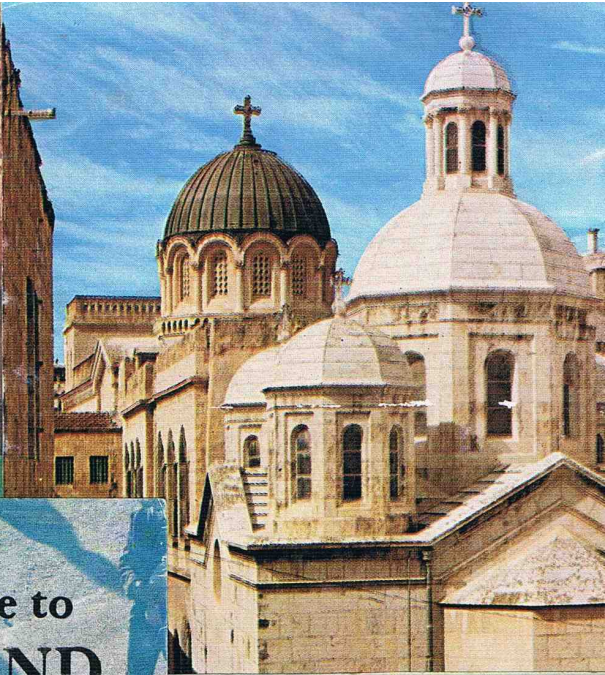
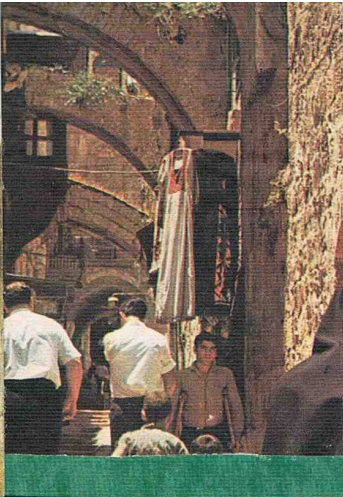
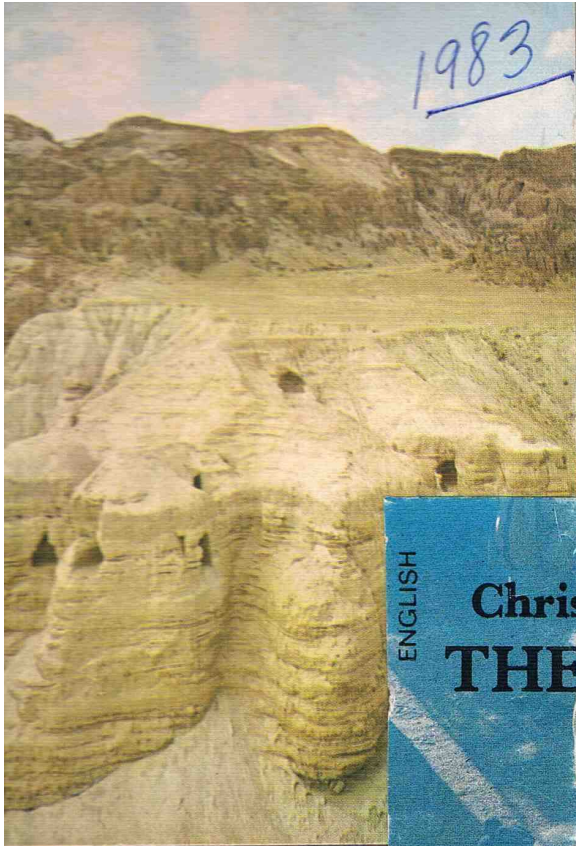


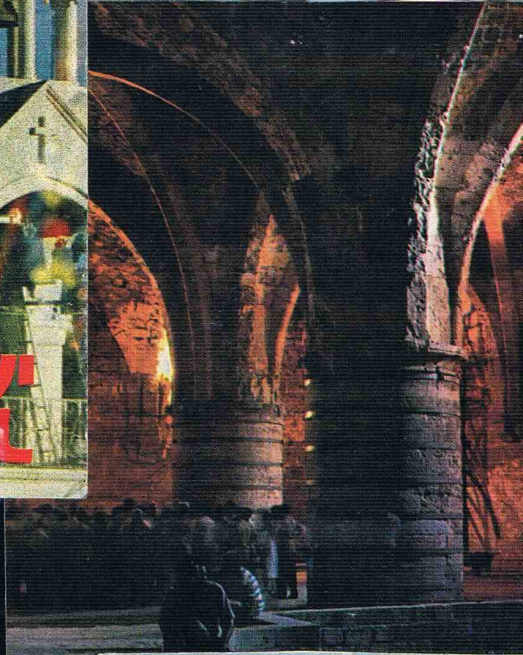
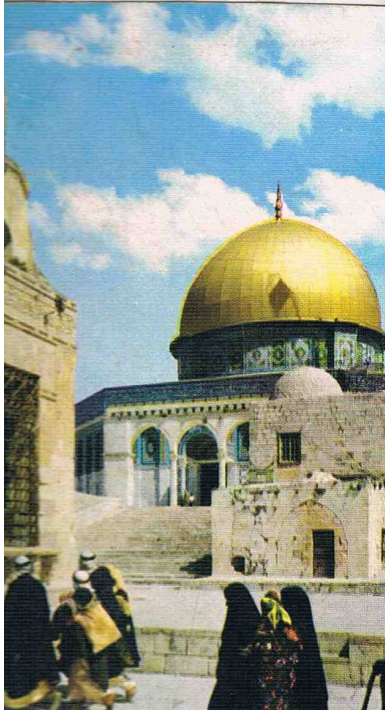
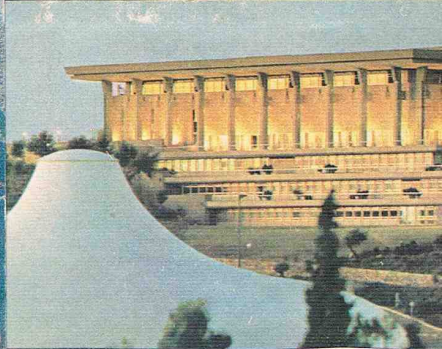
1983



ENGLISH

Christian Pilgrimage to THE HOLY LAND

ישראל
ISRAEL





ATTESTATION OF PILGRIMAGE

By this attestation be it known that

Rev. & Mrs. Stanley Forkner

by virtue of fulfilling the Biblical injunction has ascended to Jerusalem, the Holy City, Capital of Israel and is henceforth authorized to bear the title of **JERUSALEM PILGRIM**



A. Shariz
Minister of Tourism



Yehyeh Kallek
Mayor

The tiny, insignificant looking bridge over which we crossed to enter Israel is called "ALLENBY BRIDGE." It is named for a British General who led in the struggle which freed the area from the Turks in 1916. Evidently his memory is held in high esteem throughout Israel for we found streets, buildings, statues, etc named in his honor all about the land. The land of Palestine was a British protectorate before 1948 when the state of Israel was formed.

One benefit of a trip such as this is a better understanding of the geography of the area. In the strife following the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, the Boundary lines drawn up by the United Nations was a constant source of struggle. The Jordan valley was given to Jordan; in fact the dividing line was far, far to the west, not far from the Mediterranean. It is easily understood why this outraged the Israelis. After all, they declared, God gave us the land west of the Jordan River thousands of years ago; it is ours, and so we will "take it" as we did then! So it was that in 1967 they began occupying the West Bank, which is the land on the west side of the River Jordan. Of course the Jordanian Government does not recognize this occupation even today. A few days later as we were riding in our bus on a highway within sight of the river we were shown the bunkers on the ridges where the Israeli soldiers maintain a constant watch over the border.

As we rode across the tiny Allenby Bridge, the River Jordan flowed swiftly beneath us...not much wider than a healthy creek. Here there was lush greenery along the river in contrast to the arid countryside through which we had just passed.

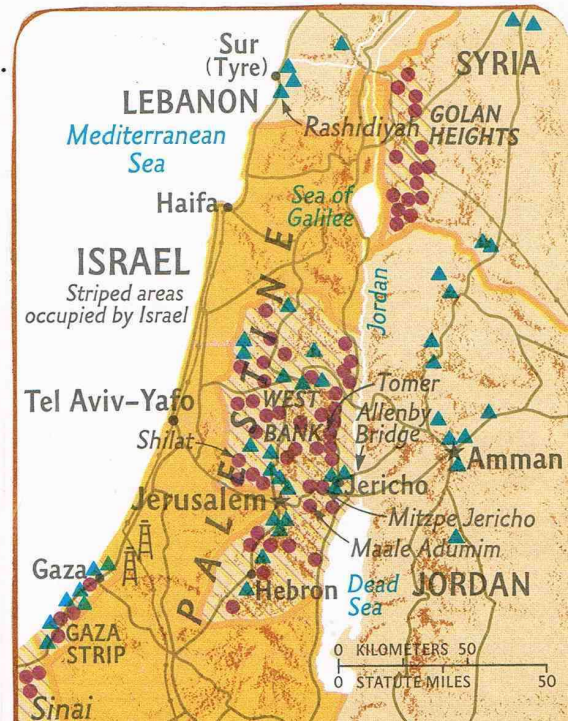
It was just 8:00 when we reached the bridge. Twice on the Jordan side uniformed officers came aboard and inspected our passports.

After reaching the customs building, all of our luggage, including our purses and shoulder bags...everything...was "sized" and carefully inspected, piece by piece. If a camera was found we had to snap a picture if nothing more than the ceiling! They seemed suspicious of appliances, such as hair dryers or curling irons.

The whole process took upwards to three hours. Now we understood why Dr. Philpot had begun "ringing up" people at 5:00 AM!

Eventually we were back on our busses and ready to get on with the business of touring Israel.

When first making arrangements for the tour we were told that if we already had a passport which had ever been stamped by Israel we would have to get a new one. Jordan will not allow anyone with an Israel-stamp on a Passport to enter their country. So we had to be sure that our passports were NOT stamped here at the Customs house for we needed to return to Amman to fly back home at the end of the tour.



ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS

Under the March 1979 peace treaty, Israel is returning the Sinai to Egypt and the two nations have opened formal communications. Israel has offered limited autonomy to the 1.2 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, but insists on security control. The Palestine Liberation Organization demands full statehood and abolition of the State of Israel, which now has 3.7 million people. Of the world's four million Palestinians, 15 percent remain in refugee camps.

The Land of Israel
scene of divine revelations,
home of the People of the Book,
background of the marvels
recorded in the Bible...
a land held sacred by
Jew, Christian and Moslem.

Visiting Israel,
retracing the footsteps of Jesus,
is more than just a journey,
it is a pilgrimage to the very
source of faith.

"Beautiful for situation, the
joy of the whole earth..."

(Psalms 48:2)

My reluctance to consider a trip to Israel during this time of such unrest in the Middle East had changed a great deal as the time for departure drew near. When our friends came to transport us to the airport on May 10, 1983 my enthusiasm and anticipation was high. Excitement at setting off for some new part of the world will always be a characteristic of *me*.

At the Grand Rapids Airport we joined Gerald and Eileen Pohly and three members of their Grand Haven Church. We were not to see much of them later during the trip for we were assigned to different groups and busses after arriving.

We were amazed to find JFK Airport in New York so "uncrowded." We remembered the mad confusion exactly eleven months ago this very day when we left from this same spot on our Scandinavian Adventure. However the free airline busses were as crowded as ever and we had to allow two or three to pass before we found standing room to get over to the International Building - Alia Royal Jordanian Airlines.

We had about a five hour layover in New York. After our luggage was checked we joined our Grand Haven friends for a delicious Buffet Dinner at the International Restaurant on the Mezzanine. After "overeating" We walked the corridors - thinking about those 11½ hours of sitting ahead.

There were reportedly 187 persons in our group. Rev. Ford Philpot was our host and arrangements were handled by Wholesale Tours, Inc. out of New York.

The process of boarding seemed to consume a lot of time. Stanley and I landed seats with an aisle between. A good arrangement as neither of us had to climb over others whenever we wished to leave our seat. The seating capacity of this "747" is 412 people. (I asked the attendant) One's first impression is that of entering a flying auditorium! Of course it would take a long time to get that many individuals properly settled. Most of the number was American but there were quite a number of Mid-Easterners.

Take-off was on time - 10:40 PM. It was quite dark. Everyone was feeling good and happy with anticipation.

Within an hour a meal was being served. We were not very hungry after the sumptuous buffet at the airport. I ordered chicken and never did learn what happened but it was cold...not warm...but COLD! Many were sending it back but since I wasn't hungry anyway I didn't complain.

Later the movie "FOXFIRE" was shown. I tried to get interested but it appeared to be a foreign intrigue plot requiring too much concentration so I gave up and tried to sleep. My neighbor said I slept indeed. (must have snored!)

When I awakened it was broad daylight but I understand day dawned when we had been in the air scarcely two hours. Soon a "Continental Breakfast" was served. I sometimes think they keep feeding the passengers just to keep them quiet.

After Seven hours we landed in Vienna for refueling. We could not leave the plane. Were grounded for 1½ hours.

The second leg of the journey was about three hours. We had a delicious lunch. The tea in this part of the world is really good.

Arrival time was 5:15 PM. The Airport in Amman is primitive and small. Later we learned a new modern facility is under construction. We recently read that it is now in operation. Inside it was noisy, crowded and confusing to us. They immediately demanded our pass-

ALIA ROUTES		
Amman: Centre of the European-Arab-Far East Network		
United States and Europe		
City	Air miles	flying time
Amsterdam	2,098	5:00
Athens	804	2:15
Brussels	2,063	4:30
Copenhagen	1,984	5:40
Frankfurt	1,877	4:30
Geneva	1,865	4:45
London	2,274	5:30
Larnaca	242	1:30
Madrid	2,259	4:05
New York	5,719	11:30
Paris	2,087	4:40
Rome	1,469	3:45
Vienna	1,507	4:30
Belgrade	738	3:30
Istanbul	1,225	4:05

The Mideast, Arab World and Far East		
City	Air miles	flying time
Abu Dhabi	1,237	2:45
Aqaba	178	0:40
Baghdad	488	1:15
Bahrain	970	2:20
Bangkok	4,300	8:40
Beirut	131	0:50
Bucharest	1,250	3:00
Cairo	300	2:15
Casablanca	2,536	6:00
Damascus	105	0:45
Dhahran	940	2:30
Doha	1,050	2:40
Dubai	1,259	3:00
Jeddah	750	1:50
Karachi	7,949	4:15
Kuwait	735	2:00
Muscat	1,476	3:25
Oman	1,476	3:25
Ras Al Khaimah	1,283	3:30
Tripoli	1,331	4:00
Tunis	1,502	4:15

ports, explaining that they would be returned to us later in the evening at the dinner hour. Some of us surrendered them reluctantly for we had been strongly disciplined never to allow them to get out of our hands. We did indeed receive them later the same evening.

There was no luggage inspection here. After a lot of shuffling about from spot to spot we were finally through and on our bus. The ride of a few miles into the city gave us our first glimpse of Jordan. The desert-like appearance was true to all pictures we had ever seen of the land.

Amman is the Capital of Jordan; has been the capital of the Amorite kingdom since the 13th century. It has a colorful history of captures, defeats, occupations, destruction and rebuilding, periods of prosperity and industry. It stands today as a city of about 250,000 population,



including the old City and the New City.

Our Bus, No. 3, had Danny Philpot, son of the tour host as leader. He is a young minister, very easy to learn to know and was always very thoughtful of our needs on the entire trip.

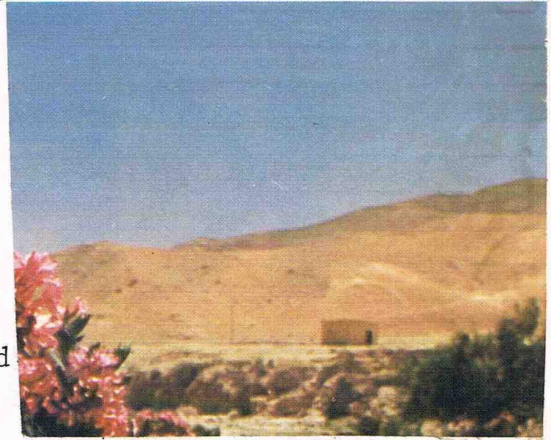
Soon we were at the International Hotel. Our dinner this first evening was: Cream of Tomato Soup (I think), Roast Beef, French Fries, mixed vegetables, rolls and a very rich chocolate torte for dessert.

Always in this part of the world we were served by Waiters. On only two occasions did we observe a waitress. Service was excellent and the meals were adequate at all times. Every dinner began with a soup and always there was a dessert. We felt that mostly we were served American style food, but occasionally we got some ethnic dishes.

Rooms were comfortable. Night falls early. No picture taking was allowed at the airport so no one has used a camera yet.

On the first real day of our tour of Israel, wake-up time was about 4:45. We were advised before leaving the dinner table the night before that breakfast would be at 5:30. Some of us wondered why this was necessary but soon learned how time-consuming it can be to cross over from Jordan into Israel. I overheard someone remark that he now understood why it took so long for the Children of Israel to make it into the Promised Land!

