

## *Another year flashes by and becomes a distant memory...*

### DECEMBER 2009 UPDATE

This time last year Israel was responding to seven years of indiscriminate rocket fire from the Gaza Strip hailing down on innocent civilians of Sderot and the villages bordering on Gaza. Slowly security shelters are being provided by the government to afford some protection for residents. At the moment it is relatively quiet but who knows what the future holds...

Meanwhile, Matzuva that has experienced similar aggression over the years is now entering its 70<sup>th</sup> year. As part of these celebrations a ramble to a favourite spot took place.

Tiyul (Ramble) to the "Blossoming Hill" originally called the "Bald Hill" (in Hebrew: Har Poreach originally called Har Kireach). We all assembled at the circle near the bus stop and the multitude kept coming and coming – the estimate was close to 300 adults, seniors, children and even babies carried by parents.



Assembling at the bust stop circle [Photo: Irene Kadmon]

The origins of the names are that to the east of Matzuva lies a hill that in 1940 was a bare hill with little vegetation. The new pioneer founders of Matzuva earned their livelihoods initially by afforestation work. Consequently the hill that was once bare is now green with trees that are now 70 years old. Many members and visitors take this enchanting route up to the water tower and beyond on "Har Poreach" – the blossoming hill.



A section of the multitude passing through the northern gate leading to the cemetery on the way to Har Poreach [Photo: Irene Kadmon]



One of our younger hikers resting at the top of Har Poreach [Photo: Irene Kadmon]

From the circle the hikers walked down to the northern gate and turned right opposite the cemetery and started the 300 meter climb up the hill. Passing the concrete water tower the crest of the hill was reached and our guide, Gidon Segali, explained the sites on the northern road and mentioned our neighbours to the east, the Bedouin/Jewish moshav village of Ya'ara with the British police fort (known as Bassa 2 during the British Mandate).

Then it was down hill towards the south making a stop for hot herbal tea and biscuits before entering the Fein Wadi (*Yosef Fein was born in 1903 to a family of founder pioneers at Metulla in the Galilee Panhandle. Yosef later joined the first kibbutz, Degania. In the nineteen-thirties Fein then played an important role in the purchase of land from landowners in Beirut and was also involved in the defence of Hanita, Eilon and Matzuva*).

After passing through the wadi the new community village at Matzuva comes into view. Then it's up to the Matzuva security perimeter fence at the point that Arab terrorists cut the fence in 2002 (*They briefly entered the kibbutz dropping a revolver with a silencer on the path. They circumvented the fence and the next morning ambushed vehicles on the Kabri-Shlomi road at the entrance to Matzuva leaving 7 Israelis dead*).

The tiyul then continued up to the high gate to the north of the chicken houses and then wound its way back to bus stop and dispersed. The feedback from this event was very very positive.

**Water:** Water is at a premium despite the close to 400 mm of rain at Matzuva up to the end of the year (double the rainfall from the previous year). There are restrictions on the use of water, fines for exceeding quotas and the price per cubic liter is high. As a fruit farm the need for irrigation is vital and there is a real problem with water quotas. The agricultural branch is now checking out the amounts of water from the drilling of the well in 1947 that has been unused since linking up with the national water grid via the national Mekorot Water Company. Research has been instigated and as the person in charge of the Matzuva archives we have unearthed data that may lead to its reopening via Mekorot and increasing the water quota for the orchards of Matzuva.

During researching I came across a faded newspaper page from the Palestine Post dated February 25, 1947 (during the British Mandate) announcing the finding of water at Matzuva. The article evidences that water was drastically rationed during the first seven years at Matzuva.

**TOLEDO**  
*Toledo*  
*De Luxe*  
 The finest blade in the country

from DAN to BEERSHEBA  
 TODAY'S POST BAG

Sun sets at 5.33 p.m.  
 rises at 6.12 a.m.; Moon  
 rises in daylight; sets  
 9.56 p.m.

**WEATHER INFORMATION**

	Maximum Temperature	Humidity at 3 p.m.
Mt. Canaan	17.5	48
Haifa	16.7	78
Eilat	26.1	29
Natanya	19.4	73
Tel Aviv	18.6	76
Lydda	21.5	55
Jerusalem	19.6	29
Gaza	19.5	64
Beersheba	21.0	41

**Forecast:** The fair and comparatively warm weather is expected to continue today (Tuesday) but there may be increasing amounts of upper clouds at times. Easterly winds in the north are likely to become fresh and gusty. (Pal. Met. Ser.)

**POLICE** and military screened a number of people in Jerusalem yesterday. The identity of all people in the Egged Bus Station was checked and parcels searched... Eighty people were screened when an early morning check was carried out in Tel Aviv yesterday.

In Church quarter, Haifa, on Sunday night, Abdullah Abdul Amir is believed to have attempted to take his life by drinking two cups of petroleum. He is in Government

## LP.500,000 Deficit Expected in T.A.

### Little Government Help Forthcoming

Palestine Post Staff  
 TEL AVIV, Monday. — A deficit of at least LP.500,000 could be expected before the end of the coming fiscal year, said the Mayor, Mr. I. Rokach, in summing up the budget proposals submitted to the Municipal Council here last night.

