

# Israeli kibbutz visited

by Joyce Beaton  
Hannah Servos and Trudy Bainbridge have spent the past month amid orange and grapefruit groves in 80 degree temperatures in Israel. "The trees were almost bent to the ground, fruit was so plentiful, and there are acres and acres of beautiful vineyards," Trudy relates.  
Hannah is the owner and manager of Milton Department Store and Trudy has been the bookkeeper there for the past 14 years. Both women enjoyed their trip in the company of Hannah's sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Joe Loewith of Copetown.  
Trudy was astonished with the greenery all around her, expecting to find the desert in particular dry and barren. Instead she was pleasantly surprised with the results of modern irrigation methods in the 25 year old country. Hannah had made the trip before and explains how before the State of Israel was formed there were only olive trees. "Now there are 260 million trees."  
Trees planted  
In Eliot (a town about the size of Milton in the most southern part of the country) for every child born a tree is planted. It is interesting to see where in new sections there are few trees. You can tell the age of a section of the town by the size of the trees.  
The sea of Galilee and the River Jordan are the only two bodies of fresh water in the country. Water is transported through a network of pipelines through the deserts as well as built-up areas. Citrus trees are irrigated by overhead sprays. Drinking water is de-salinated, the salt removed from the ocean water leaving well water free to be used for agricultural purposes.  
A tour of the old walled city of Jerusalem revealed how the whole area is being reconstructed. "They are really going by the Bible," Hannah says, "and the results are very successful." There are no cars allowed within the walls as the streets are too narrow. The occasional donkey cart is used

for transportation.  
Nomads  
A trip through the desert brought the women face to face with Nomad tribes with their tents and camels. "They are a very friendly people," Hannah says, "the women and the man doesn't do anything." She pauses for a minute and then chuckles, "It's for sure they aren't liberated!"  
King Solomon's Mines were visited where now a modern copper mine employs 1,000 people. The women brought lovely gifts back for their friends and fellow-workers, some from the factory where beautiful filigree silver jewellery is made. The famous Eliot stone (a turquoise or green with black lines throughout) is attractively set in the dark sterling silver of Israel.  
Kibbutz  
The largest kibbutz (a communal farm and industrial complex of 1,700 souls) is located at Givat Brenner. The women were made welcome and had lunch in the community dining room with 800 members of the "family". There was no charge for the meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, carrots, spinach, soup and fruit served elegantly from stainless steel serving dishes.  
Everyone pitches in with meal preparation and cleaning up. Women with their doctorates work alongside the cooks in the kitchen.  
Completely self-contained, the kibbutz in addition to the farms, has its own medical centre, hospital, hair-dressers, schools, cultural centre, recreational activities and light industry. The form of government is by parliamentary system.  
There is no crime in the kibbutz and not even so much as a drunk arrested in 25 years.  
Free  
People are free to develop their own particular talents and abilities. Those who can work do, and those who cannot are taken care of. The elderly remain part of the community until their death.

The children do not live with their parents but have their own quarters. Both Trudy and Hannah were impressed with how well-looked after, happy, talented and apparently well-adjusted the children are.  
"I thought it was just marvellous the way the children were taken care of with every opportunity given to develop their talents," Hannah said. The children spend only their leisure time with their parents, eating and sleeping in their totally self-contained quarters. All furniture is built to scale. Parents are confident their children are well taken care of by kind and qualified people.  
Bicycles  
Everyone on the kibbutz, from children to grandparents, gets around on bicycles. Each boy receives a new bicycle at his bar mitzvah. There is one communal phone and all cars belong to the community.  
Only one incident marred the vacation. While visiting at a private home at Mordechai in the Golan Heights the women heard the sound of gunfire. The man of the house entered quietly from his work on the farm, picked up his machine gun and excused himself. The woman, accustomed somewhat to these military interruptions in her daily life, continued to serve Hannah and Trudy cakes and tea. "It is quite an experience," said Hannah. Air raid shelters are noticeable throughout the country.  
After a few days at a Mediterranean resort, Nathanya, with its fine sand and blue waters, the two women visited the Sea of Galilee and Tiberias, famous for its hot springs and view of Mount Hermon with its snow-covered peaks.  
Before returning to Milton they spent three days in Switzerland at the Zurich International Hotel. A tour of Lucerne prompted Trudy to comment, "It's the cleanest city I've ever seen." However, Hannah was not as pleased when it cost her \$15 to have her hair washed and set.

A cable car ride up Mt. Rigi and a train ride through the mountains made an enjoyable finale to their trip.  
Allistair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be among special guests attending the Halton Liberal fund raising dance in Oakville May 10.

## Gillespie is guest

## Auction sale, music entertain seniors

Milton Senior Citizens Club held their regular meeting on Wednesday evening, March 20 in the Presbyterian Church Hall, with Mrs. Frank Thompson, president and Mrs. Phyllis Peddie, secretary in charge. A fair

attendance was welcomed with some visitors, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Harris, Mr. McArthur from Kilbride, C. Copeland and Jack Elliott. Mrs. M. White and Miss Dorothy Lougheed greeted everyone at the door. O Canada was sung, with Mrs. A. Frank at the piano, also the birthday song for those having a March birthday. The minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed, and the treasurer's statement received. There are 123 paid up members, and the club would like new members to come and join.  
Committees report  
Mrs. Orlo Coulson is the new telephone convener and

was getting her lists out. Mrs. Elmer Zimmerman, card convener, had quite a number of thank you notes and messages. Bob Laking reported on transportation news.  
For the program the full Senior Citizens Orchestra was present, giving their program in two series of selections. Mrs. Tom Bradley was their announcer, and named the members, Mrs. A. Frank at the piano, Steve Frank, electric guitar, Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, Guelph, banjo, Tom Bradley, violin and bones, Ron Harris, violin and Andy Frank, violin. Mrs. Mabel MacNab gave two readings.  
A new feature was a miscellaneous sale. Each

member brought some article for the sale and Jack Elliott acted as auctioneer. Mrs. G. Thomas and Mrs. A. Peddie looked after the cash returns. Everyone enjoyed lunch and a cup of tea together.

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RE-LIVING THEIR TRIP to Israel last month are Trudy Bainbridge, left and Hannah Servos. Hannah is the owner and manager of Milton Department Store. Trudy has been bookkeeper there for 14 years. (Photo by J. Beaton)

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