We were quickly rushed into our respective busses and whisked away westward toward Israel. It was not so far to the border (as the crow flies) but the road was winding and only two-lane. Our only opportunity for picture-taking was from bus windows. The Jordanians object to being photographed as a rule. Some made faces as they saw the cameras aimed at them. Because the scenery was unusual to us we stared and gaped. The native costumed arabs were our grazing their sheep and/or goats just as we saw in the pictures in our Sunday School papers down th rough the years. The countryside was sandy, rocky, dry and dusty and it was a mystery to us what the sheep were finding to graze on. There was a lot of litter all about. A Jordanian guide had been provided but as soon as we crossed into Israel we received an Israeli Guide.

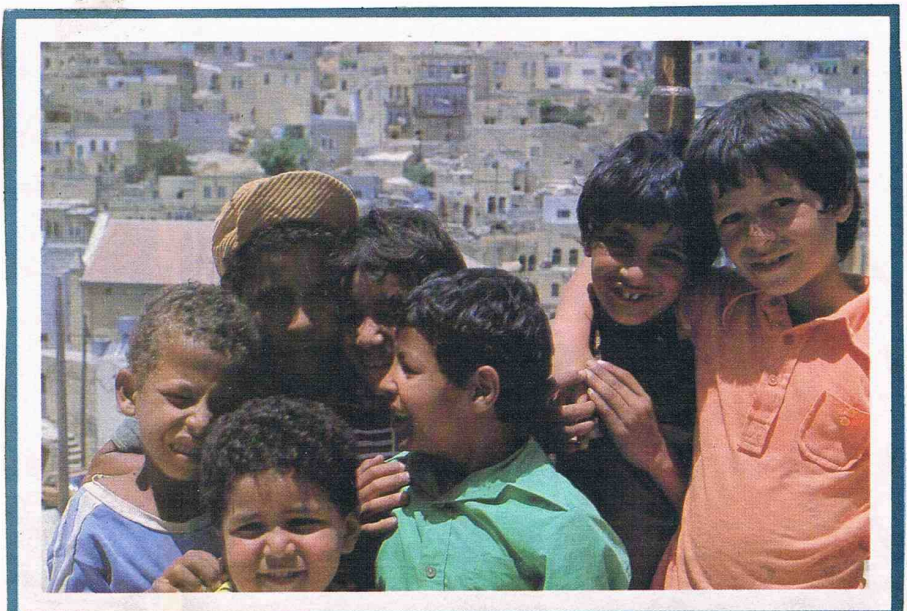


As we rode along we saw Bedouins with th eir broad, low, open-sided tents spread on the sandy expanse. Various items needed for daily living were strewn about. Occasionally a camel was tied nearby. And nearly always a TV Antenna protruded into the sky! Of course one wonders how they exist...what they eat...for 85% of the land is arid.

The guide told us these Bedouins are a problem and the government is trying to relocate them in more populated areas where there is employment but it is almost a losing battle. Apparently they are on the equivalent of Welfare and do not want to surrender their lifestyle. 5% of the population are Bedouins.

There has been three civilizations in this land:Yemen, Old Egyptian and Assyrian. Five peoples have populated the area: Ammonites, descended from Lot; Moabites, descended from Moab; Idomites, descended from Esau; Ammorites, descended from Sihon, and Assyrians, descended from Og.

The children were very healthy looking, and the ones we saw were laughing and having fun like children all over the world. Many of them were watch ing flocks.



Ruins of
the
Hisham
Palace
at
Jericho



The first actual historic sight we observed in Israel was the ruins and remains of the ancient city of Jericho. The mention of the name immediately reminds us that "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho.....and the walls came tumblin' down."

Archeologists have found ruins to account for more than twenty cities, destroyed and rebuilt, one atop the other! Supposedly it is the oldest city on earth. The above picture shows the remains of a palace built in 724 AD as a winter resort for the Omayyad Caliphs. It was destroyed by an earthquake shortly after being erected.

The ruins here are very extensive. Archeologists carefully left spots where the various "layers" could be observed, each representing an age, or a city.

The name of our guide was "Theophilus," which we soon shortened to "Theo." He said he was a Christian Arab. We appreciated his excellent English. He answered our questions well and willingly and tried to point out every interesting spot.

In the modern city of Jericho he brought us to the "Qumran" Restaurant, a modest eating place in a quiet section of the city where we welcomed a hearty lunch. That 5:30 breakfast had worn off long ago. We were served Saffron Rice with Chicken, squash, lettuce/cucumber/tomato salad, breads, hot mustard and soft drinks.



THEO

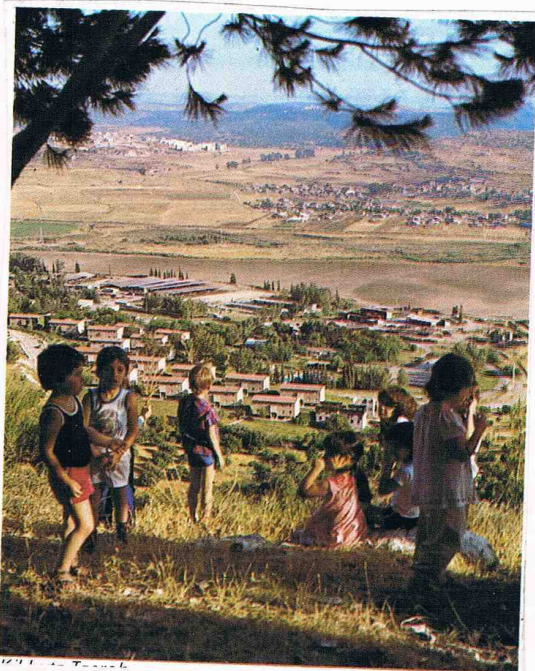
Directly across the road from the ruins of Jericho was a tiny pool of clear spring water. Here, they say, is the spot where Elisha tossed a handful of salt from a new bowl into the polluted water to sweeten it. (II Kings 2:19-22) It was not particularly beautiful and no effort had been made to turn it into an attractive sight for the tourists. Many travelers were drinking of the water. We had been warned earlier against drinking any of the unsterilized water so it didn't look inviting to us, even though it was running and crystal clear.



Heading north, our guide explained the sights we were seeing all of the time, giving Biblical References to support the stories. I will not attempt to include them in the order in which we saw them for often I could not make my notes until late evenings and my mind was often "boggled" by then.

Theo pointed out the "Mount of Temptation," the traditional place where Jesus spent forty days in contemplation following his Baptism.

As I had thought about this trip before leaving home, I think I had expected to become bored looking at ancient ruins and excavations. How wrong I was! Listening to the stories behind each of the ancient sites, and remembering references to each of these places from a lifetime of studying and reading Biblical accounts, the spots seemed to come alive.



The ruins of Meggido are an example of this. This Canaanite town has been expertly excavated and is kept as a National Park. Habitation from 3000 BC. It was one of King Solomon's towns, and later one of Ahab's chariot cities.

Joshua once killed the King here. We were shown a Canaanite altar....a manger carved from stone (of which most mangers were in Biblical times).....We descended a "few hundred" steps to a well, and then walked through one of Solomon's water tunnels.

Nearby is the Meggido Kibbutz...population 300 but we did not go there.

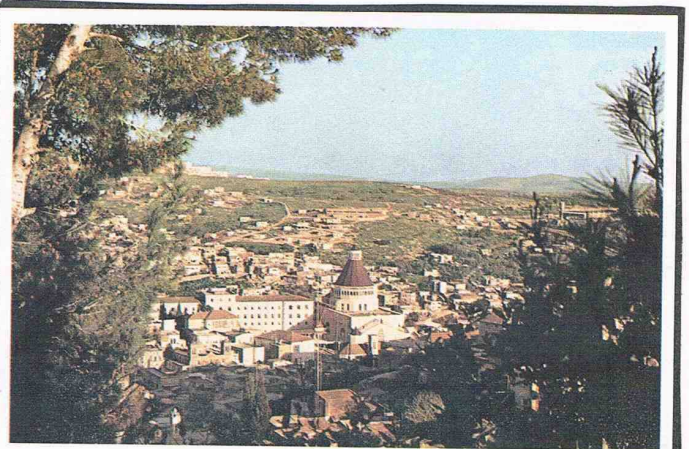
The view from higher ground into the fertile, cultivated valley was a lovely site indeed.



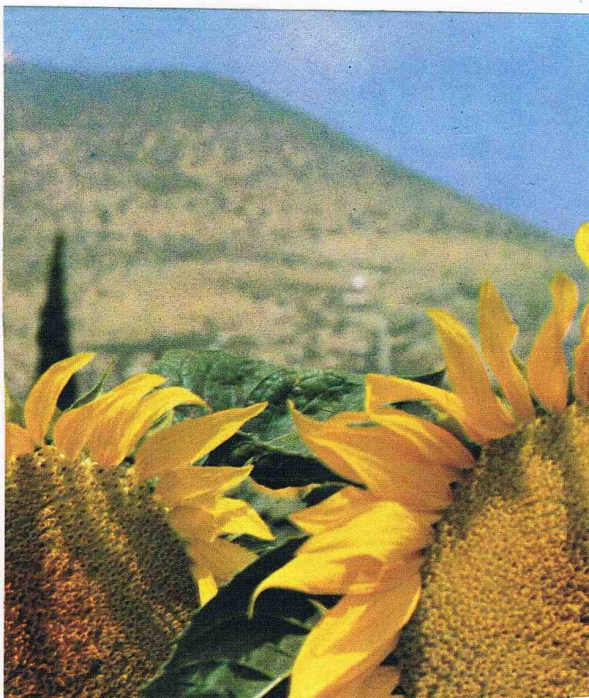
Every mile of the drive through the fertile Jordan Valley was rewarding. On each side were carefully tended orchards and vineyards, gardens and fields. Irrigation farming is increasing. It is easy to see what an asset this area would be to whom ever occupies it.

Our stop in the city of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, was too short. It is very difficult to associate this large, spread-out modern city with the mind's picture of a tiny,

quaint village of New Testament description. It is an Arab town today of 38,600 inhabitants. There are many churches, convents and monasteries. This includes the Basilica of Annunciation, the traditional site where Mary received the news from the Angel of the coming birth of Christ. Another section of this same Greek Orthodox Church indicates the place where Mary is said to have drawn water from a well for her family. Although impressive in a way, yet I felt the gaudiness of it all was detracting.



THE ANNUNCIATION. *The new Basilica of the Annunciation at Nazareth, built over the grotto where the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary.*



Near Nazareth, from the road one can see the traditional Mount of Transfiguration, commonly called Mount Tabor.

Churches and Monasteries have been built on ancient foundations on the summit of this mountain, which is 588 feet above sea level.

It was once a Canaanite town and thought to be the site of the battle between the Israelites led by Deborah and Barak and Sisera's Canaanite Chariot Army.

It was a very important town during the periods of the First and Second Temples.

Many such mountains which we knew about from Bible Study were pointed out from the road as we traveled but it would have been too time-consuming and tiring to have made a side trip to their summit.



Galilee

"O Galilee, blue Galilee, where Jesus loved so much to be...."

The words to this very old song came to my mind very vividly as we paused to spend one whole day and two nights in this northern province of Israel. We were lodged in the Golan Hotel in Tiberias. How strange it seemed to be lodging in this town about which we had studied so often down through the years! After dark, which came early, Stanley and I took a walk. The section through which we passed was all modern, with many hotels, business places and apartment houses. There was a good street system and quite a bit of traffic.

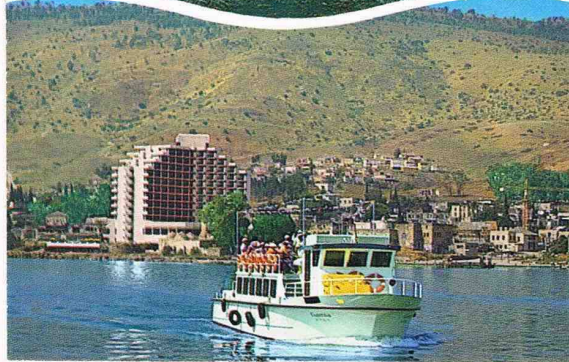
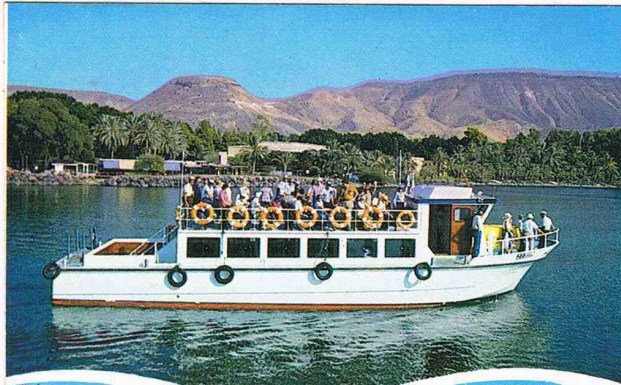
The hotel was comfortable and the food was good. Breakfasts here were buffet style and offered much variety. Scrambled eggs, lots of cheeses, yogurt, toast, (cucumbers always), strawberry jam, juices, coffee, tea, but no cereal or milk!

The first activity for this second day of our Adventure will forever stand out in my memory. It was a beautiful, blue-sky day and the temperature was ideal. Excitement was high as we boarded our boat for a ride on the Sea of Galilee. The water was quiet and reflective as a mirror.

After reaching a considerable distance from the shore, the motors were shut off and during this quiet time one of our clergy friends read some appropriate scripture and offered prayer. I cannot relate how very awe-inspiring it was to realize that we were probably sitting in the same spot where Jesus must have sat so long ago and gazing upon the same hills he looked upon during the years he spent here. Low mountains surround the lake and numerous villages dot the shoreline.

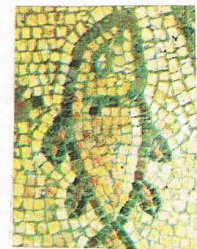
How very real the Biblical accounts seem when I read them now. It is easy to close one's eyes and visualize the spots mentioned in the scriptures. Our regret is that we did not have this delightful experience so many years ago. Stanley would have benefited so much in his Ministerial functions with such a rich background.

An effort is being made to make such a trip as this more easily possible for all Seminary students and hopefully they will take advantage of it.



We came ashore at the ruins of the city of Capernaum. Some scholars feel that this place became a second home for Jesus during much of his ministry. This is where he found his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, casting their nets into the sea and said unto them..."Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) Here we viewed the ruins of one of the best preserved Synagogues in the land. It was built in the second-third Century AD. The birthplace of Peter is said to be here. A church has been erected on the spot. The grounds are maintained by the Franciscan Monks who acquired them in 1894 and have a Monastery there. Apparently the city was well-known as the center of Jesus' ministry for a time but it shared in his condemnation of those populations who had seen his mighty works and yet had not repented. (Matthew 11:23, Luke 10"15)

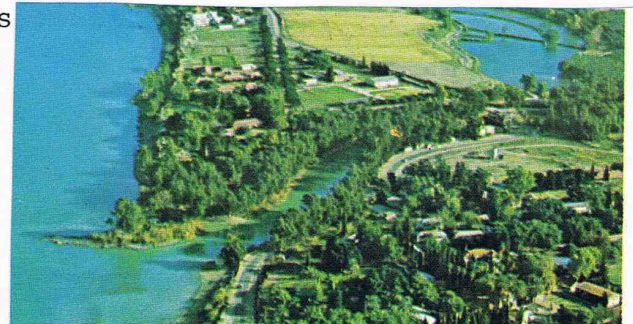
Nearby, at Tabgha (meaning "Seven Springs") we were shown a portion of ancient Mosaic Pavement depicting a basket of loaves and two fishes. This signifies the miracle of the multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes.



A little farther along we enjoyed a short, but pleasant stop at the Mount of Beattitudes. Here it is believed may be the site of the Sermon on the Mount.

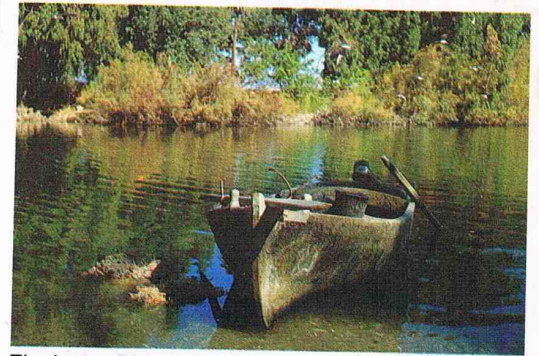
In a quiet area, under a spreading shade tree one of our pastors read the Beattitudes and offered prayer. These short devotional times are very meaningful. Here, also are churches and a convent. Nuns were busy tending the gardens.

All of these holy, historic spots are well maintained for the benefit of the tourist.



Where the Jordan river flows out of the Sea of Galilee

A Baptismal Service was held in a specially designated place along the Banks of the River Jordan where it empties into the Sea of Galilee. Hand support rails are fixed in the water and the river bed has been made smooth with concrete for several feet out into the water. It is indeed a lovely spot.



