*Traveling in Greece. Yesterday, today, tomorrow.*

*Our school.(by Hara Emmanuel Foustalieraki)*

*Primary School of Lagyna*

We live in Lagyna, a village of central Macedonia. The name of the village, “Lagyna” according to the elderly people, comes from a water pot ( “lagyni”)  maker, who made them using the suitable soil of the area. Research in the school archives shows that on the school stamp on June 24th in 1951 was written: “Primary School of Laina”. In September of the same year it changed to: “Primary School of Lagyna”.

Our school is very big. There are 16 classrooms and a computer room. Our schoolyard is also big with a basketball and a volleyball court. There is an area with grass behind the water taps but we don’t play there. A huge chess board is drawn on the ground of our yard and we usually play there.

*Lagyna in the past.*

Starting our journey from Thessaloniki and heading north to the road leading to Kavala, we will go past the area of Derveni, where lies the “Macedonian Tomb of Lagadas” or “The Tomb of Makridis Beis”, (the name belongs to the man who excavated it). The Tomb belongs to the 3rd century. Today the Tomb is conserved and it can be visited. It is amazing to think that we live in the same place where Macedonians of Alexander the Great used to live.

*Saint Nicholas Church. (1890)*

In 1838 the people of the village wanted to build a central church for their religious needs. They built a three-aisled Basilica with a wooden roof as it was accustomed in those days. It is said that years later, in 1887, it  was almost destroyed by a fire accidentally lit by the verger of the church. Only the stone walls were left standing in the ruins. In the difficult years of the Turkish Occupation the inhabitants of Lagyna managed to repair the church after having received permission from the Sultan.

*Lagyna today.*

*Transera*

In 1936 the Prime Minister of Greece, Ioannis Metaxas, had a railway road made, connecting Stavros with Thessaloniki. Passengers and cargo would be transferred with those trains. Today there are two bridges that we call “Transera”.  All the inhabitants helped for their construction. They are in three different places: On the mountain, near Saint Nicholas’ church and near a residential area.

*Lagyna plants*

There are various kinds of flowers blooming on the mountain over the village and lots of cypress trees. Going for a walk in the village you will admire many beautiful trees. In the house gardens, on the mountain and in the park you will come across pansies, daisies, poppies, roses and other beautiful flowers.

*Zoodohos Pigi. Holy water spring.*

Zoodohos Pigi means the One that bears Life and gives it to everybody. It is one of the numerous names of the Mother of God. It is a little church high up on the mountain and it is a place with a wonderful view. Further down, in a cliff there is the spring of the Holy Water. After Easter, the day that Zoodohos Pigi is celebrated, many people go up there with “tsoureki” (special sweet bread that we bake for Easter) and red eggs, to worship and take some holy water.

*Gipedakia*

High up in Lagyna, there is a nice  place with a beautiful view. This place is where our football field and basketball court are. Lots of children meet there to play football and basketball. The players of our football team, called “Ethnikos Lagynon”, train there and also play against other teams.

*Lake Koroneia and Lake Volvi Ecosystem*

Lake Volvi is the second largest lake in Greece after Lake Trihonida. The distance between Lake Koroneia and Lake Volvi is 11,5 km. According to the Ramsar Convention  they are considered to be α Wetland with International Importance.

***The Editorial Team of the Primary School of Lagyna, pupils of 5th grade, group 3  and 6th grade, group 2.***