



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . Also called SALONICA

Summer,
1960
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Craig R. Smith, President of the Board of Trustees of the American Farm School, visited Greece this spring for the first time in five years.

Visiting the American Farm School after five years is an experience neither Mrs. Smith nor I is likely to forget. The well-kept grounds were in full bloom, and the ripening wheat was on the verge of bending to the giant combine. Several new buildings were nearing completion and the graduating class was looking forward hopefully to the new life they were about to begin.

But while the physical aspects of the School, and of Greece, have improved greatly since my last visit in 1955, the deepest impressions were made on me by the many Greek and American officials whom I visited with in Athens and Salonica.

My purpose was to call on the many individuals who have helped make the School such a vital part of the life of Greece, and thank them for their great help and generous cooperation. The School has always been most appreciative of the assistance and encouragement it receives from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Instead I found, however, that it was they who wished to thank me and, through me, all the Trustees and supporters of the School, for what they are providing Greece. Whether one spoke to the Minister of Agriculture, or any of his able staff, the Minister of Northern Greece, or any of the Americans attached to the Embassy in Athens and the Consulate in Salonica, the expression of gratitude was always the same.

These compliments for the School are, of course, a reflection of the many years of hard work and intelligent planning by the staff in Greece. But, now that I am back in the United States, I would be remiss if I did not convey to all those here who have helped make the School a success the deep appreciation of the people and of the government of Greece.

Craig R. Smith

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER CAMPAIGN BEGINS JULY 1st UNDER UN AUSPICES

July 1, 1960 marked the beginning of a five-year campaign by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to achieve Freedom from Hunger for the millions who still have too little to eat. In at least one critical part of the world, the American Farm School has been working toward this objective for over fifty years, and it is therefore more than pleased to note the opening of this important drive.

In outlining the goals of the program, Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General of FAO emphasized the need "to awaken

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LETTER FROM SALONICA DESCRIBES GREECE IN SPRING

SALONICA, June 25—We are told, and it's easy to believe, that May and June are very deceiving months in which to visit rural Greece. The sun shines bright, the land is covered with lush green, the markets are piled high with fresh vegetables and fruits. Baby animals are everywhere. Calves, colts, lambs, kittens, puppies, piglets, wee storks and, most appealing of all, little donkeys are learning to live by following their mothers to work or play.

The people are at their gayest, enjoying the end of spring and the first summer harvests. They have plenty to eat and plenty to wear for the season. Their homes are open to the air.



Chrifovos children say "Cheese"

It hardly seems fair to say you have seen Greece when the Greece of December must be quite different indeed—with the last of summer's food gone, the winds sweeping over plains and down mountains, no green, no profusion of flowers as one sees everywhere now.

Of course, everyone works his hardest at this time of year to get the crops sown, grown and harvested—from five in the morning to nine at night under the blazing sun, with all family members from eight to eighty helping out.

An example among hundreds is the village of Chrifovos, hidden halfway up a mountain in Epirus, the poorest region of Greece. The "road" from the main highway is two miles long, and could be distinguished from the ordinary mountainside by the fact that the rocks in it were smaller than the rocks bordering it. Only our jeep could have made it, though the driver said all village roads in Epirus were very much the same. With shepherds reassuring us we were on the right track we finally came upon a

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GRADUATION GOES ON IN SPITE OF DRENCHING STORM

The worst storm of the year swept down on the Farm School an hour before graduation exercises were to begin on June 1st. It went as fast as it came, but not before the roofs had blown off the houses in the model village the boys had been weeks in building, the athletic field was flooded, the transplanted wheat field intended to be harvested as part of the program was leveled, chairs were soaked, and the thirty white pigeons to be released during the livestock parade had flown off into the storm.

It was a sad moment. Nevertheless, the gathering crowd then saw the Farm School spirit and talent at its best, as 200 barefoot boys started putting the wreckage together again. Roofs were found in nearby fields and reset. Water was swept off the athletic field with brooms. One boy climbed the flagpole to untangle the ropes, leaving the white pole brown with mud, and another climbed up to wash it. The staff turned out in raincoats and galoshes to replace the chairs. The animals were calmed and prepared for the parade.

An hour later everything was back in place and an admiring audience of 1500 people watched the ceremony reminded of the storm only by the ankle-deep mud that clung to the graduates' shoes, and the fast-moving clouds overhead.

