

Traveler Describes Tour of Holy Land, Greece

Writing to friends in Medford, Mrs. C. C. Sater described a tour of the Holy Land which she made earlier this spring. Mrs. Sater, who lived in Medford many years and was known for her work with the Medford Garden Club, has been living in Frankfurt, Germany, for some time past and from time to time has traveled in Europe and surrounding areas.

Mrs. Sater wrote:

Jerusalem (Jordan) made me think of the picture cards that I received at Sunday school with the Arab shepherd on the hillside with his sheep.

At the airport is a well-kept hedge of lavender as you go up the steps, then at right angles to it at the top is a hedge of rosemary. The guide that took over there was excellent, he certainly knows Biblical history. His opening statement was rather surprising. It was—"I want you to know we have no beggars, no Communists, and no Jews in Jerusalem."

The people in this immediate area are quite dependent on the tourist trade. They make exquisite cross-stitch and other embroidery using the Rose of Sharon, the flower used at Easter, and the wheat (meaning life) in the designs. Many things are carved from olive wood and they make pins, buttons and earrings from mother-of-pearl, and gold filigree work—as in Cairo there is much to buy that is attractive.

The houses and most of the buildings are of light buff colored lime stone with flat tops but there is a neatness and order that is lacking in some places, there doesn't seem to be too much poverty and in most cases a tiny shack will be built neatly and not just thrown together. The children as a whole are clean, happy and friendly. Education is compulsory according to the guide—he said "Just like the States" and most everyone in the shops speak English. The beauty parlor was filled with Max Factor products and a shampoo and finger wave was \$2.50 and they did nice work.

Visit Cave

In Bethlehem we were shown a cave which is a replica of the one in which Christ was born. The large back room where people slept was filled that night so Joseph and Mary went out to the entrance of the cave where the animals were left. They wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and put him in the manger where a cow's breath would give him warmth. It gets cold very quickly after the sun goes down. These caves are occupied now by refugees.

The Church of Nativity is built over the spot in Bethlehem where Jesus was born and the cave is split three ways as is the church—Roman Catholic, Armenian, and Greek Orthodox. The door is very low and small, depicting the "eye of needle parable with the rich man." A silver star marks the spot where Christ was born. Thirty to 35 male children ordered killed by Herod are buried under this church. The grotto is here where the angel warned Joseph to flee with Jesus. At St. Catherine's, one of the three Nativity churches, Christmas Eve service is broadcast all over the world.

All of these places have been destroyed many times so the things that took place during Biblical times are pointed out now as having taken place in "this vicinity." In Jerusalem much Biblical history was reviewed when we went to the Mt. of Olives, the place of Ascension, the Garden of Gethsemane with its 2000-year-old olive trees, the Grotto of Agony or church of All Nations. The stone in it is the one on which Christ spent the night, the seal of the U. S. A. is in the corner of the ceiling of the church among those of other nations. We went to St. Stephens Gate where he was stoned to death, to St. Anne's church, the traditional place of the Virgin Mary's birth, to the pool of Bethesda and walked the length of the Via Dolorosa or Way of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and visited the sites of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Visit Jericho

We drove to Jericho, where there are many banana and orange groves and a large new housing area is being built, on across the Hills of Judea, passing the Good Samaritan Inn and saw the place in the Jordan river where Jesus was baptized by the Apostle John. Later we saw the Mount of Temptation in the distance and drove on to the Dead Sea.

Since people lived in caves and stone houses, we asked the guide what carpenters did in Joseph's time and he said that they fixed plows, made small plates and forks of wood.

The air in Jerusalem was fresh, with not much dust. The hotel was clean, and warm, the water was pure, the waiters were dressed in clean white coats, the dishes were clean, the people were nice

and I have a warm spot in my heart for it.

There is no TV in Jerusalem. The policeman dress in black suits with white belts and a white cotton full length sleeve is pulled up over the black coat sleeve and they wear a shiny metal helmet. The mimosa trees were the most colorful flower here. In Cairo it was the bougainvillea that added color to the landscape.

Cross Line

April 4th we took a bus to the dividing line between Jerusalem, Jordan and Jerusalem, Israel marked by barbed wire, sand bags and soldiers. We walked through "No Man's Land" and were carefully checked in one by one. Someone had told us that we could not take pictures there at the line but a man on the New Jerusalem side said "This is a free country, take a picture of any thing that you want to take." He was one of the bankers that boarded the bus and changed our money for us. He asked if anyone wanted to plant a tree in Israel and a little 11-year-old boy said he did so he paid \$2 for the privilege. New Jerusalem is just another big city.

