

**Despite the hardships****Educated farmers enjoy tough kibbutz life**

By SOL CANDEL

**KIBBUTZ EIN HASHOFET—**

Kibbutz Ein Hashofet is located in the northern part of Israel, high in the Carmel mountains.

From its heights the Mediterranean can be seen to the west, the coastal sands to the south, the Jordanian mountains to the east and the coast of Lebanon to the north.

Ein Hashofet is one of the largest and richest kibbutz in Israel, supporting 650 people.

The settlement first started in 1937, but the story goes back to 1913 when Hashomer Hatzaer, the movement the kibbutz is affiliated with, began.

Hashomer Hatzaer originally started out as a group of sentinels guarding Jewish settlements in Israel. Sentinels were needed at the time because new communities were being continually robbed.

Many kibbutz members were trained in America by the Hashomer Hatzaer to become settlers. They first worked on a farm in Plainfield, N.J. where they received agricultural and social training as well as Hebrew lessons. The visions of building a kibbutz in Israel was always in their minds.

They regarded the establishment of the kibbutz both as a socialist challenge, a Zionist ideal (return of Jews to their land), and a socialist ideal (an egalitarian society living a collective life).

**NEW LAND**

When the members became 18 or 19 they had to decide whether to go to Israel or not. Those that decided to go arranged themselves in "kibbutzim" and contributed money for transportation to Israel. Once 100 people were assembled they were ready to go.

They applied to the British for immigration certificates. The British had a quota on immigration and certificates were needed. A man could bring his family and wife on a certificate. Many fictitious marriages were created to enable as many as possible to come in.

In Israel, the pioneers trained at kibbutz Mishmar Hamek which was the mother kibbutz of the area. In 1933 they went to Hadera to create an experimental settlement there.

While in Hadera, the land for the kibbutz was bought from an Arab shiek, who lived in Syria.

In 1937 the first group trekked up the roadless valleys and founded the kibbutz on the principles of equality, cooperation, and mutual aid.

Rueben Sheke, one of those who came in 1937, came to Israel from America to start a new life in a kibbutz. "Had I settled in Tel Aviv or any other city", he said, "I would have been doing what I had done back in America."

The area surrounding the settlement was almost completely barren in 1937. The only large plants were cactus which grew sparsely. So the first task of the pioneers was to plant tree seedlings for the future forest.

**KIBBUTZ ECONOMICS**

In its early years, Ein Hashofet was engaged exclusively in agriculture. Today it has diversified its economy. There are now two factories in the kibbutz. One produces transformers for fluorescent lights and the other

manufactures wooden screws which supplies half of Israel's needs. In addition to the factories there is a trucking firm.

The kibbutz has many agricultural products including wheat, cotton, oranges, apples, apricots, poultry, milk, and beef. In addition to these income generating activities, there is an artist with a ceramic workshop.

Everything done at Ein Hashofet is carefully planned. It has been calculated that for the kibbutz to break even, each income producing member has to earn ten dollars a day.

The industrial section of Ein Hashofet earns about \$2 million a year against \$1 million for the farm. Industrial and farm expenses are about \$1.25 million and one-half million dollars respectively. Cost of living expenses come to one half million dollars. Thus the entire kibbutz earns \$3 million a year and spends a bit over \$2.25 million.

As in any modern society the majority of the kibbutz people are engaged in service related jobs. Most of the women are employed in this sector, which is comprised of the kitchen, dining hall, laundry, stores, tannery, children's houses, education and administration. Jobs in the kitchen and dining hall are done on a rotational basis, and except for those jobs everyone can choose where they want to work.

**EFFECTS OF WAR**

Ein Hashofet like other kibbutzes immediately felt the effects of the Yom Kippur war. All the men of military age were recalled to their units and children slept in bomb shelters scattered around the kibbutz.

But the war still affects the kibbutz in other ways. Many young kibbutzniks, many of whom are skilled workers are still in the army, thus the work load is shared by fewer people.

The army mobilized virtually all of the kibbutz's fleet of trucks and drivers and hasn't given them back yet. The army may reimburse Ein Hashofet but even so the kibbutz would still lose money.

The general effect of the war on Israel's economy has had immediate repercussions here, particularly in the screw factory which is the kibbutz's largest single enterprise.

Before the war there was a building boom in Israel and the factory could not even meet the demand for screws. Now building has stopped. While the screw factory is producing at 80 per cent of its capacity, only about one third of the screws are being sold, while the rest are being put on stock. If the market does not recover quickly and stock becomes full, the factory may have to shut down.

**SOCIAL LIFE**

"One of the credos of the kibbutz," said Moshe Barsiley, an original member, "is that the farmer need not be a peasant. He should be educated and cultured." The children of the kibbutz receive free education up to the age of 18 and free university education for many, later on.

The kibbutz is also the cultural center of the country. Ein Hashofet's 500 seat theatre, which serves the sur-



The author (right) at work with Amotz, his foreman in the screw factory. The headphones are to provide protection against the noise. Our writer seems to be learning a trade.

rounding community, is frequently visited by acting companies and orchestras.

