the distinctive costumes of Thrace and to the *tsolias*, the traditional short white pleated skirt worn by the boys for their routines.

The AFS dancers were warmly welcomed and treated like guests of honor by

the festival committee and the charismatic Bishop Anthony, of the San Francisco Diocese. Everyone was excited to see dancers from the "motherland" and to feel their Greek kefi or spirit. AFS was showcased during the entire festival, and people were seen looking at each day's schedule and saying to each other "the Farm School team is dancing at 2 p.m., we can't miss them!"

The team danced Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All three were strong performances, but Saturday's was inspirational. By the end of that performance, the entire audience of more than 2,000 was clapping and stamping its feet to the point where the floor was shaking. At the conclusion of the performance, our dancers received a standing ovation. It was a memorable moment for everyone. Not only were George and Charlotte Draper on hand in Los Angeles, but Bruce and Tad Lansdale came from Santa Cruz as well. Having the Farm School dancers (continued on page 5)

Farm School students honor and entertain composer-official Mikis Theodorakis

Mikis Theodorakis listened, laughed, and clapped along with the rest of the rapt audience as students performed a special program to honor Greece's legendary composer and current government Minister during his first visit to the American Farm School. "I have but one complaint," he smiled as he stood thanking the students at the end of their presentation. "My visit is coming to an end far too quickly."

Theodorakis, best known in the United States for his score of "Zorba the Greek," was moved by a program which interspersed student performances of his music in song and dance with readings of excerpts from his 1985 autobiography, *The Streets of the Archangel*. Teacher Tasos Apostolides organized the program which the students rehearsed for several weeks in anticipation of the visit of one of the most influential figures in contemporary Greek culture. Following the final (continued on page 5)



Theodorakis congratulated conductor Ioanna Artzoglou, pianist Eleni Vradeli and choir member Irini Voulana on their performance for him. He reminded the Farm School students that by cultivating the soil of Greece they would appreciate the harmony of nature and lead their country into a more humane future.

AFS Graduates keep showing the way to progress and a better rural life

In one dusty Cretan mountain village they call their hardy poultry stock "Lappakia," in honor of George Lappas, a Farm School graduate, '61, who brought the first chicks there twenty years ago.

Lappas worked to improve agriculture in his native Peloponnesus and Crete before coming to Macedonia. Now he is an extension agent for the Ministry of Agriculture, serving the farming district east of Thessaloniki. Typical of those working in extension today, his role is to inform farmers of the latest European Community programs, often leading to the introduction of new crop varieties and new breeds of livestock. Lappas instructs farmers in irrigation, land leveling and soil conservation. He also helps to administer Greek Government programs in farm machinery and — of increasing impor- (continued on page 7)



George Lappas, AFS '61, perhaps the only graduate to have a chicken named after himself, is now an extension agent in Northern Greece and helps Bobby Simionides, AFS '82, to plan his future in agriculture in Greece.



The Farm School tradition passes proudly from father and mother to son and daughter, from uncle and aunt to niece or nephew, through families from all over Greece. Counting grandchildren, second, third and fourth cousins, the Farm School's "extended family" comprises the greater part of the student body at a given time. There is nothing more influential than word-of-mouth. Pictured here from a recent gathering of multigeneration Farm School families is Georgos Soultouyiannis, AFS '55, and his son Nicos, a member of the graduating class of 1991.

Graduate survey being planned with the help of N. Demos Foundation, Chicago

For Director George Draper, AFS graduates are one of the School's most vital assets. And, one of his priorities is to have the School and its graduates come into greater contact, to more fully exchange information and ideas.

The N. Demos Foundation of Chicago has become a partner in this effort through its recent \$5,000 grant to begin the initial stages of a graduate survey. The project will be designed by Farm School instructor Tasos Pougouras, who currently runs the Information Dissemination Program which reaches approximately 800 graduates around the country monthly with timely articles about agriculture. Aimed at all grad-

uates of the School, the new survey will also have the specific task of contacting and learning about men and women who have graduated since 1966, the year when Farm School alumni were last surveyed.

