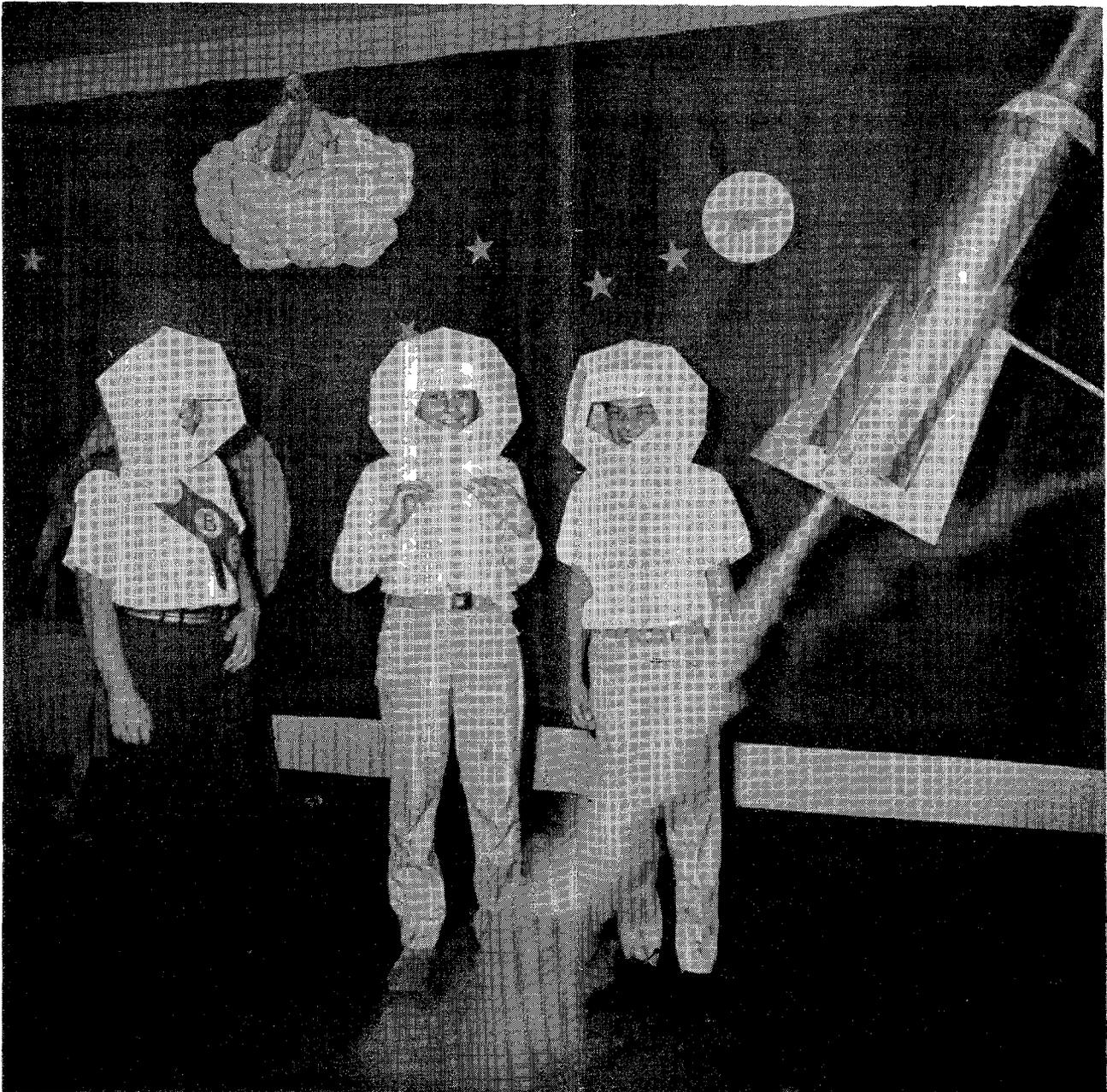


SPACE-AGE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Three junior-sized spacemen of the English VBS, held in the Beirut Overseas School, appear on the platform of Middle East College chapel as a "real" rocket takes off. Mrs. Ray Doyle was responsible for this very interesting and well-prepared presentation, which was followed by a song in which many other young "astronauts" took part. The words of the song contrasted man's efforts with what it will be to see Jesus coming in the clouds of heaven. This demonstration was especially appealing since it was given within the same week that the three astronauts walked on the moon!