STAFF TO TEXAS, SORGHUM TO GREECE

Staff members Demeter E. Hadjis and Alexander A. Andreou are spending several weeks this summer in Texas as part of a program set up by the Farm School and the Grain Sorghum Producers Association of Amarillo. The program consists of student instruction at the School, adult education, and demonstrations throughout Greece on animal nutrition and the use of grain sorghum in livestock and poultry feeding.

The first U.S. grain sorghum ever purchased for use in Greece was shipped in February. It will be used to help the School establish demonstration programs in the balanced feeding of poultry and dairy cattle, as well as become available to farmers wishing to improve the rations their animals are presently receiving.

In September, at the Salonica Trade Fair, grain sorghum will be prominently exhibited at the agricultural section of the American pavilion, where Greek farmers will see how it is grown in the U.S. and how it is used today.

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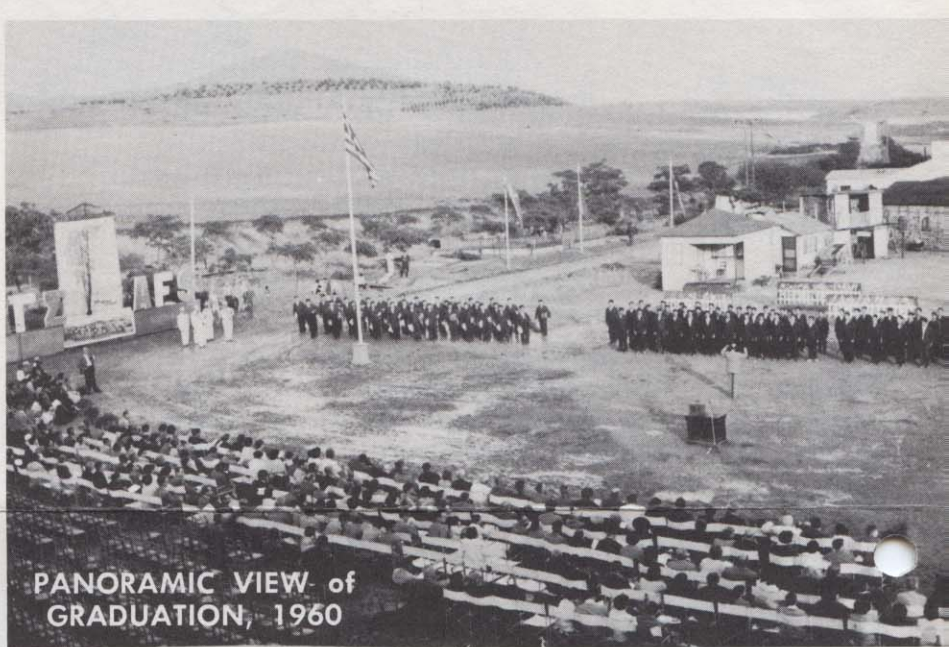
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A view of the athletic field where graduation exercises were held. The graduates are standing in formation far left; juniors, second class and first class to the right. The age Band, which provided music. Note water still standing on the field.

AFTER GRADUATION — WHAT NEXT?

For the thirty-four boys who comprised the 1960 graduating class, the colorful exercises were both an end and a beginning. What the Farm School has been able to give them they have now received. What they can now give to their country is still to be tested.

For all there will shortly be a two-year interruption while they complete their military service. For one or two the time before then will be devoted to additional study in the field of agriculture, qualifying them for additional responsibilities in future years.



The traditional passing of reins: Charalambos Nicolaou, president of the senior class, embraces Apostolos Bousios of the third class and passes to him the reins of leadership.



On June 1st. Students are in classes beginning with seniors at the far right. At far right is the Orphanage. Model village built for the day is in background.

The majority will, however, begin to earn their living as practical farmers, a task greatly complicated by the shortage of land in Greece. At the same time they will try to help their neighbors by introducing more modern farming methods. They will also experiment with new crops, and supplement their normal income by raising chickens or cows.

Judging from the experience of those who have preceded them, nothing will come easy. The boys know this as they leave the School. They also know that today the School will keep in touch with them during the difficult years, and help them where it can.

Many will find themselves returning for special short courses, or to buy chicks or get special advice on the problems they are facing. Others will be visited regularly by Nikos Mikos who, as Director of the Graduate Follow-Up Program, is helping many of the former graduates in Northern Greece stay abreast of new developments. Some may even receive short-term financing from the School's small revolving loan fund, recently started by one of the Trustees.

A few days after graduation, the senior class climbed happily into a chartered touring bus for an excursion to Volos, their last activity together. They were clearly aware of the responsibilities they would face, but felt confident that they too could uphold the fine traditions which their 800 predecessors have established.