The N. Demos Foundation has been a contributor for many years, perhaps the only philanthropic foundation founded to help the youth of Greece. Their latest gift is of particular interest to George Draper as it enables him to initiate an important new program during a time of considerable financial strain. The Trustees express their deep appreciation to the Foundation for both its past and current support. ■

New video presentation, "Stewards of the Land," available for community groups

"Change is a constant in rural life, and never more so than today." With these words Director George Draper accurately defines life in Greece today and the role of the American Farm School in helping the young men and women of that country to cope with their futures. "Stewards of the Land," a new 13-minute audio-video presentation, narrated by George Draper, colorfully depicts the continuing role of the School today and describes how it is changing to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Produced by Actual Communications under the direction of AFS staffer Randall Warner, the photography was provided by Simos Saltiel, with sound and music arranged by Nicos Papazoglou. The new production was first presented in slide form to a gathering of about 150 Trustees and friends of the School in New York on February 28th. Moving quickly from the early days of the School, it deals both with the regular School program and with the special activities, such as Greek Summer, which are of such interest in the United States. A script by Randall Warner keeps the story moving from the earliest days of John Henry House through the Lansdale years, up to the summit of Mt. Olympus with Greek Summer. It ends with the challenge of the Farm School Creed: to pass on the earth to future generations in better condition than you found it.

"Stewards of the Land" is available free for groups wishing to show it to friends and supporters of the School, or to individuals who simply wish to see what the School is all about. Copies of the tape may also be purchased for \$15.00 postpaid. Please allow about two weeks from receipt of order to delivery. ■

GREEK SUMMER '91 is already shaping up as one of the most dynamic and exciting groups ever. Applications are now being taken for this unique bi-cultural home stay. For information call the Office of the Trustees in New York. ■

A visit to some friends



Director George Draper at the start of the new Farm School video presentation, "Stewards of the Land."

Charlotte and I just recently returned to the campus after a three-week visit to some Farm School friends — in Boston, San Francisco, Pebble Beach, Los Angeles, Portland, OR, Seattle, Chicago, Washington, DC, and New York City.

Trustee Jack Kakis took us on a fascinating exploration of central California agriculture, from a machinery fair in Tulare to farming enterprises in the Salinas Valley. In Los Angeles we applauded the Farm School Dance Troupe in its American debut at the Greek Folk Dance Festival (see story this issue) and helped establish a Los Angeles community committee, as well as ones in Seattle and Chicago.

Charlotte and I discussed the Farm School's problems and prospects with our hard-working Board of Trustees. We met with community committees and representatives of foundations and governmental agencies. We especially enjoyed the hospitality of Farm School friends, both

old and new, from coast to coast.

Back on campus, we plunged into a "Week of the Environment," with daily lectures and demonstrations by experts in the field who volunteered their time to help educate our whole school community. Then we were called to a special meeting of our Athens development committee, which wanted to discuss new initiatives in support of the School.

The miracle of the Farm School is ongoing, and it consists of nothing more or less than this astonishing, complex and far-flung web of friends. It was an inspiring and humbling experience to encounter so many in so short a span of time, and it made us think — not for the first time — what a remarkable place the Farm School is, to deserve such friends.

George Draper
Director

Retree International visits AFS, continuing school's long tradition of planting

During a week of steady rain and cold, a remarkable group of Americans visited the Farm School on its way to perform a remarkable mission. They had come to plant trees on the fire-ravaged slopes of the "Holy Mountain," Mt. Athos.

Representatives of the Oregon-based organization, Retree International, were led by its founder and president, Frank Lockyear, a retired nurseryman. He travels the world to help young people plant trees, a global Johnny Appleseed in modern dress. From the remote islands off the coast of Alaska to the delta of Thailand, Lockyear and his colleagues have helped school children, boy and girl scouts, and scores of other youth groups to plant hundreds of thousands of evergreens native to the Pacific Northwest in other locations where they will flourish.