The three "spacemen" are Gregory Anderson, Robert Maksudian, and Suhail Katrib. The occasion was the graduation exercises following a very successful VBS conducted by Mrs. Justin Hamer and a host of very willing helpers. Enthusiasm ran high and the room was packed each day, not only with English-speaking children, but with many friends and neighbors who speak only other languages.



How To Handle Difficulties

We are surrounded with difficulties. Does that mean we can't be happy? No! the presence of difficulties does not make happiness impossible. It is how you relate yourself to difficulties that makes the difference between happiness and unhappiness.

James Russell Lowell said, "Mishaps are like knives that either serve us or cut us, as we grasp them by the blade or the handle." I have spent a lot of time in South American jungles. About the most useful article is the machette (knife). Take hold of a difficulty by the blade and it will cut you; grasp it by the handle and you can use it to your advantage.

Difficulty is an inescapable fact of life. Our great God put them there for a purpose. We must never forget that it is God's purpose to make men of us, strong people. And He couldn't do it without difficulty, so we ought to be thankful for difficulty. We should also be proud when God seems to think we can handle it. Mel Allen, when a difficulty comes his way, says, "Thanks, God, for the compliment."

The trouble with many people is that when difficulty comes they get bogged down in it. That is a danger. We are peculiarly made. We resent the pain of difficulty; yet oftentimes, instead of buckling down to solving it, we just brood over it and continue to lacerate ourselves with it, not being willing to let it go and be done with it. After you have done what you can about a problem, then you have to walk away from it, taking some loss perhaps, suffering some pain certainly, but never-the-less walk away from it. I have had people come back and talk with me two or three times about a difficulty that could be solved if they would only leave it alone.

I knew a fine young man, but he was full of anger and hate and resentment because of a difficulty he had. The story was that, having worked hard for a certain company over a period of time, he had wanted a promotion to a certain position higher up. Because of some intercompany strife, it was not given to him. He was, as he put it, maliciously double-crossed. And he told at great length about the man who had double-crossed him.

"Did you leave the company?" "Yes, I surely did. I couldn't work for such a crooked company." "Well," asked a friend, "have you a good job now?" "Yes," he replied, "I have. I am with another company. As a matter of fact it's a better job than the one I had before. With my company the promotion I should have been given was the last I could have gotten. Actually it was a dead end. Where I am now, while I don't make quite so much money, the opportunities are practically unlimited. I really see a future for myself."

"Well then," queried his friend, "why do you still fuss about the old situation?" "But," he replied, "the man double-crossed me! I did not deserve the treatment I got. Why did I have to get that kind of deal?" "I can understand that you feel hurt, but you have landed on your feet; you have done very well." "I am still several thousand liras short of what I was getting in the other company," continued the young man.

"You just told me you have greater opportunity." "Yes, but suppose somebody treated you like that?"

"How do you know that somebody hasn't?" He gave him a quotation from a well-known Englishman, a thought that has done him personally a lot of good. It is this: "Never chew your pills; swallow them, for chewing makes them more bitter still." That is really wonderful advice. If you have been mistreated, don't chew it; swallow it. Then forget it and turn your attention to the opportunities which are yours.

I'm sure if you would review your life systematically and try to see it objectively, you would find that some of the greatest things that have ever happened to you have been your difficulties, for these have made you stronger and wiser and given more purpose and direction to your life. And sometimes a hard experience leaves us in an improved situation. So don't chew your pills; swallow them and go on with it.

It also pays to be honest with yourself and consider whether you yourself are the cause of your difficulty. Nine times out of ten you find you are. Be honest and see what it is that you do that causes the difficulty (or prevents a solution of the difficulty). Then take hold of your life and handle it.

The great poet of the Psalms wrote: "Be still and know that I am God." Psalms 46: 10. A person who gets close to God receives His sublime quietness. And out of this quietness he develops confidence. Then the mind begins to perceive answers.

Yes, "Be still and know that I am God." God will proportion to you power and calmness to overcome your difficulties. Drop the blade and take the handle.

