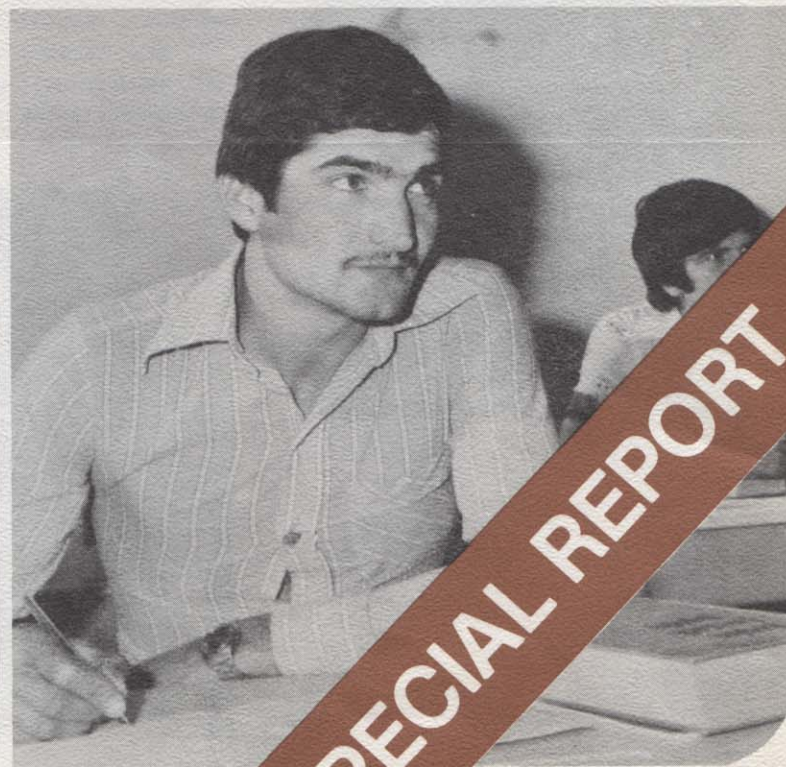


SOWER



American
Farm School
Thessaloniki
Greece
Winter 1978
Number 91



SPECIAL REPORT

TO FRIENDS OF THE FARM SCHOOL

I'm very pleased to be sending you this special report highlighting the many activities of the American Farm School during the past 16 months, as well as its plans for the future. We face the challenges that lie ahead with great enthusiasm.

The Farm School today truly represents the best of American and Greek ideas and practices and serves as a model of international cooperation at its best. I feel that it has done more good for the people of rural Greece and the advancement of Greek agriculture than any other organization.



Sincerely,

Harry W. Fowler
Chairman
Board of Trustees

SPECIAL REPORT

On May 29, 1978, the American Farm School will celebrate Founder's Day and simultaneously begin its 75th year of service to rural Greece. The year promises to be one of critical challenge and infinite opportunity in a renewed yet sensitive land. Already the School is responding boldly to both challenge and opportunity as it prepares for a new era of activity. This report deals with the highlights of the recent past and the Farm School's plans for tomorrow.

BOYS SCHOOL

Last June the middle-level technical school, one of several Farm School programs, graduated 46 young men. Half of this largest class in the program's six-year history had majored in Animal Husbandry, the remainder in Farm Machinery. They had spent three years at the Farm School in grades 10 through 12; they had lived and learned at an institution which gives serious attention not only to education *per se* but to "character development" through boarding and extracurricular experiences.