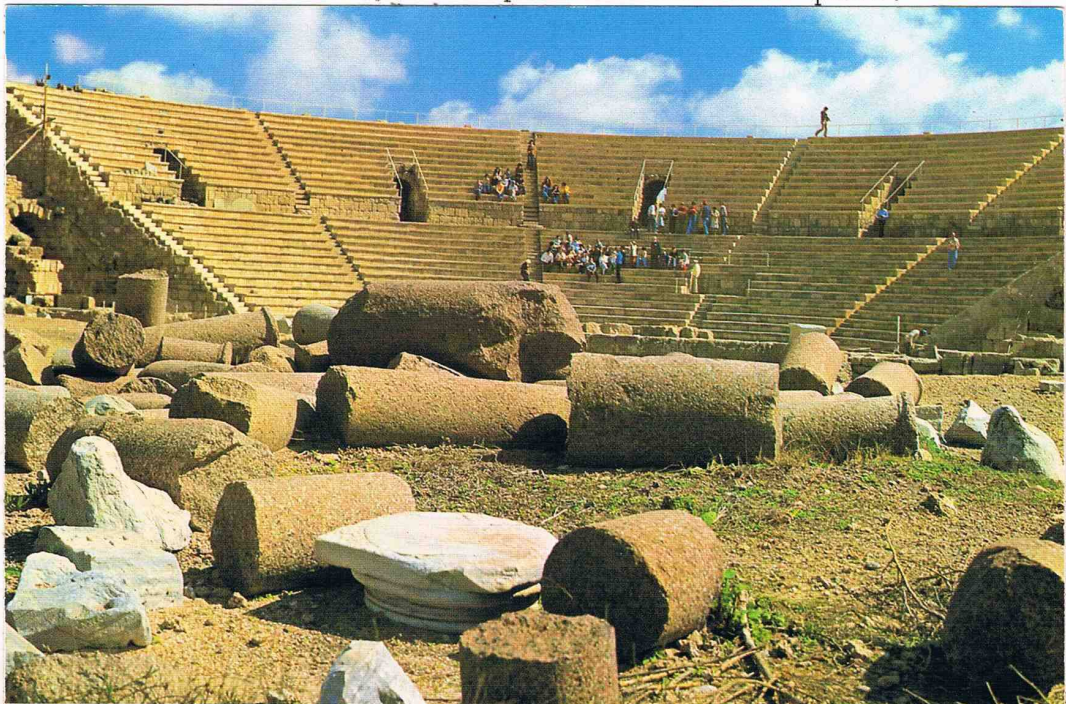
The Jordan River

The day before a paper had been circulated on the bus where one could so indicate a desire for Baptism. This seems to be standard procedure on tours such as ours. Several persons had already signed up and I indicated my wish to be sprinkled. Others had done the same but evidently they changed their minds for when the time came more than sixty were immersed but I was the only one who was sprinkled. Stanley took several snapshots but something had gone wrong with our camera (or rather HIS camera) and we have no pictures of our own before we reached the Jerusalem area. Several pastors filled bottles with water from the river for use in Baptisms back in their home Churches.

After this service we went into the city of Tiberias to a restaurant called "Peter's Fish." We learned that the fish which we were served was indeed called "Peter's Fish." It was served whole and was delicious as was the rest of the meal.

A trip westward brought us to the Mediterranean coast. It is such a narrow country here that it took but a short time to make this lap. Before reaching the city of Caesarea, we paused and walked about a reconstructed Roman Amphitheatre. This colossal outdoor theater is used frequently today.

There is much to be seen and experienced in the area of Caesarea if there is sufficient time; Remains of an ancient aqueduct, Byzantine mosaics, Statuary, etc. The territory is kept as a national park.



Caesarea. the Roman Amphitheatre



Before we boarded our bus at the Roman Amphitheatre, I observed this blazing field of Mustard.....the clear view of the ancient ruins in the background made it seem an idea "shot." Of course my little Instamatic does not pick up the distant scene very well. In addition I discovered later that the yellow flowers were black-eyed susans!

The city of Caesarea was built by Herod the Great. It was here the first Gentile was converted; his name was Cornelius and he was baptised by Peter. It was here Paul was imprisoned two years before being sent to Rome for trial.

A good freeway took us north a few miles to Haifa, Israel's third largest city and chief Port. Haifa is the World Center for the Bahai Religion. We yearned to see this temple we had heard about but were permitted only a glimpse of its gold dome from a roadside stop on a mountainside high above it.

It was already evening and we were soon to learn the real reason for bringing us to this city. We were escorted into a Diamond Show Room. It seems that Israeli Traders have gotten into the Diamond Business in a big way. Although it was Friday Evening and the Sabbath had already technically begun, the place was still open and they were waiting for us.

It is expensive merchandise, but since I know nothing about the price of precious stones I wouldn't know if any bargains were to be found or not. Some said not. It was plain to see that the driver had a good thing going with these merchants..rather the driver and the guide. I heard others indicate that it all was offensive to them. Most of us had not come to this part of the world to buy diamonds....nor even look at them! Our guide and driver showed no hurry to get going regardless of the hour nor the distance yet to be driven.

We managed to arrive at the hotel in time for dinner about 8:00.

Today we drove past a large Kibbutz and were told that this was the birthplace of Moshe Dyan.

My notebook indicates many other historical sites pointed out as we rode along.

The village of Cana where Jesus performed his first Miracle, that of turning the water into wine at the Wedding Feast.

Mount Carmel, a mountain range often mentioned in the Bible, particularly in connection with Elijah and Elisha. Also near here in the Carmel Caves have been discovered prehistoric flint implements and bones of "Homo Carmelensis," Carmel Man of 100,000 years ago. It is all now designated as a National Park.

We again viewed the great valley where, in the final great battle between the forces of good and evil, the War of Armageddon will be fought.

STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"

The first day of the tour we had traveled on a route more through the center of the state. Now we went south on a highway which at times was very near the River Jordan. Leaving the hotel in Tiberias on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, we were reminded that across the lake toward the northeast, lay the region known as Golan Heights--this is in Jordan.

Theo explained more of political conditions between Israel and Jordan. To our left (east) he pointed to bunkers on the ridges where Israeli soldiers kept watch on the border; miles & miles of electric fence and barbed wire is regularly patrolled. In places the river is more like a creek and could be illegally crossed easily. It is much like the Rio Grande between US and Mexico.

We saw fields of barley and wheat ready for the combines. Sugar beets are raised here. Theo said that after the grain is harvested the field is usually planted to cotton. We saw large fields of cotton already under cultivation in some areas.

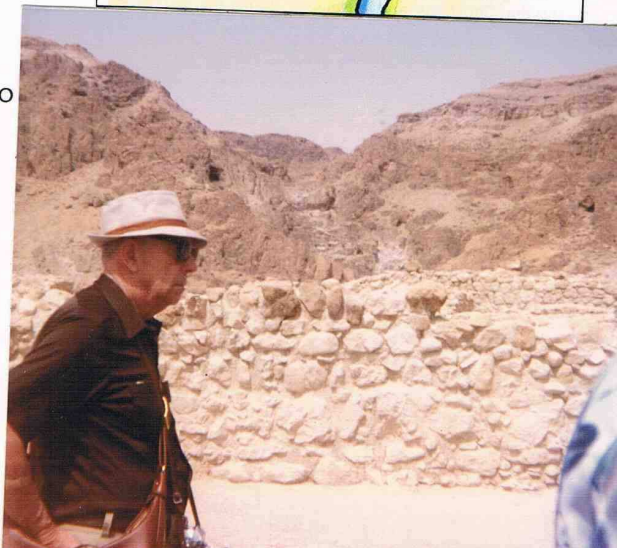
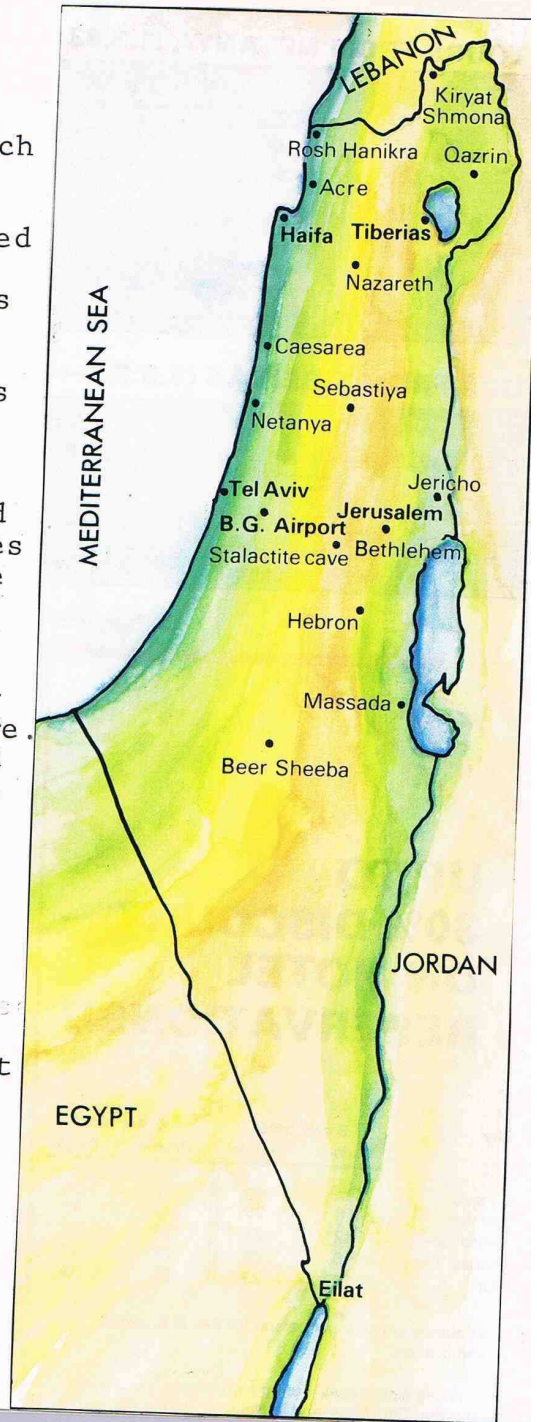
Continuing the trip southward and seeing noteworthy sights every few miles, we once again passed through the city of Jericho. The next stop was the place where the dead sea scrolls were discovered. Theo told how they were accidentally found and pointed out from a distance the rocky hillsides where caves containing scrolls or fragments of them were later unearthed.

Having read so much about them in the past decades it was a real thrill to actually see this place.

We were a little disappointed, later, that while in Jerusalem, time did not permit us to visit the depository where these scrolls are stored and displayed.

Of course it is impossible to see and do everything on so short a trip. Which makes us more determined than ever to return again some time.

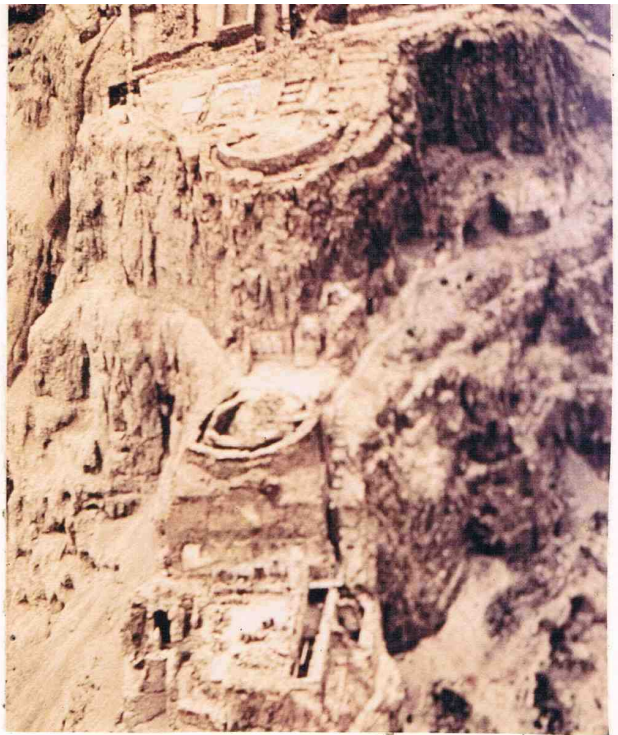
Each time we stood at one of the areas so rich in history we felt we ought to pinch ourselves to see if all were really true!



STANDARD B & P "NOTEAR"



MASADA



Both of us feel this was one of the most interesting and significant of all attractions. While we had heard of the place and recalled the TV production, yet its importance had not registered.

Masada, a short drive southeast of Jerusalem, is a mesa, atop a very rocky mountain which rises 800 ft. above the surrounding valleys on the East and 650 feet on the west. Much soil on the 20 acre expanse indicates that historical claims of cultivation in ancient times may well be true.

Historically this was the last stronghold of the revolutionary Zealots. In 73 AD, 960 Jews, led by Eleazar Ben Yair made their last heroic stand against the conquering Roman army on this spot. Rather than surrender and become Roman subjects, they chose to die. It was a case of mass suicide.

We ascended to the top viaa cable car. There are steps for the fool-hardy! Here have been discovered and expertly excavated, the remains of Herod's winter Palace. He took refuge here in 42 BC. There has been a partial restoration of some palace walls, baths, cisterns, etc. It is kept as a National Park and Israel rightly claims it as one of it's foremost historical sites. They say that Israeli Soldiers are taken to this spot to repeat their vows of allegiance as they are inducted into the army!

After returning home we eagerly sought books and have been absorbed in learning more of the history and archeology of the place.

We came back down on the cable car and had lunch at a nearby restaurant operated by a kibbutz.





Leaving Masada and heading Northward, we made a stop at a "Wadi" or Oasis along the shore of the Dead Sea. Theo had already told us many important facts about this body of water. It is the lowest spot on earth, lying 1,286 feet below sea level. It is fed mainly by the River Jordan and has no outlet. Reportedly, it is seven times more salty than the Great Salt Lake in Utah! Its waters contain up to 25% of salts and other minerals. It is one of Israel's few sources of natural wealth.

They say it is practically impossible to drown in this lake. The spot turned out to be nothing more or less than a public beach. It was very crowded; there appeared to be at least 50 busses plus many cars parked

Many groups were picnicking, swimming and have lots of fun. It was not a good beach, very rocky and very dirty. Litter, litter everywhere. We watched a few of the swimmers floating about. A few from our group dipped a finger in the water to test its saltiness but it looked so polluted that I couldn't bring myself to do it!

All of us commented on the extraordinary amount of litter we saw in several areas. Paper and tin cans everywhere, and worse yet, the remains of old broken down, worn out and abandoned automobiles, eyesores in the ditches beside the roads.

Along the route today we saw several Bedouin Camps. Theo did not indicate whether they are the problem in Israel that they are in Jordan or not.

We had brief showers today. Actually they were a welcome break in the heat. We directed our bus toward Jerusalem and it began to rain quite hard and about the same time a cold front apparently passed through for the temperature began to drop considerably.

After arriving in the city the driver drove about for some time and Theo attempted to point out many important sites. Because of the warmth inside the bus the windows steamed up badly and we couldn't see much.

It is but a few miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and there the bus drove directly to a large gift and souvenir shop called, "The Three Arches." Now we would understand why Theo had consistently insisted that we not buy from any of the numerous street vendors we had earlier encountered. He kept insisting that he would take us to a nice store in Bethlehem where the merchandise would be nicer, more variety, and better prices. We may have been hurried through a few other tourist attractions but Theo saw to it that we had PLENTY of time here!!! The merchandise was nice and there was a vast selection but certainly there were no bargains to be had. Everyone was given a discount card. We discovered that each bus distributed different colored cards. This was so the proper driver and guide would get the kickback on the merchandise sold to his passengers!!!!

Later we would see much of the identical merchandise for sale by street vendors for much less. All articles in the shop were priced in American dollars. I saw there a carving of "Praying Hands" with a price tag of \$14. The next day I bought the same item from a vendor for \$5! However, I did buy quite a few gifts in the shop.

Here in Jerusalem we are staying at the Diplomat Hotel. It is very comfortable but somehow our room was not ready. The bed was not made and we never did get enough towells that first night. While we were at dinner everything was whipped into order and we enjoyed our stay in this hotel.

Sunday Morning, May 16 found our entire tour group assembled at the site where it is believed the Ascension of Jesus took place.

A very high circular wall encloses a grassy area. A few stone seats were available but most either stood or sat on the grass. In the center a tiny round structure supposedly marks the spot of the Ascension. The place was built by the Muslims.

One of the Pastors was selected to lead us in singing a few favorite hymns. Everyone sang enthusiastically.

