

NEWSLETTER

FROM

The American Farm School

ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

THESSALONICA, GREECE.... Also called SALONICA



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

JUNE, 1958



Students and staff pose happily before the "Cow Palace" at the School with the newly arrived Black Aberdeen Angus heifers and bull calf. These are the first beef cattle to be imported into Greece.

IANSDALE REALIZES LONG CHERISHED AMBITION

A long step forward in the plans of our Director and the faculty was accomplished with the arrival of the four Aberdeen Angus cattle at the School.

The bull calf and three heifers were the gift of The Association of Aberdeen Angus Breeders of America to the rural population of Northern Greece and were exhibited at the Salonica International Trade Fair — where they "stole the show" as a major attraction in the United States exhibit — before returning to their permanent home at the School to be used for breeding purposes.

President Eisenhower, acting for the Association, presented the pure-bred cattle to Greek Ambassador George V. Melas in a White House ceremony, citing the gift as a "fine example of people-to-people approach to mutual aid."

Ambassador Melas, in accepting the gift in behalf of the Greek people, added warmest personal thanks to the donors "for their valuable contribution towards promoting an important branch of Greek rural economy."

MELAS DESCRIBES SCHOOL'S PART IN FOSTERING AGRICULTURE

Speaking of the permanent home of the cattle, Ambassador Melas said:

"The American Farm School in Salonica, the capital of Northern Greece, has for long years seriously contributed to the development of the best agricultural regions of Greece. This new contribution for which we are much indebted to you, Mr. President, will add yet another precious means of improving the conditions of the hard-working farmers and we regard it as a new, valuable token of the unceasing good will of this great country towards Greece, already displayed in so many ways."

The students exuberantly and graphically expressed their gratitude for this gift which may mean much to their fathers and families. Clad in uniforms of dark blue dungarees, they spelled out "Thank You Ike" on the athletic field. A photograph of this accompanied a formal expression of gratitude to the President in Washington.

PRESIDENT REPLIES

The misgivings of some of the more conservative of the faculty who believed that it might be construed as disrespectful to address a president of a great and friendly nation so familiarly, were completely allayed when Director Lansdale received this note on White House stationery.

"I was amused, and delighted, by the unusual way the students of the American Farm School chose to thank me for the gift of cattle made to them by the Aberdeen Angus Breeders Association. To all of you, my warm gratitude for your greeting.

"It is, of course, highly gratifying to know of the interest displayed by the people of Greece in the cattle; I am proud to have had even a small part in the presentation.

"Won't you please accept for yourself and convey to the student body of the American Farm School my greetings and best wishes."

Thus, the first and all-important step in a long-cherished project of Director Lansdale was accomplished. It is one of his firm beliefs that the introduction of beef cattle into rural Greek economy will substantially increase the farmers' annual incomes, and will also supplement the diet of the rural population.

Most of the nearly two million people who admired the sturdy animals in the U. S. agricultural exhibit at the Salonica Fair are watching the developments with interest.

A BOY'S-EYE VIEW OF THE SCHOOL

George Nalbanoglou, a twelve-year-old resident of Souroti, a small village near Salonica, was invited, along with other members of his class, to attend the graduation exercises of the School on May 29th.

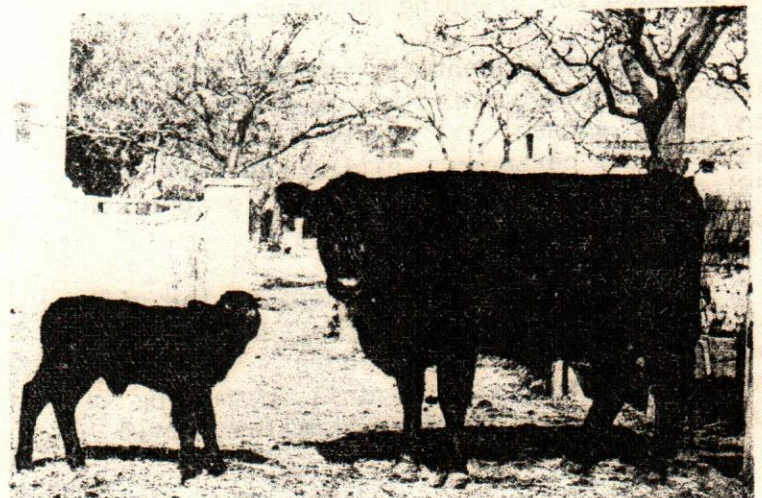
The following is a literal translation of George's impressions of that red-letter day in his life. Perhaps one day his ambition may be realized and he may, indeed, "go again" as a qualified member of the First (Freshman) Class.

"We talked it for days to make an excursion to the American Farm School. Tuesday came. All the boys are happy. They go and tell their mothers to prepare various foods for them as they would leave tomorrow for the American Farm School. On Wednesday morning all the boys clean, washed up and dressed come to school. As soon as the bus came the children like bees rushed into it arguing who would go in first. But the teacher put us in order and so all of us got a seat. The bus left. Everything looked beautiful, the birds sang happily as if they wanted to travel with us. The field was all green. The shepherd played his flute.

"In a moment the bus makes a turn and there is the American Farm School. We arrived. A small country lies before us like a paradise. For the first time all the children see such a lovely place. We get off the bus. The teacher cannot have any control on us. We want to see everything at once. We sat under the trees.

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The first of the above developments appears in the picture to the right. The little bull calf, born on February 14th, does credit, as can be seen, to his parents. The students have affectionately named him "Little Ike."



