

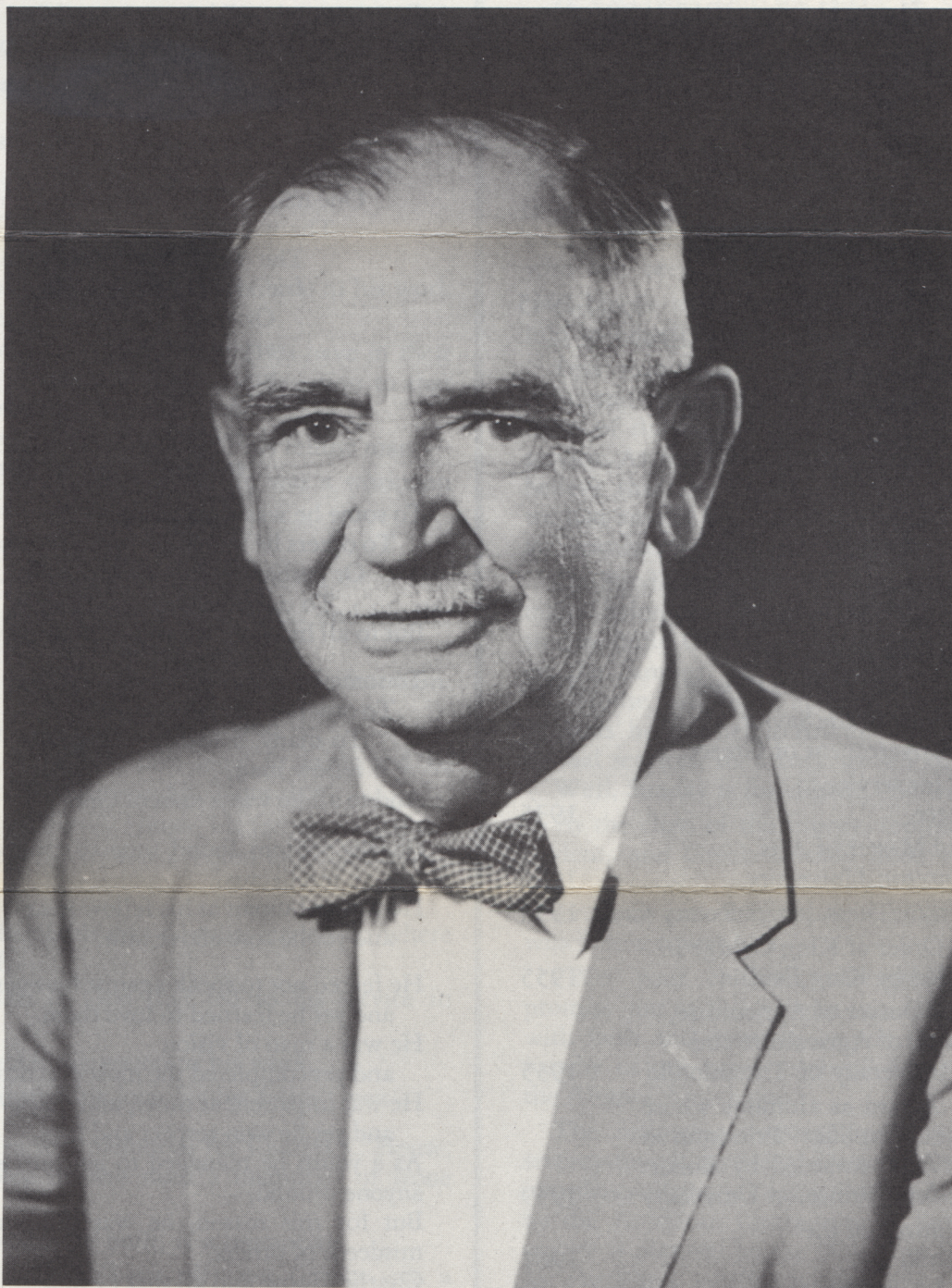


# The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE . . . . Also called SALONICA

Fall  
1961  
Volume XI,  
Number 4



CHARLES LUCIUS HOUSE

1887 - 1961





## CHARLES LUCIUS HOUSE

Born — Samakov, Bulgaria, October 23, 1887

Graduated — Blair Academy 1905  
Princeton University 1909

## Professional Career

Civil Engineer 1910-1917  
American Farm School, Thessaloniki, Greece 1917-1961  
Assistant to John Henry House 1917-1929  
Director 1929-1955  
Honorary President 1955-1961  
Volunteer Assignment in Greece 1960-1961

## Additional Interests

Executive Director, American Red Cross  
in Greece 1940-1941  
Director, Greek Affairs, United Nations  
Relief and Rehabilitation  
Administration (UNRRA) 1944-1945  
Executive Committee, Princeton Class of 1909  
Rotary Club, Thessaloniki, Greece  
Peconic Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons  
Sithra Chapter, The Royal Arch Masons  
Youth Camps  
Scouting  
President, Oysterponds Historical Society,  
Long Island