Little Hannaan Invited Him

After a baptismal service in Alexandria, Egypt Pastor Fikry Michael gave the new members opportunity to tell how they had learned of the Truth. One man said, "Elder Fikry, I guess it was by coming to your meetings." "But how did you happen to come to the meetings?" he was asked.

The man replied, "There were two reasons—one was because of Saint George, and the other was because of your daughter Hannaan." "Please tell us about it."

"Well, I have a son who moved to the United States. He has always been a believer in Saint George because of some miracles he is supposed to have performed. My son sent some money for me to take to Saint George at the church. As I was walking by your church on the errand for my son, little Hannaan was giving out invitations to the meetings you were holding here. She offered me an invitation, but since I was on my way to the Saint George church to turn in my son's offering, I was not interested and refused to take it.

"To my surprise, Hannaan would not be put off, but ran after me and again urged me to accept the invitation. This time I just couldn't refuse such a sweet little girl, so I took it from her but kept on walking towards Saint George's church. Before entering, however, I decided to go back and visit the Adventist church. Here I found such friendship and happiness that I continued to return each night. Soon I found my heart completely changed by the truths I was listening to, and so today you have me with you as a baptized member. I am very thankful to little Hannaan for being so insistent in giving out the invitations!"

When he had completed the story, he went down into the audience and embraced and kissed little Hannaan.



Samī Kammel Haddad - a future Jordanian worker!



Dr. Kenneth Strand, director of the Andrews Extension School, makes opening remarks at the graduation held on Middle East College lawn, August 19, 1969.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SCHOOL

Fifty students received special diplomas at the graduation service held at the conclusion of the Andrews University Seminary Extension School held on the campus of Middle East College, July 8 to August 19. Although most of the students were workers from eight of the countries of the Middle East Division, the Ethiopian Union sent eight pastors to Beirut for the school, the second to be held in the Middle East.

The Extension School, sponsored by the Ministerial Association of the Middle East Division, was under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Strand, Professor of Church History at Andrews. Four classes were offered, making it possible for a student to earn a total of ten quarter hours of credit which could be applied toward either an undergraduate degree at Middle East College or a graduate degree from Andrews University.

The courses offered were: Prophetic Guidance, taught by Elder A. L. White, Secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate and grandson of Mrs. Ellen G. White; Doctrine of the Sabbath, by Dr. Strand; Seminar in Islamics, by Elder R. C. Darnell, Middle East Division Field Secretary, currently on leave to finish his doctorate in Near East Studies at the University of Michigan; and Evangelism II, taught by Elder Salim Japas, Middle East Division Evangelist.

Andrews University conducts Extension Schools about once every six years in each of the world divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of giving in-service training to workers who may not have the oppor-

tunity to further their formal education. Although the extension courses are designed primarily for ministerial workers, others too, greatly benefit from the instruction that is geared to help our workers be better pastors, evangelists, teachers, and soul-winners.

The degree to which the Extension School has been successful will only be known in Eternity, but judging from the testimony and communion services held the final day of the summer session, the workers of the Middle East were greatly moved and benefited by what they learned.

One pastor declared in a letter, "Be sure that the Andrews University Extension School has greatly benefited us as ministers, for it helped us renew our courage and confirm our faith in the Truth. It has given us valuable help in our work of seeking souls to be saved for the kingdom of God."

Not only were students impressed with the school, but the staff was too. Writes Dr. Strand, "We are most grateful for having had the opportunity of participating in this school. We believe the school has been a success, and that all of us—students and staff—have been richly blessed. Our interest is very great in the Middle East field. We are impressed and encouraged with the devoted leadership in this Division, and we believe that the 'breakthrough' we all long for, will come. We realize that the work of God on earth will not be finished until it is finished in the Middle East too."