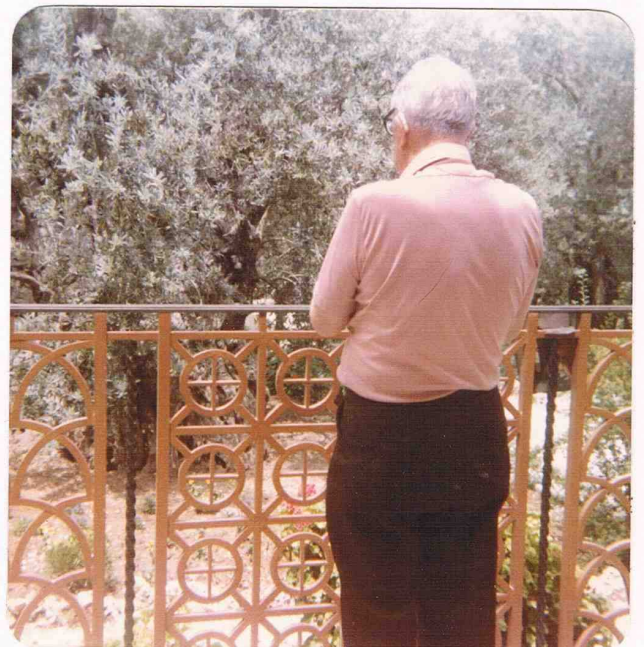
Then our tour host, Rev. Philpot preached a simple but acceptable sermon.

At the traditional site of the Garden of Gethsemane many very old Olive Trees are believed to actually be off-shoots of some of those which were there at the time of Christ. I had read of this possibility and believe it may well be true after seeing these twisted, gnarled old trees.

I tried to get a picture of one but succeeded in getting a good likeness of Stanley's back instead!

A very lovely Stone Chapel stands on this spot; it was built and is maintained by some order of the Catholic Church.

Not far from here we paused to see the "Church of all Nations."





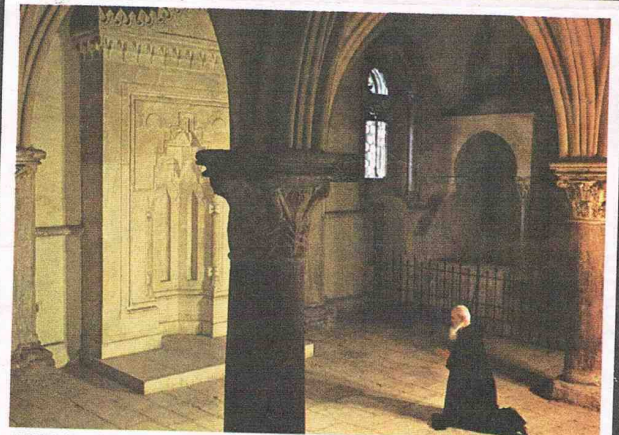
It appeared to us that one can scarcely travel anywhere in Jerusalem without crossing the Kidron Valley. A main route seemed always to route us that way.

One can gaze across this valley from the side where the old walled city stands to the Mount of Olives. Now it is mostly concrete and stone..... but a picture seems lodged in my mind of a stream and wooded hillsides. We gathered this image as we read the New Testament through the years. We crossed this valley at least a dozen times during the three days we stayed in Jerusalem.

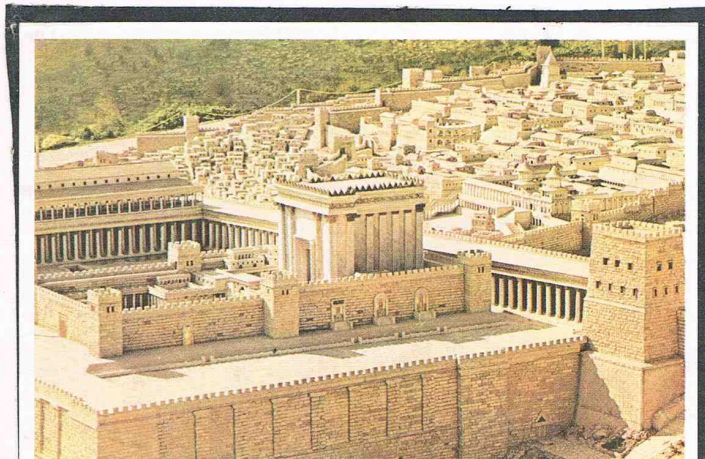
Pausing for a moment at the traditional site of King David's tomb, we found many faithful Jews reading aloud from their Book of Worship, reciting prayers or chanting Psalms. It is truly a great, Holy shrine for them.

Outside, in a small pleasant courtyard, our group meaningfully recited the 23rd Psalm.

Across a brick courtyard we assembled at the traditional site of the Last Supper. One of our young ministers delivered a short meditation and offered prayer.



THE LAST SUPPER. *The Cenacle, above King David's Tomb on Mount Zion, the traditional site of the Last Supper, partaken on Passover by Jesus and his disciples.*



THE SECOND TEMPLE. *Model of Herod's magnificent Temple, designed and built by the late Prof. Michael Avi-Yonah in the grounds of the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem.*

An unexpected treat was a visit to view the large model of the Second Temple. We were told that a donor in Philadelphia had given about 1½ Million dollars for this project. It is quite accurate as to size and proportion and is constantly updated as new archeological and scientific discoveries are made. The wall around the model is about waist high. We saw classes listening to lectures in various languages. Our guide led us around the entire perimeter, pointing out various parts with a long stick.

This is a spot where a whole day would give about the proper amount of time to digest what one sees and hears.

THE WAILING WALL

Without a doubt, the one tourist attraction with which the traveler is most familiar is the The Western Wall, referred to by Jews the world over as The Wailing Wall. This is Judiasm's most sacred place of Pilgrimage and Prayer.

It is the sole remnant of the outer court of the magnificent Second Temple built by Herod. However it is thought that down below, some of the courses still to be uncovered may have belonged to Solomon's Edifice.

The area is divided into two parts. About 2/3 is occupied by men. It is always a very "busy" place...here one sees the old black-costumed, white bearded Orthodox Jews. Often one is carrying a huge Scroll. The murmur and drone of their chanting as they read from their Books and pray rises above the ordinary street noises. Off to one side are small rooms in the stone; a sign above the entrances read: "Bar Mitzvah Rooms." Here again one certainly felt a sense of awe to behold such a famous sight. It is easy to understand how grieved and frustrated (and outraged) the Jews must have been when this

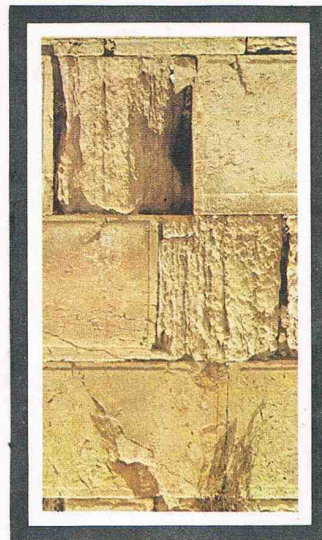


section of Jerusalem was not available to them prior to 1967 when the Israeli siezed it.

The section roped off for the women was not so crowded. Mostly I observed quite old women, only two or three who could have been under 40.

I noticed a lot of small pieces of paper, very tiny, sticking in the chinks of the stones and lying about on the pavement.

I was told that pilgrims write prayers and messages on these bits of paper and leave them there. Frequently they amount to a large amount of litter and have to be shoveled away.



Our tour bus shuttled us so rapidly from one historic attraction to another that it is difficult to sort out all that we saw and remember the many characteristics of each.

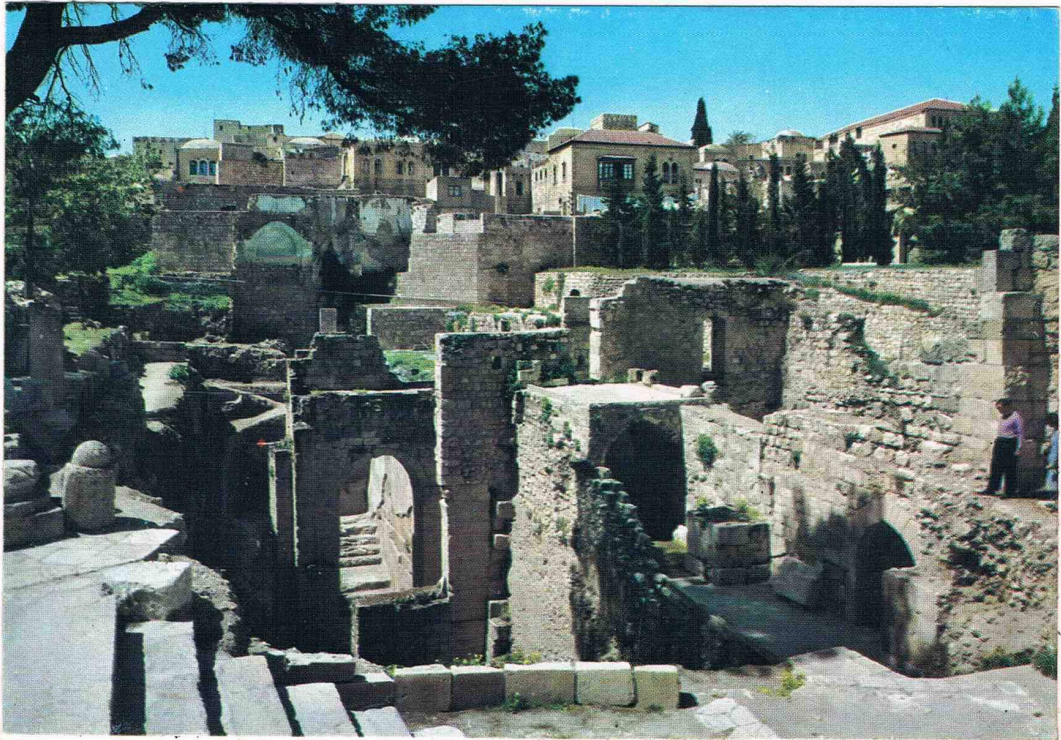
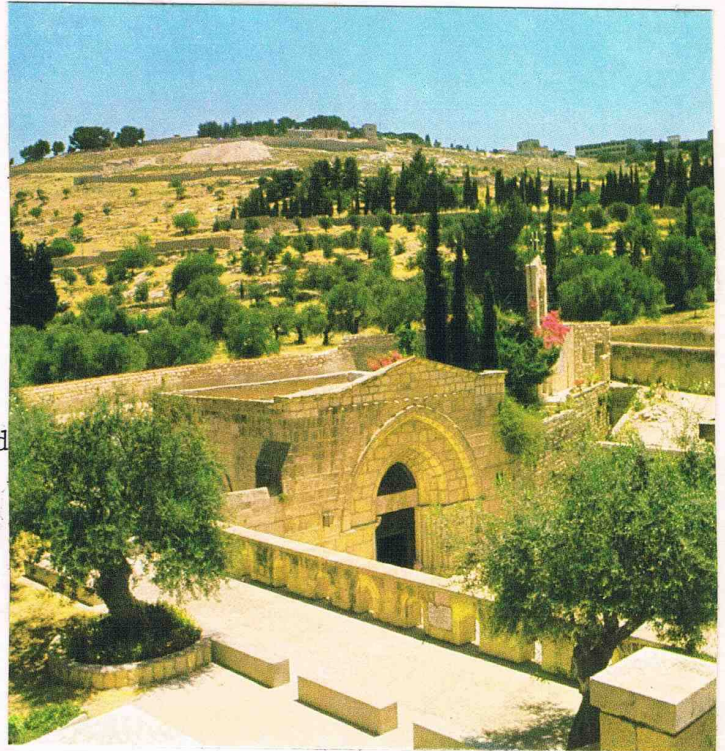
We were constantly reminded at each stop that this was the "traditional site" of something.

The Church of St. Anne is a shrine dedicated to the sacred memory of the mother of the Virgin Mary.

There is little or no New Testament documentation for most of the lore surrounding this saint.

Standing beside ancient excavations, now twined with vines and so far below that we could scarcely see any water at all, was the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the paralytic who was unable to transport himself to the Pool in time to be healed when the angel "troubled" the waters.

There were steps down to the edge of the Pool and many tourists were going down. However we always remembered that the number of steps down was always matched by an equal number of steps back up! So we chose to view many of these sights from afar.



POOL AT BETHESDA



THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. *The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem encloses the last five Stations of the Cross, commemorating Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection.*



Because so many of the sites are "traditional," that is, it cannot be unquestionably proved that they are positively the spot they are claimed to be, we should not be surprised that two places lay claim to being the tomb of Christ.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre reportedly stands over the site of the Tomb of Jesus.

But there is also a very beautiful place called "The Garden Tomb," and the lecturer there spoke very convincingly as to why he was sure this had to be the place.

By pre-arrangement, our entire group, all three bus loads, arrived at this spot at the same time. The garden is divided into sections. Each part had a stone altar and seats, for there are many devotional services of various kinds held here. (Before we left JFK Airport in New York, we observed another smaller tour group in an orientation session. Their leader announced that one young couple in their group planned to be married in this garden...had all of the wedding clothes etc. for the occasion.)

Here, one by one, we squeezed through a tiny opening in the natural rock hillside, a door perhaps $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high and very narrow, to enter a tiny cell where a "shelf" resembling a couch along one side was said to be the actual grave of the Savior. Only half a dozen could be inside at one time.

In one of the larger sections of the garden, shielded for privacy by a thick hedge, a Communion Service had been prepared for our entire group. Rev. Philpot was assisted by his son Danny and several other clergy of the group. The grape juice was already in small olive wood goblets, each to be kept by us as a souvenir. The service was short but impressive and all were thankful for it.

These very brief devotional pauses at various spots helped us bear in mind that this trip was in a very real sense different from other trips. There was a spiritual refreshment about the whole experience.

A walk about the outer part of the garden at the rear, opened upon a scene of fascination. The rock formation to be seen is the spot referred to in the New Testament as "The Place of The Skull." Two large holes or indentations in the rocky projection opposite the garden do indeed resemble the eye sockets of a skull if one uses imagination. On the top of the hill above this view the crucifixion reportedly took place.



As we have mentioned many times, it is impossible to see every important spot on one trip to the Holy Land, but we were thankful we didn't miss "St. Pierre En Gallicante." In English this means something like "Saint Peter where the Cock Crew." It was built on the traditional site of the home of Caiphas the High Priest. A very "poky" guide kept us here longer than we had time for but it was immensely interesting. Impressive Mosaics grace both the interior and the exterior of this shrine. We descended down many steps, the equivalent of three or four stories to see an old dungeon and prison and the guide insists that there is plenty of proof that this is where Christ was thrown the night before his crucifixion.

We were given a little paper with a bit of scripture and a prayer on it so we could have a moment of worship down here.



Jerusalem, the Old City



The MOSQUE OF OMAR is also called "The Dome of The Rock." The golden dome stands out vividly on the Jerusalem skyline. One cannot wear shoes inside this building. The Muslims have solved this problem by "renting" us a canvas cover for our shoes. They tie it about our ankle...then we respond with a "tip!" The vastness of the interior hits one with a shock. The entire floor is covered with many room-size rugs and no furniture, naturally, since they worship on their knees bowing to a prone position. The interior is very ornate with lots of gold everywhere.

This Mosque stands on Mt. Moriah, on the site of the binding of Isaac, and of the First and Second Temples. The beautiful octagonal edifice, with its gilded cupola, is one of Islam's most sacred shrines. It was built in 691 and encloses the rock, where, according to Moslem tradition Mohammed ascended to heaven astride his steed el-Burak.

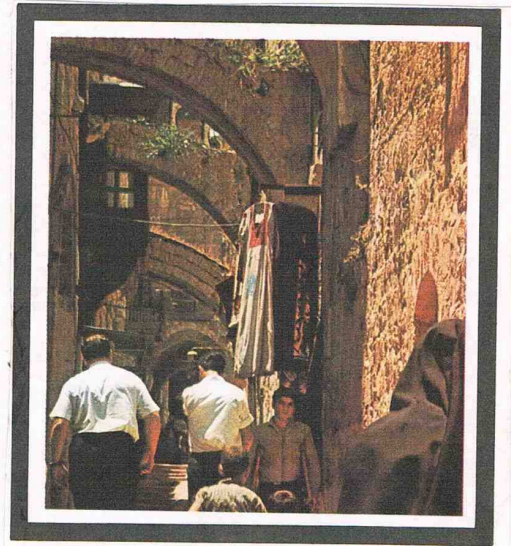
We also visited El Aska Mosque. This time we were required to deposit all belongings, including our shoes, together in the courtyard before entering the Mosque. Naturally we were a bit dubious but our guide insisted everything would be safe. However he promised to stay and keep an eye on things. So off came our shoes and onto the heap went handbags, shoulder bags, cameras, traveler's checks, passports.....the works. Muslims have severe penalties for stealing.... such as chopping off the hand which committed the offense, I've read!!!

This Mosque was also most interesting but not quite as ornate as the first one we visited.