## Honors

Silver Cross of the Order of Phoenix,  
awarded by the Government of Greece 1926  
Gold Cross of the Order of the Savior,  
awarded by the Government of Greece 1932  
Scout Eagle Medal for service to  
scouting in Greece 1935  
Honorary Degree of Master of Arts,  
awarded by Princeton University 1936  
Award of Honor from Thessaloniki Rotary Club 1954  
Commander of the Order of King George I  
of Greece, awarded by King Paul 1955  
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Agriculture,  
awarded by College of Agriculture and  
Forestry of the University of Thessaloniki 1955  
Woodrow Wilson Award as alumnus whose  
achievement best exemplifies "Princeton in  
the Nation's Service," awarded by Robert  
F. Goheen, President, Princeton University 1959  
Elected Honorary Citizen of the  
City of Thessaloniki 1961

## Died

At the home of his sister-in-law in Suffern,  
New York October 13, 1961  
Interred near his home at Orient, Long Island  
October 15, 1961

## A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES

by Bruce M. Lansdale

for the students, staff and Farm School family

Seventy-four years ago an American boy was born in Bulgaria, the sixth child of John Henry and Adelaide Beers House. Now, seventy-four years later, we are left with a memory, a feeling of emptiness and a shining ideal.

For those who knew him, there is little one can add.

For those who didn't, one can hope to describe only a rough impression, no more than a footprint in the sand seen but in the roughest outline.

For to know him

One had to have looked upon his rugged, weather-worn face;

One had to have shared the warmth of his presence,  
The welcoming grip of his vise-like hands,

The smile that lighted his face in fun, in  
friendliness, or radiant affection,

Or heard his voice raised urgently, in  
argument over the problems of the world  
and his fellow man,

And seen his eyes that flashed in anger,  
twinkled in amusement, or became  
saddened by the burdens of others.

To some he was Doctor;

To others he was Mr. House,

Or perhaps Mister Director;

To most he was just Charlie, or "Turk,"

But to all he was a warm personal friend.

To some he was a school director,

To others a capable engineer,

To many, a leader, a man filled with love for his  
fellow man,

And to all he was a man of God.

Charlie seldom found time to read a book and yet he  
was an intellectual.

He was as human as his fellow man  
and yet he rose above him.

He feared not to speak against his enemies  
and yet he learned to love them.

He was a man of vision

and yet completed the most practical of tasks.

He was impatient at times, and quick - tempered,  
and yet he won respect and love.

As a youth he managed to get into as much trouble as  
anyone around,

But for this reason, he was more sympathetic to the  
misdeeds of others.

Charlie House and all that he did,

All that he stood for,

All that he was,

Has value as he goes on living in us,

As he becomes a part of us,

As we carry on where he left off.





## RLES LUCIUS HOUSE

Three of his characteristics come most to mind.

His devotion to his work —

Not work to make money for himself,

Never work to gain recognition or glory,

But work which he felt should be done for the sake of the job to be completed.

Whether it was building a new building at the School,

Finishing a budget to be sent to the Trustees,

Or designing a barn for a villager —

He dove into it wholeheartedly and persevered until it was completed.

His father had written the School motto,

"To work is to pray,"

And Charlie lived this motto —

The Farm School which he built is a tribute to his work and devotion.

And the reputation the School's graduates have in their villages is founded on hard work and devotion to that work.

Great in Charlie's life was his love of his fellow man —

It mattered not whether the person was a workman or an industrialist,

A peasant or a landowner,

An enemy or a friend,

He loved them because they were humans and his life was devoted to serving them;

And he was quite prepared to sacrifice his life for them.

Finally, Charles House was a man of God —

He was born to a family that lived in faith and he carried that faith with him to his dying day.

When Doctor John Henry House, his father, started the School, he had no money but a vision and the faith to bring that vision to completion.

It was with that faith that Charlie carried on where his father left off —

It was his faith in God that led to his service in Greece,

That reinforced his devotion to his work,

and that motivated his love for his fellow man.

Our thoughts turn to a memorial for Charles L. House, But Charlie House doesn't need a memorial of stone and marble.

The School, which he built, is a memorial.

The graduates, his boys, all over Greece, are a memorial.

The boys now at the School who had this last year with him are a memorial.

The staff which he trained is a memorial.

And the love of his friends is a memorial.

## MOURNING BEGINS IN GREECE

*Salonica, Greece* — To tell of Greece's reaction — and the Farm School's — to Charles House's death, one does not need many words nor special words.

A School staff member expressed it this way: "We were surprised, shocked, doubtful, and then aware of a deep sense of loss. But then we realized that we have so much of him with us that he can never entirely leave us."

A telephone call the night of October 13 informed the Farm School of the passing of its beloved Dr. House. Many of the staff learned of it only the next morning when they saw the school flag at half mast.

