

# SOWER

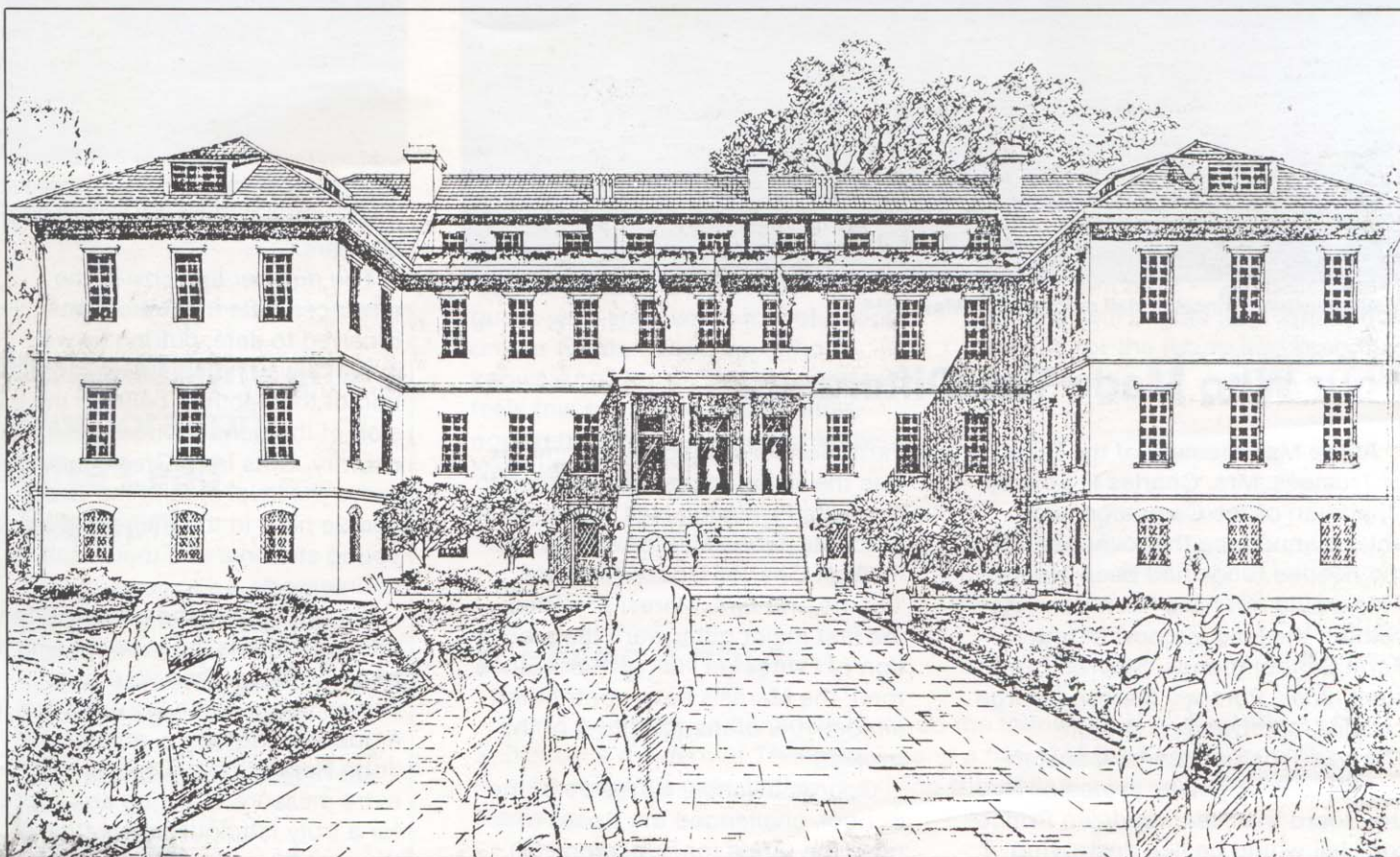


American  
Farm School

Thessaloniki  
Greece

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Artist's rendering of renovated Princeton Hall.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FARM SCHOOL!

On the occasion of The Farm School's 80th birthday, The Board of Trustees has announced a Capital Campaign to raise \$4.5 million, the first in the School's history.

