

# AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL      THESSALONICA, GREECE

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## NEWS LETTER

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The last News Letter sent out in January has brought so many pleasant comments that we venture to send you another bulletin of events at the American Farm School covering the past six months.

A most gratifying response to the need for more cows has resulted in special gifts which have paid for nine new Semental\* cows from Jugo-Slavia. Mr. Hadji, head of the Agricultural Department, secured Jugo-Slavia for suitable cows, marched with them the thirty miles to the railroad station, and travelled with them for 48 hours in the crowded box car all the way to Salonica. And while we are on the subject of cows, we would like to announce that the School now has its first pure bred Guernsey heifer, daughter of "Pioneer's Count", gift of Mr. Kinney of the Waldorf Farms, and "Grecian Princess", the gift of Mrs. George W. Perkins. Two new Guernsey heifers have been presented to the School this year, one from the late Mrs. Davey of Kinderhook, New York, and one from the McDonald Farms of Cortland, New York. The dairy is now able to supply more milk and has also started the making of cheese, a very important item in the diet of the people of the Balkans. The cheese press was made in the School carpenter and machine shops and was assembled with brakes and drop legs and old coil springs from old army carts of twenty years ago.

Arbor Day, and the special exercises in connection with tree planting, came on February 12th with the Governor General of Macedonia as the special speaker. Mr. Litsas, a member of the staff and also Boy Scout Commissioner for Macedonia, and the members of the Boy Scout Troops of Salonica and the School, have planted more than 8,000 trees during the past year, not only on the School grounds but in various parts of the city. The City Council has voted to call the hill back of the city, Scout Hill, because the scouts have not only planted the trees but have cared for and watered them through dry seasons and protected them on holidays.

On March 13th the School and the Boy Scouts Troop played hosts on the School grounds to thirty girl guides, who are in training for Patrol Guides for the Girl Scouts of Salonica.

"This is also the time for picnics", writes Mrs. House, "and we have had from 50 to 200 children every day for the past four or five days. They are really very good about not leaving papers about, but we will be glad when the new grove is ready and they will not need to be so close to the School."

Mr. and Mrs. George Gardner, of Princeton, New Jersey, have just completed their first year at the School, and they have made their home a

\* Swiss cows imported into Jugo-Slavia

very happy place for the boys, in addition to their valuable contributions to the life of the School.

Mr. Gentle-Cackett, secretary of the Bible Lands Missions Aid Society of England, made a visit to the School in March bringing a gift this time of 30 eggs which he carried around with him over rough roads. He held the eggs on his knees and many times had to keep his heels off the floor of the car in order not to jar the eggs. His care was rewarded by the hatching of 16 chicks, nine Rhode Island Reds and seven White Leghorns.

Early in April Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Maynard arrived from England to visit the Society of Friends scholarship boys. They remained ten days and saw many of the boys in their village homes. On the 9th, the senior class went out to spend a weekend at the Demonstration Farm at Veria. They also visited the farms of a number of the graduates in that vicinity. On the 13th, Mr. Paul Morgan, a trustee of the Alden Fund of Worcester, Mass., spent a full day at the School. On the 19th, the anniversary of the death of Dr. House, Founder of the School, a memorial service was held in Boyden Hall.

Early in May, Mr. and Mrs. Charles House, Mrs. John House and Miss Ruth House spent their spring vacation at the Veria Demonstration Farm. To the delight of all the neighboring farmers, Mr. House installed electric lights at the Farm house with the help of an old engine which came originally from an orphanage on Mt. Olympus.

On June 6th, Mrs. John House and Miss Ruth House arrived in the United States for a year's furlough. They will spend the winter in New York.

Exhibition Day came on June 18th with a record attendance of officials, parents and nearby farmers. One of the graduates read a paper on "Problems in Starting a Farm and a Four Year Plan". He outlined in some detail his four year plan and stated his purpose in these words:

"Most of us come from rural communities and all of us plan to go back to such communities. Our aim is not to preach farming but to get a living out of farming.

"Today we graduate, tomorrow we will face the numerous problems connected with starting farming, one of the hardest of enterprises. We are not afraid. Work and knowledge is the way of successful farming, and that is exactly what we came for to this school."

In July, Dr. Clarence McCartney of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, made a second visit to the School, after which he and Mr. House took a two weeks trip to the islands of Patmos and Chios, and to Asia Minor.

As we closed another fiscal year in August we do want to express our gratitude to all friends for their interest and support during this past year.