Their mission in Greece was to aid the Monastery of Simonas Petras whose trees have recently been destroyed by both fire and disease. Father Gergios Gerkan, a Greek American Orthodox priest whom Lockyear met while planting trees at Old Harbor, Alaska, made the arrangement.

Retree came carrying 4,000 Giant Sequoia and Monterey Pine seedlings. Unfortunately, on their arrival, heavy rains prevented them from planting most of the trees so the monks will do some of the planting themselves. Frank Lockyear, however, dreams of returning to Greece to complete the job. Then he hopes to engage American Farm School students in an equally exciting challenge: planting trees on the nearby island of Thasos, widely known as the "honey island," whose beautiful forests have been devastated by several recent fires. It's a challenge students look forward to, and one they are reminded of when they look at the 100 Giant Sequoia and other Retree seedlings presented to the Farm School. Some day these trees will tower over the campus along with the first pines Dr. House planted so long ago and which today give such character to the campus. ■



Five volunteers from RETREE, the Oregon-based tree planting organization, gather around the bust of John Henry House with members of the Draper family and Father Gergios Gerkan, a priest from Alaska. Frank Lockyear, President of the program, is fourth from left. George and Charlotte Draper's daughter, Jeanette, (far left) was visiting the School at the time and joined in helping to make a portion of Greece a greener place.

New role for AFS dairy stock — helping others to increase production and profit

The American Farm School dairy continues to make news with the recent sale of ten pregnant two-year-old heifers and one six-month-old bull to the Tossizza Foundation in Metsovo, Epirus. On a chilly winter's day these select animals were trucked from the School's barns over the winding route to the village, to their new modern enclosed barns and future green summer pastures.

The arrangement was begun early in 1990 when the Foundation invited Farm Manager Dr. Aleco Michaelides, the Drapers and Willises to tour their dairy and cheese-making installation in Metsovo. The village is famous for the quality and taste of its cheese, as well as the distinctive wood carvings, weaving and other traditional industries supervised by the Tossizza Foundation.

After consulting with Tassos Averoff, nephew of Evangelos Averoff, a former Greek Prime Minister who established the

Tossizza Foundation, a plan developed for the School's cooperation with their dairy business in Metsovo.

Dr. Michaelides pointed out that Greek consumers are turning to cheese as an excellent source of protein. Cow's milk cheese is lower in fat than sheep's milk, an increasingly important consideration. Cheeses imported from other European countries have encouraged such consumer preferences. Hard, aged parmesan-like cheese is in great demand, though the huge 70-lb wheels must mature two years before they are ready for market. Generally a small scale, high quality dairy such as the one in Metsovo is best able to produce such cheese.

The Tossizza Foundation's thirty-six purebred Brown Swiss cows were originally imported from Switzerland over thirty years ago, and bred from within the herd in Greece. The School's cows, all registered (continued on page 8)

Soil-less strawberries start new trend



AFS teacher George Mendizes demonstrates the latest experimental technique of growing strawberries without soil — hydroponically, they call it — to two School students in the practical program, waiting anxiously in the hope that they will ripen soon.

Surveying the countryside, many people might assume that growing plants without soil is nothing new to Greece. Its mountainous terrain and rocky surface, put a premium on soil almost everywhere.

But today's *hydroponics* is a sophisticated way to grow plants without soil. In the Farm School's greenhouses second-year students are learning how to raise strawberries in tall plastic cylinders filled with perlite (a crushed mineral), water and dissolved nutrients.