Via Dolorosa



**VIA DOLOROSA
THE FOURTEEN STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**

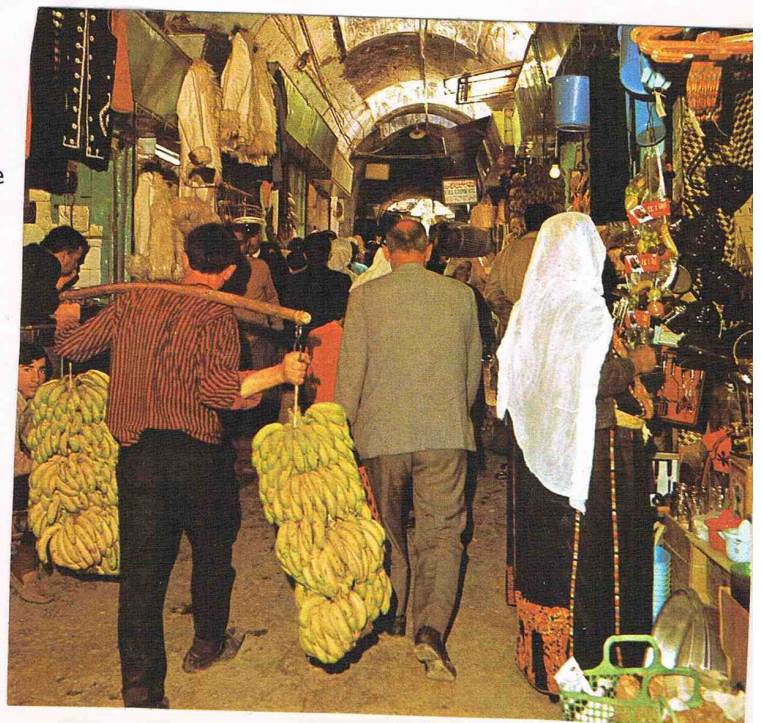
Via Dolorosa, "Sorrowful Way", is considered by Christians the holiest road in the world, for along its uneven path Jesus was led from the place of His condemnation to that of His crucifixion and death.

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus receives the cross.
3. Jesus falls under the cross for the first time.
4. Jesus meets His mother Mary.
5. The cross is taken over by Simon of Cyrene.
6. Veronica wipes the sweat from Jesus' face.
7. Jesus falls for the second time.
8. Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls for the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of His garments.
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
12. Jesus dies on the cross.
13. Jesus' body is taken off the cross.
14. Jesus' body is laid into the Sepulchre.

A brief walk along the VIA DOLOROSA (Sorrowful Way) will not be forgotten. All of us hope that some day we may return and walk it at our own pace. One's first impression is that there is little there today to remind one of the facts concerning the crucifixion unless one pauses among the bazaars and noisy shops to read the plaques denoting the fourteen stations of the cross.

The steeple in the picture at the upper right corner of this page is atop the Church of the Flagellation.

Often we were hurried off the bus, walked about, hurried back on the bus and scarcely realized where we had been or what we had seen!



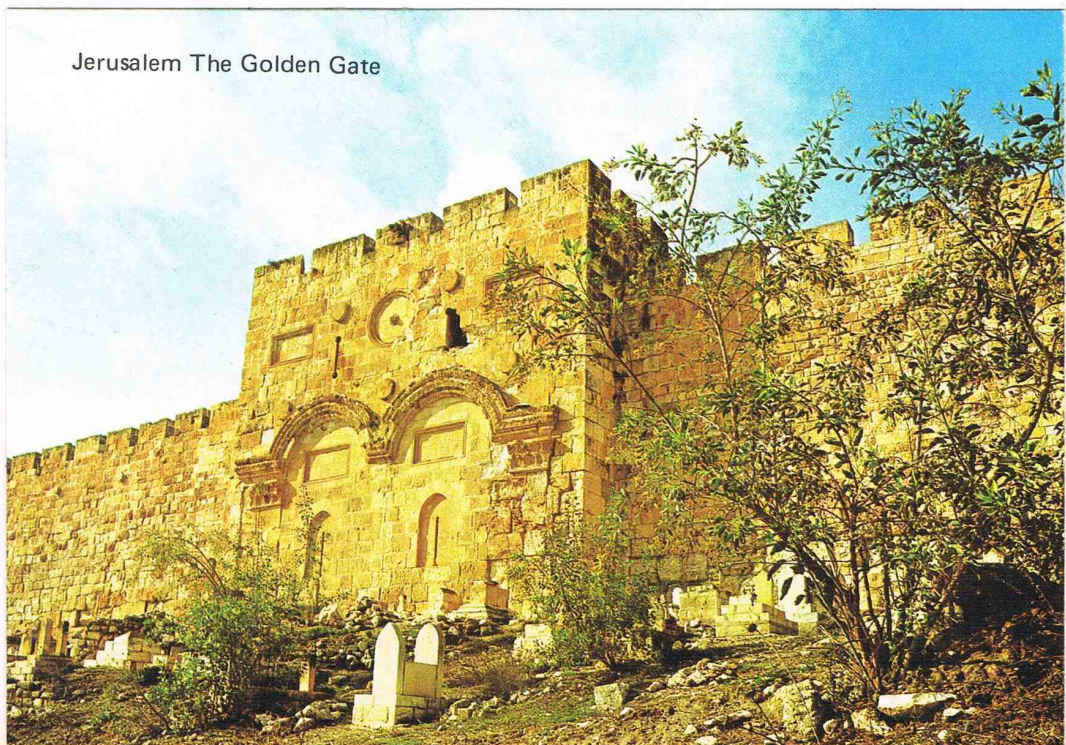


Jerusalem, Jaffa gate

Many gates provide entrance into the Old City. To the right of the Jaffa Gate, above, one can see THE CITADEL (more commonly called David's Tower.) The Citadel stands on the site over which Herod built his Palace. The Citadel also was used by the Romans, the Byzantines, Arabs, Mamelukes and Turks. Each of them added something to the building.

Some ancient gates have been sealed as we see below. The section in front of the Golden Gate is Muslim Burial Ground. In another place we observed a burial taking place by Orthodox Jews.....vast cemeteries occupy much space along these ancient walls.

IN ANCIENT
TIMES THIS
WAS THE
"GATE
BEAUTIFUL"
WHERE
PETER
HEALED
THE
LAME
MAN



Jerusalem The Golden Gate

Jerusalem, Damascus Gate

THE
GATE
WE
ENTERED



The Damascus gate is the most ornate of the gates of Jerusalem. It is so named because it marks the beginning of the highway to Damascus. It receives the most traffic today of any of the gates.

We have not mentioned all of the great historic spots which we saw by any means. We drove down the Palm Sunday road to the Church of all nations. We saw Jacob's well, the Pool of Siloam, Pilate's Judgement Hall, and many others.

After returning home I felt impelled to study more of the history of this ancient city.....continuously inhabited for at least 4,000 years!

By erecting the Holy Temple, King Solomon made it a religious as well as administrative center for the Children of Israel.

Razed, rebuilt, razed again...only the tiny portion of the western wall remains today to kindle the hope of the present day Jew of still a future age of glory.

Jerusalem was partitioned as a result of the war of Liberation of 1948 between Israel and Jordan, but was re-united in June of 1967.

The Capital of Israel is a city holy to three great faiths, Muslim, Jewish and Christian.

A descriptive paragraph on a tourist's map of the city describes it as a "remarkable combination of modern progressiveness and antiquity. Archeological discoveries are guarded and preserved. It also has world-standard Educational and Medical Establishments.

To visit this city for two days has been a thrill.

Before returning to our hotel on the afternoon of our last day in Jerusalem I asked Theo if he would take us to see the "Knesset," Israel's Parliament Building. I believe the guides feel we are more interested in the ancient sites.

It is in the newest area of the city. The architecture is modern. We were very impressed. The rose gardens in this area are indescribable. In fact we saw many extraordinary displays of roses in Israel. In this area the medians of the Boulevards were filled with roses.

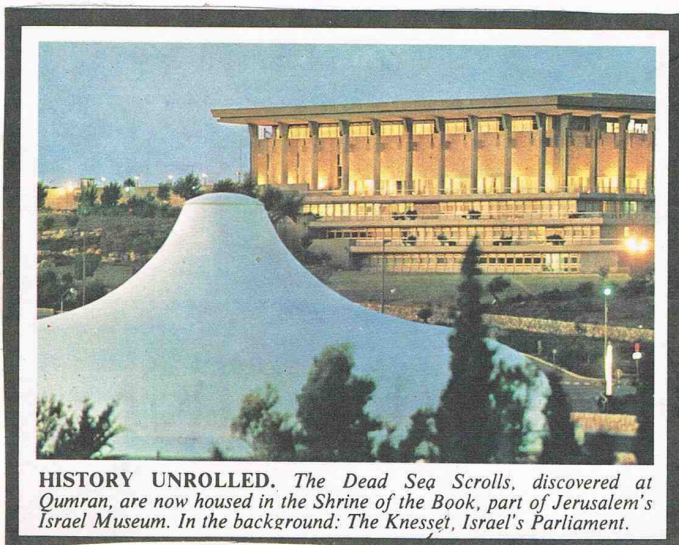
It is illegal to stop the vehicle in front of the Government Buildings. But our driver slowed to a crawl so we could see all we possibly could. Picture taking is forbidden but we all tried to snap a few from the bus windows. A huge Menorah is a special attraction for the shutter-bug. Our attempt failed so I cut a small picture from a travel folder.

Nearby is Jerusalem's Israel Museum. In a special building with an onion-shaped dome are housed the Dead Sea Scrolls. It really grieved us to have to miss this.

There will truly be much to see when we return to this land again, the Lord Willing.



Jerusalem - Knesset



HISTORY UNROLLED. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered at Qumran, are now housed in the Shrine of the Book, part of Jerusalem's Israel Museum. In the background: The Knesset, Israel's Parliament.



On the final evening of our stay in Jerusalem our dinner was a nice Banquet in the Ambassador Room of the Diplomat Hotel. Many women "dressed" and the men wore suits. The menu: Turkey Schnitzel (very good), fresh fruit appetizer, salad, soup, potatoes, peas & carrots, (Stanley wonders by now if perhaps the two might grow on the same vine over here!) fruit compote and cake.

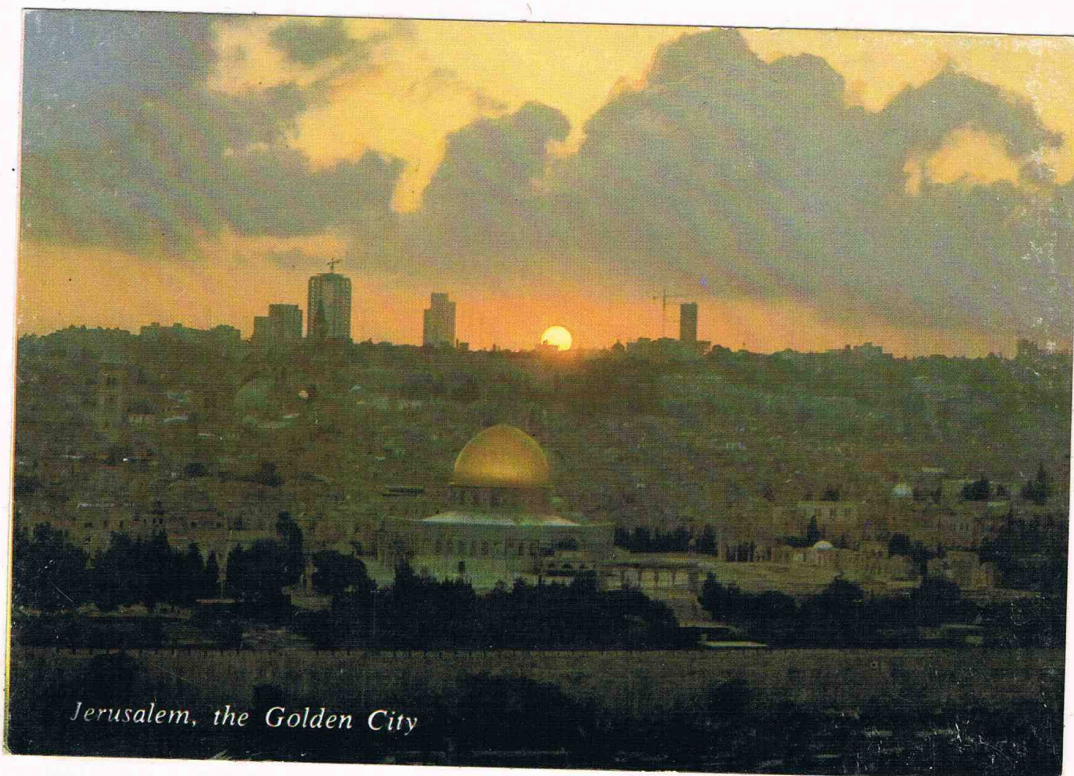
Representatives were present from Wholesale Tours, both from USA and Israel.

Later about 25 of us went on a bus downtown to a "FOLKLORE FESTIVAL." It was a 2 hour presentation of genuine Israeli folk dances and singing. It was well done and interesting after a fashion but both of us thought the music too loud for our liking. During the last 15 minutes the audience was invited to participate and many did respond. By the end activities had reached a feverish pitch. Home by midnight.

To Egypt tomorrow morning!!!



9:00 p.m. — AN EVENING of JEWISH and ARAB FOLKLORE, with the "Tzabarim" folk-dancers, folksingers, belly-dancer and the "Khalifa" Arab drummers. At the Y.M.C.A. Auditorium, 26 King David St. FEE



BETHLEHEM

"O Little town of Bethlehem....."

It is extremely difficult for some of us to picture Bethlehem as a city of some 30,000 population. We would prefer to have a mental image of it as a remote little village, quietly nestled among the Judean hills.

As we approached Bethlehem Theo pointed out an area which sloped down away from the town....this is called "Shepherd's Field." This is the same piece of ground referred to in the Old Testament as the fields of Boaz.

On a hillside just above this field is a natural cave in the rock. It is claimed that long ago above the cave stood an inn, and probably the cave served as a stable for the animals belonging to those who stayed at the inn.

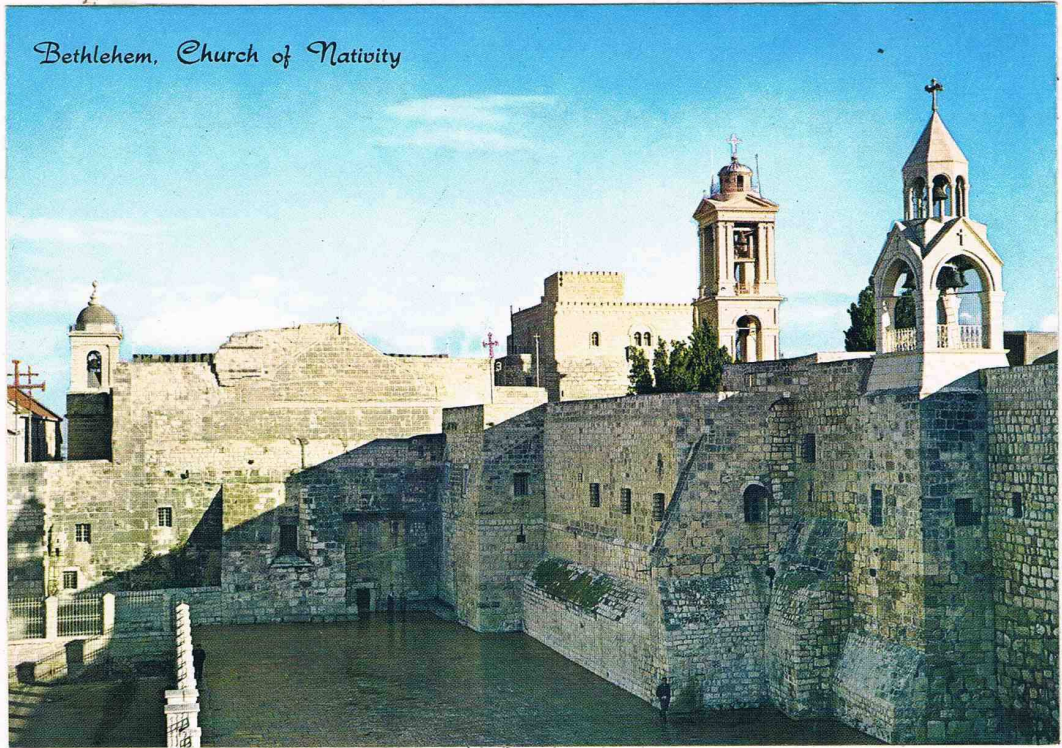
So it follows that this became the traditional site of the Birth of Christ.

We had learned earlier that the entire nation of Israel is only about 5% Christian, probably less. Yet it is claimed that Bethlehem may be between 85% and 95% Christian....very unusual for any town in this Judeo-Arab Country.

It is the only town in the world where Christmas is celebrated three times each year. The Roman Catholic and the Protestant Church observe Christmas on Dec. 25. The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates on Jan. 6, while the Armenian Orthodox Church consider January 18 the proper date for celebration.