We visited Mt. Zion and it was a long climb up to the Chamber of the Last Supper, went on to Sanhedria catacombs, and to the birthplace of John the Baptist. From there we went on to the University to see the Dead Sea Scrolls, through Tel-Aviv a clean modern looking city with many trees, no TV but a big auditorium where all operas are booked solid. The houses are built "on stilts" because of the warm climate the ground floor is not used for living, it is a play yard, garage, storage etc.

Nazareth has a huge new housing area going up. At the Church of Annunciation we saw the cave where Mary is said to have lived, there is a big flat rock for a table, a hole where olive oil was kept, a second one for other food and shelf like holes in the side of the rock wall for storage. There is a well there from which Mary is supposed to have drawn water but it is some distance from where they lived.

I should have mentioned that before going to Nazareth we had been taken to a hotel at Herzlia-on-Sea which was about four blocks from the Mediterranean. The hotel is a training school for refugees but everything was done nicely.

Describes Israel

Now I'll tell you something about Israel in general and please do not feel that I've been brain-washed because since living in Europe I'm 150 per cent U. S.—all these other people can have their ways as long as they don't try to trample on the U. S. and others.

Israel is an amazing country. It is run by labor, immigrants—or newcomers as they are called, are given a house, a cow, and 50 chickens in a cooperative village where an agricultural teacher and social workers are kept in help them. They are given a three-months-long intensive course in new Hebrew. They are paid wages for the time they put in on the acres of sand allotted them until it becomes productive. They put leaves and branches on it, plant it to trees or some such to get it settled so that it "stays put." They may work in a factory, on other farms or do guard duty part of the time.

When their land becomes productive they are put on

the tax list and taxes I think are high. The guide did not say how much they were. The house and land are inheritable but cannot be sold for 49 years. Fish ponds are put on the sand and after 6 months it is drained and planted and becomes an oasis in the desert. They have plans for putting 200,000 more people on the now bare sands of Negev by piping water there. Highways are lined with trees where there wasn't a tree 15 years ago. They are trying cloud seeding but say that they have to wait four years before knowing if it is a success. A chemical is to be put on the lakes to cut down evaporation. There are experimental stations Solar mirrors heat water but the push of a button turns on the electricity when the sun fails.

The plan is to plant 200 billion more trees in the next four years and they have planted 64 billion. They imported Holstein cows to have enough milk to give it to school children free at lunch. Eggs were rationed two years ago and now they export three million a year. Oranges are their biggest export and I have to admit the guide was right when he says that our U. S. oranges cannot hold a candle to them. The oranges over here must be tree ripened as they are sweet and usually very delicious. He mentioned the U. S. often saying "We are doing as you have done."

Girls In Army

Girls go into military training at the age of 18 for two years and are in the reserves until 26. They do office work, second line duties and the second year social service work. The men go in for 2½ years for actual line duty, work in camps and guard duty at night. They are in the reserves until 49 and from 49 to 59 are in the second line of reserves.

Nine years of school are compulsory, but soon 11 years will be. Medicine is socialized. Doctors are paid 320 pounds a month. Every baby born gets a premium of 100 pounds. The railway, airline and oil refinery are nationalized.

There is a law that states that houses must be built of rock.

Most valleys produce two crops a year but the Judean valley produces three. There are miles of banana and orange groves.

Next to oranges the biggest export is diamonds, they do not produce them but cut them.

There are many flower stands; it is the custom that the husband takes home flowers on Friday night.

The climate is comparable to southern California so there are the outdoor tables and chairs for coffee as seen over most of Europe.

They have villages which are Utopian socialistic villages and the state does not interfere in their government. One can live in them five days and then you are asked if you want to stay and work or leave. It is said that Wendell Willkie stayed in one two days and ran a tractor and enjoyed it. They keep you two years to see if you will fit into the group and if you do, you are voted in and can also vote, otherwise you may stay on and work but cannot vote. Members that work out, side keep enough money for their own personal needs only and the rest is sent back to the village coffer. Some people must be happy with this way

of life because more villages are being built all the time. Arabs believe that fresh blue paint will keep the evil spirits away from their house so it's easy to tell where they live. This superstition is being combatted with education.

We went to Capernaum and saw the ruins of the Synagogue where Christ taught, ate lunch on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and drove on to Haifa which is a beautiful city and compares favorably with San Francisco. We were taken to the top of Mt. Carmel so that we could look down on the city and see at a distance one of the parks that is considered one of the seven wonders of the world. We were too far away to know why it is so rated.

