

AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL • THESSALONICA, GREECE

New York Office: 45 East 65th Street, New York 21, New York

News - Letter

November 15, 1955

Dear Friends,

The opening of School this Fall marks the beginning of the second half of the first century of the School's operation. As we look back, we can feel nothing but the highest admiration for the founders, Dr. and Mrs. John Henry House, and for their successors, Charles and Ann House, who have so capably carried this School through times of trouble, warfare, occupation, as well as peace, always keeping in mind the original aim of the School, to develop Christian leaders for the villages of Greece. It is a time when we who will carry on where they have left off must look to the future with hope, prayer, and confidence, always trying to find new and better ways to fulfill the original aims in the years to come.

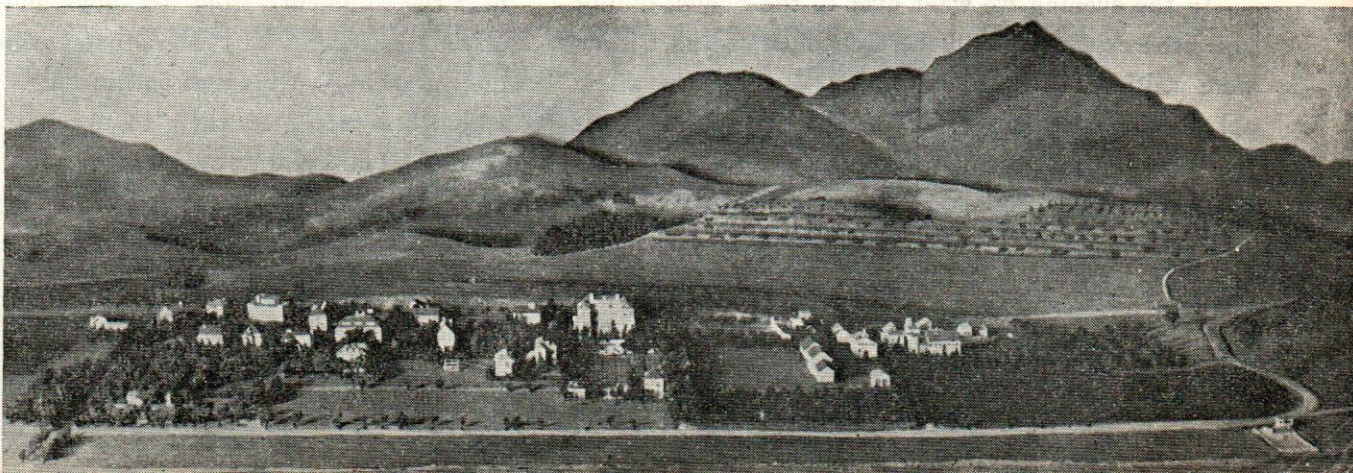
This period seems to have been particularly busy with the completion of our new church, the departure of the Houses, the School's participation in the American Pavilion of the Salonica Fair, the arrival of our new students, a review of the results of the Survey, and a large number of visitors from various parts of the world coming to visit the School.

On the following page, we are including a description of the Houses' departure which was indeed a fitting climax to their lives of service to the rural people of Greece. To fill the gap which they have left is a tremendous task. It will not be easy. However, we are confident that with the rich heritage which they have left behind, the help of a capable and dedicated staff, the advice of our Board of Trustees, the continued interest and support of our many friends, and with the guidance of the Almighty, that we will succeed in meeting the challenge which lies ahead.

On behalf of our students from all over Greece, our staff at the School, and our Board of Trustees, may we take this opportunity to send you our warmest greetings at Christmas and a prayer for a more peaceful New Year throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce A. Mansdale



The American Farm School as it appears today.

News of recent events at the School:

Mrs Bruce Lansdale on the Houses' departure

It's hard to believe that Ann and Charlie House have left Greece and are now in America. They had an overwhelming sendoff. Literally hundreds of friends, students, graduates, workers, and consuls thronged the train station at midnight on Wednesday, September 7, to bid their farewells to these beloved people. They burst into Greek and English versions of Auld Lang Syne and other favorites, and it was very moving to see how young and old, rich and poor, joined together to pay them tribute. As an American Major said to me afterward, "If that train had been five minutes more in pulling away, this would have been known as the Salonica flood of 1955."



The Houses' Departure.

