

SOWER

American
Farm School
Thessaloniki
Greece

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GIRLS ON TRACTORS

Eleni Palapanithon (pictured on cover) climbed atop the bright red tractor, hesitantly shifted into first, released the brake with both hands, and with a broad smile lurched off down the Girls School driveway—with her instructor clutching at the handrail behind her.

Thus began a series of tractor driving lessons for girls.

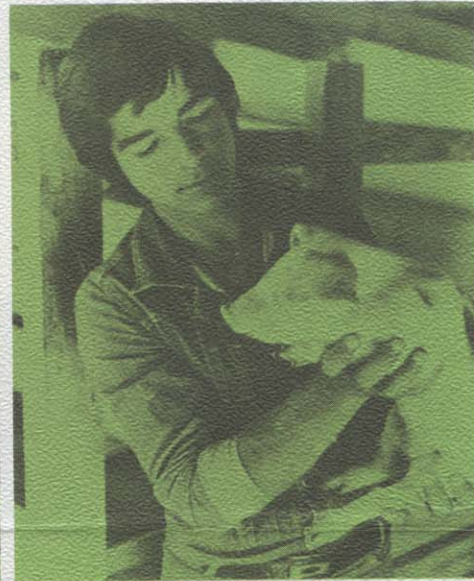
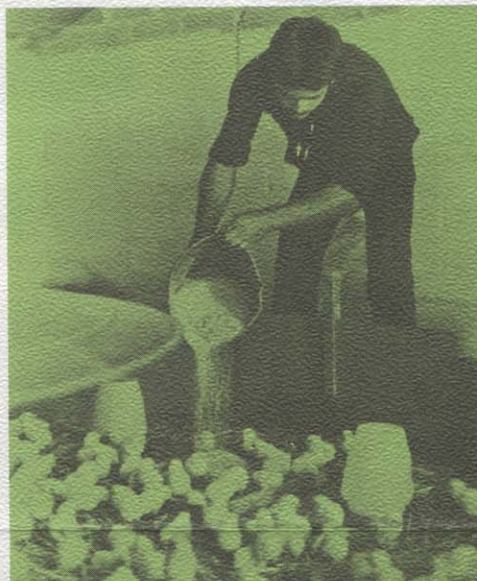
Why teach a girl to drive a tractor? Because it could be vital to her family, should her husband or father become ill or disabled and unable to tend the family's crops.

The instructor is David Acker, a young agriculturist from Connecticut in charge of student projects at the Farm School. David feels it is important for girls to learn how to care for a tractor as well as drive it.

The girls learn to make a five-point check before turning on the engine: oil, water, battery, fuel and tires. They also learn to clean the air filter.

The class was started after much discussion, especially involving the parents' reactions. The school required written permission from each girl's parents. Some of the girls could not get their parents to agree to such a "revolutionary" concept and were unable to join the group.

David hopes that next year the tractor classes will be as much a part of the Girls School program as home economics. Meanwhile, at last report, all eight girls in his first class were ready to take their written and practical tests and acquire their driver's licenses.



Raising broilers and pigs were two main projects undertaken by the animal husbandry majors last year in an effort to learn by doing. Profits enabled the livestock students to take a class trip to Yugoslavia, Austria and Italy.

BALING HAY, BAKING CAKES & BUILDING WAGONS: SOME STUDENT PROJECTS

Twenty-three third year livestock majors sold their broilers, pigs and calves for a profit of 96,000 drachmas (\$2,666.). Twenty-three third year farm machinery majors built and sold a wagon to the Garden's Department, hauled bales of hay and held a "shop sale" for a profit of 38,000 drachmas (\$1,063.). Forty-four girls of the Girls School washed cars, held bake sales, and sold their project handicrafts to the school boutique for a profit of 35,000 drachmas (\$972).

These participants in the school's Student Projects program are interested in the end result. If their product is good, they make more profit. If the profit is high enough, they are given the opportunity to spend that money in travel as far as it will take them. Thus, the animal husbandry students were able to make a week long excursion to Yugoslavia, Austria and Italy; while the farm machinery and Girls School students could only go as far as Corfu, Meteora and Ioannina, Greece, on their profits.

