

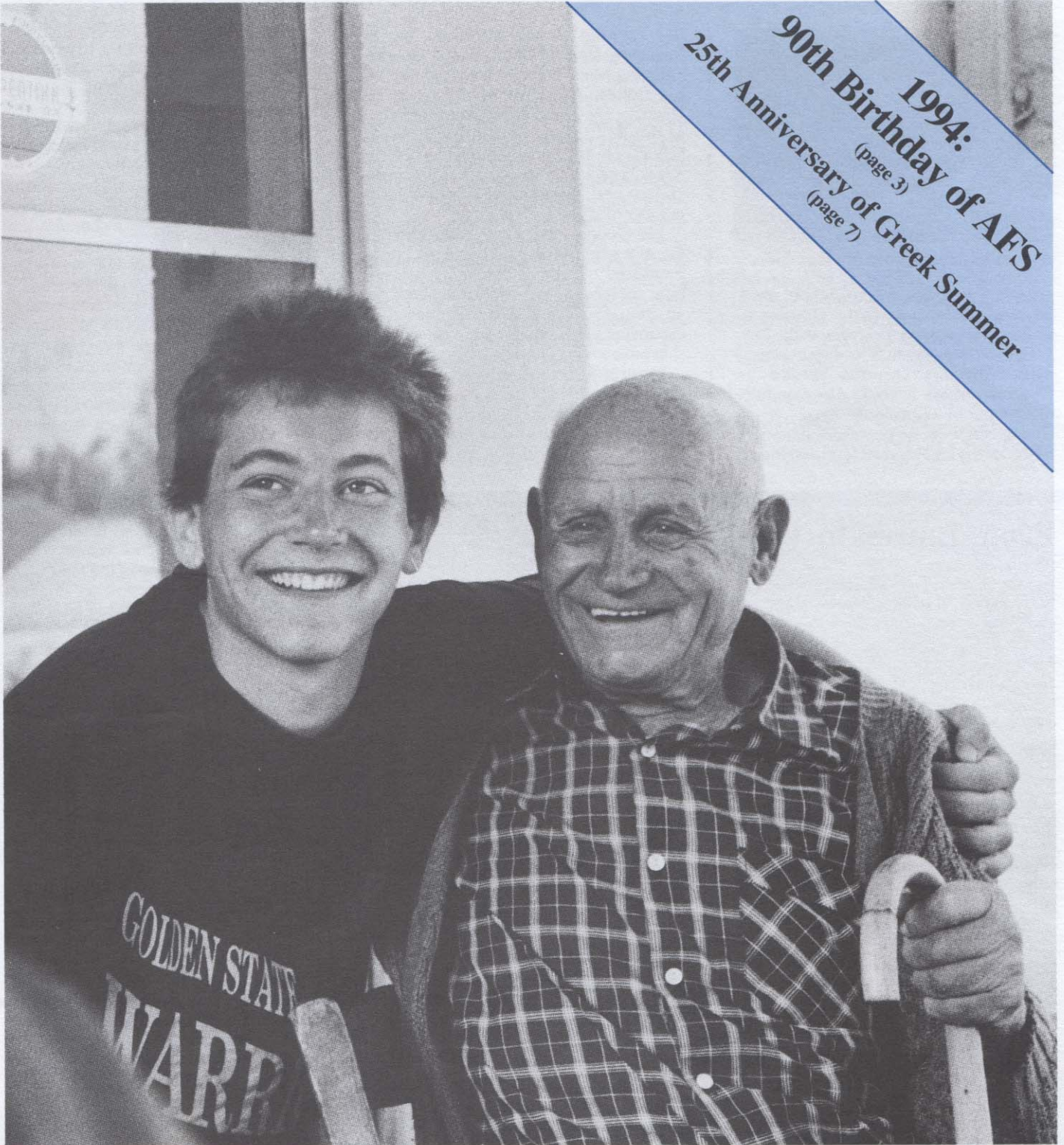
# THE SOWER

FALL-WINTER 1993-1994

The American Farm School

NO. 135

**1994:**  
**90th Birthday of AFS**  
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**25th Anniversary of Greek Summer**  
(page 7)





## Farm School's newest Trustees



Andonis Doudos

In May, the American Farm School elected two Trustees: Andonis Doudos in Greece and Howard R. Greene in the U.S.