Many people think that kibbutzniks are special people, with a higher sense of discipline and different values.

"Not true," said Barsiley, "Kibbutzniks are normal people, like anyone else. Because they are not different, stronger, with different values, is why the kibbutz is no longer an experiment but an established reality."

"In the kibbutz," he said, "the good garbage collector is more respected than the mediocre teacher. Nobody wants any of the important positions because they are hard work and there is no honour attached to those positions."

"It doesn't matter what job you do, everyone gets the same. Husband and wife are equal. The traditional father role as the bread winner doesn't exist here."

**RESTRICTS FREEDOM**

One valid criticism of the kibbutz is that freedom is restricted here. Bar-

siley tried to explain how he copes with this problem. "Coming to the kibbutz is getting married. When one gets married, one loses a great deal of freedom but it's a choice one makes because he feels that is the best choice he can make. Everyone is here voluntarily. If they didn't like it they would go elsewhere."

Another problem is that many young people are leaving the kibbutz. According to Reuben, this is not a general trend but varies from year to year. "The groups that disband varies from group to group, depending on their coherence."

The young people get their first good glimpse of the outside world in the army. If they like what they see they may decide to leave.

Others leave because they want to travel, but the kibbutz has a special fund supported through voluntary work which enables young people to go abroad.

**POLITICAL STRUCTURE**

The kibbutz is governed by two peo-

ple. The farm secretary, who is in charge of all economic matters, and the social secretary, who is responsible for social policy. They are both elected and their term of office lasts two years.

All policy must meet the approval of the entire kibbutz. Each Saturday night there is a general kibbutz meeting where policies are discussed and then voted on. Every member gets to vote but there is only about 50 per cent attendance at the meetings. It is the job of the secretary to carry out policy decided on at the general meeting.

There is also a special committee for private problems. If someone wants to travel to England for a wedding, he comes to the committee for money and permission to leave. The committee makes a decision and brings it to the general meeting for approval.

In addition to the above meetings, there are also workers' meetings in each of the kibbutz enterprises. In these meetings the workers help decide on things ranging from working conditions to factory expansion.

## TTC to expand express lanes 350 million passengers expected

By ROSS ROBAC

Bus and streetcar patrons in Toronto will soon be traveling in reserved transit lanes, TTC general manager James Kearns indicated last Wednesday. The reports on transit lanes should be released within a month.

The news came as TTC commissioners examined proposals for a network of express buses from the suburban areas to the city core. Kearns stated it would be "very difficult to make money or break even using express buses. In a tight situation they are one way of alleviating the subway congestion." However, TTC chairman Karl Mallette pointed out that the express buses would still be running in congested streets.

The report, containing transit improvement proposals, states that greater use of reserved bus lanes is a more feasible means of improving surface operation than the introduction of a system of express bus routes.

The major problem in streetcar operation, according to the report, is the delay at traffic signals. This could be remedied by adjusting traffic light to give priority to streetcars and by prohibiting left turns at major intersections, the report states.

Concerning the capital costs and operating deficit of express buses, Metro chairman Paul Godfrey said, "the TTC would like to maintain a nice inexpensive ride but we don't

want to take the taxpayers for a ride. The financial tag is overbearing at this time."

With Karl Mallette dissenting, the express bus proposals were rejected in favor of future reserved transit lane proposals.

Commissioner Gordon Hurlbert said the report did nothing but offer a few general answers to the questions about reserved streetcar and bus lanes, priority signalized intersections for transit, scheduling problems and the need for electrification of transit routes.

Chairman Mallette said he was glad he wasn't the only one who was impatient.

Last year, Mallette said Bathurst and Dufferin streets were ideal for reserved buses. At that time the TTC requested Metro to introduce, on a trial basis, reserved transit lanes on these streets in rush hours periods. Metro council approved a six month trial. Metro Transportation committee approved and recommended a three month trial. But nothing happened.

The province had to enact specific legislation for reserved lanes to include taxicabs. Instead they delayed the issue by refusing to approve city designed signs for the reserved lanes. Now a year later the transit rider is faced with a repetition of the same process.

This year the TTC anticipates carrying 350,000,000 transit patrons.

**Penis up for measure**

PACIFICA (ZNS-CUP) — A 17-year-old California high school girl has been suspended from school for five days after she interrupted a programme designed to attract contestants for the annual Miss California Pageant.

Zoe Joyner, a student at Pacifica High School, was among 25 young women who listened to speeches from the current Miss Pacifica, the current Miss California, and Pacifica's Mayor Aubrey Lumley, all of them extolling the virtues of entering a beauty contest.

Without warning, Joyner stood up, looked the mayor in the eye and announced: "Since the important thing about a woman is her measurements, how about you telling us the measurements of your penis, so we'll know if you are worth listening to?"

A hush fell over the audience. Joyner walked forward and handed the mayor a tape measure.

Later asked to explain her actions, Joyner stated that "I have extremely strong feelings about this, they don't ask men to line up and compare themselves."