With the final excursion as the

incentive, the students learn managerial skills and experience cooperation between peers set toward a common goal, while at the same time building confidence and developing problem solving abilities.

The Student Projects program allows students in each specialization to work independent of the school as a small business. In this way students are given the opportunity to test classroom-learned skills and make mistakes which may be corrected with relatively little profit loss.

Says Kyriakos Tzivanopoulos, advisor to the farm machinery projects, "The projects really give students the chance to learn to cooperate as a group. If they are successful and care about their end result, it will pay off."

And this was well proven by the animal husbandry majors. Their goals were set high and their pigs escaped now and then, but they worked together as a group and reached their final destination—an eight day excursion which they will never forget!

HARRY W. FOWLER CHAIRS BOARD



Harry W. Fowler was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the school at their annual meeting held in Greece in May. Harry is succeeding George B. Post who served as Chairman from 1973 to May 1977.

Harry joined the Board of Trustees in 1975 and has served as Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee since the fall

of 1975. He put in endless hours helping to bring our fund raising efforts to new heights and served as a vital force on the school's Executive Committee. This is all on top of his regular duties as Chairman of the Board of the Fiduciary Trust Company in New York.

Upon his installation Harry said, "My election as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Farm School is an honor which I have accepted with due humility. The reputation of the school in Greece is extremely high and we will certainly do our best to keep it that way. There is no question in my mind that the school can continue to make a contribution to the advancement of Greece and enhance its position on entering the Common Market a few years from now."

The Fowler support doesn't stop with Harry. Daughter Angela has spent the past academic year living and working at the school as the

Public Relations Assistant and Greek Summer counselor. And wife Grace, who has visited the AFS three times during the last year, is an eager supporter who provides room and board to many FS staffers who come to the USA as well as moral support to FS staffers in the USA.

George Post was honored at the Board meeting in May for his dedicated service to the school before and especially during his Chairmanship. Among the many accomplishments of the school during this period were the successful implementation of the middle level technical school, the innovation of the Craft Center, the securing of outside services to help with development and land use, the addition of many young and hard working members to the Board of Trustees, and the implementation of a study to determine the direction of the FS over the next five years to be completed by September.

George will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

LIVESTOCK STUDENTS WORK IN HOLLAND ON SUMMER EXCHANGE

The last week in June was an exciting one for two second-year boys at the American Farm School. They were off on a journey across a continent, to a personal and practical experience they will never forget.

Costas Mouratides and Vasilios Constantinides are part of an exchange program with the Foundation of Exchange Sticting Uitwisseling in Holland. The program enables them to acquire 400 of the 800 working hours in their specialization required for graduation.

This is part of the summer apprenticeship program in which all first and second-year students participate. Each student must be placed in a job according to his specialty (either Farm Machinery or Animal Husbandry).

First-year boys work only in Greece, mostly because of their

limited English, but second-year Animal Husbandry majors are eligible to go to Holland. They must have an above average ability to speak and understand English, good grades combined with evidence of sincere effort, a record of good conduct, and be 18 or older so they can obtain work permits in Holland. They also need enough money to cover their travel expenses.

The number of places open in Holland varies from year to year, but the F.E.S.U. tries to find as many as possible. Final decisions on who will go are made by the Farm School faculty.

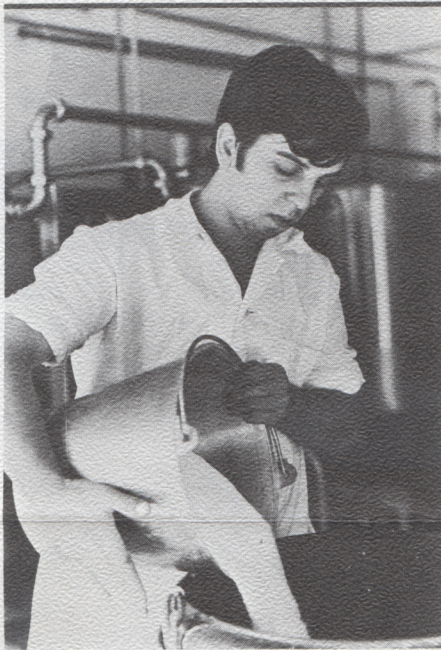
In Holland, the boys live with a Dutch family for 7 to 8 weeks, working and learning. Generally they are given room and board and pocket money for their hours of labor.

