



The Sower

THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

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QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE FARM SCHOOL



by TAD LANSDALE

The Farm School has done it again! All of Thessaloniki is talking of how the Queen's visit to the Farm School was one of the highlights. As one dignitary at the Mayor's reception said to Bruce, "Who else but you could get away with putting the Queen on a tractor platform?"

The younger Farm School boys were lined up along the road clapping and waving when her car stopped at the huge sign reading "Welcome Your Majesty" hung in front of Eleanor Reed's house. Bruce opened the door and welcomed her as she stepped out in a kelly green suit; the senior class president presented her with a Farm School bouquet; and the students sang welcome songs in English, Greek and Danish.

Then the Queen was led to her "throne" (a green armchair that the King had also used in the 60th Anniversary) up on the canopied platform bearing the royal insignia and gaily decorated with evergreens, field corn, multi-colored sheep rugs, and blue and white streamers. There were four Lansdale dining room chairs behind the throne for the three Ladies-in-waiting and the Queen's Marshall. Bruce and Tad perched on the side flaps and explained as they went along.

Away chugged the blue and white Ford tractor, secretly controlled by a button Bruce pushed to signal slow down, stop, faster, etc. (When Bruce told this to the Queen at their Majesties' party that night, she said, "Oh, I wish I'd known . . . I would have kept pushing the stop button!")

The twenty-minute tour began at James Hall with Bruce giving the history of the School (and Tad translating to Greek for our non-English-speaking dignitaries). On the ledge, in front of Massachusetts Hall, the girls were set up to show their practical skills—sewing, canning,



cooking, weaving and rug making. Both the Queen and Mrs. Karolou, Grand Dame of the Court, indicated great pleasure at girls being a part of the Farm School.

Down at the Industrial Departments, a stir of activity was in full swing as overall-clad boys installed plumbing, pumped water for a home-made shower, painted, welded, did mechanical drawing, electrification, carpentry and machine repair. At the machinery sheds, boys were building with cement blocks, and all machines were in operation, including Bruce's home-made cotton picker. The cows were out on display in front of the cow barn, as well as tables of Farm School products—milk, meat, eggs, vegetables—at Rochester Hall.

The Queen was delighted. She asked so many questions and showed great interest. She said with a laugh, "But I never expected this kind of a platform." When told she'd be on a platform, she had thought of a typical reviewing stand. There was one bad moment at the gardens

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BRUCE LANSDALE TO VISIT FLORIDA

Bruce is expected in the United States on February 29. After a few days of meetings in New York, he and Joe Brinkley will go to Florida for ten days or so to tell the Farm School story. Present scheduling calls for visits in the Tampa-St. Petersburg area from March 6 to 10 and the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach area from March 11 to 14. If you will be in those areas you may want to attend one of the Florida meetings—and bring your friends. Contact Joe Brinkley in the New York Office if you would like a more detailed schedule of Bruce's appearances.



INTERNATIONAL FARM YOUTH HOLD SEMINAR AT FARM SCHOOL

They numbered 21 and represented seven religions and 22 native languages. They had just spent six months in the United States observing rural life there and were on the way home to Africa and Asia.

The 12-day seminar was designed to allow the International Farm Youth Exchangees to observe the Greek Rural Youth Program in operation and study local agricultural problems and development. It also served to bring the students, who had been separated in the U.S., together so they could exchange ideas, experiences, methods and other information with each other and the seminar leaders. During their stay in Greece and at the Farm School, the IFYEs were able to review opportunities for continued growth of informal educational programs in their own areas and countries. The group lived at the Farm School for five days, visited its departments, held discussions, saw the Farm School movie, and attended an evening recreational program. They toured nearby places which were of interest and importance to their seminar and returned to the Farm School for meetings with the School staff and representatives of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture.

During their six months in the U. S. each of the IFYE students had lived in two states. Their purpose in the U.S. was to study and to learn another culture, country and people by living in that country. These young people from Africa and Asia had been nominated for the exchange visit by national leaders of rural youth educational programs in their own countries and final selection to participate in the Farm School seminar was made by the National 4-H Foundation in the U.S. after it had observed them during the U.S. exchange-stay. They were chosen because of their present and/or possible future contributions to rural youth educational or extension programs in their own countries. After six months as exchangees in the U.S. their stay at the American Farm School in Greece was a valuable transition, a mid-way point on a scale of technical development, between the participant's home country and the U.S.