Both the Palestine and British Governments had neglected the expanding needs of the city and had failed to meet justified demands for grants, Mr. Rokach said.

Pointing out that the Government had long enjoyed large surpluses derived from taxes paid by the Jewish sector, the Mayor said that the Yishuv could not accept Government's argument that the present political situation was an obstacle to collaboration in municipal welfare.

Even in quiet years when the budget was favourably balanced, the Government had not demonstrated great willingness to lend support to the Municipal budget.

### Need for Development

The Government did not properly appreciate the needs of Tel Aviv's development, the Mayor said. The number of Municipal employees had grown from 1,900 in 1942 to almost 3,000 today.

The present draft budget contained no provision for the repayment of debts or the pending increase in salaries, which come to almost LP.100,000. Plans for new schools and clinics would have to be curtailed, despite the urgent need for them. At the same time, Mr. Rokach added, the Municipal staff had been increased since 1942 by 250 kindergarten teachers, about 40 doctors, 350 clerks and 250 labourers.

Large sums were needed for public works, and the LP150,000 allotted for this purpose in the

## Water Comes To Matzuba

Two glasses of water daily was often the summer ration for settlers at Matzuba, in the Galilee hills near the Syrian border, and food was sometimes served on slices of bread because there was not enough water to wash the dishes.

Since its establishment seven years ago, the settlement has drilled three wells to a depth of 60 metres, but no water was found except a trickle yielding seven cubic metres per day. Before abandoning the third well, last week, however, the contractor and the workers undertook, with the authority of the Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Agency, to drill to 75 metres.

But a metre and a half further on — at 61½ metres — the water gushed, 75 cubic metres an hour.

## Guilty of Corruption On Nine Charges

CAIRO, Monday. — Lt. Colonel J.S. Dawson, formerly Assistant Director of Sales, Hirings and Disposals Branch, G.H.Q. M.E.F., was found guilty by a General Court-Martial this afternoon of corruption on nine charges involving LE5,600, and on one charge of the improper use of LE5,000 of his own money in Army tenders. He was acquitted of five corruption charges involving LE1,400.

Sentence will be promulgated after confirmation of the Court's findings.

An admission that he had made "a few thousand pounds" between September 1945 and the date of his arrest was made by Dawson during cross-examination by the Prosecutor.

Denying that he had accepted any gifts from contractors, accused said he was a partner of Hilal Abassi and received LE. 400 from him as his share in the profits from the Chevalier Island contract. The money received over the Edku contract was repayment of money due to him by Abassi

## Work and Schools For D.P. Camps

### Scheme Launched by Agency and J.D.C.

Palestine Post Staff  
 Two of the most serious problems besetting the Jewish D.P.'s in Europe — lack of schooling for the children and idleness for the adults — are being tackled by the combined efforts of the Jewish communities of Palestine and the United States through the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee.

The steps taken to overcome these two problems were described at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday by Mr. E. Dobkin, member of the Jewish Agency Executive, who recently returned to Palestine after visiting the camps in Europe.

Almost all of the 180,000 Jewish D.P. children in Europe are without any formal education of any kind, Mr. Dobkin revealed.

### Palestinian Teachers

The Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee of America had now come to an agreement whereby the Agency undertook to supply 200 trained teachers from Palestine, who will both teach the children, and organize a school system, training about 2,000 teachers in Europe. The entire cost of this scheme will be borne by the J.D.C.

About 70 teachers have volunteered in the 10 days since recruiting began, and the first group of 100 is expected to leave Palestine for Germany, Austria and Italy.

A \$250,000 fund will also be applied in Palestine to buying books for the D.P. children.

The Jewish Agency has arranged with UNRRA and the American authorities for Jewish workers to work either in small workshops of their own or in larger factories, in shifts when the German workers were off.

### Payment in Kind

Raw materials under this scheme are to be provided by UNRRA, which will also ab-

## Water Comes to Matzuba

Two glasses of water daily was often the summer ration for settlers at Matzuba in the Galilee hills near the Syrian border and food was sometimes served on slices of bread because there was not enough water to wash the dishes.

Since its establishment seven years ago, the settlement has drilled three wells to a depth of 60 metres but no water was found except a trickle yielding seven cubic metres per day. Before abandoning the third well last week, however the contractor and the workers undertook with the authority of the Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Agency to drill to 75 metres. But a metre and a half further on — at 61½ metres — the water gushed, 75 cubic metres an hour.

Wow! Today, we seem to take too many things for granted.

Anyway, to all ex-Ulpan, ex-Volunteers at Matzuba I and all at Kibbutz Matzuba wish you all a Happy New Year with the hope for peace and success for all mankind in 2010.

Keep posted – Baruch Kadmon, Kibbutz Matzuba – December 2009