Archimedes Koulaouzides, re-

sponsible for making the program work (through the F.E.S.U.) says: "The exchange students gain practical experience in all aspects of farming, and they are exposed to new people in a new culture. It's an invaluable part of their education."



Costas Mouratides, one of the two Farm School students working in Holland this summer.



Sakis Anthanasios

GRAD PRODUCES FAMOUS ICE CREAM

One of the hardest working staff members at the Farm School is Souldories Athanasios, better known around the farm as "Sakis." He's in charge of the milk room. He's also a 1970 graduate of the Farm School—and one of the 60% of the graduates who devote their lives to agriculture.

Sakis completed four years at the Farm School, studying animal husbandry and milk production. He then attended three years of high school in Thessaloniki, working at the Farm School during vacations.

When he joined the staff full time Sakis worked with the cows, the bulls and the calves for a year.

Then he moved to the dairy, where he is now in charge of bottling the milk and making the school's famous ice cream. He's also on call to help the school veterinarian, feed the cows, and milk them too if necessary.

Incredibly, in his spare time, Sakis has a factory in Thessaloniki—where he and his wife and four helpers make shirts.

But his first commitment is to the school. Sakis feels that too many people work only for the money a job may offer. "I have a purpose here at the Farm School," he says. "I like my job and I will stay."

THESSALONIKI CHILDREN FIND ANIMALS, TREES AND FRESH AIR ON FARM SCHOOL CAMPUS



LIVING in the City of Thessaloniki does not afford much opportunity for children to see animals or to experience the freedom of play an open field can offer. More and more children, however, are being given this opportunity every day at the AFS. Throughout the spring, summer and fall, some 20 or more children a day can be seen running around the recreational areas of the school with a freedom only the country can offer.

Many local schools use the school's campus as a place for day outings during the spring and fall. During the summer, the YMCA has a regular daily program which brings children from all over Thessaloniki to explore the wonder of a new born calf, the excitement of milking time, the hugeness of the farm machinery, and the open spaces.

The Farm School grounds are always open for the public's enjoyment—especially the children's. The delight on the child's face upon touching and seeing his first REAL live cow makes this policy an especially important one.

CRAFTS CENTER EXHIBITS IN ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI

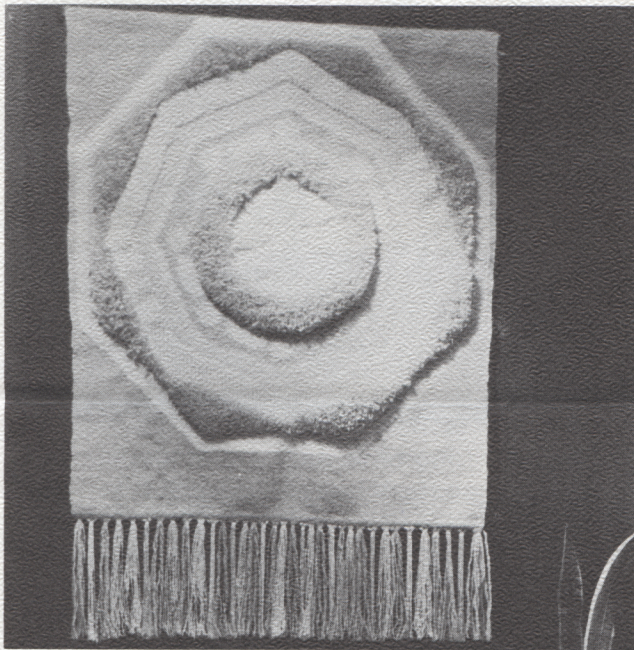
The Crafts Center of the Girls School presented two prestigious exhibitions of their handwoven textiles last semester at the Hellenic-American Union in Athens and the National Organization of Hellenic Handicrafts in Thessaloniki. The exhibit was put together by Craft Center Directors Phil Smith and Eli Trimis, and featured wall hangings, rugs, bedspreads, pillow covers, stoles and yard goods.