At nine a.m., students and staff gathered in the assembly hall in a service which in its silence was a tribute to the memory of Charles House. No words were necessary. Someone said: "Each person there was vividly reliving his own experiences with the understanding human being who had been to him a brother, a father, a counselor."

A simple hymn was sung and Director Bruce Lansdale told of Charles House's death, and then, of his life.

Less than two months previously Charles, his wife, Ann, and two of his sisters, Grace and Ruth, had taken leave of the School after a ten-month tour of voluntary service. As the Mayor of Salonica wrote, "No one could believe that Dr. Charles House, whom just awhile ago we had among us, full of vigor, love, and activity, would go away forever, so suddenly."

On Sunday, October 15, again the staff, students, and many Salonica friends of the Houses gathered in the student-built Orthodox Church of St. John Chrysostom on the campus. All remembered well the many times Dr. House had stood at the church door to shake 200 students' hands, then to Anatolia College for interdenominational services, then back to School for evening vespers. ("Well, Sunday is for church," he would have said.)

At the close of the liturgy, representatives of the staff, students and Greek officials stood to present three farewell messages, each ending with the Greek words: "Eternal be his memory; lighten the earth of his country which now covers him."

"We, your children, the graduates of the School, promise you at this solemn moment to continue our task with faith and devotion as you wanted us to do and be worthy of our great teacher." So spoke the Secretary of the Alumni Association.

The following Sunday, one day before Mr. House's seventy-fourth birthday, Director Bruce Lansdale led an interdenominational service at Anatolia College attended by the American community in Salonica. An additional service is planned by the Bishop of Salonica at the School for the Blind, which also declared a period of mourning.

Speaking for the Ministry of Agriculture, the Inspector for Northern Greece said of Charles L. House, "You loved Greece as your second country and Greece loves you as her real child." And so the days of sorrow and remembrance began in Greece.



## TESTIMONIALS

"Our American Greek Orthodox Christians are especially grateful to Charles L. House for devoting so much of his exceptional ability to the progress of the American Farm School, which has done so much for Greece."

*His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos*  
*Greek Archdiocese of North & South America*

"Pure, modest, cheerful, and uninhibited in his activities and contacts, he was able to create around him an atmosphere of goodness and love. Liberal in outlook, always straight-thinking, having absolute selflessness in all of his efforts, he deeply believed that the primary purpose of man is love and service to his fellow men."

*John Papaeliakis*  
*Mayor of Salonica*

"Out of inexperienced and timid farm youngsters, you have made us know how to work and love mother earth. You have taught us that work is wealth in life. That to work is to worship. In you, your close associates, the poor and destitute, have found love, kindness, understanding."

*Athanasios Vasilikos*  
*Secretary, AFS Alumni Association*

"You have been a great friend of Greece, and she has honored you while in life for the work you have left behind. You were loved by all Greeks who have had the honor to know you and you have acquired the appreciation, the love, and the gratitude for what you did for the Greek rural youth."

*Alexander Constantinides*  
*Inspector of Agriculture*

"Charles House stood for the ideals that we all wished to think represented the best in America; he was liked and admired by everyone from the King and Queen of Greece to the peasant boys. Those of us who knew him were never hesitant to point out that Charles House's efforts represented one of the most outstanding achievements by an American ever accomplished in Greece."

*Robert R. Schott*  
*Officer in Charge, Greek Affairs*  
*U. S. Department of State*

"Charles House was a most humble and outstanding Christian. His every act was dictated by the principles laid down in the Bible, and all with whom he came in contact realized this."

*Suffolk Times*  
*October 20, 1961*

"Charles L. House was the most Christian Christian it was ever my good fortune to know."

*Harold B. Allen*  
*Near East Foundation*

"I've never seen Charlie without two things — he always carried Dr. Olden's Devotional Diary and a slide rule, and if the conversation had anything to do with mathematical calculations, out would come the slide rule. His Devotional Diary, the other constant companion, was not just a pious dream of things as they ought to be, but a practical guide for his life that day."

*Dr. Carl C. Compton*  
*President Emeritus*  
*Anatolia College*

"He has been a very lovely and respectful personality to the city of Thessaloniki and to all our country in general for his long and most valuable moral and material help and service to Greece and especially to our agricultural youth."

*His Eminence, Panteleimon,*  
*Metropolitan of Thessaloniki*

"We at Princeton shall miss Mr. House more than I can say; his devotion to the ideals by which free men live and his great capacities for human service were sources of strength for all of us."

*Robert F. Goheen*  
*President*  
*Princeton University*

"We have lost one of our most loyal and beloved members, Princeton a devoted and illustrious son, and the world a stalwart Christian gentleman. We shall miss him in the years to come."

*Morton H. Fry*  
*Princeton 1909*

# NEWSLETTER

FROM

## The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

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

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

JOHN 14: 1-4, 27.

TO.