

Nasser Dreams of Better Life For Fellow

By DAVID BISHAI
CAIRO (UPI)—In his dreams of a better Egypt, President Gamal Abdel Nasser sees an ordinary fellah (peasant) living in a neat house, working his own plot of land and making enough money to support his small family.

In harsh reality the fellah destroys the dream.

In a life that offers few comforts and no luxuries he aims for the old and traditional status symbol, the big family. In effect, the peasant is pushing his country towards the poor house by producing more people than it can support.

Egypt covers an area larger than France and Germany with Switzerland and Belgium thrown in. Yet the Nile and Mediterranean fringe provide a mere 15,000 square miles of cultivable land to feed its 27 million people.

By contrast, Syria has a population density identical to Egypt's—about 68 persons per square mile—but uses 10,000 square miles for a population of only five million and could use 20,000 square miles more if it needed to.

Builds High Dam

To make more of Egypt usable Nasser is building the Aswan High Dam, which will add 2.5 million acres to the six million now cultivated and reclaiming the western desert for another one million acres. But his attempt to provide more land for the average Egyptian goes up in the smoke of a population explosion matched by very few countries outside China.

In 1932 there were 17 million Egyptians. Last year the esti-



TAKES BIRTH CONTROL PILL — To curb Egypt's population boom, President Gamal Abdel Nasser last year took a step unprecedented for a modern Moslem chief of state by advocating birth control. In this photo a village woman is shown taking a pill during the birth control campaign. (UPI)

mate was 27 million and by Christmas this year another million will have been added. At the present annual growth rate of three per cent there will be 40 million Egyptians by 1980, and the benefits of the billion-dollar dam and desert reclamation may be eaten up as fast as they appear.

Pushes Birth Control

To curb the population boom Nasser last year took a step unprecedented for a modern Moslem chief of state by advocating birth control. To stave off criticism he enlisted support from Cairo's famed seat of Islamic learning, the 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar University, which

depends on Egyptian government funds. In an historic rereading of Koranic doctrine the university's rector said that "family planning is a wise thing. Islam upholds a plentiful but strong population. Allah wants his children strong. Our government is trying to achieve that with family planning."

Changing the attitude of the Egyptian fellah is more difficult. He counts on his children to prove his virility, to help him work his land and to support him in old age. If his wife does not produce children, he marries another. If he is sterile he becomes an object of ridicule.

At the same time, the government's program of free health care and education has cut the country's death rate and made bigger families easier to support.

Contraceptives Free
To popularize "family planning" village clinics now offer contraceptive pills either sold cheaply or distributed free. To

overcome popular resistance to the pills — and the inevitable rumors about their adverse effects — trained nurses have been sent out to explain their use and advantages to village women.

Press, radio and television campaigns also are being used to promote the use of contraceptives.

The drive has had limited success so far but there is optimism.

"Time is on our side," said one woman social worker. "Time will prove the pills are safe. And it will show the fellahin they can live better with fewer mouths to feed."

A revolutionary new government law expected to be enacted also soon should help trim the size of Egyptian families. Where Moslem men traditionally have been permitted as many as four wives, the new law would allow him to take a second spouse only with his first wife's consent and the approval of a judge. Divorce also would become far more difficult.

The bill will be one of the first measures put before the new National Assembly scheduled for election later in November.

Meanwhile a conference of planners, social workers and university professors is to meet here this month in search of ways to boost the whole birth control program.

If it works, Egypt can look toward a future of prosperity. If it fails, the country may remain forever poor.

Growth of Trees Per Acre Studied

CORVALLIS—Research being conducted by Oregon State University Agricultural Experiment Station in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service is providing foresters with some answers to the problem of how many Ponderosa pines should be grown per acre for maximum growth. J. W. Barrett of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, and C. T. Youngberg, OSU soil scientist, are heading up the work. They have charted the rate of use of available soil moisture in forest plots as a guide to determining the best spacing for sapling pines in order to take full advantage of the site's growth potential.

The researchers found that 1,000 trees per acre used up 1.6 times as much water as 62 trees per acre. Study plots were thinned to 62, 125, 250, 500, and 1,000 trees per acre. Soil moisture was measured with a neutron probe.

The effect of brush on soil moisture use also was studied. Where brush was allowed to develop normally, moisture use was increased 45 per cent over plots where the brush was cleared off. Youngberg says that these results do not necessarily mean that brush should be cleared from Ponderosa pine stands, since there are other factors besides moisture use to take into account.