FARM SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

CARE Helps 1960 Graduates

Woodworking tool kits, made possible by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the U.S., were distributed through CARE to each member of the 1960 graduating class. The kits contained a 26-inch saw, 6-foot rule, a claw hammer, three chisels, two planes, two screwdrivers, a T-square, a pair of pliers, a hand drill with 4 bits, four clamps and a carpenter's level. These tools will be used by graduates on their own farms and will help others in the villages carry out projects for which the tools are not currently available.

Board President Attends Graduation

Mr. Craig R. Smith, President of the Board of Trustees, and Mrs. Smith arrived in Salonica on May 29th for graduation. In addition to speaking to the students and guests, Mr. Smith distributed the symbolic straw hats and certificates to the graduates.



Craig R. Smith presenting traditional straw hat to graduate

Field Day Winner

Fourth class student Ioannis Tsafis was this year's winner of the Pentathlon Award donated annually at the Athletic Field Day by Mrs. Henry Hope Reed. Ioannis placed first in five events and proved himself an outstanding athlete.

Pan-Macedonian Association Visit

Members of the Pan-Macedonian Association were greeted by the third and fourth classes on their April visit to the Farm School.

Unique Thespians Receive Certificates

Ten members of the Farm School's Thespian Club, the only one of its kind in Greece, have received certificates in recognition of their outstanding work in dramatics and leadership programs.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER (Continued from page 1)

the people of underfed countries to the real possibilities of improving their lot and to encourage them to a greater effort." He also hoped through this international emphasis on hunger "to inform people in prosperous countries about the conditions of people less fortunate than themselves and to enlist their support for measures aimed at improving the situation."



"I hold tightly the secrets of the earth . . ."

The heart of the program will be the specific action programs developed by individual countries to increase production, improve distribution and free themselves from the plague of constant hunger. People in the United States, however, can help in many ways and can be instrumental in insuring the success of this effort.

A detailed list of the many elements of the program, as well as some background information, lists of speakers, publications and available films can be secured from the Foreign Policy Association—World Affairs Center, 345 East 46th Street, New York 17, N. Y. Individual copies of the June issue of *Intercom*, the 38-page pamphlet describing the program, can be obtained from the above organization for 60¢ each.

LETTER FROM SALONICA (Continued from page 1)

small, stone-strewn plateau with a large tree and a school-house, only one of its two rooms finished for lack of money.

Our unexpected arrival caused great excitement. The schoolmaster took us into the religion class so that we could be properly greeted by the boys and girls, grades one through six. They all came outside for pictures and you could clearly see their clothes were things of shreds and patches. It was a heartwarming sight to see them take possession of and demonstrate the four jump-ropes we had brought them.

At this point the youngest sister of a Farm School graduate arrived to guide us to her family's house at the foot of a rocky trail. Her homespun red dress matched her apple-red cheeks, while the dirt of the fields filled the creases of her hand, which she held out in warm greeting. Her family provided us with the universal sweet treat—this time a thimbleful of ouzo, the Greek national drink—and a gumdrop brushed with powdered sugar. Their two-room house contained beds, a couple of tables and chairs, and a six-foot-high stack of brightly colored rugs, spreads, blankets and shawls—one of the daughters' dowries. Plump white Farm School chickens, brought to Chrifovos after graduation, wandered about in sharp contrast to the leaner local breed. . . .

The father is proud that one of his sons has been able to get an education at the Farm School—and can look forward to a better life than he himself has had. . . .

Unfortunately, tourists too often see only the picturesque islands or historic monuments of Greece. We wish more of them could have come with us to Chrifovos and the other villages we have already seen or are on our way to visit.

Alexander W. Allport, Vice President of the American Farm School, and Mrs. Allport recently spent two months in Greece. This letter from Salonica is excerpted from one they wrote while en route.

NEWSLETTER

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

45 East 65th Street • New York 21, New York

A NOTE TO OUR NEW FRIENDS

For many of you, this will be your first copy of our newsletter, *The Sower*. We hope you will enjoy it and, after reading of the School, that you will wish to become an active supporter, as well as a friend.

Checks may be made payable to: The American Farm School, and mailed to our United States office, 45 E. 65 Street, New York City 21. Your contribution is, of course, tax deductible.

May we say that we shall be grateful for whatever amount, large or small, you may send us.

Sincerely yours,

CRAIG R. SMITH,

President.

TO.