



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Number
70
1969

138 FRIENDS VISIT FARM SCHOOL ON CHARTER FLIGHT

One was left behind at Kennedy Airport.

But 137 of us boarded our very own TWA 707 jet about 11:30 p.m. on May 12 and were soon airborne for Greece and the Farm School.

We had been planning and talking and writing about this trip for months — ten to be exact, ever since we put together the original announcement and decided we could charge as little as \$275.00. At one point there were 270 people interested and we had approached TWA for a second plane. And at a later date there were only 108 still planning to go and we even considered the necessity of raising the price. Then too there were worries about where we would house so many people at the School and what we could do to make their stay at the School interesting and pleasant. Somehow most of the problems had been resolved and we were on our way.

When the chief steward on the plane, who was Greek, discovered what group we were and where we were going, he was beside himself with special attention and services — champagne corks were popped, food became plentiful, and there was even some dancing in the aisles. All of this, plus the good fellowship of 137 people from all over the United States who shared a common love of Greece and the Farm School made the eight hour-plus flight pass quickly. None-the-less we needed that full day of rest in Athens before going on to the School.

The flight to Thessaloniki took only one hour, and there they were: the boys, the girls, faculty members, the Lansdale family and flowers for everyone. The banner read, "Welcome Trustees and Friends", and the songs



they sang let us know how deeply they meant it. A five-minute ride to the School, and we were greeted by more students with more welcoming banners and songs, and American and Greek flags held high together — then lunch, our first taste of Farm School vegetables and fruits.

The stay was to be short, only four days, so obviously our schedule had to be tight. The circulated agenda indicated that from 8:00 a.m. to after midnight each day there was something planned for us: a recreation program with the students and receptions in the homes of the staff members were listed for Thursday afternoon and evening; Friday there was to be a tour of the School, a visit to School graduates in the villages, and a taverna party with

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WELCOME



HOUSE ROAD BLESSED



138 Friends Visit Farm School on Charter Flight

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Greek dancing by all; the new Charles L. House Road would be dedicated on Saturday, followed by a reception with Greek officials and a barbecue later in the day; Alexander's capital, Pella, along with Thessaloniki and the village of Milotopos were to be visited on Sunday, with an evening chapel service to be conducted by the students when we returned. Strangely, when it was all over, no-one thought the schedule had been too rushed, but most agreed the stay at the School had been too short.

Each one of us probably found different things that impressed or touched him most, so the editor can only speak for himself. But for him the tour of the School on open wagons drawn by tractors past groups of students busily working in the fields, barns, shops, and outdoor classrooms was most impressive. It gave a brief but extremely meaningful survey of what the School is all about and what goes on there. And the visit to the village of Milotopos where the entire village came out to greet us, fed us lunch, entertained with simple skits and songs, and in general let us know how much our help to rural Greek youth was appreciated — this to your editor was the most touching.

The visit to the School was indeed over too soon, but then there were only two weeks left for seeing the rest of Greece. Some of our friends took a five-day Greek island cruise, some went to Delphi, Mycenae and the Peloponnese, some to a Greek island or two, and others as far away as Egypt, North Africa or Israel. Wherever their particular interests carried them, all seemed to have a marvelous time.

When we gathered in Rome for the trip home, there were sunburns, pulled muscles, worn-out shoes, and flat purses; but there were also laughter and warm feelings of comradeship. All of which we hope have now turned into very pleasant memories.

Oh! The one we left behind at Kennedy? She got another plane to Athens two hours later, travelling first class, courtesy of TWA.

**WATCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR
NEXT CHARTER FLIGHT TO BE MAILED SOON.**

RAINBOW IN THE ROCK

One of our Trustees on a four-day Chat tour of the Peloponnesus tells this story:

Irene Economides, the guide, said one morning on the bus through her microphone, "I am going to tell you a legend from modern Greece."