—L. C. Miller

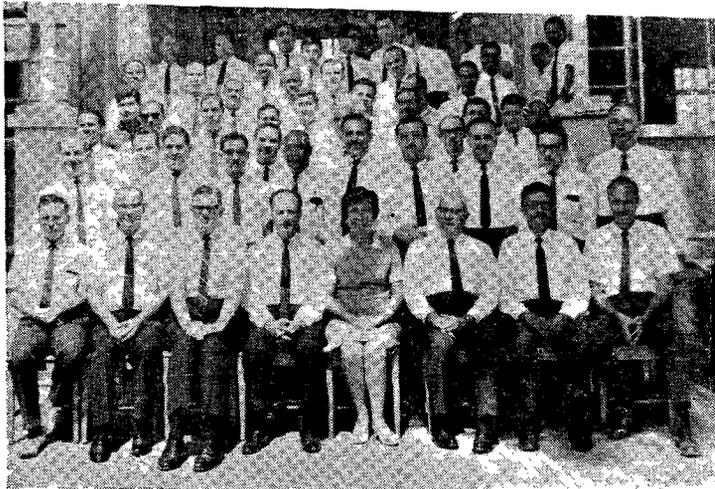
ANDREWS UNIVERS Middle East College



Dr. Kenneth Strand, director of Andrews University Extension School.



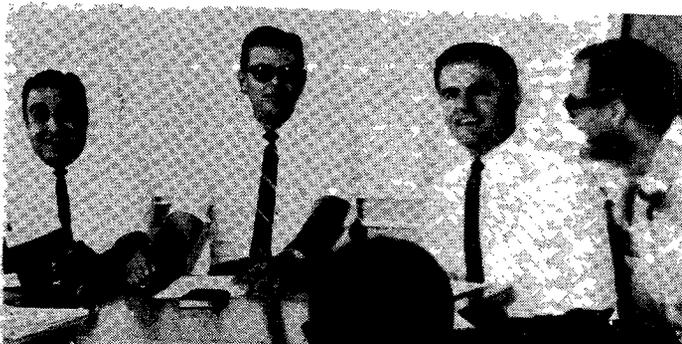
Faculty and staff of the Extension School. Left to right: L. C. Miller, Salim Japas, Ray L. Jacobs, Kenneth Strand, Mrs. Ignatius Yacoub, Ignatius Yacoub, A. L. White, R. C. Darnell.



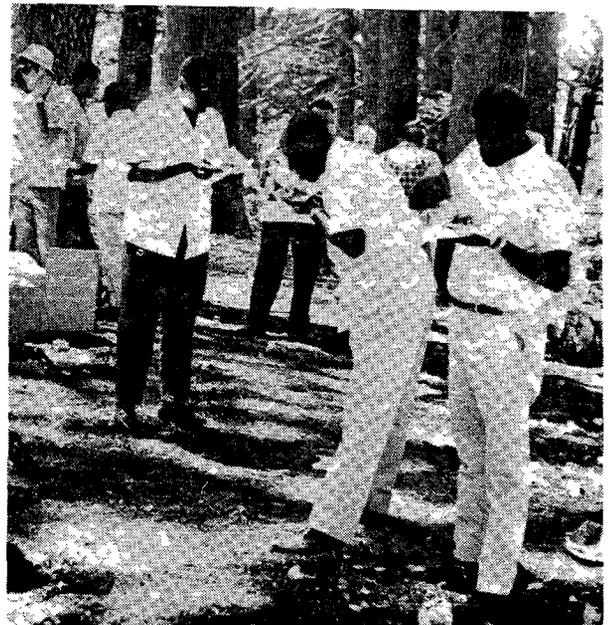
Students and staff of the Extension School.



Elder Salim Japas stirring the "fire of evangelism" as Elder Ray L. Jacobs translates from Spanish to English.



Dr. Strand conducts a panel discussion as pastors Shabin, Khoury, and Benzatyan assist.



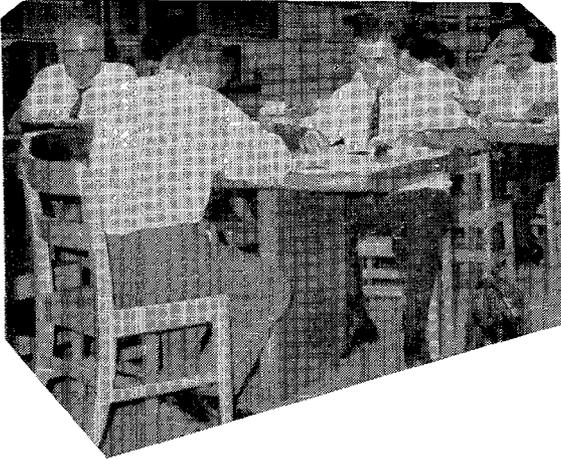
It was not "all work and no play" — a picnic at the Cedars was included.

