



United States Office: 45 East 65th Street • New York 21, New York

November, 1958

## GRADUATION DAY IN GREECE

**STRAW HAT "CERTIFICATES,"** symbolizing that the recipient has earned the right to call himself a farmer, were awarded to 33 graduates on Commencement Day, June 8, by *Ambassador James Riddleberger and Director Bruce Lansdale*. Some 3,000 parents, friends and guests were on hand.

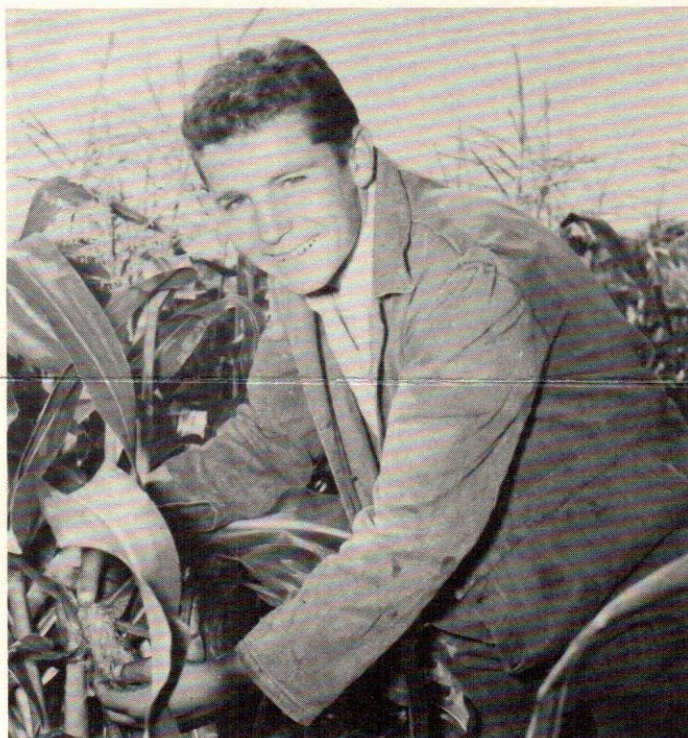
Graduate Chrysostomos Papadopoulos (right) displays the School's hybrid corn — the best in Greece. He and his classmates will put into practice on their farms throughout Greece the knowledge gained in their 4-year course.

Chrys' parents live on a 7½ acre farm outside Kastoria, in northwestern Macedonia. Besides Chrys there are three brothers, one sister.

In the communist guerilla warfare their home was burned, their livestock stolen.

Today they raise grain and tobacco on their partially restored holding. They own one mule, one donkey, but as yet no farm machinery.

Chrys plans to augment the family income with this corn, a prime cash crop. It will help to offset the crippling losses of war and flood.



## NEW HOPE FOR FARMERS IN VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

The first of a series of *Village Development Conferences* was held at the School on May 22, 23 and 24 this year. Conceived by Director Lansdale, the Conferences have a three-fold purpose: more effective coordination of the Extension Service of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture; full utilization of the resources of village cooperatives; and the maximum use of the credit facilities of the Agricultural Bank.

Thus, the Conferences will serve as a vehicle through which the trained technical knowledge of Farm School graduates can be used to greater advantage in promoting a fuller life and higher living standards for the farmers of Greece. Mr. Lansdale was convinced that the confidence of the village leaders could be won and their support enlisted if they could be shown the practical advantages of *cooperation* in solving common problems.

Traditional conservatism and devotion to *age-old methods* might break down through an exchange of ideas and discussions of improved agricultural techniques, he felt.

Officials of the Greek government co-operated enthusiastically. Mr. Basil Moussouros, Director of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, delivered the opening address. Speakers included major officials of the area — agricultural experts, bankers and engineers.

A grant to the School from the *Unitarian Service Committee of Canada* covered all costs and includes the full-time services of an agronomist trained in rural sociology.

The planned attendance of 45 village leaders was expanded, at the urging of village presidents, to 90. The following quotation from a letter from the Director of the Coordinating Committee of Greece's National Foundation to Director Lansdale summarizes the official opinion of the success of the undertaking:

"Your initiative in setting up such a conference and your exceptional organization of it is an example for the organization of further similar conferences in other areas of Greece. . . . I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet soon and discuss further this very interesting program of village development."