"After the Creator had divided up the world into the various countries, he found he had forgotten to make Greece. So he took some sand and rocks, worked them with his hands into some rough land. Then he reached up and broke off a piece of the rainbow and added this and worked it some more. When it was well mixed he blew it



WAGON PASSES BOYS WORKING IN GARDEN



AT WORK IN SHOPS



THEY ALSO BUTCHER PIGS

into the sea. The result was a group of rocky islands inhabited by a colorful people endowed with a special faith and courage. This he called Greece." Then she added, "This story was written by Dr. Irwin T. Sanders, an American sociologist in his book, *Rainbow In The Rock*, which is published by Harvard University."

Dr. Sanders is also a Trustee of the American Farm School, and he had gotten the legend from an old villager he met on one of his many trips to Greece.

When the guide was told that some members of her group knew Dr. Sanders, she blushed with embarrassment, but instantly recovering said she wished she too could meet this man. "I would like very much to work with him," she said.



A LOVE LETTER

A pleased parent of one of the Farm School students recently wrote this letter to the School. We liked it so much we translated it into English so we could share it with you.

"Dear Friends, Good morning!

With this letter I would like to express the warm thanks of myself, my son, and my family for informing us of our son's enrollment at your institution. Only July 10 I forwarded to you by postal order 500 drachmas for enrollment fees.

Our one-day stay at the School will remain unforgettable for the rest of my life: (1) For the order and method in general of your work, (2) For the very pleasant welcome given to us by the Director and his "noble-woman" (archondogineka) who with her sweet words made us her slaves. Also the staff of the School in general that did their best in taking us around the School and its wonderful installations, and gave us lunch at the wonderfully clean restaurant. (School Cafeteria)

It has always been my family's dream that one day our son would be able to attend the Farm School and learn its perfect system and scientific agriculture in general.

With most sincere feelings of respect,

Evag. Mergiotis

Filia — Sfathon Thessalias

PLASTIC, A MUCH USED ITEM AT SCHOOL

During any walk around the Farm School one sees many instances of plastic being used: plastic hosing, plastic windows, plastic buckets, paint brushes, dishes, etc. — but none of these is as new or useful at the School as the plastic greenhouse. Every year early in February yards and yards of plastic go up on the large greenhouse frames (called warm-gardens in Greek). In these the lucrative crops of early vegetables are grown, heated in the cold months by wood-burning stoves and long lengths of stove pipe. As the weather warms, the fires are stopped, plastic is rolled back in window openings at the side of the greenhouse and when the sun begins to be really hot, large openings are made in the roofs. The students make small plastic frames to start seedlings like tomatoes or peppers which they take to their own home gardens when they go to their villages during the spring vacation. In an average year Mr. Constantinos Partides at the gardens department



MRS. REED NOW IMPROVING

The many friends of Mrs. Reed will be interested in the following note received from the School recently. "Mrs. Reed's condition has taken a very drastic turn for the better ever since the visit of all her friends in May. She is now extremely coherent and active, asking for her friends and her mail, calling people on the telephone and cheating at Chinese checkers. Yesterday we took her for a ride in the Falcon — even though she has not yet regained the use of her legs, and for that is undergoing intense therapy — and for a tour of the Farm School. There are many things new which she had never seen, and scores of people who have never met her. In her venerable opinion she 'looks lousy', but she responded positively to a suggested trip to Ouranopolis."

YOUR EMPLOYER MAY MATCH YOUR GIFT TO SCHOOL

Many corporations have a "Matching Gifts" program — they will duplicate the gifts of members of their organizations to educational institutions. Each corporation has its own policies in this respect, and we hope that our readers will investigate the possibility of increasing their gifts to the American Farm School through this means.

of the School orders and uses five and a half miles of plastic, 33 feet wide!

Mr. Dimitrios Argalavinis, the gardener, is seen daily with a plastic hose watering the roses and dahlias in front of Rochester Hall, as well as all the other flowers and shrubs in the School gardens.

In the barns and chicken houses and pig sties, windows are of plastic. On occasion the Plumbing and Painting Department of the School is seen on its rounds of repair and renewal carrying plastic drop cloths, plastic paint brushes and whitewash brushes, perhaps a plastic toilet seat or two or a short length of plastic hose with metal fittings which can be used as a sink trap. Mr. Athanasios Papajourelis indicated that the latter item has been an extremely useful innovation.