One of Thessaloniki's leading businessmen, Andonis Doudos served as Chairman of the School's Development Committee in Thessaloniki for six years. During that time, he doubled the amount raised for the local annual fund and tripled

the number of contributors. He is Managing Director of the Costas Doudos Spinning Mills, a textile firm founded by his father. A native of the town of Naoussa, Mr. Doudos studied in Germany at the Reutlingen Textile Engineering School. He is a founding member of the Association of Exporters of Northern Greece and served as its president for a number of years.

Mr. Doudos first became interested in the AFS when he attended an open house organized by friends of the School. He now contributes two full scholarships on an annual basis and was instrumental in expanding the School's corporate scholarship program in Greece.

Howard R. Greene attended Dartmouth College and the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University. He is the author of numerous articles and two books on education, and has appeared on

national television as an expert on higher education admissions. As founder and president of The Educational Consulting Center, Mr. Greene offers educational counseling and planning to students throughout the United States and abroad. The Center consults to corporations, foundations, and



Howard R. Greene

public and private secondary schools, in addition to running workshops in London and Paris for the U.S. State Department.

As an educational counselor, Mr. Greene has referred a number of high school students to the AFS's Greek Summer program which he considers an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange and personal growth.

## From Lowell to Thessaloniki

Leaving their Lowell, Massachusetts parish of 37 years, last May Father John and Presbyteria Niki Sarantos set out for Thessaloniki to take up ministry of the Farm School community with a sense of "great adventure."

Not that it was easy to leave the town where both were born and raised and where they were so beloved by three generations of parishioners that the street on which their Greek Orthodox church stands was named Father John Sarantos Way. But Father John was intrigued by the challenge of serving as the School's resident chaplain. They were also excited by the opportunity to live and work in Macedonia, birthplace of both of their fathers.

As School chaplain, Father John celebrates the Sunday liturgy and the many church holy days throughout the year, as well as providing spiritual guidance to students and staff families. Together they attend the daily morning assembly and have already become an important part of campus life.

Both were born in Lowell ("though not in the same parish," smiles Father John) and are first generation Greek-Americans.

Presbyteria Niki calls herself a "farmer's daughter" who as a child helped out on her family's turkey farm. Soon after he was ordained a priest in 1948, Father John and Presbyteria Niki were married and moved to their first parish in Lansing, Michigan where sons Peter and Demetrios were



Father John and Presbyteria Niki Sarantos

born. When the church of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour in Lowell offered its pastorate to Father John in 1956, the Sarantos' accepted, despite some doubts about the wisdom of moving "home."

"But it was a good decision, and we've had a wonderful life," Presbyteria Niki says

about the next 37 years in Lowell. They worked to build the church from a half-constructed shell to one of the most beautiful Greek Orthodox churches in North America. Their congregation grew from 170 to 700 families. They initiated a successful marriage counseling program open to all four Greek Orthodox Lowell parishes. And their home was always filled with parishioners and friends.

That hospitality continues in the Herb and Jessie Lansdale apartment at the top of Princeton Hall where the Sarantos' now live. They have already welcomed many friends from Lowell and elsewhere and encourage Greek Americans who are interested in visiting the School to get in touch with the School's New York office.

"We had no idea what a major contribution the School is making in Greece," said Father John. "More Greek-Americans should know about the important work it is doing and support it."

To find out more about how to visit the School and to reserve a room in its Cincinnati Hall Guest House, contact the New York office.