Princeton Hall, which has served as the center of the School's activities for over 50 years, is the focal point of the construction plans. In 1978 it was severely damaged by an earthquake, making most of the building unsafe. Exterior and interior structural repairs will restore the building to its original function and expand its uses to contain a student center, a crafts center, a pottery workshop, a much-needed new library and communications center. In other parts of the campus, the plans call for improved facilities for the dairy, livestock and horticultural departments. More faculty housing on campus and an indoor athletic facility are also priorities.

The Farm School also intends to strengthen its academic program with funds from the Capital Campaign.

The School's curriculum will expand to include a computer course to train students to program and use affordable microcomputers for solving numerous farm management problems. Other areas to be developed are the English program, a Periodical Distribution Project and a graduate follow-up program.

A necessary foundation for building the future of any institution is a strong endowment fund. Thus, one of the goals of the Capital Campaign is to increase the Farm School's endowment by \$1,500,000 to provide funds for scholarships, faculty salaries and staff training.

The mission of The Farm School in the coming decade will be to guide and equip its students, graduates and Short Course participants to help Greek agriculture adapt to a society and economy radically changed by technology. The Capital Campaign, which will enable The Farm School to do this, is a fine 80th anniversary present.



## Message From The Campaign Chairman

To each and every friend of the Farm School: Welcome to a very special campaign in this year of campaigns. This particular campaign, which the Trustees are announcing on the School's 80th Birthday, is an investment in the future of a unique group of young people in a very special part of the world. It is a celebration of the relationship between the individual citizens of two nations separated by distance and language but bound together in a common purpose with love and trust that has endured for 80 years.

The number and size of the advanced gifts the School has received to date, putting us well over halfway home, is a demonstration of the depth of belief in the mission of the School throughout this country. Gifts from Greek companies prove the level of faith the Greek people have in the training given the young students and their adult counterparts.

We will, during the course of the coming months, be in touch with all of you. I hope when your turn comes you will join the rest of us for a ride into the future, aboard the John Henry Special, giving that extra measure of caring and support for a truly fabulous celebration of the past 80 years.

Mrs. Charles F. Lowrey  
Chairman  
Capital Campaign Committee



Capital Campaign Chairman Lowrey on site of Princeton Hall renovation.



Trustees inspect Princeton Hall renovation in May, 1984.

## Four Who Made The Difference

At the May meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Charles F. Lowrey, Chairman of the Campaign, was able to announce that over half of the needed funds had been pledged. This would not have been possible without the lead support of four Farm School friends, Stavros Constantinides, Pompeo Maresi, George Livanos, and Denison B. Hull.

It was Trustee Stavros Constantinides who originally protested to the Board that "tearing down Princeton Hall would be like destroying the Parthenon". He undertook to launch the preliminary architectural planning, is closely supervising every aspect of the project and has committed himself to make part of the project his own.

Pompeo Maresi, a member of the

Farm School's National Committee, was the visionary behind the plan to renovate Princeton Hall. A Princeton graduate, whose father was a classmate of Charles House (class of '09), he and Mrs. Maresi provided the first major gift toward the renovation of Princeton Hall in 1981. Since then, the Maresis have contributed almost 10% of the total cost of the project.

George Livanos, a Trustee of the School, challenged the Board to raise the funds for Princeton Hall, insisting that it simply could not be torn down. This early matching gift was the impetus for beginning the ambitious task of a Capital Campaign.

Denison B. Hull, Honorary Trustee and long-time friend, made the first gift toward the endowment fund of the Campaign. A strong believer in laying solid financial foundations, Mr. Hull's gift is a true investment in the future of the school.

The leadership of these four individuals has helped immeasurably to launch our Campaign. Trustees, National Committee members and others have made generous commitments to the Campaign so that, as of September 30, 1984, more than \$3 million has been received in gifts and pledges.

In a subsequent issue, we wish to honor those who have given so generously to the Capital Campaign. If you have made a donation, but do not want your name published, please contact the Office of the Trustees.





AFS founder, John Henry House, at work with some of the first students of the School.

## The Spirit of The Farm School

There is a spirit at the Farm School that is impossible to describe and yet, once experienced, leaves one changed. It is the vision of John Henry House that he could build a school which would teach Greeks how to turn their rocky land into fertile, productive farms. It is the devotion and ability of Charles House to turn dreams into realities, symbolized best by Princeton Hall, which he and his Princeton classmates built. It is the faith of Mother House who believed the School to be God's work and that God would provide for it. It is the courage of Charles and Ann House writing to a friend in 1941 at the time of the German invasion of Greece, "I guess we'll stay; we've lots of people on our hands." Everyone who knows Ann House, Charlie's widow, feels this spirit when visiting her, now in her 96th year, in Hightstown, New Jersey.