Sees Athens

Athens seems quite clean, surrounded as it is with water and sea breezes. We saw the change of the guards at the palace, visited the Acropolis, saw the Hill of Mars where Paul preached, went to the monastery of Daphne near Eleusis, an industrial city, and to Old Corinth where we saw

the place where St. Paul preached to the Corinthians. In Corinth no building can be more than two stories high because it has been destroyed three times by earthquakes.

If our group is an indication Athens must be the place to buy fur coats, hats and purses.

There are oranges and lemon groves and many olive groves. Olive roots are given as a dowry with the bride. Artichokes grow nicely here too. A yellow flower that looked very much like pyrethrum was being harvested commercially—the whole plant was cut, at Old Corinth but I didn't think the pyrethrum was ever yellow.

The mimosa trees were in bloom and I saw the first umbrella or china berry tree that I've ever seen outside of Arizona, and parts of California. (They perhaps grow elsewhere in the States).

Thyme was growing on the hillsides in Athens and the guide told a story about a plague in the early days and the doctors could not find a cure. Finally someone mixed thyme, honey, milk, garlic and salt and saved the rest of the people. One of my

disappointments is that I did not get to taste any honey made from thyme.

We are due to go home, unless things change, before August so I don't know if I'll get to travel much more or not. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Group Prepare For Style Show

Central Point—Members of Gamma Xi chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, held a special work-day earlier this week in preparation for a patio style show planned for Saturday, June 16. It was reported that all the tickets for the event are sold.

Fashions from Pauline's store will be modeled.

Also of interest were reports by Mrs. Carol Adams, Mrs. B. M. Thumler Jr., and Mrs. Herbert Edwards, who attended the state convention of the sorority held in Eugene May 25-27.

They reported that a musical comedy number by members of the combined chapters in the Rogue valley won the bid for the next state convention to be held in Medford in 1964.

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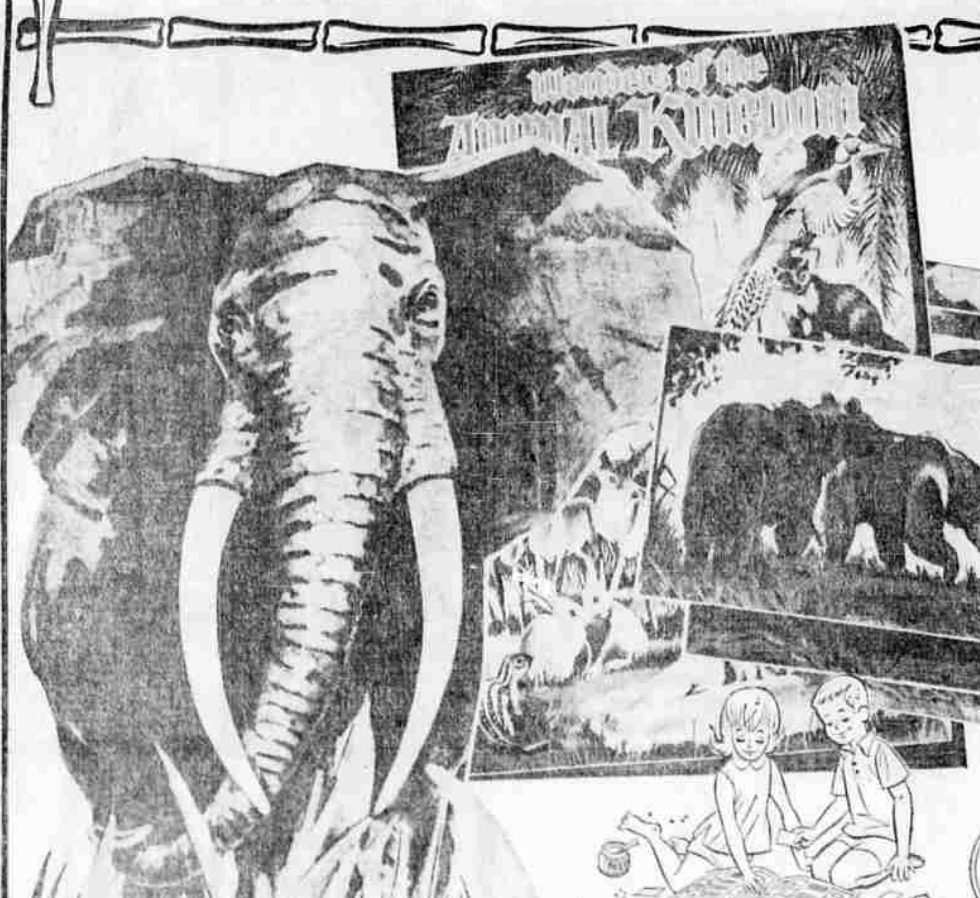
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