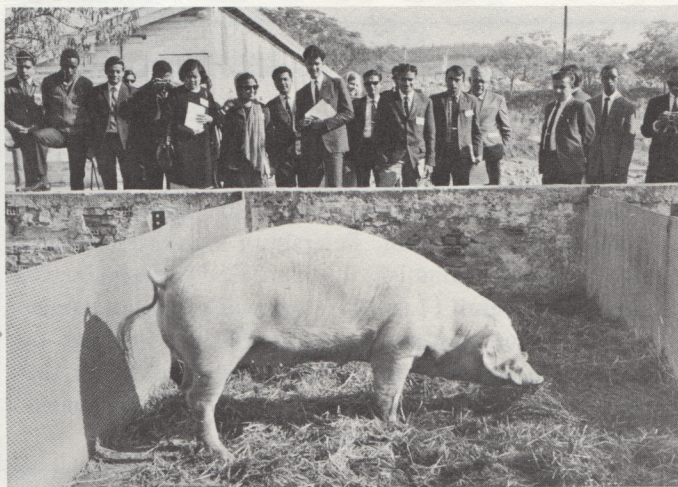
For persons familiar with the Farm School, its spirit and concern come to be taken for granted, but from the outside it is viewed as something unique. Mr. James Quanbeck, Assistant Leader of the International Programs Department of the 4-H Clubs Foundation, who was in charge of the group's orientation wrote to the Farm School: "We are sure the exchangees will take many ideas from the Farm School home to similar institutions in their countries. I suspect that they did not fully comprehend the technical courses and program of study at the school, but there is no question in my mind that they did fully comprehend the spirit of the American Farm School. I honestly have never been any place where a finer spirit exists than at the American Farm School."

The seminar in Greece was organized by the 4-H Clubs Foundation, U.S. State Department, Greek Ministry of Agriculture and the American Farm School.

—AND THEY LIKED WHAT THEY SAW

Delegate Annita Kalha of Haryana, India, writes: "I specially feel that the Girls School, as a finishing school, would be very well suited to our youth programme (India) for those girls who either drop out or do not get an opportunity to study further. I want to devote my time now trying to help the Extension Services here in India, most with the rural people and I'm sure that my visit to Greece will prove very beneficial to me."

Another IFYE student, Wil Groves from Iowa, who spent some time at the Farm School this summer wrote: "The American Farm School is more than just an Educational Institution. It's an inspiration and shining example of what modern scientific agriculture—coupled with the knowledge of practical application—can do."





PROOF OF THE PUDDING

by BRUCE LANSDALE

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and currently Thessaloniki residents are eating some of the best baby beef since the time of Alexander the Great.

For the first time, this winter the Farm School staff have raised 32 calves in open feedlots to prove that Greek farmers need not build expensive installations to raise animals for meat. To everyone's original distress, it proved to be the coldest winter in 78 years with pipes freezing, army tanks being used to pull out the school bus, and bulldozers and road scrapers battling the elements for two days to reconnect the School to the outside world. And throughout the freezing gales and blizzard, the calves calmly continued eating their feed and gazing at the passing scene. Not only did they not seem to suffer any sickness, but continued to gain at their normal rate despite their exposure to the elements.

When exposed to the cold, calves naturally grow a thick coat of protective hair and also develop an extra layer of fat under the skin to protect their body and provide additional insulation. (It is rumored at the Girls School that the United States Government has announced that this is exactly what happens to girls' legs exposed by miniskirts.)

The resulting baby beef has been much sought after by everyone in Thessaloniki except the Lansdale family. These are the same calves with which Bruce Lansdale flew across the ocean a year ago when they were one month old, and somehow the thought of them around the dinner table leaves a sad note.

Editor's Note: And it seems more calves are to come.

Excerpt from WALL STREET JOURNAL

October 3, 1967

"In April, TWA flew a planeload of 364 calves from New York to Salonika, Greece. The calves arrived in good shape, but the airplane had to be removed from service. 'It took us 10 days to get the stink out of that plane,' says a TWA executive."

The Sower editor asked Bruce Lansdale how he survived: "Ask my wife. It took me a month to stop smelling."

NOTICE: CLOTHING

Shipments of merchandise to the School in Greece are channelled through the facilities of Church World Service, with the overseas freight charges being reimbursed by the U.S. Government. Under a recent ruling, we are no longer allowed to include clothing, either new or used, in these consignments.

We wish to thank all our friends who have sent clothing over the years to the New York Office warehouse, and would ask them to note that it is no longer possible for us to accept these items. There is, of course, no restriction on clothes being sent directly to the School in Greece by international parcel post.

AFS ELECTS TWO NEW TRUSTEES

At a meeting on December 13 the AFS Trustees elected Mrs. Iphigene M. Bettman of Cincinnati and Mr. Silas D. Sinton of Shandon, California, to membership. Mrs. Bettman has long been interested in the affairs of the American Farm School in Greece and is a past chairman of the Committee for the Farm School in Cincinnati. During the 1940's Mrs. Bettman lived in New York City and conducted a radio forum on station WQXR. On her return to Cincinnati in 1948, she wrote a daily column for the *Cincinnati Times Star*. She first heard of the Farm School in 1949 when she interviewed AFS Director Mr. Bruce M. Lansdale in connection with an article she was preparing for the *Cincinnati Times Star*. Her interest was such that she visited the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece, within a year after that and has been an enthusiastic supporter since.