The farmer's viewpoint was summed up in the reply one man made to his wife's complaint that he had left his fields at the most important time of the year.

"I don't care if we lose all our harvest. What I learned in three days at the Farm School was worth as much as anything we can produce!"

To Director Lansdale the most significant of the many spirited discussions was that on "the place of rural youth in village development." It is in this area that he believes the greatest gains can be achieved. The School was founded to train youth to take their rightful place as leaders in their communities. Through the full employment of the skills and knowledge of farmers of all ages the goal of a fuller life can be reached.

Well pleased with the results, all are hard at work planning the next conference.



## GREEK AMERICAN SOCIETIES GRANT SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHOOL

In tangible recognition of the importance of the Farm School in the education of the youth of rural Greece, three Greek American societies have donated scholarship assistance thus far in the 1958-59 fiscal year.

The first of these was given at the 11th *Pan-Laconian* convention in Chicago in July. *Charles Brown*, native of Petrina and longtime resident of Toronto, presented a full four-year grant to retiring president *John S. Manos*, of Philadelphia, who accepted for the School.

Later that month, the *Pan-Macedonian Association* met in Manchester, N.H., and voted two annual scholarships. The resolution was introduced by retiring president *James T. Hatzis*. Mr. Hatzis had just returned from a visit to the School with a party of Americans revisiting their native Macedonia. His report of their reception aroused considerable interest.

In August, *Trustee Nicholas C. Culolias* was invited to address the delegates to the 32nd national convention of *AHEPA* in Boston. A United States resident since the age of twelve, Mr. Culolias told the delegates of his visit to his native Arcadia during his six-month tour of Greece in 1956.

Mr. Culolias commented on the complete dependence of a large majority of the people upon agriculture which he had observed in his extensive tour. Of his visit to the School he said:

"I got a genuine thrill to see a bit of America hard at work in Greece under inspired and dedicated leadership."

The delegates broke with precedent and approved a resolution introduced by *George A. Condos*, Detroit, grant-

## A NOTE TO OUR NEW FRIENDS

For many of you, this will be your first copy of our Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy it and, after reading of the School, that you will wish to become an active supporter, as well as a friend.

Checks may be made payable to: The American Farm School, and mailed to our United States office, 45 E. 65 Street, New York City 21. Your contribution is, of course, tax deductible. Or, we should be happy to receive your pledge, payable at designated intervals.

May we say we shall be grateful for whatever amount, large or small, that you may send us.

Sincerely yours,

CRAIG R. SMITH,

*President.*

ing scholarship aid to our School and to *Anatolia College*. Previously such assistance had been confined to loans to sons or daughters of Ahepans attending institutions located in North America.

Mr. Culolias, commenting on this action, said, "It will certainly be reflected in an added impetus to the improvement of the living standards of predominantly agricultural Greece."

*President Constantine Verinis* of AHEPA and ex-presidents Hatzis and Manos were unanimous in the opinion that these actions were the first steps in a continuing program of their organizations to provide support to the School.



Some of the ninety community leaders assembled in James Hall at the opening session of the **first Village Development Conference**. Included among the priests, village presidents, secretaries and other local officials are, (front row, right) **Mr. Ali** and **Mr. Siaki**, Directors of Extension of Turkey and Italy, respectively. They attended as observers.