EXTENSION SCHOOL

to August 18, 1969



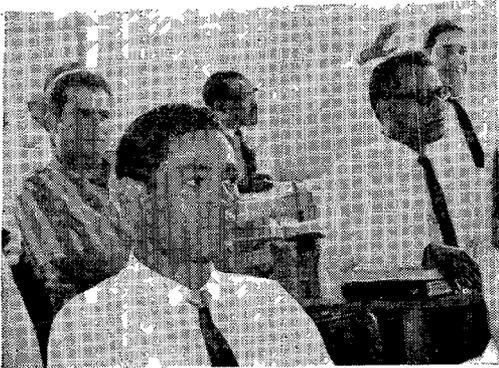
Elder White leads us...



The library was a very busy place!



Sabbath afternoons were wonderful occasions as Elder A. L. White taught, explained, and answered many questions



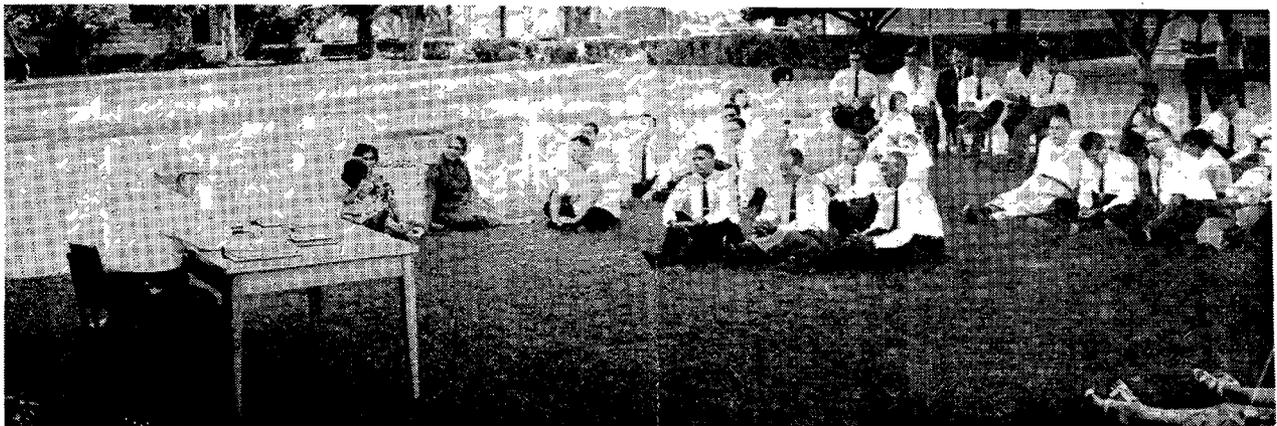
No lack of interest here, as they all listen to...



Elder Darnell expounding Islamics.



Ethiopian delegation (and friends) getting the answers to their questions on the Spirit of Prophecy.



in the footsteps of Mrs. E. G. White.

August - October 1969

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Four mission appointees to the Middle East Division participated in this year's six-week missions workshop at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Pausing near the campus Pioneer Memorial Church are Elder and Mrs. Paul Horton (left), Elder and Mrs. Gary L. Gray (right), and the coordinators of the workshop, Dr. M. O. Manley (center, standing), chairman of the AU missions department, and Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal (seated), Professor of missions. Elder Horton will be a pastor-evangelist in Cyprus and Elder Gray will serve as a pastor-health worker in Turkey.



ED.—As this MESSENGER goes to press, word has been received that the Horton family arrived in Nicosia, Cyprus and began their work there on September 16.

NEW MED WORKERS ATTEND WORKSHOP

Among the thirty new mission appointees and two returning missionaries participating in this year's missions workshop at Andrews University were four from the Middle East Division.

Topics discussed included tropical hygiene, world religions, nutrition in overseas countries, language study, mission finances, mission anthropology, and missionary family problems.

The new and returning missionaries, sponsored by the General Conference, included doctors, nurses, teachers, mission treasurers, and one mission president.

Guest speakers included K. F. Ambs, and Edwin Gibb, assistant treasurer and associate secretary, respectively, of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; and Dr. P. William Dysinger and Dr. Harrison Evans, assistant dean of the School of Public Health and chairman of the psychiatry department, respectively, at Loma Linda University.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. M. O. Manley, chairman of the missions department at the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews, and Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal, professor of missions and comparative religion.