## 90 years young

The Farm School has always marked its milestones in a big way. Or rather, its students, staff, graduates and friends have always thrown themselves with such gusto into creating true celebrations of the School's continuity that its anniversary events have become expected and much-awaited traditions. This year will be no exception as we commemorate the School's 90th birthday.

But before the hoopla begins, I would like to take a moment to reflect on this particular juncture in the School's history.

The School begins its 90th year with a firm sense of identity and a clearly defined mission. Although other agricultural schools at the secondary level exist in Greece, the Farm School is unique in its hands-on philosophy and in the excellence of its facilities, programs and staff. In fact, the School is presently serving as a model for the development of three state-funded agricultural schools in other parts of Greece, as well as for schools in Albania and Bulgaria.

In its 90th year, the School is poised to formalize its post-secondary professional training programs to meet recognized needs. From what we have learned through our recent graduate survey and through our work in information dissemination in rural communities, it is clear that existing post-secondary agricultural education in Greece does not provide many of the skills those working in agriculture now need. We will launch a pilot training program at the post-secondary level next spring and hope to begin offering a post-secondary course of study the following year.

In response to the many changes taking place in agriculture and the European market, the School has modified its training to give new emphasis in our practical programs to processing, packaging and marketing, as well as to the development of high quality and specialized agricultural products. We keep our staff abreast of new trends in production farming and agricultural education through training programs, both here in Greece and abroad (see California Training, page 4).

Helping rural communities make the most of their resources has always been important to the School. Now, with funding from the European Community through its INTERREG and Carrefour programs, the American Farm School has become a center for agricultural information, fielding incoming requests, as well as disseminating information to farmers and farming families in northern Greek provinces. Through this exciting program, the School is fulfilling information needs not capable of being met by any other private or governmental agency.

The 90-year history of the Farm School is intimately bound up with that of the Balkans. We believe that the School's ongoing assistance to agricultural educational institutions in Albania and Bulgaria

through on-campus training programs and in-country technical assistance (see AFS Reaches Out, page 6) will make some small contribution to the stability and development of the region.

The American Farm School today is as vital an institution as it has ever been. We hope you will continue to support the School as it changes and grows to meet the needs of the populations it serves and ask you to join us this year in giving the School the traditional Greek birthday salute of "CHRONIA POLLA!" ("and many years to come!")

George Draper  
Director

## American Farm School Mission Statement

An independent, non-profit agricultural school, the American Farm School serves Greek high school students, as well as adults and selected international groups, by providing vocational and technical training. The School's mission is to prepare its students for leadership roles in community life and in the agriculture and food industry, and to do so in an environment that fosters individual initiative, a spirit of enterprise, an appreciation of excellence and the ability to work cooperatively. In pursuing this mission, the School teaches and demonstrates farming practices that are economically viable, ecologically sound and socially responsible. The School is committed to serving Greece in its role as a member of the European Community and to furthering understanding and friendship between the Greek and American people.



## California training transferred to the AFS farm



Sakis Souldouris and Costas Evangelou

Costas Evangelou and Sakis Souldouris returned from their three weeks in California this summer full of ideas for improving the School's demonstration and

training farm.

Costas, the School's Farm Manager, and Sakis, Head of the School's Dairy Department, together attended a dairy

training course at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo co-sponsored by the University and World-Wide Sires, Inc., the world's largest supplier of U.S. dairy genetics.

One week of the Cal Poly course included visits to commercial and registered dairies, veterinarian clinics, embryo companies and cheese factories. As Sakis then hunkered down to two more weeks of hands-on technical training in dairy management, Costa spent time in Ventura hosted by Farm School friend Minos Athanassiades on his 2,000-acre vegetable production farm, Underwood Ranch. In addition to studying the successful production and marketing techniques of this impressive operation, Costas had the opportunity to visit other farms, poultry operations, seed production companies, wineries, vineyards and slaughterhouses in both Ventura and Santa Clara counties.