Bethlehem, Church of Nativity



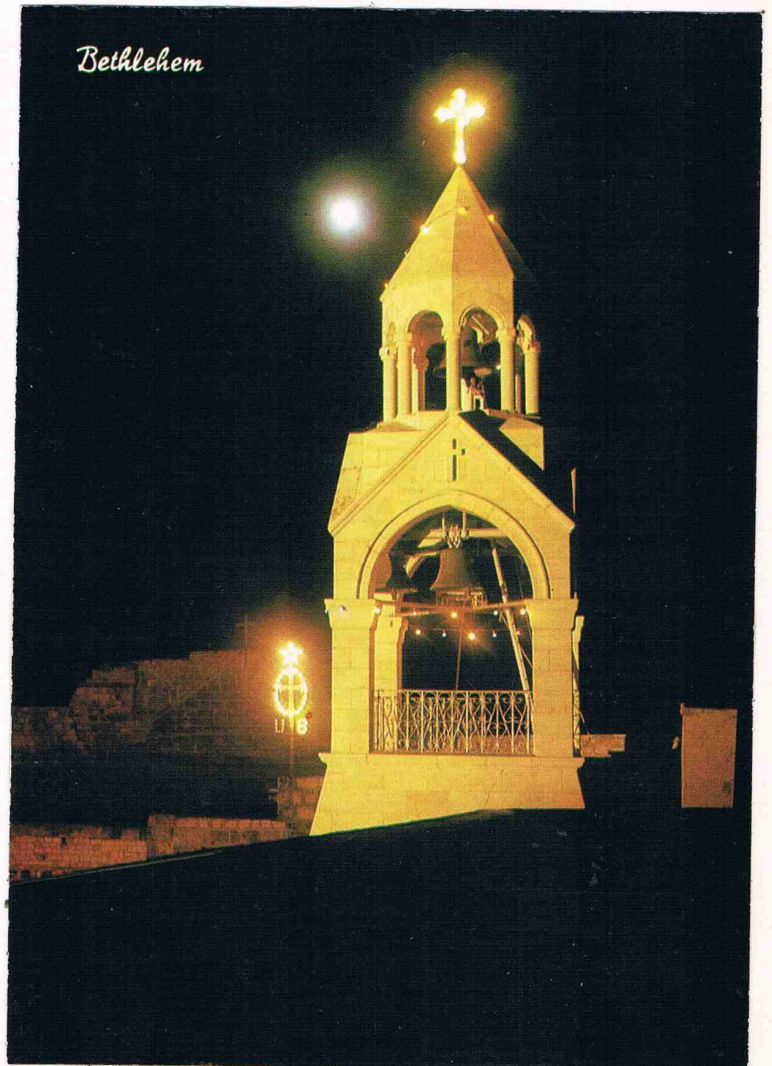
Bethlehem means "House of God." Since 325 AD when the first Edifice was erected over the site of Christ's birth, several have been reduced to ruins. The present structure has been made over and added to until it almost seems a hodge-podge if one should examine it too closely!

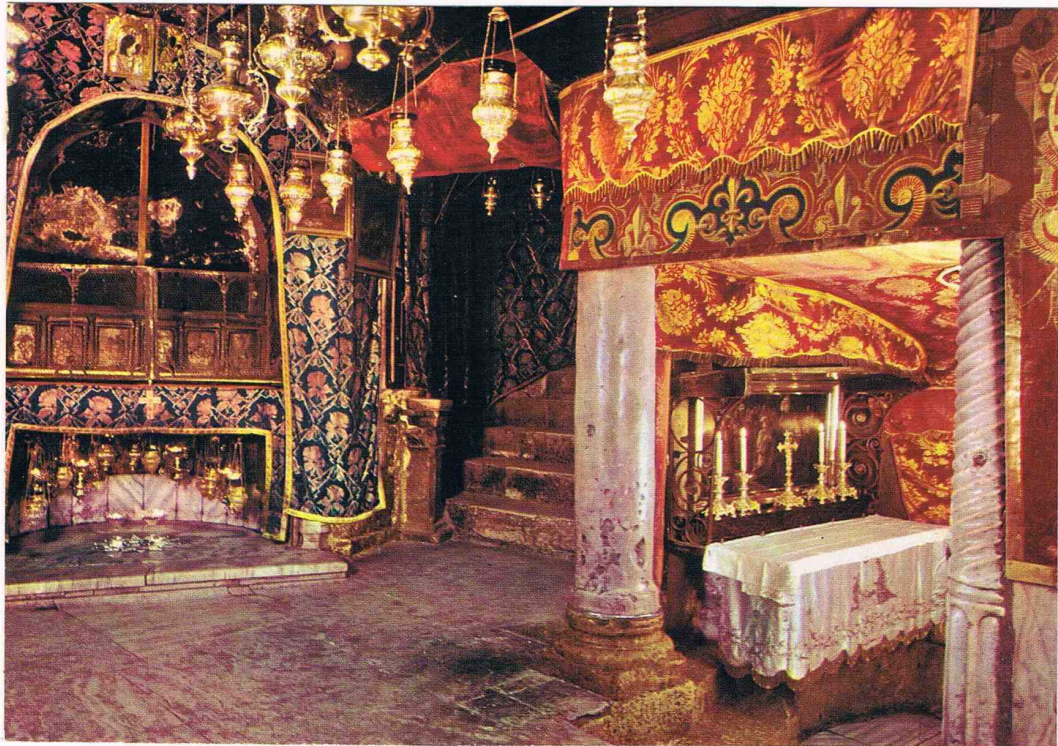
The tiny entrance, (about four feet high) was so designed to keep animals out of the church, as people used to ride their horses right into the church! The present church has stood since the sixth century and thus is said to be the oldest existing church in the world today.

In a grotto below the church St. Jerome translated the Bible into Latin.

The major part of the present building can be credited to the Crusaders in the 16th century. They did a great deal of renovating and repairing and added some Mosaics and paintings.

Bethlehem





The Church today is controlled by the Greek Orthodox Church so as one goes into it one sees oil lamps hanging about and smells the odor of burning oil.

If you look carefully you will see that the church is built in the shape of a cross.

Of course it doesn't look at all like a cave any more, with all the tapestries and plaster. You will see a silver star, inlaid in the floor, to mark the spot where Jesus was born and a few feet away is a marble manger. Just opposite the manger is a small altar dedicated to the Wise Men.

As we stood here on a place made sacred because of a happening nearly 2,000 years ago, we sang, "Away in a Manger," and had a moment of worship.



TRIVIA

As we rode about the country we kept observing these little "tanks" on all of the roof tops. We must remember that the houses, in fact most buildings here are flat-roofed. Each roof had at least one and often there would be many. Each "tank" was accompanied by these panels which were about the size of a double window sash.

Theo informed us that this was the hot water heating system for the household. The reflector panels caught the sun's rays which in turn heated the water. An apartment house would have one for each apartment. It seemed our bus traveled too fast to get a picture as we moved along. Once, as we were walking about viewing some historic site, I saw this house below us so risked getting a snap. This is on the edge of Jerusalem.

Seems to me, all we need here are more flat roofs.....and perhaps a few more sunny days.



EGYPT

Our very brief time spent in the vicinity of Cairo was interesting and enjoyable and served to whet our desire to come again some time and see more of this ancient kingdom. Truly, Egypt is an Archeologist's paradise.

At first we felt it would have been better to have flown to Cairo. Later we realized the bus trip offered a much better opportunity to see the land and the people, few though they were! However it required an entire day to make this jaunt from Jerusalem to Cairo.

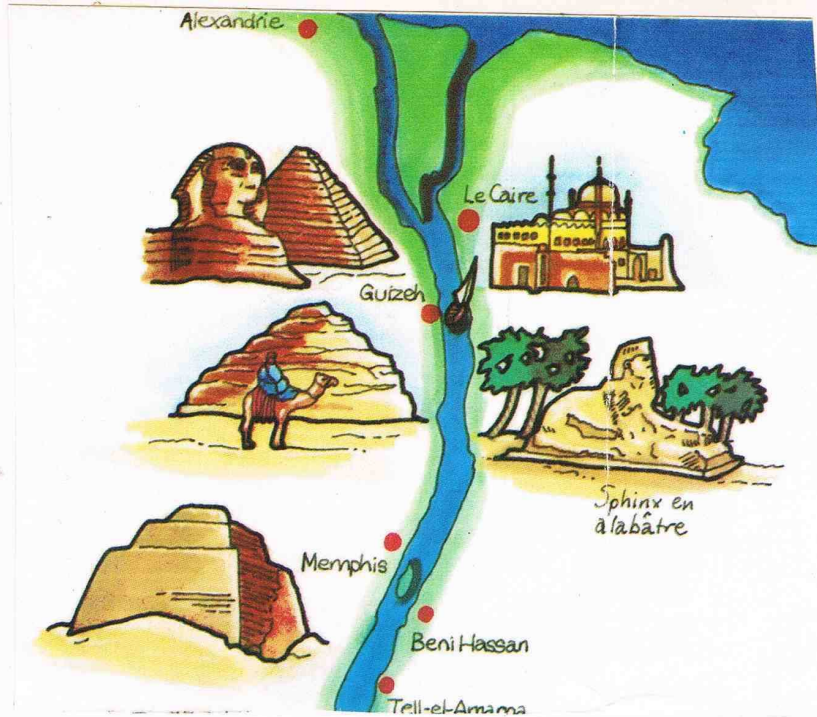
No stops were made as we proceeded southwestward across the state of Israel. The guide mentioned the cities as we passed through or around them...Hebron...Beer Shiva....and so on across the Gaza Strip and on to the border. To the right lay the Mediterranean Sea and to our left the vast expanse of the wilderness of Sinai. It is easy to understand why so many ask the reason for all of the fighting over this seeming God-forsaken land!

Having risen very early in order to get breakfast over and be on the bus ready to depart at 7:00 AM..many of us were tired and hungry when we reached the Suez Canal. The lunches which the hotel had packed for us tasted mighty good.

There was the usual red tape connected with leaving Israel and entering Egypt and it took a couple of hours. It was very hot outside the bus. We felt sorry for travelers waiting about under the blazing sun. Rest rooms were few and far between and the one here had but one stall!

We got an Egyptian Guide now. He told us the Suez canal was built in the previous century, completed in 1869 by Egypt and given to England and France in payment of a debt. Nasser reclaimed it in 1967. He told us the opera "Aida" was composed especially for the opening ceremonies of the Canal. The ferry was small; a semi-truck our bus and two or three cars made a load. The water is bright blue and it seemed wide enough at this spot but were told it is very narrow in some places.





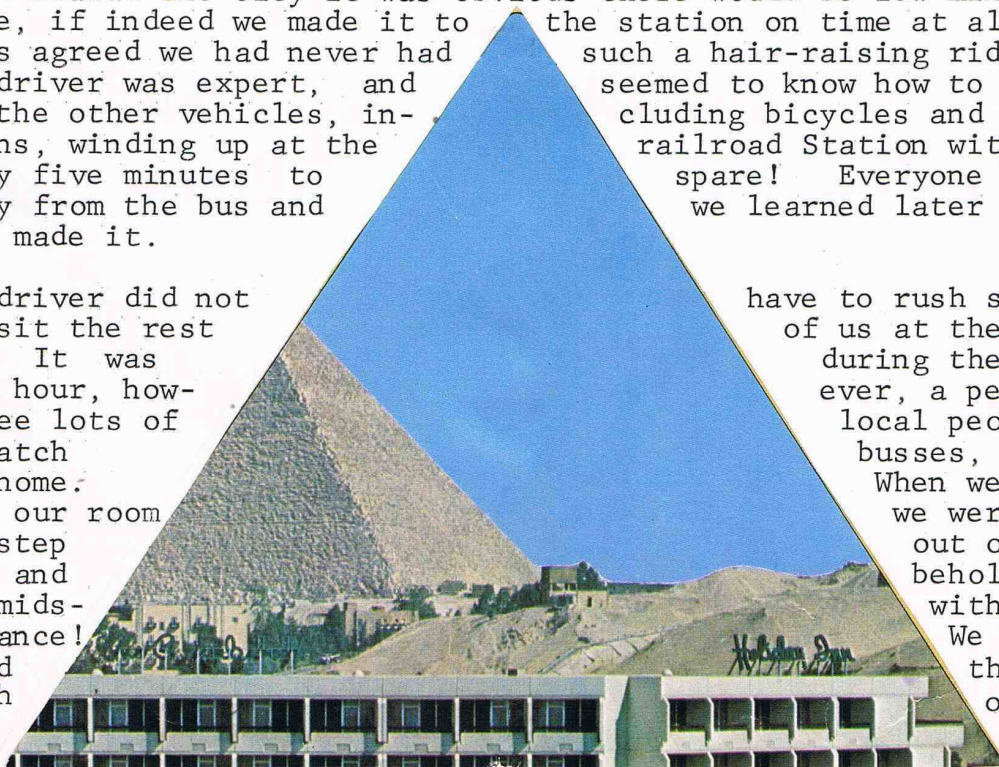
All along this route we saw more Bedouins, both in Israel and Egypt. At the same time we marveled that they could exist on the barren, sandy desert.

Our driver really "stepped on it" for the remainder of this trip. About half of our passengers were due to board a train at 5:00 which would take them from Cairo farther south in Egypt into the area called Luxor. They would sleep on the train, arriving at their destination early the next morning. They would be on a guided tour the entire day, then ride back the following night, sleeping on the train as before. The next day they would take a tour of Cairo. The remainder of us would only get the Cairo part of the tour.

As we neared the city it was obvious there would be few minutes to spare, if indeed we made it to the station on time at all! All of us agreed we had never had such a hair-raising ride before! The driver was expert, and seemed to know how to dodge all the other vehicles, including bicycles and pedestrians, winding up at the actual five minutes to spare! Everyone dashed madly from the bus and we learned later that they JUST made it.

The driver did not deposit the rest of us at the Holiday Inn. It was rush hour, how- to see lots of local people trying to catch busses, etc to get home. When we checked into our room we were thrilled to step out on our balcony and behold the Pyramids- within walking distance! We could only stand there and pinch ourselves to see if it was true!

have to rush so much to of us at the Holiday Inn during the evening ever, a perfect time for local people trying to catch busses, etc to get home. When we checked into our room we were thrilled to step out on our balcony and behold the Pyramids- within walking distance! We could only stand there and pinch ourselves to see if it was true!



IS
THIS
A
DREAM
?



We did not do anything that first evening. By the time we had dinner and took a little walk dusk had fallen. We were very tired. It was well to rest for the following day was crammed with activities.

Personally, I think I could have spent an entire just riding about the streets of the city. The population is over three million, it is the largest city in Africa. We constantly marveled at the amount of construction in progress everywhere. In every direction were high-rise apartment buildings, industrial complexes, street repair, etc.

The ceaseless blowing sand must be experienced to be understood. It was everywhere, and eventually one felt it in one's eyes and mouth and surely one must breathe it! It is easy to understand how the ancient sites were soon covered and now must be excavated. Everything looks and feels gritty.

We doubted there were any zoning regulations in this city to speak of. As we rode through busy small-store areas, we observed goats tied right in the front doors of the shops, homes, etc. Often we saw chickens



wandering about these stores also. In the heart of the city were ultra-modern buildings and also some very beautiful plazas with lots of flowers but the constant blowing sand and dust detracted from the beauty they tried to affect. We noticed that many persons had a car cover to protect from this menace.

There appeared to be far too much unnecessary litter in this country as there was in Israel.

It is so fascinating to observe the people on the streets in any country. Many of the women still wear the black costume which has been the standard garb for them down through many centuries. I was surprised that so many still wear a veil. The women are straight and can expertly carry large loads on their heads. Frequently we would see a woman leading a child by each hand and carrying a load equal to a bushel basket on her head!

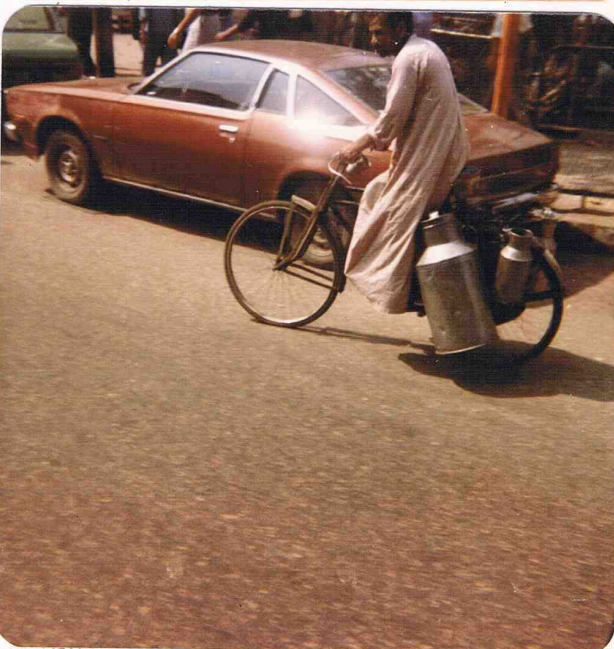
Many of the men still wear the traditional "robe." Frankly I thought it more nearly resembled a nightshirt. Frequently they will be seen wearing a western suit coat with this long garb. Several times I saw Egyptian business men attired in very handsomely tailored western suits. But always they wore the traditional Arabic head covering, regardless of how they were dressed otherwise.

As might be expected the children are charming. They are dark-eyed, black-haired, and all we saw appeared to be healthy and happy. The little girls all wear earrings and skirts well below their knees. No pants on any of the women we saw.

We never tired of seeing the people in this fabulous land.

Of course we are well aware that one cannot get much of the feel of a country in one day. But we certainly are thankful for the wealth of interesting things we saw and did in that one day!