SPECIAL TEMPERANCE OFFERING - OCT. 25

The Temperance Department of the General Conference, with its related organizations around the world, is making perhaps the largest impact on the outside world of any department or program ever sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have had for years the treatment needed to heal the whole man. It is high time that the attention of the world be focused upon our philosophy and truth. Here are our marching orders:

Let the people be shown what a blessing the practice of health principles will be to them. Let them see what God designed men and women to become. Point to the great sacrifice made for the uplifting and ennobling of the human race. With the Bible in hand, present the requirements of God. Tell the hearers that He expects them to use the powers of the mind and body in a way that will honor Him. —Temperance, p. 197.

This instruction can be followed in many places and with many people only after we have cleared their minds so they can appreciate and comprehend these divine truths. Our Temperance Department is doing this work. It is deserving of your support. October 25

Continued on page 8



Camp director on "Pathfinder."

A CAMP DIRECTOR'S LIFE ON A DONKEY

It all began when a stone rolled under my foot and I severely sprained my ankle at the mid-point of a track and trail hike at the Turkey MV Camp at Lake Abant. Despite the excellent first aid treatment of Herant Tulgar, leader of the Boys' Unit, and of Selma Yesil, Girls' Unit leader, and the massages given by camp nurse, Hermine Tulgar, the ankle was badly swollen for several days.

"Now," I asked myself, "how can I direct this camp from my bed?"

I toyed with the idea of returning home prematurely, but thus far the camp seemed to be the most outstanding camp we had ever had in Turkey. The children were the best behaved, showing an excellent camp spirit, and the weather was perfect.

I was, in addition to directing the

camp, unofficially the "chief cook." This was not accomplished, however, without expert assistance from Sister Araksi, her daughter Luiz, and her sister-in-law Ariknaz, who did a fine job in the kitchen—those omlets and pancakes were tops!

There was also the work of camp pastor and teaching camp craft. But Brother Kevork Yesil did a fine work of substituting for worship talks and telling stories. He seems to remember every story and illustration he has heard the last twenty years! He also mastered the building of a fire with flint and steel—until the wind blew it out!

"Someone should really stay by the camp," I mused, while on my bed, "to teach semaphore signaling." But then Fayrunisa Aycil, daughter of "Osmon Bey" who has been our invaluable counselor, had learned how to signal the camp with her red and white flags from the mountain top. For this, plus her sweet disposition and excellent example as a camper, she became "Honor Girl" of the camp.

I guess the main reason I decided to stay by was the fact that no one else could blow the bugle for reveille and taps so that the fifty campers and staff could get up and go to bed on time! "So I'll stay," I decided, "but how can I direct the camp from my bed?"

Then I remembered "Pathfinder," that long-eared donkey of Turan Bey, our camp watchman. Pathfinder had had a baby born at last year's camp while my daughter Valerie was riding her. If Valerie could ride her, so could I. So Pathfinder was brought to camp again this year, and for several days the bugle sounded, whistles blew, inspections and hikes were made, all from the back of Pathfinder!

We, Pathfinder and I, even went from campfire to campfire the day each unit cooked its own food, and while I

tasted a sample of each unit's cooking so they could earn an honor in camp craft, Pathfinder had the audacity to steal a big bite out of the melon belonging to Kevork Yesil's unit Number Six!

So goes the life of a camp director on a donkey. One thing was certain—under some circumstances it is much better than walking!

—L. C. Miller



VBS at Bourj-Hammoud

Seventy-three children attended the Vacation Bible School held in the Bourj-Hammoud Church August 18-30, under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Azadian, with assistants as follows: Mrs. Moses Elmadjian, Mrs. Minas Megurditchian, and Bedros Kalian. Only nine of the children were from Seventh-day Adventist homes.

Many of the parents attended the program presented on Sabbath morning and it could be seen they were very pleased at seeing their children perform so acceptably.

Mrs. Azadian said at the close of the program, "The children have learned many new songs, stories, and crafts during the ten days of the VBS. How much more they will be able to learn during nine months of the school year under the devoted teachers of the Boutj-Hammoud school."