Costas and Sakis were invigorated by the trip and excited about the possibilities for introducing new technologies, as well as making simple improvements to the School farm. "Ideas? We gathered enough ideas for the next 10 years," laughs Sakis. He has already implemented several in the areas of hygiene and nutrition and has plans to initiate other changes in breeding and facilities.

Costas also saw much to draw from on his most recent travels in California. He would like to establish a Farmers' Market selling School products, including bagged compost. He hopes to produce vegetables hydroponically to reduce growing time and space. In addition to the demonstration and training value, he sees a market for introducing specialty vegetables and exotic varieties. He appreciated the functional simplicity of the latest farm structures he saw in the U.S. and hopes to adapt some elements to the School's new piggery, poultry units and slaughterhouse projected for construction over the next five years.

## "Taverna Under the Stars" and Greek Summer Reunion



Greek Summer parent and AFS Trustee Manita Scocimara, Marielle "Mudd" Scocimara (GS '86), Peter Scocimara (GS '82), Tina Salomon (GS '86) and Geoff Hanson (GS '85, GS counselor '90).

**SAVE THE DATE!** Come celebrate the 90th anniversary of the American Farm School and the 25th anniversary of Greek Summer. On June 14, 1994, the biennial Greenwich "Taverna under the Stars" will be held at the Indian Harbor Yacht Club in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Old friends and new are invited to join

in the "kefi," dining and dancing, and Greek Summer alumni from every year are invited to this all-out reunion to commemorate a quarter-century of the Greek Summer program. Please contact the American Farm School's New York office for more information.

## "Mountain Day" marks the start of the new year



*"Those of us returning for the last year come back with a different attitude. I think we already feel how much we are going to miss it here."*

Markos Sapoundjoglou, third-year lyceum  
Pella



*"It's great meeting friends so different from yourself from all over Greece!"*

Spyros Michaelides, first-year lyceum  
Kilkis



*"It's a very beautiful place to go to school. My friends from home are not going to believe how lucky I am!"*

Domna Panayiotopoulou, first-year lyceum  
Drama



Tug of War

It is a Farm School tradition for students to spend the Saturday of the first "closed weekend" (when all 235 students remain on campus) cavorting on nearby Mt. Hortiatis. In between games of soccer, tugs-of-war, and human pyramid, students were asked how it felt to be back.



Human pyramid



*"I worked hard on our farm in Aridaia this summer and it feels great to be back at school. We become very close to one another and to our teachers; it's like another family."*

Vasso Filiopoulou, third-year lyceum  
Thessaloniki



*"I'm still getting used to everything, but I like the environment and the teachers. I'm sure I'll be happy here."*

Maria Sottirakoglou, first-year lyceum  
Thessaloniki



*"It's funny the things you find you enjoy about going to school here...always having a friend around, the color of the cows' hides, even cleaning out the chicken pens!"*

Georgos Dimitriades, third-year lyceum  
Halkidiki



## AFS reaches out to its Balkan neighbors



Virginia Tech Professor John Crunkilton leads a discussion on Curriculum Development with participants from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, enrolled in the Thessaloniki International Training Program.



The syllabus on Teaching Methods is presented to Albanian educators by Virginia Tech Professor emeritus James Clouse.



Albanian professors and teachers play the role of students while visiting the Farm School.



AFS Summer Work Activities Program (SWAP) participants renovated the classrooms of the agricultural middle schools in the towns of Korca and Berat in Albania and won the hearts of these local children. The schools opened this September with a brand new curriculum of practical agricultural education modeled on the Farm School.

This past summer, the American Farm School shared its experience in developing agricultural training programs with educators from Albania and Bulgaria. These intensive short courses were designed after study visits had been made by Farm School staff to participating institutions, and from those institutions to the School. The Farm School model of hands-on training is being applied by these institutions as

they adapt to profound and rapid changes in their countries' economies. Serving selected international groups through vocational and agricultural training is part of the Farm School's mission. The School recognizes the importance of contributing to the stability and agricultural development of the Balkans by providing experienced technical assistance and training.