Designs for the crafts were adopted from old Greek lace, carved ceilings, floor tiles and museum embroideries. The Vice President of the NOHH commented, "This is the kind of quality we need—modern yet keeping the traditions of Greece."

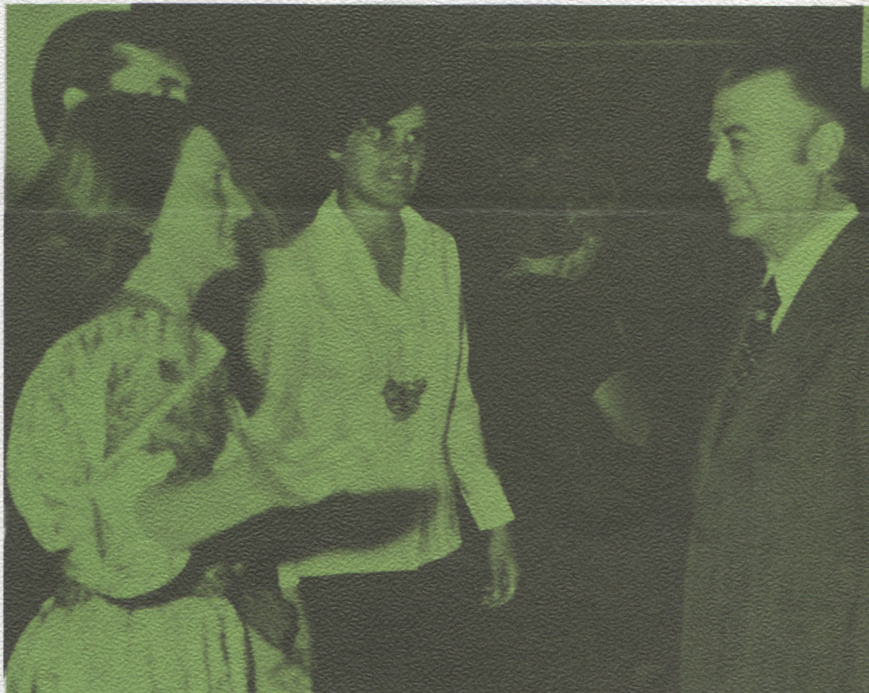
Seven graduates of the Girls School form the nucleus of the Crafts Center. Enough special orders were placed as a result of the two exhibitions to keep the girls busy throughout the coming winter.



Handwoven stoles and skirt lengths on display.



Wall hanging design taken from an old ceiling from Mt. Pelion area.



Eli Trimis, Phil Smith, and Paula Xanthopoulou discussing the Thessaloniki exhibit with Mayor Michael Papadopoulos.



Woven articles as used in a traditional Greek bedroom.

NEW DORMITORY HOUSES BOYS IN STYLE



Sharing a room with 40 boys and one oil-burning stove during a cold Macedonian winter might not be the popular image of boarding-school life. But that's how it was at Princeton Hall. The old dorm, completed in 1927, was cold, impersonal, and crowded.

Now the boys have moved into a new dorm. Completed in the summer of 1976, it's a sleek modern building so handsome it might be found on a beautiful beach instead of overlooking the Litsas Memorial Athletic Field behind Princeton Hall.

Financed by the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the new dorm is a horizontal building primarily made of concrete and brick.

Intermittently breaking up the four units, each capable of housing 50 boys, are vertical walls of stone. The roof creates an eaves-like effect over second story balconies, approached through sliding glass doors and lined with planters which act as a balustrade.

The ground floor, designated for the first and second year students, provides comfortable rooms for six boys. The third year boys have the second floor to themselves and occupy rooms for four boys—plus the balcony.

Each room provides students with individual desks, lockers, tables and beds—not to mention access to attractive bathing facilities. And the new dorm has central heating.



SCHOOL HOSTS ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR



Each student took a plant home to begin a garden.

