



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL
THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . Also called SALONICA

Spring,
1961
Volume XI,
Number 2

OUR NICHOLAOS OF THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL by Enid Allen Nash

Sponsor a Greek boy for his four-year course at the American Farm School? By all means! There are few things that have given us more satisfaction.

Early in 1955, after an ecstatic trip to the Farm School and the Greek islands, we wrote the Director of our wish to take under our wing a boy for his full four years of schooling. Soon came a letter saying: "The Scholarship Committee has chosen Nicholaos Papaconstantinou, whose father was killed by the guerrillas during the troubled times following this last war, and the boy must receive help to cover all school expenses. Nicholaos is one of the top students of his class, of which he was elected president for this, his first year."



Nicholaos Papaconstantinou and friends.

Our first picture of our Greek son came from the Director's wife with the explanation: "I bumped into Nicholaos delivering milk. He's working in the dairy this month. I'm enclosing a snapshot of him."

Not long afterwards we received our first letter from Nicholaos himself. It was in a most tantalizing and beautifully written script, completely "Greek to us," since it was written in his language. However, it was accompanied by a translation, and we were very pleased with his sincere appreciation. It was not long, however, before our letters began to be written in very legible, though sometimes quaint, English.

"I finish my school year and this year I will go at third class. Now in a few days will come here my brother for to see us. You have my greetings from my family. I like to come here very much."

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DIRECTOR BRUCE LANSDALE AND FAMILY COMPLETE EXTENDED SABBATICAL VISIT to the UNITED STATES

Consommé Ambassadeur, Chicken LaFayette, Dame Blanche and a White House Terrine were among the delectables recently served to Bruce and Tad Lansdale while attending a state luncheon hosted by President and Mrs. Kennedy in honor of Prime Minister and Mrs. Karamanlis of Greece. Now back at the School, the Lansdales remember the President's best wishes for the continuing success of their work at the School as the highlight of five months in the United States, a trip which combined study at Columbia University with "Americanization" of the children and travel in the interest of the School.

Visits to Battle Creek, Detroit, Buffalo, Rochester, Durham, Erie, Lancaster and New Holland, Chicago, Princeton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Wilmington, Washington, and many communities in New Jersey and Connecticut provided an opportunity to renew relations with the friends of the School in these communities and to interest others in sharing in its work. But at least equally important, it provided the Director with a renewed understanding of his native land, the role it is called upon to play throughout the world and the feelings his fellow citizens have for their friends in Greece.

Working closely with the Trustees, Bruce Lansdale was able to prepare and present a long-range ten-year plan for the future of the School, involving extension into areas not now included in the program. Projects for handling the increasing flow of agricultural experts from the less developed lands of Asia and Africa were discussed and authorized by the Board. In addition, a new summer program designed to give the academic graduates of agricultural colleges in Greece training in practical farming was initiated.

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CHARLES AND ANN HOUSE RETURN IN FALL

Word has come that Charlie and Ann House, accompanied by his sisters Grace and Ruth, will sail from Le Havre on the S.S. Statendam on September 26th, scheduled to arrive in New York the morning of October 4th. Before sailing, however, they plan to enjoy a leisurely month motoring in Austria after which they will drive to the French port.



FIVE NEW TRUSTEES ELECTED TO ENLARGED SCHOOL BOARD AT MAY NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

Firsthand Knowledge of Greece and the Farm
School Influences Selection of Most New Members

At the Annual Meeting on May 9th, the Members and Trustees of the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute elected five new Trustees to the Board. In announcing these elections, Craig R. Smith, President, expressed his appreciation to the gentlemen who had stood for election and noted that four were well acquainted with the School's work in Greece, having visited there personally.

For your information there is printed below a list of the present Board of Trustees. In the columns to the right is biographical information on the five new Trustees.

AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL Board of Trustees, 1961

George V. Allen, Washington, D.C.
Mrs. Clarence W. Bartow, Tuxedo Park, New York
Douglas M. Black, New York, New York
Harvey K. Breckenridge, Orange, New Jersey
Andrew G. Carey, New York, New York
Mrs. Alfred C. Clapp, Montclair, New Jersey
Nicholas C. Culolias, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Miss Harriot S. Curtis, Boston, Massachusetts
Walter G. Hildebrant, Englewood, New Jersey
Charles L. House,* Orient, Long Island, New York
David M. Keiser, Cannondale, Connecticut
Mrs. William F. Lamb, New York, New York
Arthur L. Lanckton, New York, New York
Herbert P. Lansdale, Jr., New York, New York
Robert B. Lea, New Hyde Park, Long Island, New York
Frederic C. LeRocker, Ithaca, New York
Peter G. Levathes, New York, New York
John B. Lewis, Glen Head, Long Island, New York
Charles H. Morgan, Amherst, Massachusetts
Paul B. Orvis, Albany, New York
James G. Paterson, Montclair, New Jersey
Henry Hope Reed, Thessaloniki, Greece
Joseph Reed, New York
Craig R. Smith, New Canaan, Connecticut
Mrs. James M. Speers, Yorktown Heights, New York
Robert G. Stewart, New York, New York
Admiral John M. Will, New York, New York
The Rev. Canon Edward H. Williams, Brant Lake, N. Y.
Costas Zannas, Thessaloniki, Greece

*Honorary President



George V. Allen, left, at School.

with Director and Mrs. Lansdale talking with a technician at the School dairy.

Now President of the Tobacco Institute in Washington, Mr. Allen's long and distinguished career in government includes service as Ambassador to Iran, Yugoslavia, India and Nepal as well as Director of the United States Information Agency. More complete information about Mr. Allen was printed in the Winter, 1961 issue of *The Sower*.

Mr. Allen is a native of North Carolina, a graduate of Duke University and presently a resident of Washington, D.C.



Douglas M. Black

DOUGLAS M. BLACK is Chairman of the Board of Doubleday and Company, well-known publishers. By profession, however, he is a lawyer, having graduated from Columbia Law School in 1918 and practiced law in New York until joining Doubleday as First Vice President in 1944.

He is chairman of the Uptown 59th Street Advisory Board of the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company, a director of the Academy of Political Science, and a member of the St. George's Society of New York, as well as of Pilgrims U. S.

Now a Trustee of his alma mater, Mr. Black has served as president of the American Book Publishers Council and as director of the Ford Foundation's Council on Library Resources.

Mr. Black lives in Manhattan with his wife and their daughter, Virginia. His good friends the Reeds hope he will soon find time to visit them at the School.



HARVEY K. BRECKENRIDGE, and his wife, Margaret, have been frequent visitors to the School since first hearing of it in 1954. Their vivid memories and colorful slides of the Fiftieth Anniversary program still provide them with fond remembrances of their years in Greece.



Harvey K. Breckenridge

Mr. Breckenridge, an engineer and management consultant, became general manager of Greece's Public Power Corporation in 1954, a post he held until 1957. Established through BASCO services, this corporation helped develop a nationwide power system from which the rural population is presently benefiting so greatly.

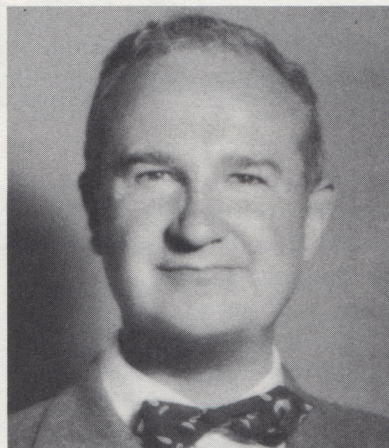
Also a graduate of Columbia University, Mr. Breckenridge was first a transportation engineer with the West Penn Railways Company, later becoming vice president and a director of the West Penn Power Company. Since 1954 his association has been with EBASCO. Until recently he served in San Francisco where he helped win new friends for the School. Now based in New York, he lives in Orange, New Jersey with his wife, who during her time in Greece was Chairman of the American Women's Organization, and their two children, Jean and William.

DIRECTOR CONCLUDES EXTENDED U. S. TRIP

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For his wife, Tad, and the four children the trip was an even greater change after four continuous years in Greece. Living in Tuxedo and New York, they had ample opportunity to see the sights, learn in American schools, and relish the joy of snow so seldom seen or touched in Greece. For David, Jeffrey, Christine and Michael the severe winter was sheer joy, though for parents it was something less than pleasant.

Scheduled to return in the fall of 1962, Mr. Lansdale arrives at the School in time for graduation. Before boarding the Olympia, however, he particularly asked that we express, through this issue of the newsletter, *The Sower*, his great appreciation to the many throughout the United States who made his trip so memorable and fruitful. Everywhere enthusiasm for the School ran high and in community after community individual expressions of interest provided a sound footing on which to base the developing future of the School. For this interest and support, without which the School could not have grown and would not today exist, we are pleased to express the Lansdales' warmest thanks.



