

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1952

Editorial Correspondence

THE HOLY LAND AND REFUGEES

By C. A. McKnight
Editor, The News

JERUSALEM, Jordan.—(By Airmail) THIS ancient and tradition-filled city, fought over by rival armies for centuries, still bears today the marks of the latest conflict—the Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49.

My first view of the city was from the roof of the main building of Shamir College, a stone's throw from historic Damascus Gate. Within a hundred yards lay the tumbled ruins of barbed wire marking the "no man's land" that has divided the Holy City into two parts and that is symbolic of a deeper division between Arab and Jew that so far has defied the best efforts and intentions of many men of many nations.

But more about that later—after I have crossed over into Israel and heard the other side of the story.

Our study tour wanted no time after arriving in Jerusalem from Cairo on the morning of Tuesday, April 8. The weather was surprisingly, and even uncomfortably, cold after the 90-degree heat of Cairo. Jerusalem has an elevation of about 2,600 feet, about the same as Asheville, N. C., and the cold felt as it might have seemed in off the Smokies.

First stop was the Mount of Olives, site of the Church of the Ascension, for a long look at the ancient city and the hills of the Bible. On the way back to lunch, we stopped to inspect a small pottery shop run by Armenians and Arab refugees from Palestine.

After lunch came our first tour through the Souks—an indescribable array of small hole-in-the-wall shops, some underground in the caverns of the Great Wall, some out in the open. Narrow, dirty, crowded, the Souks poured forth a cacophony of sound and wild mixture of odors as we stepped carefully along on stones worn slick by the feet of many ages.

We emerged at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, recognized by many faiths as the site of Golgotha and the holy tomb. Once destroyed by the Persians and later rebuilt by the Greeks, the Church has been severely damaged by earthquakes. Heavy wooden framework on the inside and steel braces on the outside hold it together.

The visit to the sacred spot was inspiring, but the spell was quickly shattered when we stepped out into the sunlight, there to be snatched at by hawkers, vendors, and shopkeepers of every description. It was my first brush with the busy commercial life that spoils the mood of the pilgrim in this focal spot of holy Christianity.

After dinner on Tuesday, the group interviewed Halim Bey Saba, suave young representative of the United Nations Relief & Works Agency on the problems posed by the heavy influx of refugees from what is now the Jewish state of Israel. Mr. Saba is an earnest young Arab, and his nationalism was showing before the evening was over. But we began to get an insight into the deep tensions of this divided land, and into the economic and social problems resulting from the million refugees now crowded around the Israeli border, waiting for an improbable chance to return to their homeland.

On Wednesday morning, the group went first to see the refugee camp of Haddasa Bey el-Kia, Governor-General of the Jerusalem District of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Governor, a tall, emotional man, told us the story of the camp, which had gotten from all sides since arriving in Cairo, and wished us a pleasant stay in his city.

We got out with a minimum delay and headed straight for the Agab Jabbar refugee camp, one of three near Jericho. The trip turned out to be pretty much of a washout. We got some statistics (23,600 persons in the camp, 5,190 families, 5,730 tents, etc.), heard one Arab refugee tell his story and we went to accept neither compensation nor repatriation, and rode through the camp. But no pictures were permitted, no interviews, no close examination of the interiors of the mid-level, came away with the impression that, human rights aside, the refugees in the camp were better off than many of the natives I had seen in small villages and in the desert caves along the way.

The refugee problem is so intimately tied with the overall Arab-Israeli problem that I shall delay further comment until I have a more rounded perspective.

The Dead Sea was nearby, and we stopped to take pictures and to taste its briny, mineral-filled water. It was a lovely spot, ringed in by the pastel mountains of Jordan and close by an irrigated tract of flatland lush with semi-tropical foliage.

It was back to Jerusalem for lunch, and thence to Bethlehem to see a second refugee camp (Beheh) and to visit the Church of the Nativity.

On Wednesday evening, Father Eugene Head, Franciscan in charge of the Gethsemane Garden, gave the group a slightly personalized version of the history of the Jewish claim to a national homeland. Though the theologians in our group disagreed with some of his facts and his interpretation of the facts, his talk helped us to understand better the chronological order of the tangled web in this unhappy part of the world.

It had been a long day, so we broke up early in preparation for an all-day trip to Amman, capital of Jordan, the next day.

OUR CONGRESSMEN ARE GETTING SHY

THE North Carolina Congressional delegation is slipping a little. Most of our legislators seem to be more shy about putting themselves on the record than they used to be.

And leading the ranks of the fallen, Tar Heels, according to Congressional Quarterly, is Senator Hoy. So far this session he has voted, paired or announced his stand sixteen times, out of 24 possible for a member of the House. The first quarter of 1951 he and Senator Smith declared themselves on each of the 20 issues considered, and Senator Hoy batted an enviable 900 for the entire 1951 session, with Senator Russell, 790.

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CASH COMBATS CANCER

IT WAS a disappointed group of Cancer Crusade workers that met Tuesday. Division and neighborhood solicitations came to less than a third of the \$350,000 goal. As small reports continued to come in, it began to seem as though the Tar Heels and Mecklenburg had forgotten her 212 men, women and children who died of cancer last year. It was as though they had forgotten that more will die this year.

Charlotteans and Mecklenburgers had found another use for their money. They had bought the new cars and hats and color-bunnies for the children at Easter. Whatever the reason, the American Cancer Society was left out.

When the A.C.S. left out the doctor is

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Even Hamilton C. James, who usually takes justifiable pride in his presence at voting time, has slipped to 85 per cent. He was recorded 92, 93 and 94 per cent of the time respectively in the first quarter of 1951, the entire year 1951, and in 1950. But he is still better than the House average this year, which is 83 per cent for the Republicans, 80 per cent for the Democrats.

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Ghost Writer

(This is the third and last of a series of articles on the Southern textile industry.)

By LATHAN MIMS
AP Staff Writer

"If a hunter wants to shoot birds, he can't be seen by planting peas in a field. If a writer wants to write about the textile industry, it can get it the same way."

That's the philosophy of Louis W. Bishop, a man who gave up a successful Philadelphia career to go North to work for his native South Carolina.

In many sections, a battle field to attract birds is illegal. But to Bishop and other Southern planners, the birds are the textile mills. They say there's always an open season on the birds.

To understand the vast migration of industry southward one has to look at the birds. Almost every Southern state, with the exception of Virginia, has a textile industry. The plants have taken place among all Southern states. And figures are being in understanding what's been happening in South Carolina.

S. C. BOONING
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People's Platform

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