George Mendizes, who teaches this portion of the horticulture practical program, is starting a crop of fifty strawberry plants, sixteen per cylinder, and hopes the students will be able to cultivate 100 plants next year. The *hydroponic* advantage includes clean fruit and early ripening for the market. And what comes after the strawberries? Beautiful, grit-free emerald heads of leaf lettuce, of course. New ways to grow and sell fruits and vegetables are one of the ways the Farm School helps its graduates learn to compete in an increasingly widespread and competitive marketplace. ■

To borrow or purchase a copy of the Farm School's new 13-minute audio-video presentation, "Stewards of the Land," contact the Office of the Trustees. ■

School dance team visits Los Angeles

(continued from page 1)
visit the United States had always been one of Bruce's dreams while he served as Director. During the festivities, a development committee of Los Angeles area residents was formed by Akrevoe and George Emmanoulides, Aristotle Mitchel and others, to continue the interest generated by the dancers.

The AFS dance troupe was given a festival trophy for the special quality of their performances, and both George Draper and Dimitri Pantazis received medals on behalf of the troupe. The dancers took

away fantastic memories, of huge American breakfasts — one called them John Wayne breakfasts, Disneyland and the Universal Studios, skyscrapers, endless freeways, and especially the "tremendous kindness" of their hosts in America and their new Greek-American friends. Discussions are already underway for a possible return trip in 1992, this time to several American cities where community groups might hopefully sponsor their demonstration of the continued vitality of Greek cultural traditions and folk ways. ■

Composer Theodorakis visits AFS

(continued from page 1)
reading, in which Theodorakis describes his early terror and elation at auditioning for a place in Athens' most select musical academy, student reader Maria Gousiou requested he play that same piece for the assembled students. He immediately rose from his front-row seat and moved to the Farm School's restored Steinway to play and sing a composition he said he had not performed for close to 50 years.

Talking to the students following the program, Theodorakis recalled his rural boyhood on the eastern Aegean island of Lesbos. He recalled the August nights studying the stars with his father and wondering about the mystery of the "ballet in the sky." He told the students that they had "a precious advantage" by being at the Farm School. "The greatest misfortune of the Greek people today is that our world has become one of concrete...our feet no longer touch the earth when we walk."

"You are preparing for a productive way of life," he told the students, "for work which is of real value to society. By cultivating the soil you learn to appreciate the harmony of nature. Perhaps you will have the capacity to lead us out of the concrete to a more humane future."

Theodorakis, who currently holds the title of Minister Without Portfolio, toured the campus with Director George Draper and lunched in the school cafeteria before joining the students in Harper Sibley Hall for the performance. "This School should be multiplied at least ten times and spread throughout Greece," he later remarked.

Before leaving the School, Theodorakis

invited all 227 students to be his guests "with front-row seats" at his Thessaloniki concert the following week in the 7,000-seat stadium Palais de Sport. "The gift you have given me today," he said referring to the program, "has not only brought me great happiness, but also the energy to carry on the work that I do. Thank you." ■



The entire room hushed when famed composer Mikis Theodorakis, now a Minister in the national government, sat down at the Farm School's piano to reminisce about his early days as a music student. Teacher Tasos Apostolides, who orchestrated the composer's visit, stands behind him.

Bulgarian orphans visit AFS at Christmas and reopen the school to memories past

On Christmas Eve members of the Farm School staff opened their hearts and homes to thirty-three Bulgarian children, ages eight to fourteen, from an orphanage in Sofia, Bulgaria.

The week-long visit was arranged by the Minister of Macedonia and Thrace, Mr. George Tzitzikostas, who had visited Bulgaria searching for ways to help Greece's northern neighbor in its time of economic distress and shortages of food. The trip was planned with the cooperation of the Bishop of Sofia, whose representative accompanied the children to Greece. Perhaps for the first time, the Christmas liturgy was celebrated at the Farm School chapel in three languages: Greek, Bulgarian and English. US Consul Larry and Mrs. Thompson joined staff and children in the traditional singing and prayer.

The children enjoyed the green and peaceful surroundings of the Farm School campus as well as the faster-paced activities. One Farm School graduate treated the entire group to an afternoon of non-stop video games. They dined almost royally in a nearby taverna, and local units of the Greek army and navy guided them around their nearby bases, invited them to

holiday parties, and gave each child a fully-equipped school bag.