Sixteen members of the Class of 1977 were young Cypriots who had come to the Greek mainland in Oc-

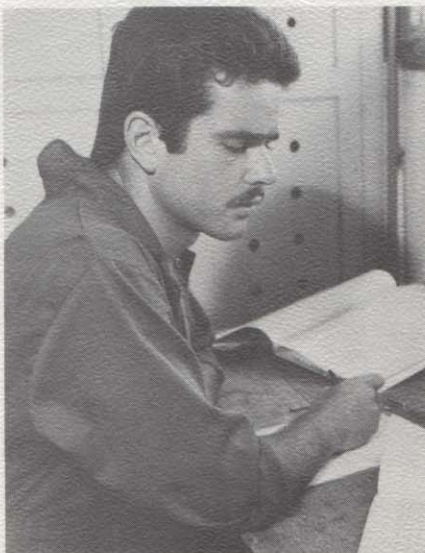
tober 1974 following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. After graduation, they and classmates, went directly into the army to serve the 28 months required by both Greek and Cypriot law. A select group successfully completed examinations for admission to the technical junior college, where they will remain for three years.

During the current school year, other boys continue to study at the Farm School—boys from villages in Samos, Crete, Mytilini, Sparta, Arta, Larissa, Serres and elsewhere in Greece. Forty percent of today's students hold full scholarships, all based on merit, while many others defray their nominal fees through the School's work program.

GIRLS SCHOOL

The Girls School, which graduated 15 students last June, remains one of the American Farm School's most successful programs. Three-quarters of all Girl School graduates live in their own or their husband's villages; 17 percent have moved to urban areas; and the remainder reside with their families abroad.

Wherever the graduates are, one only has to talk with them to sense the overwhelming feelings of pride, pleasure, and nostalgia, too, associated with their two years in the Home Economics/Handicrafts pro-



gram for girls of junior high school age. Incidentally, a tractor-driving course was given this past year to the seven girls who were able to secure special permission from their parents.

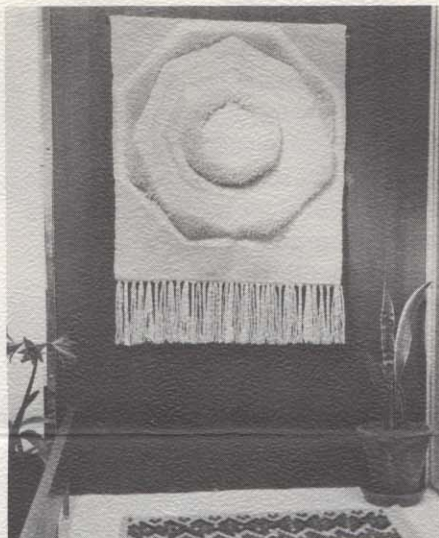
There now are more than 1500 Farm School alumni, products of both the Boys and Girls Schools, scattered throughout Greece and Cyprus.

SHORT COURSES

Since 1947 the so-called "short courses," or continuing education for adults, have been a vital, integral part of the School's efforts. Some 25 such courses were held on the campus last year in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, and more than 700 men and women received up-to-date information in a variety of fields, including personal hygiene, economics of the Common Market, hog-raising, and upholstery/curtain-making.

CRAFT CENTER

1977 was the third and final year of the School for designer-in-residence Phil Smith. The results of his efforts, provided in consultation with Elsa Regensteiner of the Art Institute of Chicago, were indeed remarkable. Seven weavers and six graduate students worked all year toward a tremendous achievement:



full-fledged craft shows in Thessaloniki and Athens. The show, which may be repeated this spring in Chicago, features woven articles/outstanding not only for their traditionally-inspired designs but for modern practicality.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Last year more than 10,000 individuals visited the School in a number of different capacities. School and other youth groups, Boy Scouts, farmers from all over Macedonia, budding agriculturists, Thessaloniki residents and tourists—all of these found something of interest and value on the School's campus. In addition, the

Farm School sponsored and organized a city-wide Environment Day in April. It attracted attention and praise from both city government and local industry.

SPECIAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Greek Summer, an extremely popular program for American high school students, took place between June 22 and August 3. Two projects were carried out by the students in a small village 20 miles northwest of the Farm School, and completion was celebrated grandly one summer evening in the village square.