ALL "SNAPS" TAKEN FROM
BUS WINDOW



When the great display of the King Tut Artifacts was in Chicago we attempted to see it. After waiting in line over four hours we were disappointed to see the line cut off about 25 persons ahead of us! Now we were led on a guided tour of that part of this great Museum which houses the display. Probably we saw much more than we would have in Chicago. Our excellent woman guide gave a good running narrative as we continued about a small section of this great Museum.

Recorded Egyptian History began about 3000BC with Pharaoh MENA.

From the "Old Kingdom" we were shown a statue of Pharaoh made of the second hardest stone known - only the diamond is harder. Sorry I didn't write down the name of the stone.

Ancient Egyptian Statuary is unlike that of any other culture because all parts of the body are always in the proper proportion to each other, regardless of the size of the finished product. Some ancient Indian carvings, for instance, depict very long arms, or very short legs, or perhaps a very short head. Not so with this art.

Some of their statues had eyes (inset) of natural crystal. Often they were tinted in natural color and even showed blood vessels. It is said that when grave robbers stumbled onto some of these statues in dark caves, these crystal eyes often reflected the light of the robber's torch and sometimes the thieves were so frightened they left without any booty.

There was a great deal of wood carvings, statues, etc....I did not write down the age of them but they seemed remarkably well preserved.

We saw the first known oil paintings...from about 2500 BC. It was colored with some kind of oxidized minerals, she said, and was applied onto mud which had first been covered with plaster. It was a picture of ducks and the color had remained fairly bright. 4,500 years!

The King Tut treasures were indeed fascinating. His body (or mummy) was in the center of five nested coffins. Four ornate separate vessels held the internal organs as was the custom at that time. Also in this display was a fancy "ecclesiastical" chair. Seemed many of these things were not meant to be used in any practical way.

In this museum we saw the first known folding bed...basically the same principle as folding cots today./

A large collection of Alabaster items was beautiful. There were perfume containers, wine dispensers, urns, vases, etc. Also incense burners.

We were particularly interested in a carefully constructed "model" of a proceeding called, "The Counting of the Cattle." During this period of history cattle were taxed, they being one of man's most valuable assets. The detail on this model is unbelievable yet it is certainly several thousands of years old. There were other models and they came from the "Middle Kingdom." Another model display was a regiment of Nubian Soldiers.

When we return to Egypt we must plan to spend more time in this Museum.

We saw many, many more sights in and about the city of Cairo. We traveled from spot to spot so rapidly that there was not enough time to write it all down.

The post-card picture at the right is of the Mohammed Aly Mosque in Cairo. The guide is aware of the "I am the Greatest" slogan which the boxer in USA made so famous world-wide. She said that after we saw this place, then we would really know who was the greatest! I knew it long before that!

A bus trip of 15 or 20 miles south of the city brought us to Memphis (One member of our group jokingly remarked that all along he had thought that Memphis was in Elvis Country!)

Memphis was the ancient capital of this country. In 1580 BC the capital was moved to Thebes. In 332 BC Alexander the Great conquered the city and the ruins became building material for the city of Cairo.

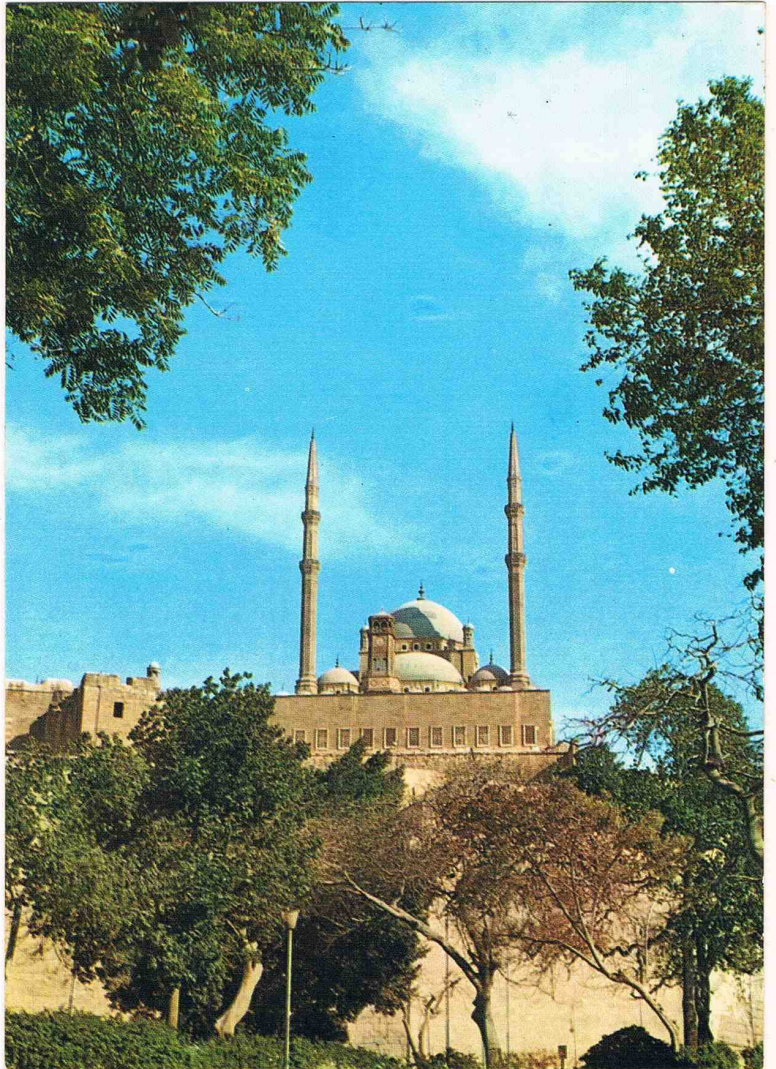
Many old ruins were since excavated and our guide explained their importance. The main attraction at Memphis is a huge prone statue of Ramses. It is several times larger than life size. We walked about it on a platform in order to see the front of it.

Memphis was also the center of the worship of Ptah, the ancient Egyptian God of Creation.

After returning home we obtained several books from the library about Egypt. We concluded that the ancient Egyptians must have spent much of their natural life thinking, and planning for his death and whatever he thought might be beyond this life.

Most of our snapshots were taken from the bus window and they turned out remarkably good. Here a traveler moving his Luggage at one of the train stops.

A popular stop today was a place where they made paper from the Papyrus Reed. All of us had read about this procedure many times and now were watching it!



The lady demonstrator showed us the fresh reed. She snipped off the green top, leaving a hollow "pipe" about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Next, the reed was split lengthwise into four even strips. It is very heavy with fluid or sap, so the next step was putting it through a contraption similar to an old fashioned clothes wringer. This removed nearly all of the juice, leaving fibrous strips.

These strips, while still damp, were laid side by side on a flat surface, the sides slightly overlapping. Another layer was placed over these, but running in the opposite direction. Obviously the size of the finished rectangle depends upon the length of the strips used.

It is now weighted, to keep it flat, and then it is dried. Now it is ready for use.

All about the room were displayed samples of Egyptian Art painted on these papyra of various sizes. Some were only a few inches square; others ranged in size up to two or three feet. Several local artists were constantly at work decorating new ones. I think nearly every one bought one or more. We purchased one about 9 inches by 11 inches as a gift for the people who took us to the airport here at home.

This is a very ancient art. Papyrus does not last as long as parchment, which is made from animal skin, usually from sheep.

After we left this shop we were dropped off for a little while at a shop specializing in brass bric-a-brac. Most of us were not really interested. However I did buy a small Alabaster egg, the only souvenir I got for myself in Egypt.

It would be unthinkable to go on a trip to Egypt and not have a ride on a Camel!

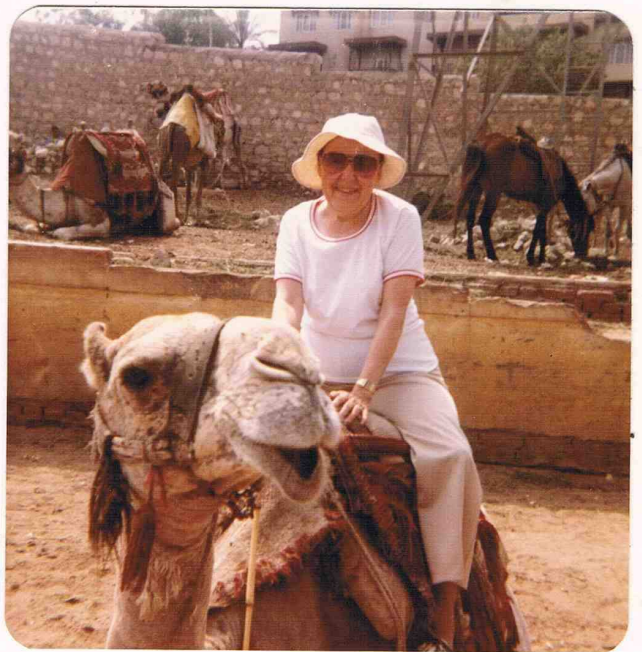
In an orientation session while we were yet in Jerusalem, Mrs. Philpot had warned us of some of the problems connected with tipping the camel drivers. She said we should give them 50¢...then insisted that they will of course ask for a dollar! If one gives them a dollar they will insist on \$2, and so on up - up - up. She held firm that we should not give them more than 50¢ each.

When we arrived where the rides began we paid our \$3 each before leaving the bus. We were instructed to take nothing more than our cameras with us. As we walked up to where the "smelly" animals were kneeling, I eyed up one of the beasts and before I knew what was happening, a big, fat, greasy Arab Camel driver swooped me up in his arms and plunked me on the animal... just like that! When I got my breath I saw Stanley was astride another one. As the camel rises one is certain the brute will pitch his passenger head-long onto the sand, but somehow we stayed on board and the ride began.

The drivers took our cameras and snapped a few pictures, handed the cameras back and stretched out the hand for the "tips." Stanley handed them some Egyptian paper money, but this angered them and they pushed it back at him, shouting, "No! No! ... Dollars!...Dollars!" Stanley told him he didn't have any more dollars and tried to give him more Egyptian money but this appeared to irritate him the more and he shouted, "No! You give me nothing! Dollars! Dollars!"

Stanley opened his billfold and gave him all of the Egyptian money in it, which we later learned may have been about \$2. He showed him the empty billfold (all except the "secret compartment!!!") They remained indignant but led us toward the pyramids. They tried to be clever and would ask us if we were happy...also they would call out "Hi Ho Silver!."

I had drawn one with only one stirrup and had some difficulty keeping balanced but clung tightly to the wooden "handle" in front of me. I can't say I would care for this as a mode of transportation but certainly didn't want to say I had missed the experience! Alighting was another matter, but we both made it and perhaps we were actually glad when the ride was over! We were deposited only a few feet from the great pyramid of Cheops,,,the one we could see from out Motel Window.



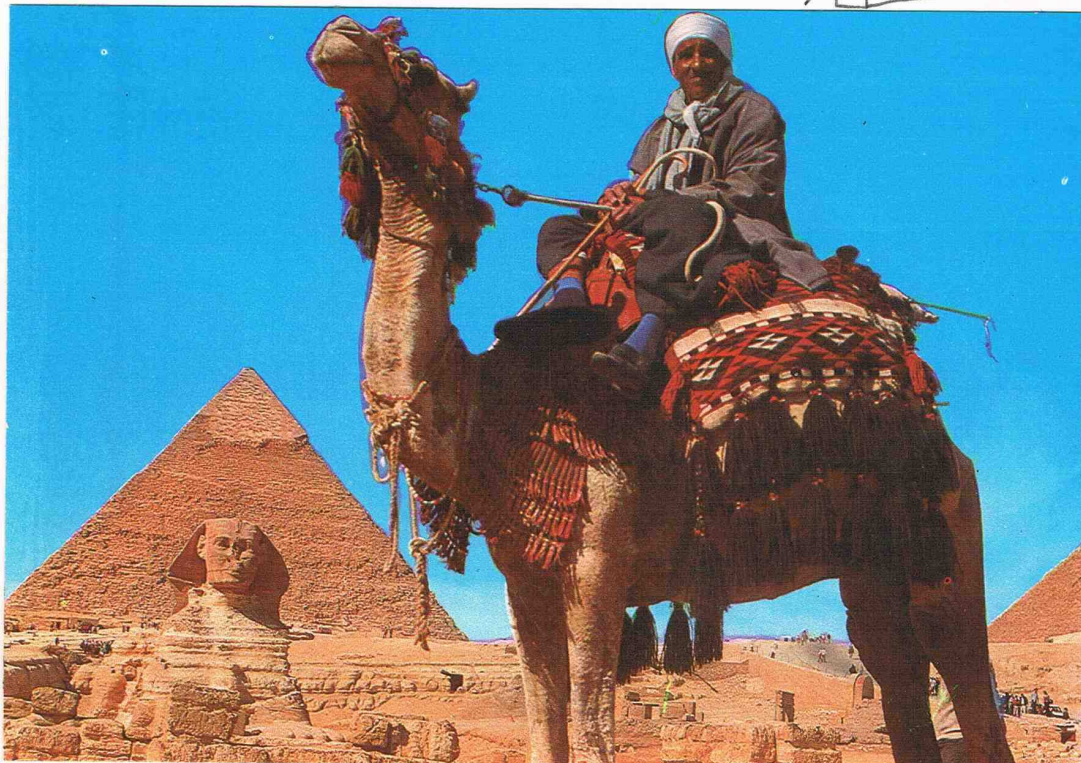
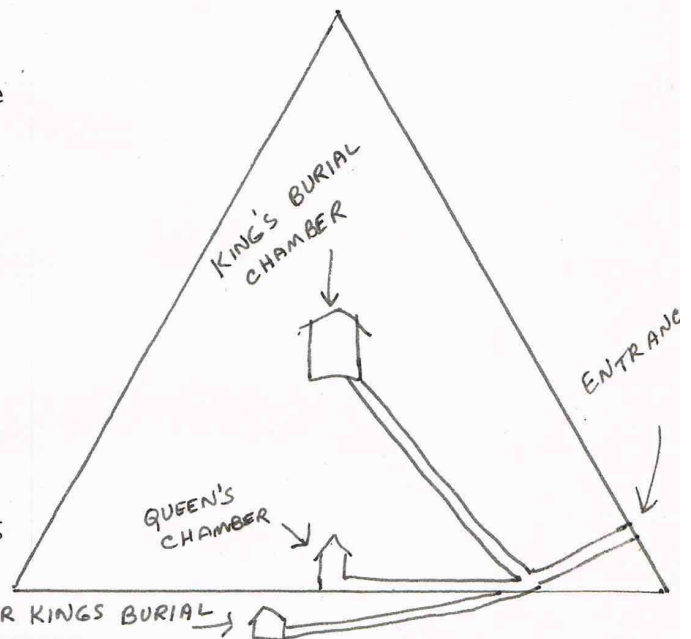
SOME SNAPSHOTS SHOULD BE THROWN AWAY!

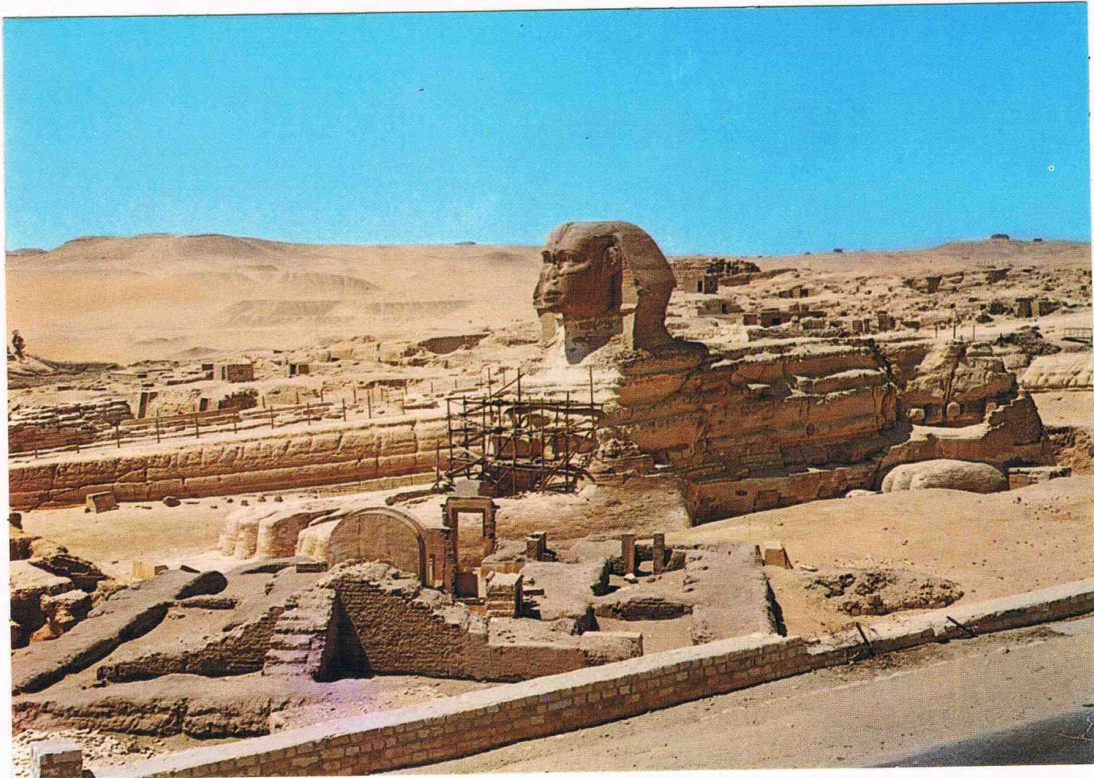


We had never known that it was possible for the public to actually go inside any of the pyramids. But we discovered one could climb up a narrow shaft, single file, to a point about half-way between the ground level and the top. There were a few steps in a couple of spots, but most of the time we were climbing on a sort of slanting ramp. We finally entered a room called the "burial chamber" where we could walk about. It was very hot in there. Electric lights took away some of the "eerie-ness" of it all. This trip definitely is not for the weak, or ill, nor for anyone with claustrophobia! It is a peculiar feeling when it one realizes where one really is! There is a sarcophagus in the burial room. It didn't take long for everyone to be ready to get back outside into the open air.