## THE STUDENTS SPEAK

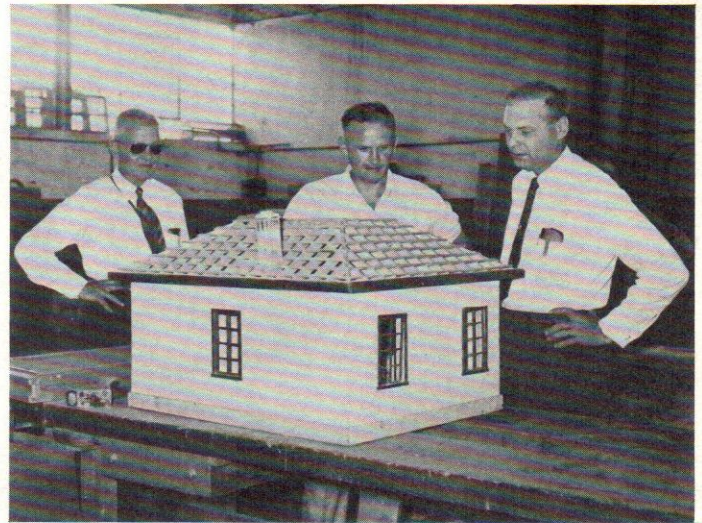
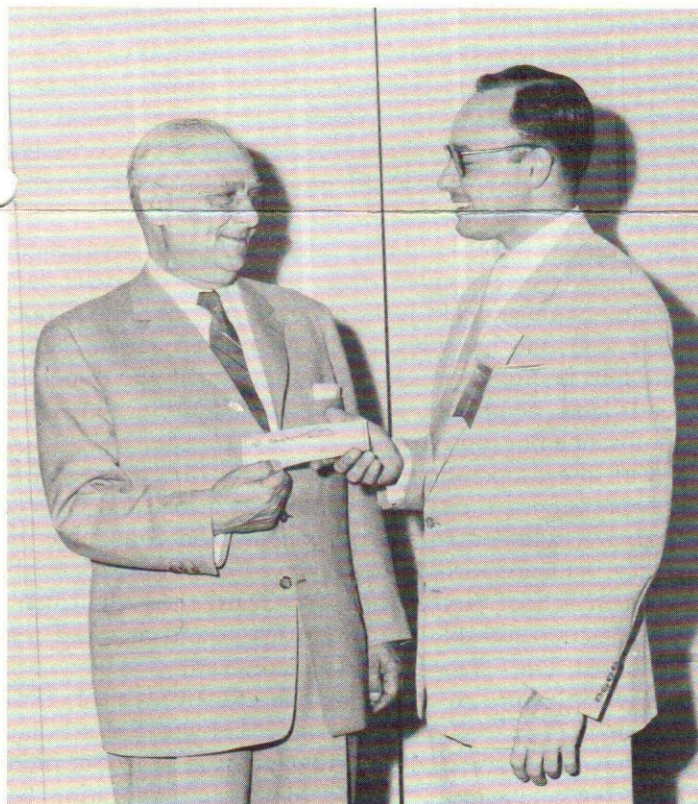
"Village boys from many parts of Greece, we came here four years ago to learn the agricultural skills and knowledge which we will need to develop a better life for ourselves and our villages.

"As we leave the classrooms and the workshops of our beloved School which took us in, like a second mother, we can rightly say that we gained something much more than agricultural knowledge and skills. We developed confidence and faith in ourselves and our future. We have lived a Christian life filled with love and dreams. We developed a spirit of self help and cooperation. We have grown in our faith — and love for our beloved Greece and what our country stands for. We believe in the future of the Greek farmer because we believe that with the application of new farming methods he can raise his standard of living and that life in the villages will become even richer.

"We promise to do our best returning to our villages to be of service to our families, our communities and our beloved country."

So spoke *Anastasios Koutsomitopoulos*, valedictorian of the Class of 1958, on Commencement Day, June 8th.

He has returned to his native Kalamata, in the Peloponnesus, to devote his energies and resources to modern farming and good citizenship. He, with Chrys (see page 1), and their classmates have now returned to their homes throughout Greece. However, they have left with Director Lansdale, the faculty and staff, a sense of achievement: Greece is the richer by thirty-three farmers.



### MULTUM IN PARVO

A MODEL HOUSE, constructed in the carpentry course, is inspected by **Edwin J. Bell (1.)**, **Agricultural Attaché**, Director Lansdale, and **Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Paarlberg**. The house is complete in every detail, and embodies all modern construction principles. The students learn to reconstruct the dwelling, family size, in their native villages.

## PAARLBERG INSPECTS, APPROVES

*Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Don Paarlberg* visited the School this summer with *Agricultural Attaché Bell* of our Embassy. Greece was one of the countries included in his tour of our partners in mutual assistance.