Another highlight was the weekend climb to the summit of Mt. Olympus, although even it could not compare with the tearful farewell given to the 43 young Americans by their host families in Polydendri.

Six weaving students from the U.S. and Canada attended Greek Crafts Summer, a month's study of both the art of weaving and embroidery and the weaving areas of northern Greece. And eight students from five countries helped inaugurate the Farm School's Agricultural Development Center, a work/study program emphasizing rural development.



PLANT

The Boys School's first new dormitory since 1929, a 200-bed facility funded by AID, was in full operation during the past year. Elsewhere on the campus, the dining hall was converted to permit cafeteria service, the laundry outfitted with coin-operated machines, and central heating provided for the Girls School facility, which houses all of the young students and the graduate weavers.

Renovation projects continued with the completion of the Cornell Center project (six family units), Haskell Cottage (the School's first building), and Staff Cottage One (a single dwelling). Currently in progress is renovation of the four-unit Chamberlain Apartments and con-

structions of a new Farm Machinery Laboratory. On the "Farm," a 345-acre complex containing 19 demonstration/production units, a new feed mill has been completed and staffed with a feed specialist from Newton, Kansas.

TRUSTEE ACTIVITY

An indication of the interest and involvement of the Farm School's 35-member Board of Trustees is provided by its schedule of activities. Four full Board meetings were held over the past 16 months, including the now annual May session in Greece, and various Trustee committees met even more frequently. George B. Post of Darien, Connecticut, bowed out as Board Chairman

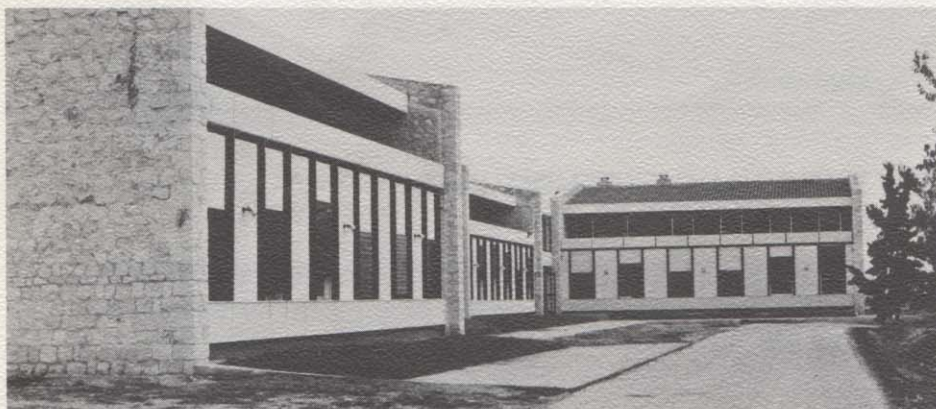
and was warmly honored for his dedicated service to the School. Succeeding him is Harry W. Fowler, Chairman of the Board of the Fiduciary Trust Company of New York, who has visited the School no less than seven times during the past two and a half years. Among the many other highlights of recent Trustee activity was the journey of three Greek Board members to New York for the October 1977 meeting.

THE SANDERS STUDY

A study to help the Trustees determine the direction of the School for the next five years was commissioned in February 1977 and completed almost single-handedly by Dr. Irwin T. Sanders, retired Professor of Rural Sociology from Boston University. The 127-page report was submitted to the full Board in October.

In his report, Dr. Sanders said that "Greek agriculture seems to be moving into a third stage"—i.e., beyond the traditional and technological emphasis of the past. He continued: "It has become apparent that

(continued on back page)



CURRENT FUNDS BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 1977

ASSETS

• <i>Unrestricted:</i>	
Cash	\$ 71,822
Receivables, prepaid expenses and other assets	252,835
Inventories	312,541
Due from restricted funds	107,720
<i>Total unrestricted assets</i>	744,918
• <i>Restricted:</i>	
Grants receivable	377,939
<i>Total current fund assets</i>	<u>\$1,122,857</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