This pyramid, the largest of all, contains 2,300,000 blocks. Each block averages $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons. What a giant heap of stones. The original structure was 146 meters high and 230 meters square at the base. It was built as a tomb for Cheops, the greatest pharaoh of all and yet we were told there is only one known statue of him and it is only three inches high.

After we returned home we sought books from the Library telling us more about these pyramids, how they were constructed, etc.... Books on Egyptian archeology shed much light on the things we saw and experienced in this wonderful land. As has been the case wherever we have traveled we leave with a strong desire to come again sometime and see more.





That same evening a program was offered to the public in a special outdoor theater setting. It is called "Sound and Light." The price of \$10 per person sounded a bit steep and in retrospect, I think it was unnecessarily high. But we didn't want to miss anything so decided to take it in.

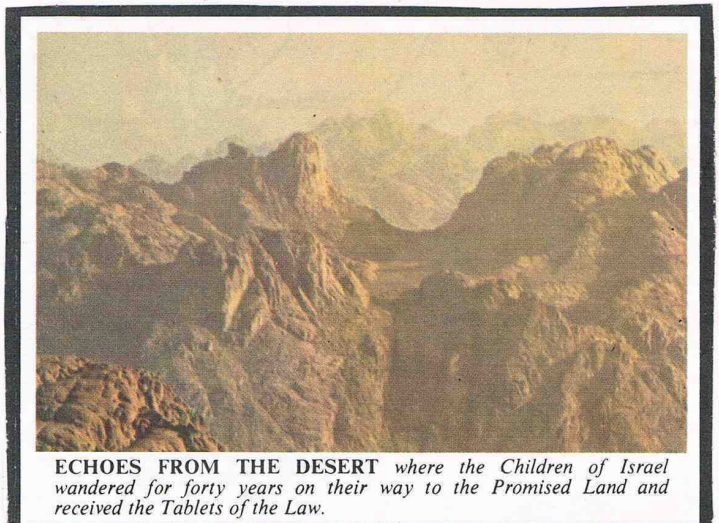
It is produced every evening about dark. Transportation is provided from the hotel for those wishing to attend. Several hundred comfortable chairs are grouped together facing west. Before us loomed the great Pyramid of Cheops and two smaller pyramids. Before them sprawled the Sphynx and the remains and excavated ruins of an ancient temple. Impressive colored lights have been arranged and appropriate music and narration was woven into a very lovely and impressive program. The whole thing lasted about 45 minutes. It was totally dark by the time it was over. A nice desert breeze was welcome.

We were sorry to leave this fascinating land. But we knew that in the morning we must arise very early to fly back to Amman, Jordan to begin the long hop back to USA.

The snapshot to the right was taken at the airport as we arrived very early in the morning. This crew of men were actually sweeping the street with hand brushes. An overseer shouted at me, indicating no picture-taking - but I had already clicked the shutter!



The flight from Cairo to Amman was short and uneventful. The Mediterranean was the most beautiful blue one could ever imagine. Part of the time we flew over a section of the Sinai Peninsula and the desert wasteland looked even more "god-forsaken" than when we rode not far from it on the bus a couple of days earlier.



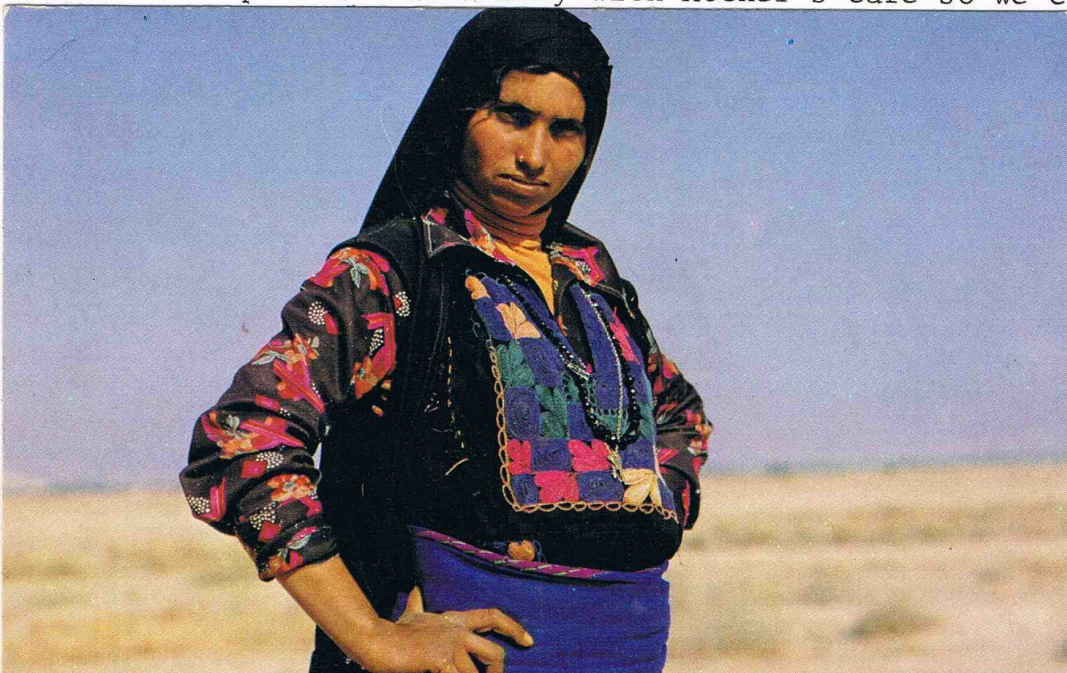
Almost before we knew it we were in Amman. It was hot and the layover was boring. Several of our group had somehow miss getting seating assignments and for a while felt some terror at the thought of being marooned in this place! At the very last minute something was done and they boarded the plane.

We stopped in Amsterdam for refueling but were not allowed to leave the plane. How many times must I be in Amsterdam and never see more than the airport? This makes twice. Everyone was very tired when we finally landed at JFK in New York. Customs and Baggage claim took a while and we were thankful we had a Motel Room reserved (such as it turned out to be!) and did not have to drive to Grand Rapids yet that night.

Our plane for Grand Rapids did not leave until noon so we had a lot of time to kill.

Of course Home looked wonderful. Mother had been ill while we were gone but was improved. I was glad to be here to assume care of her again. It goes without saying that she was also glad to see us.

We thanked God for all the exciting experiences we had and for the women who helped so unselfishly with Mother's care so we could go.



A
Woman
of
Jordan
(Beduin)



6th May, 1983

US/21/108 - 583

SPL/GROUP (PHILPOT)

CAIRO PORTION

ITINERARY

WELCOME TO EGYPT

1983 MAY HOURS

1983	MAY	HOURS	
Tue.	17th	10.00	Arrival at the Egyptian border.
		P.M.	Meeting and transfer to Cairo by bus.
		19.30	Arrival Cairo, proceed to the Holiday Inn Hotel.
			Dinner and overnight.
d.	18th	07.30	Breakfast at hotel.
		08.00	Proceed to Town to visit the Egyptian Museum,
			followed by the Citadel, of Mohamed Ali and
			Bazaars.
		13.00	Lunch on your own at Hotel.
		14.00	After lunch, visit to the Great Pyramids and the
			Sphinx.
			Return to your hotel.
		19.00	OPTIONAL TOUR.
			=====
			to the Sound and Light performance at the Pyramids
			area. Show start at 7.30 P.M. for and Hour.
			Price is \$ 10.- Per Person.
		19.30	Dinner for Members not attending to the Sound and Light
		20.30	Dinner and overnight.
Thu.	19th	04.30	Wake up time.
		04.45	Bags out of your doors for collection.
		05.00	Breakfast at coffee shop.
		05.30	Departure from your hotel to Cairo airport in time
			to board flight RJ/502, leaving to Amman at 08.00
			Hrs. A.M.

END OF OUR SERVICES IN EGYPT

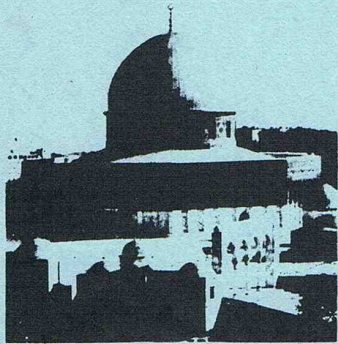
WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT TRIP

Addendum

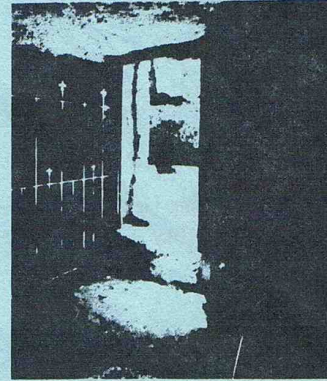
This section contain miscellaneous pages that were loose in the book. No attempt has been made to fit them into the regular pages in the book.

They are included here to ensure completeness' of the digital version of the book.

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New York/Amman

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The drive takes you to Jericho, then on to see Elisha's Fountain, the Mt. of Temptation and the Jordan River. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 4

Tiberias/Capernaum/Tabgha/Mt. of Beatitudes/Magdala
Cana/Nazareth/Caesarea/Megiddo

Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and continue to Capernaum where you will visit the ruins of a synagogue and a Byzantine Chapel at the site of Peter's House, then on to Tabgha, the Mt. of Beatitudes and Magdala. Drive to Cana, then Nazareth, seeing Mary's Well and continue to Caesarea. On to Megiddo to visit the excavations and tunnel. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

Day 5

Tiberias/Qumran/Dead Sea/Masada/
Beersheba/Hebron

Drive along the shore of the Dead Sea through the Jordan Valley to Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. Continue to Masada, the Palace-fort built by King Herod. See Beersheba, the southernmost city of Israel in the O.T. Continue to Hebron to view the cave of Machpelah where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah are buried. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 6

Jerusalem/Bethlehem/Mt. of Olives/
Gethsemane

This morning you spend getting to know "Jerusalem the Golden". Drive to the Mt. of Olives, down the Palm Sunday road to the Church of All Nations. Visit Mary's Fountain, the Pool of Siloam, Mt. Zion, and the Upper Room (scene of the Lord's Supper), and then see the nearby Tomb of David. Drive to Bethlehem and visit Rachel's Tomb, the Church of the Nativity, the Manger, Milk Grotto and Shepherd's Field. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

Day 7

Jerusalem/Jacob's Well/Garden Tomb

Visit the Garden Tomb with orientation beside Gordon's Calvary. Walk to the Old City where you will see the Pool of Bethesda, Pilate's Judgment Hall, El Aksa Mosque, King David Street, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Joppa and Damascus Gates and the Western Wall. Visit Jacob's Well, view Nablus, Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim.

Day 8

Jerusalem/Allenby Bridge/Amman/NYC

Today cross the bridge and fly home or continue touring!

* * *

EGYPT-OPTIONAL
\$298

Day 8

Jerusalem/Allenby Bridge/Amman/Cairo

Leave Jerusalem, cross the bridge, and fly Amman to Cairo. Balance of day at leisure. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 9

Cairo/Memphis/Sakkara

Sightseeing tour of the great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. There will be sufficient time

Day 4

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Cana/Nazareth/Caeserea/Megiddo

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Day 8

Jerusalem/Allenby Bridge/Amman/NYC

Today cross the bridge and fly home or continue touring!

* * *

EGYPT-OPTIONAL

\$298

Day 8

Jerusalem/Allenby Bridge/Amman/Cairo

Leave Jerusalem, cross the bridge, and fly Amman to Cairo. Balance of day at leisure. Overnight in Cairo.

Day 9

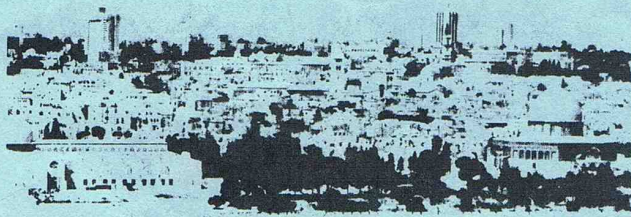
Cairo/Memphis/Sakkara

Sightseeing tour of the great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. There will be sufficient time for a brief visit to the fantastic Egyptian Museum containing the treasures of King Tutankhamen. Our sightseeing excursion will include the Citadel and the Mohammed Ali Mosque, offering a beautiful view of Cairo and the Nile, the historical dwellings and mosques. Visit Memphis, once the capital of Egypt--built during the 1st dynasty, by Meres in 3000 B.C. See the Alabaster Sphinx, the Pyramids, and the statue of Ramses II, then proceed to the Necropolis of Sakkara containing the funerary monuments from various periods of Egyptian history.

Day 10

Cairo/USA

Today we fly home OR
continue touring!



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AIR	LV GRAND RAPIDS,MI	210 PM	NORTHWEST	FLT:274	SPCL COACH
	AR DETROIT METRO	245 PM	NON-STOP		
AIR	LV DETROIT METRO	310 PM	NORTHWEST	FLT:30	SPCL COACH
	AR NYC KENNEDY	448 PM	NON-STOP		

20 MAY 83 - FRIDAY

AIR	LV NYC KENNEDY	215 PM	USAIR	FLT:375	SPCL COACH
	AR PITTSBURGH	329 PM	NON-STOP		
AIR	LV PITTSBURGH	505 PM	USAIR	FLT:115	SPCL COACH
	AR GRAND RAPIDS,MI	606 PM	NON-STOP	SNACK	

AIR TICKETS FOR FORKNER S	TKT NBR	NW7193903006/07	142.00
AIR TICKETS FOR FORKNER NMRS	TKT NBR	NW7193903160	142.00

	SUB TOTAL		284.00

	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		284.00

CLIENTS ITINERARY

PLEASE RECONFIRM RETURN AND CONFIRMING RESERVATIONS UPON ARRIVAL
DOMESTIC TICKETS: 15 DAYS NOTICE IS IMMEDIATELY
PLEASE RETURN ALL UNUSED AIRLINE TICKETS TO US FOR REFUND

Thank You

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE

906



فندق عمرة
THE AMRA HOTEL

تلفون ٨١٥٠٧١/٨٠ تلکس ٢٢٠١٢
ص. ب. ٩٥٠٥٥٥ - عمان - الأردن

TEL. 815071/80 - TELEX 22012
P. O. BOX 950555
AMMAN - JORDAN

10.00
5.40
10.40 5.20
5.40 3

10253
245
10008

JORDAN-ISRAEL - May 10-17/1983

FLIGHT SCHEDULE:

5/10/83 - DEPART JFK 10:40 P.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #264
5/11/83 - ARRIVE AMMAN 5:15 P.M.
5/12/83 - BUS TO ISRAEL
5/17/83 - BUS TO CAIRO FOR EGYPT EXTENSION (49 PAX)
~~5/17/83 - BUS TO AMMAN
DEPART AMMAN 11:00 A.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #263
ARRIVE JFK 6:50 P.M.~~
5/19/83 DEPART CAIRO 8:30 A.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #502
CONNECT AMMAN 11:00 A.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #261
ARRIVE JFK 6:50 P.M.
~~5/20/83 DEPART CAIRO 8:30 A.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #502
CONNECT AMMAN 11:00 A.M. ALIA-ROYAL JORDANIAN #263
ARRIVE JFK 6:50 P.M.~~

HOTEL LIST:

5/11/83 - AMMAN - Grand Metropolitan, 6th Circle, P.O. Box 950555
Amman, Jabal, Jordan
Phone: 815-071
5/12 & 13-TIBERIAS - BUSES #1 & 2 - Washington Hotel, Kiryat Shmuel
P. O. Box 505, Tiberias, Israel
Phone: 067-91861
BUS #3 - Golan Hotel, 14 Ashad Haam St., P.O. Box 555
Tiberias, Israel
Phone: 067-91901
BUS #4 -
5/14-15-16 - JERUSALEM - Diplomat Hotel, 6 Etzion St., Talpiot, P.O. Box 2494
Jerusalem, Israel
Phone: 02-710-831
5/17-18, 5/19 - CAIRO - Holiday Inn, Cairo, Egypt