April found the Farm School bubbling with 450 students from various Thessaloniki high schools participating in a seminar on environmental protection. The seminar, sponsored by the Farm School and local government services, included a general assembly and smaller group discussions on the subjects of air, water, energy, waste, noise and recreation, chaired by our own students and teachers. The purpose of the day was to acquaint the students with environmental problems and solutions particularly those concerning the community of Thessaloniki. At the end of the day all participants departed with a small plant to take home for the beginning of their own gardens.

Earlier last winter Farm School students and teachers took part in the school's annual tree planting day sowing 600 seedlings around the campus before the day was through.



Staff member Theocharis Gogos plants an olive tree on campus.

FORTY MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS COVER TOTAL STUDENT COSTS

An American parent who could send his boy off to school for a year for \$350 would consider it a real bargain. That's the cost to the student at the American Farm School covering one half of the room and board fees—all other tuition and boarding fees are provided for each student through the general scholarship program.

As in the U.S., the student fees represent perhaps only half of the true cost. But unlike the U.S., a fee of \$350 represents a major sacrifice for the family. Many an intelligent young man lives in a village where not even the richest family could afford to send him to school.

Yet they come anyway. They win full room and board scholarships, they work their way. Somehow, they come to school.

40 merit scholarships exist that provide the entire student's share of \$350. During the past two years there's been a general review and overhaul of the program, and higher standards have been set—both academically and behavior-wise. The merit scholarships are now re-

viewed every semester. So a boy who might work hard to win his merit scholarship, and then spend more time ogling the girls than hitting the books, can lose it after only one semester.

He can win it back, next semester—but only in competition with other students.

For those who don't win full merit scholarships (funding is now available for only 40) and can't pay the \$350 fee, there is another way—the new work program established during the past school year. More than 40 boys earned about two thirds of their fees, working about the campus and farm for 10 hours a week—including about 50 drachmas as pocket money for that weekend "volta" in the big city of Thessaloniki.

The \$350 fee covers only a small portion of the costs; and the rest is contributed by friends of the school in Greece and in the United States. Without its friends, the school and its students could not continue to work toward a better future for the ancient land of Greece.

FOLK DANCERS PRESERVE HERITAGE WHILE ENTERTAINING FELLOW STUDENTS AND FRIENDS

Farm School students cannot forget their heritage even in this day of hard rock music and popular songs. Thus a folk dance group was formed at the Boys School during the 1975-76 school year, specializing in dances indigenous to the Pontios region near the Black Sea. The boys spent every Tuesday evening in the nearby village of Sedhes taking lessons and practicing hard to learn and master the traditional folk dance routines, all on a voluntary basis.

This past year the group went coed, taking in interested girls from the Girls School. The mixed group has been enjoying success ever since. Highlights from this year included performing at the annual Girls School "Full Moon Dance", dancing for the International Womens Organization of Thessaloniki at their annual fund raising evening, and entertaining at a reception for an American folk duo who performed in Thessaloniki.

HASKELL COTTAGE: The Oldest and Newest

Renovation of Haskell Cottage—the first Farm School building built in 1903—has been completed. The original walls still remain in the basement, which is where the Craft Center is now located. On the second floor, two of the original walls remain. And beautiful walls they are; they are about 3 feet thick made of mud and straw!

Haskell Cottage was originally used to house the first 9 students and a foreman and teacher who

supervised them. The room they slept in doubled as a classroom during the day. Now the living room has been made slightly larger so it can accommodate a fireplace. Heating is done in the traditional manner employed nearly 70 years ago: Oil burning heaters. The two bathrooms and kitchen have been completely modernized.

Harry Theocharides, the School's engineer, led the renovation. The interior is slowly being decorated

in a typically Greek fashion. In this way the house may be used to show guests not only the school's first building, but what a Greek house might look like. The cottage will also be used to house Farm School staff and for entertaining visitors.

The renovation was made possible by gifts given in memory of Marianne and Carl Lester as well as gifts given by other friends of the school.

OLDEST



NEWEST



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AMERICAN FARM
SCHOOL.** Thessaloniki can now be reached by direct regularly scheduled flights from such places as Athens, Brussels, London, Frankfurt, Munich, Vienna and many others. On your next trip abroad why not plan to stop in and see the Farm School for yourself. The welcome mat is always out.

St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church
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