Both the boys and the girls at the School use plastic dishes and the girls keep bread and other foods fresh by storing them in plastic bags.

There has been talk of plastic milk containers and for dramatic value there was the Mobil Oil luncheon party in Athens at which Farm School ice cream was served. How did it get there? This was just the kind of verging-on-the-impossible problem which Farm School Director, Bruce M. Lansdale, likes to solve. Various forces seemed to favor the effort — the plane ran on schedule, weather was favorable, no traffic jam developed, and the ice cream arrived at the luncheon table with the help of deep freeze and plastic sacks.

THE LONG LONG SHORT COURSE

Short courses for adults given at the Farm School usually last only a few days or at most a few weeks, but recently 63 graduates of Greece's two schools of Home Economics attended a 45-day short course; this was a training program for agricultural and home economics extension agents sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. The group's roster read like a tourist guide for Greece and the islands, for the participants travelled from all parts of the country to learn teaching and demonstration methods which would assist them as extension agents to train others throughout Greece. They were given work in village nutrition, care of livestock and poultry, cheese making, home gardening, hygiene, baby care and first aid, and even some preparation in broadcasting and journalism.

The training was supervised by Mr. Christou and Mrs. Katsari who administer the Extension and Home Economics Programs in the area of Thessaloniki.

These "agents-in-training" had entered extension service with exemplary ideals of returning to the villages to teach people a better way of life, and one of the purposes of the Farm School course was to give the students the very practical training necessary to enable them to teach the villagers simple but useful new methods that would indeed raise their standards of living.

Miss Fedra Latsinou, from Corinth, a graduate of the Athens Home Economics School, was asked what she would suggest to a housewife in a village where the people had a diet limited to beans and potatoes. "I would tell her to get 15 chickens and ten rabbits, two goats and a sheep. The chickens would give six to seven eggs a day, and the animals would give two kilos of milk." With this combination, Miss Latsinou said, the family could be well fed even though they ate meat only once a week. "And she can make cheese and yogurt and butter from the milk."

"The woman should plant a garden; if the land is very steep, it can be terraced. The garden may grow beans, peas, potatoes, greens, eggplant, tomatoes, peppers, carrots, cauliflower, cabbage, leeks, onions and beets. During the summer when there are many vegetables they should be canned for the winter."

NUVEEN FAMILY ENDOWS FARM SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

John Nueven was a loyal friend and supporter of the American Farm School. He had served in Greece in 1948 as Chief of the American aid mission and knew first hand what an important role the School played in the emerging Greek economy. Now his widow and family have made it possible for his devotion to the School to be perpetuated by endowing an annual scholarship in his name.

LANSDALE FAMILY TO SPEND YEAR IN U.S.A.

Bruce Lansdale, Director of the Farm School, and his family are expected in the U.S. in mid-September for a year's sabbatical leave. It won't be a vacation, however, for Bruce is already making plans to visit many areas of the country in the fall, speaking to groups of friends about new developments at the School. In January and February he is scheduled to attend a management course sponsored by Emory University in Georgia. And he has hopes of spending about two months in the spring visiting other agricultural programs in the developing countries of Africa.

It seems that Tad (Mrs. Lansdale) will set up house-keeping in Tuxedo Park, a short commute from New York City.

Anyone wanting additional information about the Lansdales' plans and schedule while in the U.S. should write to the AFS Office of the Trustees, 36 East 61st Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.

GODS AND HEROES

Those of our friends who have just returned on the charter flight from Greece and those too who were unable to go, might enjoy a new book about Greece entitled, *Gods and Heroes*, by Herbert Kubly and published by Doubleday & Co. (\$7.95). Mr. Kubly travelled throughout Greece for over a year gathering material for this book. The result is a rich and complete panorama of people, places, ideas and feelings touching all facets of Greek life, including the still haunting presence of the ancient gods and heroes, and the political turmoil which led to the military takeover in 1967. You will also find an account of Mr. Kubly's visit to the Farm School.

The Sower

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

Office of the Trustees

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Return Requested

TO.