

This & That

(Continued from 3-A)

or wear crude canvas covers over shoes (as tourists also do) when they pray in the mosque. On the high-plateau ground at Luxor is the great Mohammed Ali Mosque, and more than 200 other mosques are in Cairo. Incidentally, Mohammed is claimed to have been the Prophet of God, and his followers throughout the world today number more than 220,000,000.

FIVE TIMES EACH day the good Moslem gets up on his knees and bends toward Mecca, bows and makes his prayers. Over the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian radios I also heard a Moslem pray (very solemn and sad) five times daily. Moslem mosques are, like churches everywhere, large, small, and sizes in-between. They are topped by minarets. They are, of course, well worth visiting. When Herb and I were in Egypt in April, 1950 was enjoying a comfortable temperature, later, at Luxor, 450 miles south, it was warmer, about 90 degrees. . . . but it was dry heat, not uncomfortable. In July and August, we were told, the thermometer often gets up to 120. (So choose your own time to go there.) We did not go to Aswan, 150 miles south of Luxor.

Cairo, like many other large Middle East and Mediterranean countries, is in the midst of a housing boom; either with private or government capital (often both together) many large apartment houses are being constructed, generally to take care of an influx of the agrarian class of citizens, who are leaving the land for urban opportunities—which does result in considerable unemployment.

CAIRO, NOW considered the intellectual, religious and cultural center of the whole Moslem world, has its old and new areas. The old part consists of narrow, winding alley-ways, small stone-houses built abutting one another. Its market place offers about everything grown on the land, plus a wide variety of inexpensive items of clothing, footwear, cheap jewelry, and small household items. Natives are aggressive salesmen. Tourists have to learn to say NO! NO! As in every Middle East country, the small donkey is the chief vehicle of transportation. People ride 'em, and often the donkey's "baggage" may be hay, alfalfa, cotton stalks, etc., that almost completely cover and thus camouflage the little animal. In the more isolated interior areas of all Arabian lands these donkeys, sparsely populated by fewer camels, are the four-legged burden bearers.

THERE IS MUCH more that can be told about Cairo, of course. But now let's get aboard an Arabian United Airlines jet and fly 450 miles south of Cairo, generally following the Nile River, where it flows through the Sahara and Arabian deserts. This great 4,000 mile long river is Egypt's life-blood and life-line. Without it, Egypt would be an unpopulated desert.

water support a certain amount of transport for the movement of Egypt's productivity, mostly in barges towed by small tug-boats. The boat that the old Egyptians used is the device that catches the breeze for power. Flying over the desert, high above the clouds, one still can observe the desert below. Wherever the Nile is revealed, you observe a green belt, for its waters are used via irrigation to grow food for man and animal. The Nile Valley is said to contain some of the richest and most fertile land on earth—the result of annual Nile floods that bring and settle rich soil beyond its normal banks. But one is pleasantly surprised to find that the desert has its hills and valleys, some of them quite high and deep. Most everywhere, one may see where the winds (some of them very fast) have created lovely patterns on the sands. . . . patterns that simulate the trunk and branches of a leafy tree, or of a fern frond, or even the wrist and long fingers of a thin person. I took a number of pictures of such scenes, often with a broken cloud arrangement between my camera and the desert.

THE LUXOR AIRPORT is right out on the desert, about five miles from Luxor itself. When our plane touched earth, we came down the steps to meet a stiff wind that picked up the desert sand and one's face felt as though it was being sand-blasted—which it was.

But a half-hour later, through customs and immigration, we taxied toward the Winter Palace, a very large hotel facing the Nile. A few miles beyond the Nile we could see a chain of high hills, composed of limestone. Among those hills was the Valley of the Kings, and in the area where a good many of ancient Egypt's Kings and nobles had been entombed.

Naturally, it was this valley that had drawn us to Luxor, a community once known as Thebes, the place where the great Karnak Temple had been built, and which today contains many of the large granite columns and various statues dedicated to the mythological gods of those early days. History records that Egypt was conquered several times by other nations and that it also had conquered a considerable portion of what we know as the Middle East.

But let's discuss the Valley of the Kings, a range of limestone

rather-high hills, within which is situated a circuitous valley. Deep into the hills, centuries long past, many Egyptian rulers, during their reigns, caused tombs to be dug. One of the most famous, dated in 1817 (it was empty, good, having been plundered by unknown vandals) had contained the mummified body of a pharaoh. Its lowest level was 325 feet below the entrance level. Upon its walls still remain colorful paintings and some mosaic and frescoes, describing the life of Seti's day.

But it was King Tutankhamen's tomb that was widely publicized in 1922 when Howard Carter and British Lord Carnarvon, after 10 years of searching, finally found the entrance of "Tut's" tomb, with its incredibly valuable assortment of artifacts, royal clothing, embroidered in gold, silver and many precious jewels. He is buried in a precious sarcophagus there. Indeed, a considerable part of the space in Cairo's splendid museum is required to display the things recovered from King Tut's tomb, who reigned in 1350 B.C.