To those of us who have been lucky enough to visit the School, the physical presence of a spirit of community is almost overwhelming. Bruce Lansdale describes it with the Greek word, "angalia", which can translate into "embrace, hug, motherly love", and many other things, all signifying a feeling of unity, comfort, protection, but above all, purpose.

In this 80th anniversary year, all the friends of the American Farm School will be invited to insure that this spirit lives on by helping us to strengthen our foundations.

Princeton Hall, the enrichment of our programs, and the growth of the endowment fund — all these components will enable the Farm School to build for the future and keep the spirit alive.

### Foundations and Corporations Give Lead Support

The following foundations and corporations, long-time friends of the American Farm School, are in the vanguard of our campaign. The Farm School is grateful for their trust, support, and belief in our future.

Aeronix Hellas  
 George I. Alden Trust  
 Ward M. & Mariam C. Canaday Educational & Charitable Trust  
 Clark Foundation  
 Paul J. Condellis, S.A.  
 Deere & Company  
 N. Demos Foundation  
 Ethyl Hellas  
 Ideal Standard  
 Mobil Foundation, Inc.  
 National Bank of Greece, S.A.  
 Nuveen Benevolent Trust  
 G. Papaioannou, S.A.  
 Philkeram-Johnson, S.A.  
 Phillipou, S.A.  
 Quaker Oats Foundation  
 Sofia American Schools, Inc.  
 Brayton Wilbur Foundation

### A Living Tribute

Last Spring, Bruce Lansdale received the following letter from Panos D. Spiliakos, a resident of Thessaloniki and a friend of the Farm School. This gift in memory of his grandfather is a living tribute in his honor to the spirit of teaching.

Dear Bruce,

On May 9, 1983 my grandfather, Panayiotis S. Spiliakos, an elementary school teacher, joined his Maker at the age of 110 years old.

In order to celebrate the beginning of his eternal life and to commemorate his deeds on the planet earth, I would like to pledge a donation of 100,000 drs. in his memory to be spent for the Library of the American Farm School . . . . .

Grandfather devoted his life as a teacher. Upon retirement he took it upon himself to teach his grandchildren moderation, determination, the path of "ARETI" (VIRTUE) instead of "KAKIA" (EVIL), a sense of humor and above all a belief in God. I was privileged to have been touched by his teachings.

It will be a comfort to me and my family to know that Grandpa through the Farm School Library books will continue to contribute to his beloved profession, that of teaching young men and women to be "καλοί κάγαθοί πολίτες" (good and upstanding citizens).

Very truly yours,  
 Panos D. Spiliakos



## A.I.D. Challenge

The Agency for International Development, through its American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, has been instrumental in funding many new projects on The Farm School campus. The biogas project, renovation of James Hall and Cincinnati Hall, construction of a new dormitory wing – all would have been impossible without the help of A.I.D.

As part of the Capital Campaign, A.I.D. has given two grants for Princeton Hall: one for \$295,000 for structural repairs, and the other for \$350,000 for the Library and Communications Center. Each of these grants must be matched, dollar for dollar, by private contributions. We are grateful for A.I.D.'s support and for their challenge!

## GS Alums to Refloor Hog Building

On December 30, 1983, a group of former Greek Summer participants gathered in the New York office of the American Farm School to discuss how GS alumni could help the fund-raising efforts of the School. They decided to encourage Greek Summer participants to give to the Capital Campaign.

The Committee set a goal of \$5,000 which will pay for a new floor and drainage system in the Hog Building. This building houses one of the livestock projects of the Greek students and is an integral part of their farming education. Cleaning the building has always been one of Greek Summer's much beloved projects.

David Straut, Chairman of the GS Committee, who participated on GS '73 and was a counselor on GS '80,

stresses the importance of getting as many people involved in the School as possible. So far, 81 alumni of the 550 solicited in late April have contributed almost \$3,000 toward the \$5,000 goal. Representatives from each geographical area are now contacting those who have not yet given and asking for participation.

This is the first time that GS alumni have been approached for monetary contributions, and the hope is that this project will encourage the continuity of involvement in the Farm School. The response so far is evidence of young Americans' support of their friends in Greece and their belief in the important role the American Farm School plays in the lives of rural Greeks.



Student tending pigs in hog building to be renovated with Greek Summer alumni support.