The New Church

Their departure was the crowning point of a full and memorable day. Charlie was up at 5:30 a. m. putting the last finishing touches to our new Greek Orthodox Church on which he had worked full time since his return from Austria. At 8:00 the Bishop of Salonica with four priests was ready for the beautiful and symbolic dedication ceremony which lasted for 3½ hours. All the staff and many friends of the School were on hand, and afterwards we were all served loukoumades (a ball-shaped doughnut) in syrup. The Bishop had luncheon with us and expressed his great satisfaction in having been able to dedicate the Church before the Houses left for America.

The Farewell Dinner

In the evening we went over to the School dining hall where about 200 of the School staff and friends were waiting for them for dinner. There were a few apt speeches, bouquets of flowers, and the presentation of a lovely Pyrgos rug which all the staff had bought. Before they left in June, the fourth year boys had made records of familiar songs in both languages and these were played while the staff joined in singing

"God be with you 'til we meet again." It was simple, warm, and very touching. The Houses greeted each person as they left, and we all piled into buses and cars to go to the station, where a large crowd was already waiting. As Charlie wrote from Belgrade. "Our departure was one which will remain in our memories, a feast of love and devotion, and inspiration."

The Boys' Arrival

A little over a month ago the major part of the student body began returning from their villages some on foot, some by cart, and some in groups in old worn taxis, coming in with their parents, full of anticipation of what lay ahead of them in the new year. The boys this year, as in years past, have come from every corner of Greece with the addition of two students from Cyprus. It has been particularly heartening to hear the comments from new boys and their parents about the success of the graduates whom they have met in their own villages and in neighboring villages which has prompted them to apply to come to the School. This year's beginning class is the largest since the war with 55 boys enrolled. They are certainly a wonderful bunch of boys who show real promise for the future.

The Salonica Fair

This year for the first time the American Government formally participated in the Salonica Fair which was attended by over 1,000,000 people. At the request of the Department of Commerce the School set up the agricultural section in the outdoor area. In order to demonstrate the contribution of American science and ingenuity to the farmers of Greece, we set up a model Greek farm demonstrating all the new ideas which the Greek farmer might incorporate on his own.

In the back area we built a model dairy barn, a piggery, an incubator room, a brooder house, a chicken house, and two beehives, all supplied with Farm stock to indicate the value of improved breeds, better feeding, and better care in increasing the production of the animals.

In the foreground was a large garden area in which our boys operated new types of farm machinery, sprinkler irrigation equipment, and new types of pumps which can be advantageously used in the Greek villages.

Besides the livestock and the farm machinery which attracted large crowds, the biggest interest was in a concrete block house which the boys built during the fair to demonstrate how the Greek villager can build his own home at a minimum expense if he uses his own labor. The idea for this house came originally from the Tuskegee house developed by the Tuskegee Institute for the Alabama farms.

We are particularly grateful to the Bolens Company, the Niagara Company, the John Bean Company, and the Stromberg-Carlson Company, all of whom contributed very generously of their equipment and supplies to the School at the completion of the fair.

A Survey of Our Accomplishments

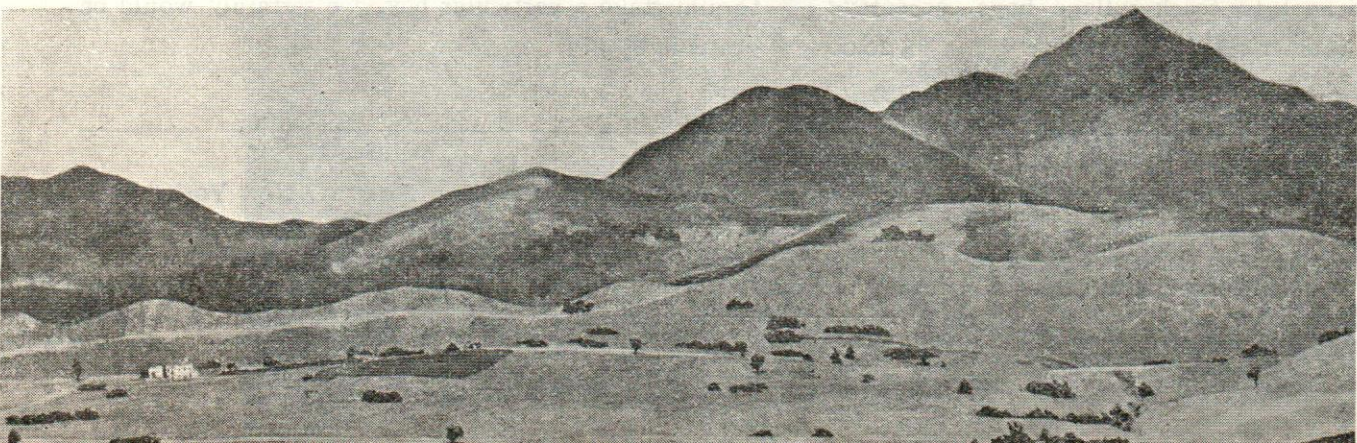
At the request of our Board of Trustees, Dr. Irwin Sanders, Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Raymond Miller, Consultant for F.A.O., and his son, Robert Miller, conducted an extensive survey into the operation and accomplishments of the School. Although the final report has not been published, there are one or two statements in their preliminary report from which we would like to quote.