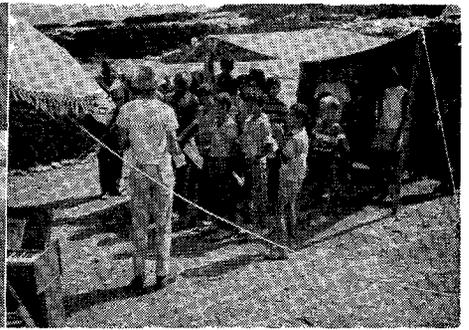
Left, Campus and staff at the 1969 Turkey MV camp, Lake Abant. Right, Selma Yesil, on left, with her Unit No. 2. 1969 "Honor Girl," Fayrunisa Aycil, is fourth from the left.



Elder Manoug Nazirian makes careful inspection at the Libyan camp.



Camp Fun!



Director Jon Green gives orders.

Historic Camp in Libya

The road was rough and rocky, but enthusiasm ran high. All were on their way as participants in the historic Junior Camp that was opening this day, August 7, 1969. And why was it an historic camp? Never before had a Junior Camp been held in Libya.

Elder Manoug Nazirian, MV secretary of the Middle East Division, came from Beirut, Lebanon to give his help and experience that was so much needed.

Even the very site that had been chosen seemed to lend flavor to the historicity of this event. The main camp area was located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea on the floor of an ancient stone quarry. Apparently the stones from this quarry had been used to construct the ancient city of Tolmeitha, the ruins of which were only four kilometers from the camp site.

And so it was that 22 energetic campers began to pitch their tents and get settled for a week of work and study, swimming and spiritual activities. Of this number, only eight were from Adventist homes.

On Monday afternoon several of the campers who wanted to obtain their MV Honor in Pioneering, put on their packs and started out for an over-night hike. After arriving at Big Tooth Crossing and proceeding on past Jawbone Junction, the hikers arrived at the site of the outpost camp, under the direction of Bud Sauder.

Until dark all were busy constructing camp "furniture." When campfire was over each one went to sleep looking forward to the dawn when we would start back to the main camp arriving in time for an excellent breakfast prepared by our camp cooks, Mrs. Sauder and Mrs. Green.

It seemed as if Thursday morning came much too soon. All of the campers were busy doing what they could to help break camp. In just a matter of several hours, all of the equipment was

in its proper place and parents began arriving to take their campers home.

By noon all was quiet around the ancient rock quarries of Tomeitha and the first Junior Camp in Libya had come to an excellent finish.

—Jon Green

Biskinta Junior Camp

Under the leadership of Edmond Haddad, 65 juniors camped out at Biskinta in the mountains of Lebanon for ten days. Fun, work, food, and stories filled the days of the lively group.

Camp facilities this year boasted of electric lights and running water and even showers! In the food line campers had apple pie, brownies, and moholie as special treats!

During craft period tiles were broken with hammers and then glued to boards to make pictures. The prize winning mosaics were those which recreated a camp scene with a tent, moon, and campfire.

Elder Hugh Cowles hiked the juniors daily in preparation for the 12 kilometer hike taken on Thursday. During this hiking period many interesting items of nature were found.

On the all day hike the group went to a lovely Honey Spring on a mountain which can be seen from the campsite. While the early morning hike up

the mountain was hot and quite tiring, the afternoon trip back to camp was exhilarating for the counselors could scarcely keep the "small-fry" juniors from running down the road at jet speed!

Each day closed with singing around a campfire and stories told by various camp personnel and guests (Basim Aziz, Manouk Nazirian, Edmond Haddad, Chafic Srour, Rose Katrib, etc.). The final campfire glowed with joy and laughter as Elias Jeha set off rockets for each unit, camp counselors, cooks, director, and nurse.

—Violet Wentland

Continued from page 6

is the day when a worldwide offering is to be taken for the support of our temperance work. We urge all our people to participate with us in this great and urgent work. Our brethren are hoping for at least \$150,000, in this offering.

If we can achieve this goal it will provide the much needed means to step into some of the openings that are awaiting the department. Never was there a time when there were such unprecedented opportunities. Now is the time when our means can accomplish the most. God will bless your faithful stewardship.

—W. J. Hackett, Temperance Secretary, General Conference of SDA



Elias Jeha and Bedros Kalian examine the art work of Violet Wentland's pupils.



L. C. Miller giving the Sabbath sermon, with Edmond Haddad translating.