Albanian short-course participants practice building a modern hen house.



Bulgarian participants in the Thessaloniki International Training Program gather on the steps of the School's Princeton Hall.



## Greek Summer 1993

June 22, 1993: The departure terminal of JFK airport looked like it does on any typical afternoon. The airport was humming with seasonal travellers as passengers scurried quickly along. Secured to a column at the entrance to the terminal was a banner reading "Greek Summer." The same banner that, five weeks later, would be taking its twenty-fourth climb to the summit of Mt. Olympus.

Although the banner was a curiosity to passersby, it prompted a sigh of relief from thirty-eight youngsters who appeared at the terminal and clustered around it. Some were already tired from travel from as far away as Hawaii, California, Nevada and Arizona. The group that huddled around the banner grew larger as flights arrived bringing participants from Ohio, Maine, Illinois, Georgia, Florida and Pennsylvania. A group appeared from Boston, and another from Washington, DC. Some drove to the airport from Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

Just as the group prepared to board the flight, the Greek Summer banner came off the wall and slid into a suitcase to head over for its 24th summer adventure.

The banner made its first appearance four days into the program at the welcoming ceremony in Vaptistis, this year's Greek Summer village. It was hung carefully on the wall of the taverna where it stood as a backdrop to the Greek Summer participants who lined one side of the village square. Entire village families, from grandmothers and grandfathers to newborns, lined the other side of the square to get a glimpse of these young Americans who had travelled so far to build a road in their rural community. It was the village children who first stepped forward to express the curiosity that everyone in the square was undoubtedly feeling. They slowly approached, smiled, touched the Americans' clothes and giggled before scurrying back to the safety of their families on the other side.

At seven o'clock the following morning, the young Americans appeared from their village homes refreshed, and convened in the square to start the first day of what would be three weeks of hard work under the hot Greek sun. They shared stories with each other of the incredible hospitality that they had experienced the night before. "My family slept on the sofa in the

living room and insisted I stay in their bedroom!" "I have never eaten so much for breakfast in my life!"

The villagers grew curious after watching the Greek Summer participants at work, asking "What drives these youngsters to work so hard?" On the third day, the villagers approached Greek Summer Director Ginny Terzis and asked her to have the group slow down or they would hurt themselves.

After three weeks the road was nearing completion, and was three-quarters of a mile long. The Greek Summer 1993



Chris Santos of Potomac, MD (left) turns the cement mixer while Jenny Salomon of Greenwich, CT, shovels gravel and cement.



Marianne Gimon of Greenwich, CT, and her Vaptistis village grandmother "yiayia."

banner came off the taverna wall and was packed into a backpack to head off with the American youngsters on the ten-day "Big Trip." The Greek Summer 1993 group toured the Greek mainland by charter bus, and the islands by hydrofoil boat. This summer's group visited the ancient ruins at Dion, the remarkable hilltop monasteries of Meteora, and the ruins of Delphi, where they had a running race in the ancient Olympic stadium still standing there. In Athens the group climbed the



Greek Summer 1993 at the Parthenon.

Acropolis, and posed for a Greek Summer photo, complete with banner, before the awesome Parthenon. They visited the waterside town of Nauplio where they spent two days visiting local sites and beaches. The Big Trip wound down with a three-day stay on the Sporades island of Skiathos. A quick hydrofoil ride took them back to Thessaloniki and to the Farm School to prepare for the finishing touches in Vaptistis.