• <i>Unrestricted:</i>	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 151,581
Bank loans	123,533
Deferred income	99,818
Reserve for severance indemnity	60,000
Loan from quasi-endowment funds	383,091
<i>Total unrestricted liabilities</i>	818,023
Fund balance (deficit)	(73,105)
	744,918
• <i>Restricted:</i>	
Accounts payable	6,013
Due to unrestricted funds	107,720
Fund balances	264,206
	377,939
<i>Total current fund liabilities and fund balances</i>	<u>\$1,122,857</u>

CURRENT FUNDS AND EXPENDITURES YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1977

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

• Governmental Grants		
Greece	\$ 346,533	
United States	193,500	\$ 540,033
• Private Gifts and Grants		
Greece	151,324	
United States	331,674	482,998
• Endowment and other income		48,501
• Auxiliary Enterprises:		
Farm, handicraft and related activities		1,166,071
Boarding and other programs		167,887
<i>Total Revenue and Support</i>		<u>\$2,405,490</u>

EXPENDITURES

• Instruction		\$347,452
• Operation and Maintenance of plant		92,397
• General Administration:		
Greece	\$185,674	
New York	61,527	247,201
• Development:		
Greece	13,726	
New York	49,733	63,459
• General Institutional (including \$22,364 program support services in New York)		208,949
• Student Aid		133,062
• Foreign currency translation adjustment		8,094
• Auxiliary Enterprises:		
Farm, handicraft and related activities		1,165,098
Other		63,827
• Appropriation for additions to plant		63,939
<i>Total Expenditures</i>		<u>\$2,393,478</u>

technology and new farm practices, though very important, are not sufficient in themselves. They have to mix with the human element—management—if farming is to be successful and satisfying to those engaged in it. This third stage requires that people view farming as a *business*." Dr. Sanders strongly implied that "the proper investment in the utilization of machinery," or mechanization in general, is the leading factor in today's typical Greek "agribusiness."

When viewed in the light of Greece's desire to become a full-fledged member of the European Economic Community in the very near future, Dr. Sanders' findings gain a new sense of urgency; and there unquestionably are immense implications for Greek agriculture in terms of organization, training and production.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Offered as part of the Sanders Study report were ten specific recommendations, nine of which the Trustees adopted in October. Also in October the governing board approved for the Farm School a new

Statement of Mission which then was unanimously endorsed by the School's top management.

From the Sanders Study, the newly-revised mission, and the new Greek law for technical education came approval for two exciting Boys School programs both of which will be implemented in October 1978. One is a lyceum, or senior high school, program in Farm Machinery, the other a two-year technical school program in Mechanized Agriculture. Designed for graduates of the now mandatory ninth grade, both programs will include an emphasis on management skills, decision-making, record-keeping and cost analysis. Now being developed for the Girls School is a new technical program in Home Economics and Management, scheduled to begin operation in October 1979. Finally, the School's staff has begun to create detailed plans for an expanded, well-rounded program of continuing education, including the popular "short courses."

FINANCES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

During the past fiscal year, the objective of securing \$470,000 from private sources was met through the

generosity of the Farm School's volunteers and many other friends, as well as through the dedicated efforts of the Board of Trustees and its Development Committee. Of the gift total, a full 30 percent was contributed in Greece.

It should be noted that, when operating and capital budgets are combined, the School continues to be 55 percent self-sufficient, largely as a result of its 19 production/demonstration units. Some 25 percent of all costs are covered by Greek and American grants, and the critical balance comes, of course, from the School's Annual Fund and other fund-raising efforts.

SUMMARY

With its unique mission and complement of programs, the American Farm School retains its pioneer role as the only school in Greece offering fully developed programs in vocational-agricultural education. All indications are that the School's 75th birthday will be celebrated with major overtones of growth, initiative, change and progress, and that its challenges will be met, its promises fulfilled, for a better future in rural Greece.

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