



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Number
62
1965-66

YEAR-LONG PLANNING SURVEY CHARTS FUTURE SCHOOL PROGRAM AND UPGRADES CURRICULUM

Accredited Diploma to be Awarded for First Time

No institution can stand solely on its history and long survive. One like the Farm School must be especially alert to the changing needs of its host country and to the aspirations of those it serves, in our case the people of rural Greece. With this in mind, the School has from time to time undertaken a review of its program to determine what, if anything, should be done differently. The last major study came in 1955 under the direction of Raymond Miller and Irwin Sanders. Another survey is now nearing completion under the supervision of Dr. Paul B. Orvis, until his recent retirement Executive Dean of the State University of New York's thirty-seven colleges, and Mr. Basil Moussouros, former Director of Rural Extension for the Greek Ministry of Agriculture. Financed by the U. S. Agency for International Development, the report provides guidance to the staff and Trustees for the future and has already resulted in several program changes.

Most significant is the intention of The American Farm School to offer to students, starting this year, a diploma equivalent to that available from Greek high schools. Since its founding the School withheld this formal recognition, aware that with a diploma some graduates might seek the security of governmental employment rather than the challenges of rural modernization. Clearly, however, the prohibition worked an undue hardship on recent

Continued on page two

PRESIDENT JOHNSON APPOINTS PHILLIPS TALBOT AS NEW U. S. AMBASSADOR TO GREECE

Mr. Phillips Talbot, former Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, was recently appointed to succeed Henry R. Labouisse as United States Ambassador to Greece. Mr. Labouisse, now a Trustee of The Farm School, resigned to accept the Directorship of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

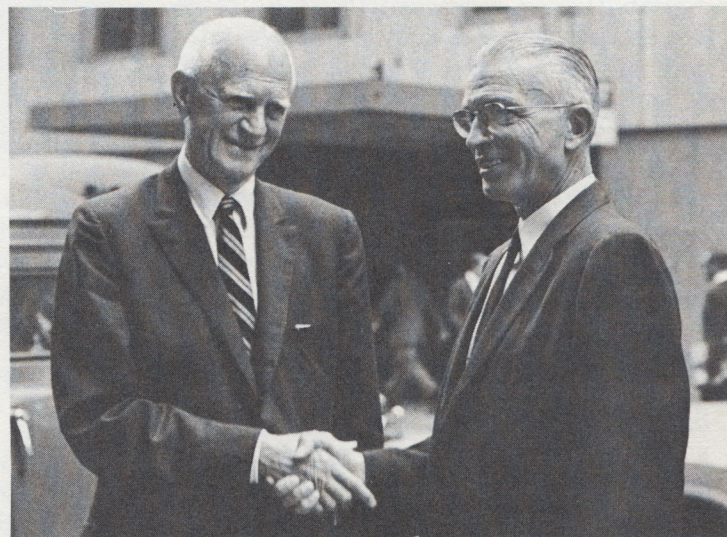
Born in 1915, Ambassador Talbot received his education at the University of Illinois, the London School of Oriental Studies and the University of Chicago. Prior to joining the Department of State in 1961, Mr. Talbot served as journalist, editor, professor of political science and Executive Director of the American Universities Field Staff.

Though considered an expert in Asian affairs, Ambassador Talbot is not unfamiliar with the country of his new assignment. We are pleased to recall that he visited The American Farm School in the winter of 1962, and we look forward to another visit from him not too long after his arrival on post. The United States is fortunate to have such an able diplomat in Greece.

CRAIG R. SMITH RETIRES, AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS' SERVICE AS FARM SCHOOL PRESIDENT. TRUSTEES ELECT HARVEY K. BRECKENRIDGE, EBASCO ENGINEER, TO POST

Craig Smith first learned of the American Farm School from his brother, Ritchie, who roomed with one Charles L. "Turk" House at Princeton. He made his first trip to Greece with Charles and Ann House in 1936 and was elected to the Board of Trustees later that year. Only one member of the Board has served longer. In 1943 Mr Smith was chosen to succeed Mr. Lucius H. Beers as president.