YOU ENTER THESE tombs by descending stairs carved out of the limestone hills. Carter and Carnarvon unearthed nine other tombs nearby, but they found Tut's burial place. With help of labor, they would begin to dig their way through the rubble and talus that lay against the sides of the hill, if they found solid limestone when they through the talus, they would seek another location for their digging. But the loose rock does not continue into the hill, they would keep on digging. In this way, over a period of many years, archeologists have uncovered no less than 63 tombs of kings and nobles, the latter in the Valley of the Nobles. Until recent years, all were made by the Egyptian government to protect the ancient tombs from removal of various sculpture, frescoes, mosaics and tomb paintings, with the result that many museums in Europe and elsewhere possess rare portions of the tombs and temples of antiquity. But now every government that has the remains of ancient environments polices them against removal by anyone.

Incidentally, some claim that it was Egypt that launched the ancient Greeks' art of archaeology. **NINE-TENTHS** of the population of Egypt live in the Nile valley. Farming is the lot of practically every peasant and noble and they operate just like their forebears did 5,000 years ago. We saw, on the outskirts of Luxor, wheat being threshed by having a ox walk in a circle—wise over piles of grain, then others would separate the seed from the chaff by shaking both in a large basket. A series of small buckets fastened circularly to a large wheel was turned by causing an ox or a donkey to walk in a circle around a central wheel that activated the buckets to raise water.

The peasant men, women and children—work long hours to cultivate their meager plantings. Ground is plowed by oxen that pull a tough stick that is guided by the plowman. In the market place is openly displayed, there being no widespread use of refrigeration. Actually, most of the peasant class in the Middle East (as well as many other places on the earth) live from hand-to-mouth. This, naturally, makes most of them susceptible to the demagogues of the Communist ideology, which is the chief reason why the United States gives money to backward countries, hoping it will aid them in attaining higher living standards.

YES, EGYPT and some other Middle East nations still contain a population majority that is, by and large, centuries behind today's western civilization. However, it should never be forgotten that, centuries ago, the human beings who populated the Middle East actually laid the foundations of modern society. Egypt, Greece, Israel, Jordan and many other peoples in that area, contributed a variety of cultures that helped mankind to emerge from primitive to a state of greater happiness and security—if you dismiss nuclear weapons from your historical appraisal of this world and the human beings upon it. (Next week I'll take you on a rapid ride through, and observation of, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel.)

2 Census Takers Will Seek Facts On Job Holders

Two local women will be knocking on doors in the area next week checking on employment for the federal census bureau.

They are Patricia A. Gray, 292 W. Lincoln and Mary E. Heck, 30545 Birchway, Franklin.

THE INFORMATION they collect will be confidential and they will select houses by address, not by name. Facts collected will be sent to Washington to be used in arriving at national estimates of job holders and unemployed.

In recent months, the census bureau has found a monthly average of nearly 47 million Americans working and 4.6 million looking for work.



Rev. Archie Roberts Ordained As Elder

The Rev. Archie T. Roberts, Associate Minister of Franklin Community Church Franklin, Michigan, was elected to Full Membership in the Detroit Conference of The Methodist Church at the 122nd annual session held on the campus of Adrian College, Adrian, Michigan. He was ordained an Elder in The Methodist Church by Bishop Marshall R. Reed at the closing session of the Conference, held in the newly consecrated sanctuary of First Methodist Church, Adrian, last Sunday afternoon. A native of Stephenson, Michigan, the Rev. Roberts was recom-

Boy Scouts Form Speakers Bureau

A speakers bureau has been formed to serve the Northridge District of the Boy Scouts. The volunteer bureau will be directed by Jack I. Slater Jr., of Pontiac. Members of the bureau will speak on any phase of the Scout program.

(National religious fraternity for Methodist Men). At present he is a Chaplain in Army Reserve and serving as a committeeman and Chaplain for the Boy Scouts.

The Rev. Roberts will be assigned to serve a church in the Detroit Conference by Bishop Reed on Saturday.

On Cranbrook Board Two Judges for Oakland County

Three new members have been named to the Kingswood School Cranbrook board of directors. They are: R. M. Critchfield of Lake Annapolis; Mrs. Maxwell Fead of Birmingham and Durwood B. Varner, chancellor of Oakland University.

Another Birmingham boy has been chosen to attend Wolverine Boy's State, a model government, at Michigan State University, East Lansing, today through next Thursday. In addition to the list announced in last week's Eccentric is Gregory C. Akin, 3126 Upton. He will be sponsored by a Detroit American Legion post.

If you are a discriminating shopper, you'll find it pays to read the classified pages of The Eccentric today and every week. Read and advertise in the Classified pages. Call MI 4-1100.

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