David M. Keiser

DAVID M. KEISER, and his wife, Sylvia, were fortunate victims of limited hotel facilities in Salonica. Completing a tour of Europe and the Near East with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic, they stayed instead with the Lansdales and had two days in which to see the School and learn about its program. Mr. Keiser is Chairman of the Board of the Cuban-American Sugar Company, a firm with which he has been affiliated since 1928. His primary avocation, however, is music. After graduating from Harvard, he went on to the Juilliard School of Music, of which he has been a director since 1953. An accomplished pianist, he is today President of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Society and a director of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. It was in the former capacity that he toured with the Orchestra abroad.

The Keisers have four children, three boys and a girl, and live in Cannondale, Connecticut.



John M. Will

ADMIRAL JOHN M. WILL is not the only person to arrive at the Farm School in a helicopter, but he was the first to do so. This was in February of 1949, shortly after the senior class was kidnapped by the guerrilla forces from the north. As commander of the heavy cruiser USS Columbus, he brought his ship to Salonica and flew directly to the recreation ground for a visit with Charlie House.

Later, with contributions of sporting goods, hand tools, foods and fruits donated by the personnel of the ship, he returned as an air-borne Santa, providing relief from the concern with the kidnapping and untold pleasures to the boys and staff.

Admiral Will is now President and Chairman of the Board of the American Export Lines, having retired after forty years of Navy service in 1959. A versatile Naval leader, he has a master's degree in engineering and is considered a senior expert in submarine warfare.

Admiral Will and his wife, Louise, are residents of New York and have a son, a Lieutenant on the nuclear submarine, the USS Sculpin.

OUR BOY NICHOLAOS

(Continued from Page 1)

Nick did excellent work in his studies, wrote us often, and always was most appreciative. It was at the end of his third year in the American Farm School, shortly after he had been elected President of the Student Council for his senior year, that a blow fell upon us. In the fall before he had a bad case of Asiatic flu, which left him quite weak, and since a cough persisted an X-ray was advised, and it was found that he had a spot on his lung. It was a great disappointment to him that his school career had to be interrupted and that he could not take his place as President of the Student Council.

However, a good sanitarium was found, and he was given extra milk and food so that by the next fall he was again pronounced in fine health. We were all very much pleased that upon his return for the senior year the new class unanimously elected him as President of the Student Council.

Shortly after his return to school his appreciation of what we had been able to do was shown in a letter telling us how happy he was to be back and saying: "I love you as I love my mother and brother. So you are my second mother and Mr. Nash my second father."

His senior year was a great success, and he became valedictorian of the class. Since his health had been so precarious and his record excellent, a place was found for him at the School, where for two years now he has had a responsible position in the office of the School. We still hear from him regularly and are proud that his new picture shows him in such excellent health and that he will be able shortly to do his service in the Army. But his future plans do not end with military service. His hopes are centered on advanced study at an agricultural school and eventual return to his farm as an experienced, modern farmer.

Friends have had similar experiences. We agree there is no greater satisfaction than to help a fine boy help himself.

Ed. Note: This account of one donor's experience seemed so interesting, we thought you would enjoy reading it.

FARM SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

Everest Conqueror Visits

Sir John Hunt, leader of the historic expedition which conquered Mt. Everest in 1953, recently visited the School with Lady Hunt. His talk to the boys at Sunday service provided an inspiring highlight of the current year. Time did not permit a try at Mt. Olympus.



Sir John Hunt ascends another pinnacle.

English Taught in Bed

Our tall Texan teacher of English, Philip Foote, has substituted English conversation tapes for the reveille bell. Using rudimentary words the boys have learned in class, his broadcasts are piped into the dormitory for 15 minutes each morning—a painless way to learn.

Graduation Day Approaches

Graduation this year is scheduled for June 4th. Especially fitting will be the presence of the House family for their first graduation since 1955.

Graduates Return Again

More than fifty graduates returned for the annual winter refresher course, some from as far as Thrace. Remembering Dr. John Henry House, their friend and mentor, they paused to place a wreath and observe a moment of silent prayer at his grave.

NEWSLETTER

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

Α Μ Ε Ρ Ι Κ Α Ν Ι Κ Η Γ Ε Ω Ρ Γ Ι Κ Η Σ Χ Ο Λ Η

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

Dear Friends,

The School depends for its financing in the United States on the annual gifts of its many friends throughout the country. Our fiscal year coincides with the School calendar and closes on June 30th.

If the time has come for your regular gift we do hope that you will renew your contribution before the end of the month. This would be a great help to the School and insure our closing the year without an operating deficit. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,
CRAIG R. SMITH
President

TO.