Mr. Smith's leadership of the School spanned many difficult years, including the trying days of World War II when both Charles and Ann House were interned, the



Mr. Smith, left, congratulates Mr. Breckenridge upon his election as President of the School

School occupied by the Germans. At the end of the war, however, it was able rapidly to recover and reopen, thanks in no small part to the continuing interest of the Trustees.

In recent years Mr. Smith has presided over an unprecedented expansion of the School's enrollment, plant and program. Always ready to provide strong support for Director Lansdale, Mr. Smith has brought balance and foresight to the diverse activities involving the School.

In 1963, on one of his many visits to the School, Mr. Smith received a surprise: Before thousands of visitors gathered for graduation, he was decorated with the Gold Cross of the Royal Order of King George I, on behalf of the then King Paul of Greece.

To succeed Mr. Smith as President, the Board elected Harvey K. Breckenridge, an engineer and management consultant with EBASCO Services, Incorporated, in New York. The interest of Mr. Breckenridge and his wife, the

Continued on page two



PLANNING SURVEY CHARTS FUTURE PROGRAM

Continued from page one

graduates, some of whom would be better able to serve their country by receiving further education or working for the Ministry of Agriculture. Changes proposed in the Greek education law further facilitate the revision of the curriculum: No longer would the School be required to offer the classics in ancient Greek, a stipulation which has been beyond the language proficiency of the students and the fulfillment of which would have consumed many more hours than were available in the busy daily schedule.

To insure that Farm School graduates will continue to receive adequate agricultural training and sufficient practical experience, the normal three-year high school curriculum will be encompassed within a four-year program. During his last year a boy will major in one of several agricultural fields and receive extra training to equip him for a more advanced type of farming.

Essentially, however, The American Farm School will continue to serve in a field no less vital to the nation's welfare than it was when Dr. John Henry House began more than sixty years ago. As the survey report states, "The staff and the Board of Trustees believe that the impact the School can have on the individual, be he young student or adult, is the most important element in the entire program. It was not only to provide agricultural and technical training, but also to develop individual character and a sense of Christian service that Dr. House founded it. The early concept of training leaders for the villages of Greece is still valid today, despite the fact that the needs of the villages have grown and assumed new forms. Such continues to be the aim of the School."

HARVEY BRECKENRIDGE SUCCEEDS CRAIG SMITH AS PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

Continued from page one

former Margaret Hatfield, dates from 1954 when they went to Greece where his firm had been retained to construct and operate the national power system. He was assigned there as General Manager of the Public Power Corporation heading a staff of engineers and managers, working under a Greek Board of Directors to build the facilities and train employes to assume full responsibility.

A graduate of Columbia University, Mr. Breckenridge was elected a member of the Board of Trustees in 1961. Before making his home in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, where he now lives, Mr. Breckenridge resided for many years in Pittsburgh and more recently in San Francisco. There, in addition to serving as a Director of the YMCA, he was instrumental in developing considerable interest in the School on the West Coast.

We welcome our new President and wish him many years of constructive leadership in the service of the people of Greece and in the fulfillment of America's interest in people everywhere.

ALLEN N. CROONE, EDUCATOR, APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR UNDER BRUCE LANSDALE

Those close to The American Farm School are frequently asked "Who took Theo Litsas' place?" The answer has been "nobody," and it will always remain so. No one can replace the dedicated, versatile, imaginative, inimitable Associate Director who died in 1962. Since then, however, the Trustees have been particularly concerned that Director Bruce Lansdale lacked a "right-hand man" to whom major, continuing responsibilities could be delegated.

Selection of Mr. Croone as Assistant Director followed many months of considering candidates. For an American, he is uniquely qualified to fill the post. His background, for example, includes having lived as a member of rural Greek families in 1956, as International Farm Youth exchangee. It was during this period, too, that he first came to know the School.