Home visits were arranged with local residents who provided many youngsters with a full array of new clothing and toys. A special bus, loaded with presents, used clothes, fruit, chocolate and other precious food items, was provided for their return trip to the orphanage.

According to Dean of Students Nicos Papaconstandinou, "every moment we spent with these kids was worth it. They hugged you, they looked into your eyes...and when they received those oranges...wow!" The visit of the children from Sofia is very much in the tradition of the Farm School, remembers Mr. Papaconstandinou, recalling two moments in fairly recent history: the eighteen students from Paphos, Cyprus, who were welcomed as Farm School students in 1974 after their own agricultural school had been captured by Turkish forces; and the 1978 earthquake when the Farm School housed hundreds of homeless neighbors in dormitories and in tents dotted all over the campus. Going back even further Nico might recall that the Farm School's first ten students were also orphans, and also Bulgarians. ■

New Zealand exchange students come to Greece from about as far away as you can get



One of the fourteen "Kiwis" visiting the School from New Zealand enjoys trying her arm at a drill press, one of the more than 300 skills each AFS student learns.

New Zealand may be half a world away, yet the Farm School students recently had a marvelous opportunity to practice their English while extending their warmest Greek hospitality to fourteen teenagers from New Zealand. Brought to Greece by the American Field Service Intercultural exchange program, the thirteen girls and one boy spent the first two weeks of December on campus, working side by side with Farm School students in their practical projects, joining them at morning assembly and at meals, and capturing the unique spirit of the School. Special programs were arranged to introduce the "kiwis," as they were soon nicknamed, to the history and culture of Greece. School families welcomed them into their homes for conversation and refreshments. In turn the visitors from far away impressed the (continued on page 8)



Thirty-three, count 'em, thirty-three Bulgarian orphans looking very much like a bus load of American grade-schoolers pose with the Drapers and Student Dean Nico Papaconstandinou at the portals of St. John Chrysostomos during their Christmas stay at the American Farm School, recalling the first Bulgarian students recruited by Dr. House more than eighty years ago.

AFS Graduates lead the way in Greece

(continued from page 2)

tance to young farmers throughout Greece — in animal husbandry to raise the quality of Greece's sheep, pigs and cows.

With the help of his brother, Christos Saramourtzis, a graduate in 1965, runs what is known to be the most technically advanced broiler operation in Greece. In an immaculate complex of buildings he raises a million birds each year, from the time they arrive as day-old chicks to the day they are delivered in radio-dispatched trucks to the markets of Thessaloniki.

Feeding the chickens begins in Saramourtzis' mill, a vertical "hammer" mill with a mixer that combines the feed with water to make granules. Then they are heated to remove all moisture, mold and bacteria, insuring pure, non-spoiling nutrients. Chickens drink by sucking a device that releases water from a conveyor system the length of each poultry house. Providing water on "demand" means that it is always fresh, with no waste and no standing water to pose a health hazard to the birds. High tech, low cost cardboard louvers help keep the poultry houses at the correct temperature.

The Saramourtzis' packing plant is spotless. It employs most of his thirty-person work force, which includes a veterinarian and a business manager. An adjacent aerobic waste treatment facility collects waste and water which, when processed, is used to irrigate trees on the surrounding hills. Nothing is wasted in this efficient operation.

After graduating from the Farm School, Christos Saramourtzis worked with his parents in their small poultry unit. With a loan from the Agricultural Bank of Greece, he and his brother built the basic operation from which they have steadily, and sometimes dramatically, grown ever since.

Saramourtzis says travel is key to keeping ahead today. He travels to various European countries regularly. Visitors to his operation come from as far away as Japan. He reads the latest government and industry information. He is also careful to share his experience with current Farm School students who visit him on field trips. According to Stathi Fovos, an AFS animal husbandry instructor, this "poultry installation is the equal of the most up-to-date commercial installations in Europe. It is our students' best possible lesson." ■

Single athletes compete against themselves, the clock and their machines



Farm School boys really take to the exercise facilities in the recently built Labouisse Center. Stressing their personal best, each works only against his own body, the equipment and the clock.