LAMBRINEDES BRINGS
NEW HOPE TO CHARALAMBOS

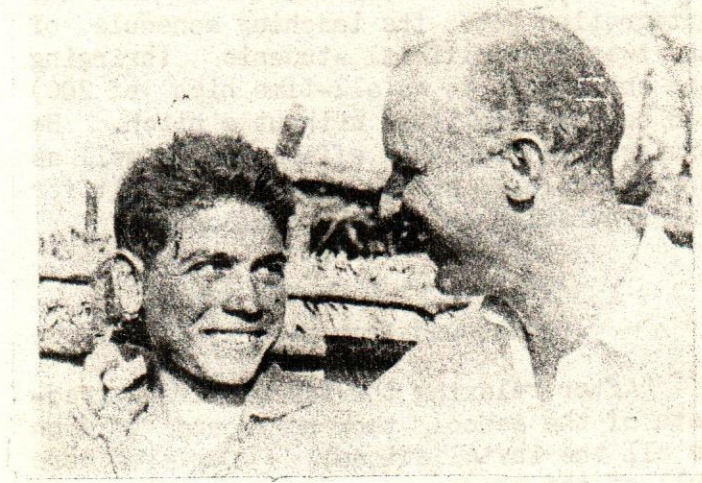
Charalambos Matsoukatides was fifteen years old in 1957. He comes from the village of Miriofilon in Northern Greece. His parents and four unmarried sisters live on five acres of land where they grow grain, corn and cotton. They have five oxen and five cows, five sows and one farrow.

During the occupation, their village was destroyed by the Germans, their livestock and agricultural products carried away. Then the communist guerillas completed the destruction and some of the villagers were burned in their homes. The Matsoukatides family was temporarily sheltered in the village of Metalliko, protected by the Greek army. But even there they were attacked, their cart and oxen seized, together with their grain, and the father was captured. He managed to escape after five days of captivity. In 1950 the family went back to their village, which eventually was rebuilt with government aid.

Charalambos ranked high in his classes at school and displayed, his teachers say, a considerable aptitude for farming. But the family resources, even strained to the utmost, could not finance his attendance at the school of his dreams, the American Farm School. With such an education, Charalambos believed that he and his father could improve the yield of their farm in many ways. And the \$150 a year for food, uniform and infirmity that the students' families are required to pay (all students are admitted on tuition scholarships) far exceeded the family means.

It happened, however, that one of the School's trustees, with his wife's enthusiastic approval, chose to honor the memory of a dear friend, a Greek, with a full four-year scholarship at the School. Needless to say, Director Lansdale cooperated wholeheartedly.

And, as a fitting gesture, the son of the trustee's friend, an Athenian attorney, flew to Salonica and, with Bruce, journeyed to Miriofilon to award, in his father's name, the memorial scholarship.



WHEN GREEK MEETS GREEK: HAPPINESS!

We are happy to report that Charalambos attacked his studies with such vigor that he now ranks among the leaders of his class. Oh yes, one thing more. The donor of the scholarship is visiting the School this month to meet Charalambos in person.

* 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 *

FACULTY WINS ACCOLADE

In his annual report to the trustees on March 6th, Director Lansdale said that the integration into the teaching schedule of the twenty additional students (bringing the enrollment to an all-time high of 200) had been accomplished without a hitch. He praised the faculty's efficiency as well as their morale, giving them full credit for the reputation enjoyed by the School.

A BOY'S-EYE VIEW OF THE SCHOOL (continued from page 2)

"After relaxing the teacher with a graduate of the school took us around to show us all the installations. Our eyes were full of the wonders. How many things to admire! The piggery, the poultry pens, the dairy barn, the various workshops in where, as our teacher explained, the students learn so many useful things. Our joy was so great that we did not want to go.

"Finally, the time for the exhibition came. Our teacher managed to place us in a good place from where we saw the whole show. What shall I describe to you? A big miracle! How much I wished to be a student of the American Farm School.

"We were so happy when we took the bus and now we felt sorry because this paradise lasted only one day. When I went back home I had not stopped telling to my people what I had seen. Oh, how I wished to go again!"

Ambassador George V. Allen combined official duties with pleasure and paid a visit to the School after officially opening the 1957 United States exhibit at the Salonica Trade Fair. He noted the various improvements made since his previous visit, and commented on the superior quality of the lightweight, economical building block made for village building construction.

LANSDALE ENLARGES SCOPE OF TOUR IN ANNUAL VISIT

Bruce Lansdale flew to Greece on March 9th, ending a two-month whirlwind tour, which included appearances in 19 cities of 13 states. Radio and TV appearances were scheduled in four cities, including a Greek language Sunday feature in New York.

In addition to visits to each of the local committees — Cincinnati, Princeton, Providence, Rochester, Wilmington, and Worcester — he was the honored guest at two luncheons in Washington, one tendered by Greek Ambassador George V. Melas, and the other by Undersecretary of Commerce Walter Williams.

Three states were added to his itinerary on this annual visit: Georgia, where he addressed the Rotary Club of Atlanta; Illinois, where — at the invitation of President Peter S. Sarelak — he spoke in Chicago before the members of the Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois; and New Hampshire, where he addressed an overflow meeting of Greek Americans in Manchester, arrangements for which were made by Doctor A. P. Cambadhis.

ALLEN SHOWN IMPROVED BUILDING BLOCK TURNED OUT BY STUDENTS