The research results will eventually serve as guidelines for thinning timber stands.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

ROBERT E. SHERWOOD once signed George M. Cohan to star in a new play he was producing. To get his signature on the dotted line, Sherwood had to make a firm commitment with Cohan for ten weeks.

The play, unfortunately, proved to be a clunker, and folded after one dismal week on Broadway. Cohan took his check for ten weeks without a word. Many years later, however, Sherwood, out of a clear blue sky, received a check back from Cohan covering the nine weeks for which he had not played. Attached to the check was a note reading, "Dear Bob: I couldn't go out with this on my mind."

The next day George M. Cohan died.

In a Republican stronghold in New England, an 8-year-old student held up a picture of Abraham Lincoln in class and gravely declared, "This is the president who frayed the sleeves." "You're a bit off the beam," contradicted the teacher. "Mr. Lincoln freed the slaves. The president who frayed the sleeves didn't come along until many years later."

The hard-bitten, tyrannical dean of a theological seminary found this note pinned outside his door one morning: "Tomorrow will be Wednesday, if it's all right with you. (Signed) God."

© 1963, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate



GEORGE M. COHAN

You Can Count on Us... Quality Costs No More at Sears



Super Specials

3 DAYS ONLY

OPEN FRIDAY and MONDAY UNTIL 9

NO MONEY DOWN

NO PAYMENT UNTIL FEB. 1964



12-lb. Capacity

AUTOMATIC KENMORE 2-Speed, 3-Cycle Washers Have 3 Water Temperatures!

SUPER SPECIAL SALE PRICE **\$188**

No Trade-in Required

- Normal, Delicate and Wash 'n Wear cycles
- Has two speeds for all fabric safety!
- Porcelain wash basket, acrylic cabinet
- Safety lid switch, big 6-vane agitator

Matching 2-Cycle Automatic Electric Dryers

Normal and delicate cycles plus "air" for fluffing, 12-lb. capacity dries more clothes in less time! Has all-fabric drying timer!

\$138

No Trade-in Required

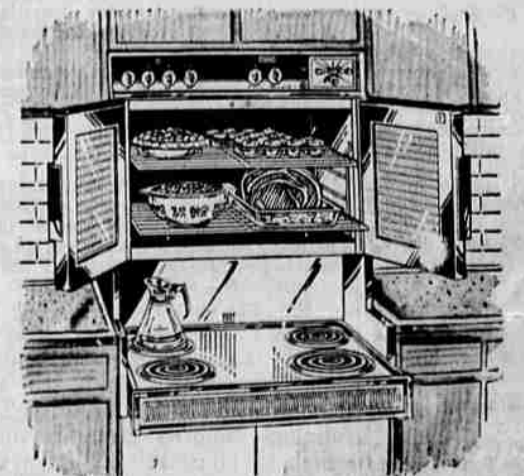
Kenmore Wringer Washers Start at \$97.

KENMORE COOKING CENTER Electric Ranges

SUPER SPECIAL SALE PRICE **\$237**

- Mammoth eye-level oven with twin glass doors
- Fully automatic oven... just set it, forget it
- Infinite switches give choice of 1001 heats!
- Chromed slide-out cooktop, fluorescent light
- Modern slide-out look. Matching base available
- Just slide it in

Kenmore Classic Electric Range prices start at \$197



Save on NEW CAR LOANS \$4.50

Per \$100 per year — 1/3 down — up to 30 months to pay
Compare! Figure your own loan costs

LOAN	12 Monthly Payments	18 Monthly Payments	24 Monthly Payments	30 Monthly Payments
\$1000.	\$ 87.08	\$ 59.30	\$ 45.41	\$ 37.08
\$1500.	\$130.62	\$ 88.95	\$ 68.11	\$ 55.62
\$1750.	\$152.38	\$103.77	\$ 79.46	\$ 64.88
\$2000.	\$174.16	\$118.61	\$ 90.83	\$ 74.16
\$2500.	\$217.70	\$148.26	\$113.53	\$ 92.70

the oregon bank

Telephone today

EAST MEDFORD BRANCH:

701 East Jackson St., Medford — 773-7315

ROGUE VALLEY BRANCH:

1109 Court St., Medford — 773-5339

Shop at Sears and Save Satisfaction Guaranteed or Your Money Back

SEARS

501 Medford Shopping Center
Phone 773-6661
FREE PARKING

STORE HOURS

Tuesday, Wed., Thurs., Sat. 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Mon., Fri. 9:30 A.M. to 9 P.M.