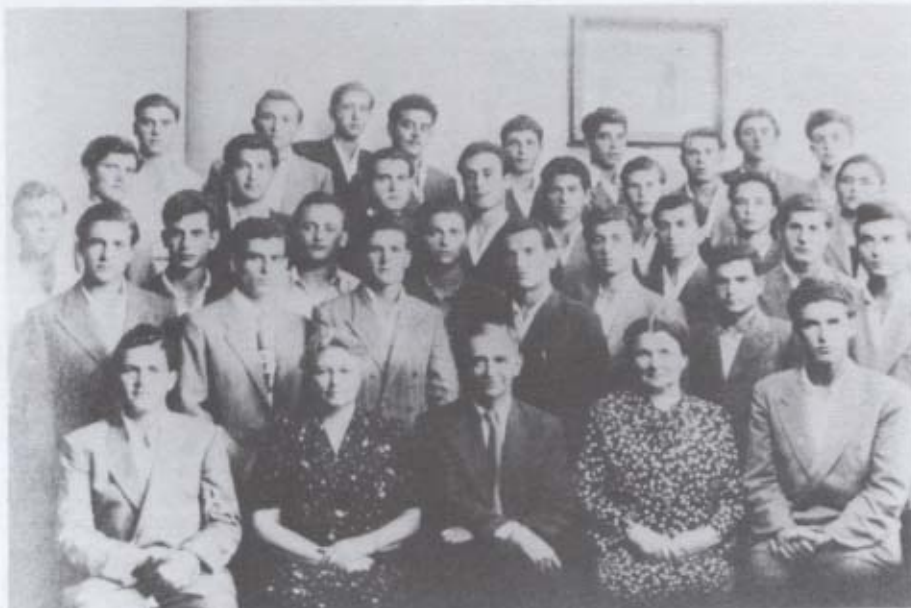
Greek Summer would not be complete without the pivotal climb to the top of Mount Olympus. With the Greek Summer banner in hand, the group set out on the long hike to the mountain lodge at the foot of the steepest peak. Weary from a full day's climb, they awoke the following morning, and in the cold mountain air, set out on the final challenge of the summer — a two-hour hike to the summit. For the twenty-fourth summer, that banner was held high atop the mountain. The group posed proudly. Proud of the hike. Proud of their hard work in the village. Proud of the strong friendships they had made with the villagers and with each other. Above all, proud of the strength that they had discovered within themselves that made the accomplishments of the summer possible.



Greek Summer 1993 atop Mt. Olympus.



## From the archives



The class of 1949 with Ann, Charlie and Ruth House

One of the most dramatic chapters in the annals of Farm School history concerns the kidnapping of the entire class of 1949. World War II had ended, and the German occupying troops had left the campus in 1944, enabling the School to reopen in the fall of 1945. But conflict between political parties within Greece led to civil war in the late 1940's, and Communist soldiers of the ELAS party were active in Northern Greece. On the night of January 29, 1949, a band of guerillas infiltrated Princeton Hall and kidnapped 37 boys and four young teachers with the objective of inducting them into ELAS forces. The photograph above attests to the fact that they all escaped and made their way back to the School in time for graduation the following spring. The boys' stories of how they eluded their captors, and in twos and threes made their way back (the last student returned to school in April) would have made an entire book in itself.

This photograph brings to mind the individuals involved, and causes us to wonder at the misadventures they suffered. Each graduating class creates its own history and leaves its own mark on the School. We want to bring these class photographs from their archival repository

back into the light of day, and let these faces again populate our halls. Now, thanks to a generous gift from Mrs. Margaret Sanders, wife of Honorary Trustee, Dr. Irwin T. Sanders, we are able to search out graduation photographs and have them uniformly enlarged and framed for permanent exhibit in chronological order. Volunteers from the Thessaloniki Group for Student Services have turned up a number of class photographs (see dates below). But there are many more missing.

I would like to thank all those who responded to requests for back issues of *The Sower* and *Sporeas* and to ask for help tracking down graduation photographs as well. If you have a photograph, we will be immensely grateful to you for lending it to us for reproduction. We will treat it with care and return it safely. Or, if you wish to give it to the Archives, we will house the original in protective folders for posterity.

In addition to a number of undated groups which we are attempting to identify, the graduation pictures in the Archives are of the following classes: 1913, 1914, 1927, 1931, 1939, 1940, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, and 1990 to the present.

Charlotte Draper



## The American Farm School

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

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