"The preparation of this report has been both a pleasure and a privilege. It has been a pleasure because the American Farm School has so established itself in the hearts of the Greek people that the general findings have been a joy to record; it has been a privilege also to associate with the dedicated people connected with this School and to get a vision of their high purpose and their practical everyday wisdom."

"The outstanding success which the School has attained is based on the philosophy of practical Christian service which has inspired its founders, directors, staff, student body, and graduates."

On the basis of a 10% sample of all graduates since 1927, a total of 69% were found to be engaged in farming or in related services.

"The graduates with rare exceptions are respected by their fellow villagers not only as farmers but as personalities as well. Frequently they are the only ones in their villages advocating changes in agricultural practices."



The American Farm School as it appeared in 1904



Our new Church built by our Students and Staff.

Our Most Urgent Needs

Scholarships for boys—none of the village boys can afford to pay for their tuition and only a few can pay for their food. Won't you adopt a boy?

Tuition Scholarship	\$ 300.00
Food Scholarship	\$ 125.00
Full Scholarship	\$ 425.00

A Team of Draft Horses to replace our 20 year old horses. Many boys can not afford tractors on their farms so that we have to teach them to work with draft animals as well.

Cost of each horse	\$ 250.00
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Four Machinist Vises for the boys to learn on in the machine shop.

Cost per vise	\$ 21.00
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Two heavy work benches for our boys to work on in the carpentry shop. Benches to be made by students.

Cost of materials per bench	\$ 27.00
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Ten C. A. R. E. Carpenter's Tool Packages

If you are in the habit of sending a Christmas C. A. R. E. Package, why not send one to the American Farm School to teach village boys carpentry? C.A.R.E. Carpenter's Tool Package

\$ 20.00

One Milking Unit for Sears Roebuck milking machine. Our boys learn both hand and electric milking, but when they go home to work on their harvest, we can milk far cheaper by machine.

Surcingle Type Short Tube Milker \$ 88.00

The Story of a Boy

We are very grateful to the American Women's Army, Navy, Air Force Club of Athens who have undertaken to pay \$ 425 for the expenses of one boy, Constantine Karanicholas. This is his story:

Constantine was born in the village of Adendron in the Salonica district in 1940, the year the Italian army attacked Greece. At that time his father went off to the Albanian front to fight the war. For the first ten years of his life he knew nothing but occupation and guerrilla warfare.

In 1944 the Communists came into his village and kidnapped the leaders in the village, 44 in all, among them Constantine's father. They took them to Kilkis, a town about 60 kilometers north, and killed all but twelve, including his father and two uncles. Since then his mother has had to bring up her three small children as best she could. She has found a job working in an army mess to earn a small income while Constantine has stayed at their eight acre farm plowing the fields and reaping the harvest.

Constantine's mother came in to ask if we could not possibly accept him in the School so that he might learn more about farming and increase the yields of their fields. Thanks to these American women in Athens, we have been able to give Constantine a new chance in life.

There are many more boys who have had the same kind of experience as Constantine Karanicholas. It is to you, our friends in many parts of the world, that we must turn for help for them. If you could suggest the names of persons or groups who might be willing to undertake a particular boy, we certainly would be grateful.

Send contributions to the American Farm School, 45 East 65th Street, New York 21, New York.

This News Letter which comes direct from Greece has been made possible through the efforts of our students who have helped in sending it out.

The U. S. Treasury Department has ruled that gifts to the Institute are deductible from taxable income.