Mr. Sinton was born in San Francisco and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1935 with a degree in agricultural economics. Following graduation he joined members of his family as a rancher on their property in San Luis Obispo County. In the years since then, Mr. Sinton has been involved in various business ventures involving the operation of feedlots, feed processing plants and ranches. The American Farm School sought his expert advice two years ago in connection with a new program they were undertaking to raise cattle in Greece. Mr. Sinton visited the Farm School for the first time in 1966 and since then his interest in the work the School is doing in Greece has grown steadily.

Queen's Visit to the Farm School

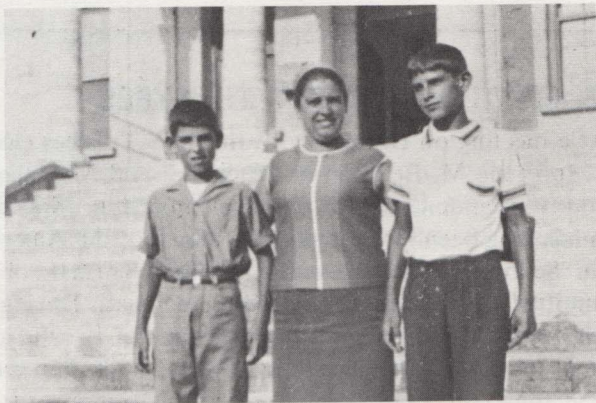
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when a student was spraying fruit trees and a sudden breeze blew water at the Queen and especially dowsed poor Mrs. Kollias, wife of the Prime Minister. Bruce quickly assured them it was only water (and later ascertained it really was).

All the School was waiting at the Assembly Hall which was darkened as the Queen was presented with torch greetings from all over Greece. Then they sang and danced Greek line dances, and everyone broke into great applause when the Queen joined in for a Kalamatiano.

The girls presented her with handwoven white wool material and the boys brought a baby lamb for her children, which punctuated the last song and Bruce's thank you speech with loud baa-a-a-s! Bruce presented her with a blue bandanna similar to those the girls were wearing, making her an Honorary Graduate of the Girls School, as King Constantine was made an Honorary Graduate of the Farm School in 1965 with a straw hat.

She left through a small exhibit of Farm School tools and products where she signed the guest book and sampled some Farm School ice cream. This gave all the staff and students time to run around and be on hand to wave and cheer her off.



MOTHER AND SONS — GRADUATE AND STUDENTS

When Dimitrios Vezinias, 12, registered for his first year at the Farm School (picture above) in the fall, he became the third member of his family to attend the Farm School. Dimitrios' brother Georgios, 15, is also a student at the Farm School, and his mother, Sultana Droseniou Vezinia, graduated from the Girls School in the Class of 1949. Mrs. Vezinia and her two sons are not the only ones in this family to be connected to the Farm School. Their cousin, Miss Heleni Kozakiotou, is an instructor of rug making at the Girls School.

The Vezinias family live in Ouranopolis (Skytown), a coastal village on the Chalkidiki Peninsula near Mount Athos. Ouranopolis is also the home of Mrs. Joice Loch, a valued friend of the Farm School for over 40 years. It is she who has taught the women of the area to reproduce, in their fine wool rugs, the intricate and delicate designs of Mount Athos' mosaics and carvings. Sultana Vezinia has learned this rug design technique and now practices it, as well as those skills as a nurse's aid which she learned at the Girls School during the years of the Greek guerilla war.

Gavrinis Vezinias, the father of Dimitrios and Georgios, has a farm in Ouranopolis where he raises olives and a small amount of wheat. When there is little work on his land he assists the monks on Mount Athos with their harvest.

AFS GRADUATES TO BECOME TEACHERS

Three former Farm School students, Mr. Michael Spiropoulos, 1932, Mr. Evangelos Pantelakos, 1938, and Mr. Dimitrios Aidonedis, 1953, are back again attending a special ten-day training course in Farm Machinery given by the Greek Ministry of Agriculture. The course will prepare the men to teach maintenance of such farm machines as tractors, drills, combines, etc. to farmers and villagers living in a 30 to 40 mile radius of Thessaloniki.

These graduates were recommended for this training by the Farm School staff who through the School's Graduate Follow-up Program keep in touch with the work and activities of alumni.

CHRISTMAS MAIL FROM OVERSEAS BURNED IN NEW YORK

Did your usual Christmas greetings from the Farm School arrive this year? If not, they were probably destroyed in the Post Office fire in New York on December 15. Please be assured our greetings were sent, and we want you to know we wish you a very happy New Year.

Mrs. Eleanor Reed, who lives at the School, also wishes her friends to be reassured that her greetings were sent.

MOVIE ON FARM SCHOOL AVAILABLE

Why Not Acquaint Your Friends with the American Farm School

There is available, free of charge except for return postage, a 16 mm. film in sound and beautiful color, *Greek Earth Reborn*. One version runs approximately 50 minutes and should be ordered from STERLING MOVIES, USA., 43 West 61st Street, N.Y.C. 10023. A shorter version, running approximately 30 minutes, must be ordered directly from us at 36 East 61st Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.

The Sower

FROM

The American Farm School

Thessaloniki, Greece
ΑΜΕΡΙΚΑΝΙΚΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

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