Dr. Paarlberg's thorough inspection prompted him to write Director Lansdale this comment:

"I heard a phrase the other day which describes, in rather technical terms, what you are doing: 'up-grading the quality of the human input in agriculture.' *While the phrase is a bit stuffy, it describes in economic terms the thing so needful in agriculture, the thing you are doing so well.*"

"Stuffy" or not, the phrase epitomizes the conviction of the founder and his successors: *that he who truly learns the dignity of labor will be a better farmer, a better citizen.*

[EDITORIAL NOTE: Shortly after Dr. Paarlberg's return to Washington, he was appointed Special Assistant to the President, as his personal adviser on economic matters.]

### PAN-LACONIAN SCHOLARSHIP

The first installment of a full four-year **Pan-Laconian Scholarship** is presented by donor **Charles Brown, Toronto**, to **John S. Manos, Philadelphia**, retiring president of **Pan-Laconian Federation of America**, at annual convention in Chicago, concluding July 4th.





George Vlahopoulos, the winner, skillfully backs his tractor into position during the tractor driving feature of a contest in which the entrants competed in both speed and dexterity in handling farm equipment.

## ALL-GREECE YOUTH CONGRESS MEETS

One hundred and thirty farm boys and girls from all parts of Greece, as well as agriculturists and home economists, attended the *Third Annual Rural Youth Congress* at the School over a September weekend. In addition to official delegates, almost 600 Youth Club members, some from communities as remote as Crete and Rhodes, were on hand.

The Congress, sponsored by the *Greek Ministry of Agriculture*, was modeled after the annual 4-H Club Congress in Chicago. Two of the delegates imparted an international flavor: they represented Kansas and Ohio, U.S.A.

Discussions of common agricultural problems, practical demonstrations, tractor driving and athletic competitions held the delegates' attention at a high level through the four-day session.

This is but one of many ways in which the School has cooperated with the Extension Service of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture in its program of leadership training. One result has been the growth in Rural Youth Clubs from a mere handful ten years ago to more than 900 clubs today, with a total membership of 22,000.

Hundreds of School graduates provide much of the leadership in these clubs.

## ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION GRANT

Officers of the *Rockefeller Foundation* approved in June a grant of \$8,600 to the School for a study of broiler poultry management.

The money will be used, over a three-year period, to educate the farmers of northern Greece in the practical advantages of raising *broiler poultry* for home consumption and as a supplement to the family income. To accomplish this, a fully-equipped broiler house will be constructed and operated.

At present the broiler industry is virtually unknown in Northern Greece. Poultry is one of the most popular items of the Greek diet, but prices are high and quality poor.

Director Lansdale hopes, through the dissemination of

*new practices* — both in breeding and feeding — to accomplish two purposes: Increased demand through better quality, and lower costs and prices through improved methods. Good news to both farmer and consumer.

American poultry raisers have joined this partnership of Foundation and School. They have generously provided the necessary parent stock and chicks to start off the program.

Yet another notable feature is that, after the initial stage, this project will be partially *self-supporting*. The sale of feed and chicks to the farmers will cover at least a portion of the labor and maintenance expense.

## ROCHESTER COMMITTEE'S "NEW LOOK"

Shortly after Director Lansdale's visit to his "home town" (he is a *University of Rochester* graduate, class of '46), co-chairmen *David M. Allyn* and *J. E. "Red" Gramlich* put their heads together. Rochesterians have long been in the forefront of contributors to the School. Indeed, the campus and buildings are profuse with Rochester-made and Rochester-donated products. But this was not enough, they concluded.

What is the School for, they felt, but to teach youngsters. And how, they reasoned, can these rugged Greek lads from the small and hilly farms ever get into the School unless someone provides a scholarship. So a *new policy* came into being: to solicit, from thoughtful and generous friends and neighbors, *one-year scholarships*. One contributor, one boy, one year.

With the cooperation of *Trustee* and *Mrs. Harper Sibley*, who opened their home for the occasion, and *George M. Angle*, who organized the meeting on time-table efficiency, a record turnout heard once again, on May 27th, the Farm School Story. They also heard their chairmen's plan of action. Freshly prepared background material was distributed. The "New Look" was launched.

It is a pleasure to report on the effectiveness of "*The Rochester Plan*," as it has become known. Six scholarships have been received since that night in May. Six more Greek boys have been assured of a year's education because of Rochester's neighborliness.