Mr. Croone was born in Stillwater, Minnesota, in 1933, attended high school in nearby Lindstrom and graduated from State College, St. Cloud, Minn. Two years in the U.S. Army interrupted his education. Summers Mr. Croone was active in 4-H Club work serving as a County Club Agent and State Camp Director. Shortly after graduation he began teaching English, speech and creative writing in Minnesota high schools. In addition, he found time to serve as Chairman of the County Teachers Association, Chairman of the English Department and curriculum supervisor; also to teach physical education, direct dramatics, instruct in civil defense and, for the Experiment in International Living, lead a group of ten college students through a trip to Greece.

In 1962, Mr. Croone began his postgraduate studies at Montana State College, specializing in secondary school administration but retaining his international interests through courses in cross-cultural sociology and economics. An interesting part of his studies was three months' research in the kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools and teacher-training institutions of Mexico.

Subsequently, Mr. Croone received a fellowship extension from Montana State enabling him to pursue his doctoral studies in higher and international education. Mrs. Croone too promises to be a welcome addition to the Farm School family. She holds a master's degree in music, a talent always in great demand.

Mr. Croone assumes his duties at an especially propitious time, when major changes are being instituted in the curriculum and members of the staff will be facing altered teaching tasks.



Allen N. Croone, recently appointed Assistant Director, studies class schedule shortly after his arrival in Greece.



AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL NEWS AND NOTES

Massachusetts Hall

Sporting a Cretan crimson front wall, Massachusetts Hall opened to receive its first students this fall. The new classroom building, an extension of the James Hall facilities, includes four large rooms plus unfinished space for four more when the need arises. Three have been named the Boston Room, the Worcester Room and the Cambridge Room. Though now in use the official blessing and dedication of Massachusetts Hall will occur in June, 1966, when a delegation from the United States will be present to participate.

Jeannie Woolston Returns

No one who has visited the School in recent years will fail to remember Jeannie Woolston, most genial hostess, guide and interpreter to one and all. Jeannie, daughter of a School Trustee, has served in Greece more than two years, but is due for a bit of time at home. School, church and women's groups particularly may avail themselves of her presence for appearances during most of the winter. She has a fund of knowledge about Greece and the Farm School and an enthusiasm which is as contagious as it is rare. For further information about her schedule, contact the Office of the Trustees.



Staff Weddings Crowd Schedule

Not everyone on the staff decided to marry this year but enough members did so as to preempt almost every Sunday on the calendar. The weddings of Phillip and Mary Foote and Tony and Eleni Trimis have previously been reported. Bruce Lansdale's efficient English secretary, Gill Beaumont, became Mrs. Nicos Economou and terminated her employ much to the Director's regret. Costas Evangelou, Assistant Supervisor in the Field Crops Department, married Alexandra Karaoglanidou, the daughter of Avgi of Cincinnati Hall, shortly after his return from two years of study in the United States, and finally teacher Panayotis Rotsios married Anna Sarri.

An especially colorful wedding was that of Joan Skogland, of Teaneck, N. J., to Cristos Koronides, machine shop supervisor. Bride and groom met while he was studying at Alfred, N. Y. The wedding took place in a village of ninety families, Promachon, just 200 yards from the Bulgarian border and almost four hours by car from the School. Despite the distance about 20 Farm School guests made the trip.

Space limits publishing pictures of each of the new couples and justice deters selecting a single event. As a Greek Orthodox priest solemnized each wedding, however, no discrimination is involved in showing one such man of the cloth officiating at one of the services.

Brooklyn Museum Tour Visits School

The Study Tour to Greece and the coast of Asia Minor, sponsored by New York's Brooklyn Museum, includes more than one hundred travellers. Among their stops is Thessaloniki, and we are happy to know that many members of the tour made the extra trip to see something of modern Greece by visiting the School.

Graduation Scheduled

Farm School graduation has been scheduled for the weekend of June 11-12, 1966. Many visitors from America are expected as a result of the Group Flights planned. These include a number of Trustees who will attend the second meeting of the Board to be held in Greece, on June 13-14.

Tear off along dotted line and mail to Office of the Trustees

TWO SCHOOL-SPONSORED GROUP FLIGHTS TO GREECE PLANNED FOR JUNE, 1966

Reservation Request Form

Please Check Below

☐ I am interested in joining Group I to Greece, leaving New York June 6, returning August 5. (Eight weeks)

☐ I am interested in joining Group II to Greece, leaving New York June 9, returning July 7. (Four weeks)

There will be adults, children under 12 in my party.

