

# LIFE of GREECE

A PICTORIAL PUBLICATION

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# Life of Greece Meets

# STYLIANOS KYRIAKIDES

"I knew I had to win!"

With this spirit of determination and the fire of the Greek cause burning within him, Stylianos Kyriakides, 1946 winner of Boston Athletic Association Marathon, came to Boston from Athens to win for Greece that he might then tell the people of America that Greece needs their help today.

Kyriakides is doing just that. Since the moment of his victory after the 26-mile race which he finished in 2 hours, 29 minutes and 2 seconds at Exeter Street on Saturday, April 20th, the winner has given himself completely to the heavy schedule of speeches, meetings, and interviews, speaking almost steadily from 9 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m., telling the story of Greece with an earnestness and sincerity of purpose that one rarely finds today.

"I don't belong to myself any more," he replied when the LIFE OF GREECE staff asked about his plans for the future in a private suite at the Hotel Minerva. "I belong to Greece now." But he will stay in this country just as long as there are people who want to hear about Greece and help her. "I want to see and meet as many Greeks as I possibly can."

Stylianos Kyriakides is small in stature and his weight is muscle. His skin is



Stylianos Kyriakides with his wife, Iphygenia, and their two children, Demetrios, 1½, and Helen, 3½. This picture was taken in Athens fifteen days before Mr. Kyriakides left Greece.

drawn tightly across his face and his fingers are long and slender. Five days before coming to America, Kyriakides had nothing to eat, as what little there was at home had to go to his wife, Iphygenia and his two children, Helen, age 3½, and Demetrios, 1½. When he first decided to come here to run the Marathon, his friends and fellowmen at home discouraged him. With the meager provisions and work and worry of the past five years, they believed he was hardly in condition to compete with the healthy men of America. But Kyriakides knew he had to come and he trained in the hills of Greece to accustom himself to the hard roads of this country which had been his downfall several years before when he ran the same race but had to surrender to the bleeding feet and blisters that he was unprepared for. "This time I'll win," he said.

Surprisingly enough, Mr. Kyriakides speaks amazingly good English. There is a trace of accent and every once in a while, he will slip back into his native tongue, but his vocabulary and manner of expression are superior to that of many English-speaking peoples. Through and Through, he is a self-made man. He learned the English language in a period of six months and can read, write, and speak it fluently. When

Life of Greece entertains Stylianos Kyriakides. Seated at the left: James Jeracos, Business Manager, Andronike Mekelatos, Managing Editor, Mr. Kyriakides, Irene Sullivan, Associate Editor and Irene Frederick, Assistant Circulation Manager. Seated at the right: Harry Demeter, Jr., Boston lawyer recently

returned from the service, George Demeter, sponsor of the winner, Nicholas Caracasis, genial host of the party, and George Arbuckle, Quincy lawyer.

Editor Mekelatos presents Mr. Kyriakides with 500 copies of Life of Greece Magazine to give to his Greek and American friends.





Winner with the ladies, too! So think Freddie, Nike, and Irene. Editor Mekelatos congratulates the winner as Mr. Caracasis and Mr. Jeracos look on.

asked how he learned the difficult language in so short a time, Kyriakides replied, "When I set out to do something, 'I do it!'" His bearing, manner, and attitude are humble and unassuming but his words are vibrant and dynamic.

Born in Statos village, in Paphos, Cyprus on January 15th, 1910, Kyriakides is a bill collector for the Athens-Piraeus Electric Company and makes 5000 calls a month, running or walking from one home to another to make his collections. There is no one who can or will take over his job. He has only the highest words of praise for the American people and their sense of sportsmanship. When he once ran in the Olympic games at Berlin, he met Adolph Hitler and that even then, the sportsmanship among the Germans was all for a purpose—a purpose which we were later to discover for ourselves.



Miss Sullivan and George Demeter talk about life of Greece and Stylianos Kyriakides.

As for conditions in Greece, it is not from speaking to Mr. Kyriakides that one can fully understand and realize the deplorable state that the nation is in. "There is nothing there," he said, emphasizing the word "nothing" with his fist on the table. "Nothing! While I was in training, I could only have water to drink three times a week. There is no food, no clothing, no transportation facilities. The Greek War Relief and UNRRA are doing well, but there are 7 million people who are destitute. Their homes are destroyed and there are no roads anymore, so that though material can and does arrive in Greece, it takes months and even longer to distribute it to the various parts of the country. Donkeys and mules are about the only means of transportation."