Almost every afternoon at about four o'clock a number of Farm School students pull on their warm-up suits, jog across the Litsas soccer field and enter their own private worlds in the unique Labouisse Athletic Center. They are a faithful bunch: they look forward to their regular personal workouts in the well-equipped weight lifting and gymnastics room, one of the most appreciated facilities of the School's new gym.

Tassos Gavanis doesn't miss an afternoon. Under supervision of athletic instructor Stelios Agapi, he's perfecting his routines on the single bar, supplementing his balancing skills with a weight lifting program to build strength. His routines are roughly twenty minutes long and consist of ten to twelve different moves. Tassos' first opportunity to use such equipment came when he entered the two-year scholi program. By the time he graduates next year from the lyceum he will have enjoyed four years of gymnastic training.

Pandelis Kavvas is from a village near Thebes, where he began using a gym in

junior high. He competes in shot put, coached by Bobby Grafiadelli, a Farm School graduate now on the dormitory staff who excelled in the shot put himself. Pandelis lifts weights twice or more a week, and uses the rest of the exercise equipment as well.

Pavlos Batsolis is a versatile athlete who had already been active in karate, wrestling and dancercise before entering the lyceum program last year. While he enjoys competing each weekend with the Heracles Wrestling Club in Thessaloniki, he actually prefers the time he spends working out in the Labouisse training room. He follows a systematic weight lifting program, and works on the single bar. He and his fellow athletes, who include at least one regular female participant, appreciate that the varied program of gymnastics available at the Farm School "is something really useful." While team sports are fun and develop a sense of cooperation among the students, hours of solitary practice are often needed to produce a champion. ■

Landscape paintings of Greece on display at the New York Office of the Trustees



"Olives, Cypress and Pines" is the title artist Barry Feldman has given to one of his thirty-two paintings now on display at the Office of the Trustees. The paintings, which are for sale, will benefit the School's educational program.

The Farm School's NY Office of the Trustees became an exhibition space for "Landscapes of Greece," a collection of watercolors and oils by Barry Feldman, an artist living at the Farm School.

One series of watercolors depicts the trees, gardens, barns, church and other buildings on the Farm School campus. Among the still-life watercolors are four small paintings with simple beekeeping

tools used by Farm School students.

Oil paintings include two large studio canvases of the huge pines that greet a visitor as he enters the front gate, as well as two views from the village of Triadi, a short distance from the Farm School.

The exhibit was open at the reception for George and Charlotte Draper on February 28 and will remain on view until November, 1991. ■

(Continued from page 6)

entire student body with a spirited and informative program about their country, known as well for its sheep as Greece is for its goats. Over Christmas recess, each exchange student had the unique experience of staying in a village with the family of a Farm School student.

The New Zealanders came from rural or small town communities mostly from the North Island. Kate Orr, for example,

was a farmer's daughter planning to go to the university. Paul Garrett was a rugby star at his high school. Norah Parkinga was the only native New Zealander, a Maori, on the trip. Her pride in her language and customs was apparent as she greeted her new Farm School friends wearing a precious feather cape, usually worn only by Maori elders. She introduced the Greek students to a new, exotic language, her native Maori. ■

Farm School Cows

(continued from page 4)

Holsteins, are bred from semen imported from the United States. New bull lines are introduced with each generation to produce the highest quality stock possible. School heifers all yield between seven to eight tons of milk per year, compared to a maximum of four tons for the Brown Swiss.

By this sale at "international" prices to the Foundation, Dr. Michaelides hopes to demonstrate that dairy farmers in Greece can increase their incomes by increasing production from the same number of animals. For the Tossizza Foundation, provided they continue to monitor and carefully breed their new stock, it will mean more of their popular cheese and happier customers in Greece. ■

The American Farm School

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