☐ I am currently a contributor to the School. ☐ Enclosed is my \$10 contribution to make me eligible for the trip.

Name

Address

Round-trip jet fare New York to Athens, plus one-way Athens to Salonica, plus your hotel for one night in Athens and ground transportation there and in Salonica from airport to town is included in the price of \$550 per adult. Persons contributing \$10 or more to the School six months prior to the date of departure are eligible as members of the New York Committee of Friends of The American Farm School. Arrival is timed to include graduation at the School and a number of special events, including dedication of Massachusetts Hall.

FIVE MEMBERS OF FARM SCHOOL STAFF CURRENTLY RECEIVING ADVANCED TRAINING IN U. S. A.

Continuing a policy begun many years ago, proven members of the staff are aided and encouraged to seek additional training in the United States preparatory to assuming even more responsible positions at the School. The approaching retirement of several senior teachers emphasizes the need for a pool of qualified instructors able to continue the valued traditions of the School.

Four of the five currently in the United States are themselves Farm School graduates. All have served a number of years on the staff and have little doubt that their careers will continue in Greece when their school goals are met.

Training in the United States has special values, though admittedly much equally good formal education could be found in Europe at less cost. An American school, however, needs teachers with an American experience, an understanding of this nation, and a full appreciation of the willingness to work — physically, manually, mentally — which has accounted for much of U.S. growth. Such values cannot be taught. They can only be absorbed by doing.

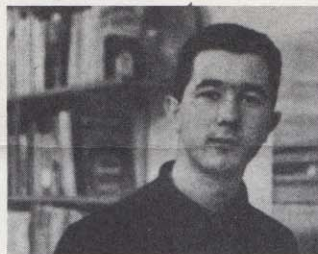
Financing for such study is often available from special public, private and institutional sources. The American Farm School greatly appreciates the help many colleges have given our graduates, in the form of scholarships, tuition waivers and campus employment. The U.S. Government has also been helpful, particularly in providing travel grants and more recently study fellowships. In addition, individuals and foundations have contributed to the welfare of the School in this way. Without this help the School would never have been able to recruit, train and inspire the fine faculty it has.

Those currently in the United States, together with some information about them, are shown to the right. We hope you will enjoy meeting some of the men who make the School what it is, and more especially what it will be.



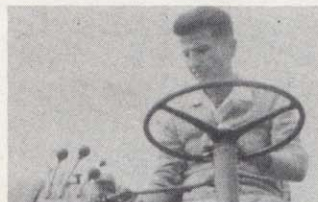
Archimedes Koulaouzides, a 1959 graduate, is in his second year of specialized farm machinery instruction. Box 1656, California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo, California.

Athanasios Pantazides graduated in 1936 and has most recently served as supervisor of the Minor Livestock department. Now seeking his bachelor's degree in poultry management at the University of Arkansas. Box 1743, Fayetteville, Arkansas.



Nicos Papaconstantinou graduated in 1959 and has been assisting in the stores department. Currently he is enrolled at the Nassau County Community College, but plans on four years' study toward a bachelor's in mathematics preparatory to becoming a Farm School teacher. 1460 Little Whaleneck Street, North Merrick, Long Island.

Antonios E. Trimis came to the School after completing his master's at Cornell. For the past five years he has been coordinator of the School's Community Development program and is now seeking his doctoral in this field. Yellowstone Court Apartments, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.



Kyriakos Tzivanopoulos graduated in 1956. Arriving this fall, he entered Cal. Poly. alongside Archimedes and is also specializing in farm machinery and mechanized agriculture. Cal. Poly., San Luis Obispo.

The Sower



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

36 East 61st Street • New York, N. Y. 10021

Dear Friends:

On the reverse side you will find information about two Group Flights to Greece planned for June of 1966. One lasts for eight, the other for four weeks, and both include attendance at the School's colorful graduation pageant.

Current and new contributors are eligible. We hope you will be able to participate.

AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

TO.