In September of 1933, Mr. Kyriakides won second place in the marathon at Greece, the first place going to the Roumanian champion.

Mr. Caracasis, Mr. Kyriakides, and Mr. Jeracos.

Mr. Jeracos commends Kyriakides on his victory for Greece.



tion; after that, he trained all winter and in March, won four meetings in two hours' time. In April he was declared the champion of Cyprus and received the cup for the best athlete.

"My people know that everything I do is for Greece," he told LIFE OF GREECE. "They love me very much and during the war when I wanted to buy vegetables or cloth, they would say, 'What can I take from you?' and would very often give them to me at little or no cost. When I decided to come to America, I was going to sell my possessions to raise the necessary funds but the Athens-Piraeus Electric Company wanted to sponsor my trip for me. Since my arrival here, I have been the guest of George, Harry, and Speare Demeter at the Minerva Hotel and they have treated me like a king. I cannot even buy my own newspapers."

At this point in the interview, the chef at the Minerva Hotel, Mr. James L. Kontanis, entered the room, complete in white apron and tall white chef's cap, and Kyriakides smiled and said, "He's the winner!" Kontanis sat down and told how worried he had been about Kyriakides running in the race. "He had just come from a hungry country," Kontanis said, shrugging his shoulders, "I was afraid for him but I told him he was going to win and I fed him and fed him so that he would. I fed him steaks that he hadn't seen for years. He's done a wonderful thing for Greece!" With that, Kontanis slapped Kyriakides on the back, shook hands all around, and left to cook a steak for the marathon winner.

Cables arrived hourly for Kyriakides. While being interviewed by us, several arrived, one from the company which sent



*Photo Association*

**BOSTON, APRIL 20—GREEK WINS MARATHON**—Stylianos Kyriakides from the land of the original Marathon wins 26 mile Boston Marathon in time of 2:29:27 today. Kyriakides represented the Olympic A. C. of Athens, Greece, in Golden Anniversary of annual event here.

him. It read, "We are overjoyed and proud of your fine victory. Company administration and staff join with Greek people in sending you congratulations." Another cable was from the prime minister of Greece, Tsaldaris, reading, "Please transmit to Stylianos my warmest congratulations. We are all proud of him and earnestly hope that his brilliant success will open the way for many other Greek victories in fair international competitions."

We asked Kyriakides how Greece com-

pared with the United States. "You can't compare Greece with any other country," he replied, "The climate, sky, and sea are the best in the world."

It is significant to note that there is no financial remuneration for the victor of the B. A. A. Marathon. Kyriakides came from Greece only to win the medal, the crown of laurel, which grows abundantly in his home country, and primarily, the chance to tell America that Greece needs her help today.

After the interview, Mr. Kyriakides was dined and wined at Ada Bullock's restaurant by Mr. Nicholas Caracasis, owner, and one of Boston's most influential and popular businessmen. Besides the LIFE OF GREECE staff members, other guests present were George Demeter, sponsor of the winner, Harry Demeter, Jr., and George Arbuckle, of Quincy, former District Attorney. Huge plank steaks were served with all the trimmings, and champagne glasses were refilled as one toast led to another.

We asked Mr. Kyriakides more about the Boston Marathon and how he felt when he won the race. "I was happy for Greece," he said, "I believed that I would win from the beginning—but after the first mile of the race, I knew I would win!"

LIFE OF GREECE Magazine extends to Stylianos Kyriakides its warmest wishes and felicitations with the fervent hope that all other Greeks and friends of Greece will take up the cause of Greece in the rebuilding of her noble nation.

The gallant victory of Stylianos Kyriakides is the triumphant victory of the entire Greek nation.

Nicholas Caracasis and Kyriakides become close friends. Mr. Caracasis later presented the winner with gifts and tokens of appreciation to take home to his children, Demetrios and Helen.

Kyriakides asks to meet chef Nicholas Lagudinos and staff at Ada Bullock's. Once a waiter himself, he likes to visit kitchens and make friends with the chefs.

*Life of Greece Photos*

