



QUOTH THE MAVEN

BY BEVERLY KING POLLOCK

Remembering is Forever

If you happen to take a trip out of the country to England or Mexico or the Caribbean, you enjoy. And you come home and show the pictures to anyone who will look and you stop a few people on the street to tell. But in a few months it's all over and virtually forgotten.

Yet a trip to Israel never fades away. At a Sisterhood meeting you hear "The Pledge" reviewed and your heart beats faster because you know the people involved. Every time "Israel" comes over television or radio you stop what you're doing to listen. And friends you corner in the grocery store agree that no cucumbers and tomatoes are as good as those in Israel.

I confess to getting emotionally involved in the country and the people. But so does everyone touring with you. And the greatest way to recapture almost word for word the magic and the excitement is to have your own tour group over for a reunion party. Where everybody can come and talk and show pictures and movies and slides and eat.

(I just happened to mention I was having our tour get-together Sunday afternoon and Tante Leah immediately rushed from Cleveland to make drumsticks with the honey and soy sauce because "man cannot live by chopped liver alone." She also filled my freezer with kugel which she called keegel and chicken soup and brisket.)

The weather was threatening rain but everybody came at two o'clock like planned. There was hugging and kissing and joy! (Even before I started to serve the Israeli wine.)

You know how it is when you travel with



THE LEE BEATTY FAMILY, 1971 ALL AMERICAN FAMILY PAGEANT WINNERS FROM LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, CHAT WITH ENTERTAINER ANITA BRYANT DURING A BREAK AT REHEARSALS FOR THE PAGEANT TV SPECIAL SPONSORED BY FLORIDA ORANGE GROWERS. LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: REGINALD, 14, PAMELA, 13, SHERREE, 10, KIMLI, 8, RICHARD, 12, AND LEE AND JOHNNIE. LEE IS DIRECTOR OF SERVICES FOR THE FLAMINGO HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS.

people on a bus and plane. Immediately you tell the story of your life so you're caught up to date. And the next time you see these special friends it's as if you've known each other all your lives. There's a warmth and depth of feeling and real care. Like in a family.

Right off I waved an Israeli napkin (it looks and feels like a scalloped square of wax paper). And everybody started eating and passing snapshots around. And each one recalled a fond memory.

There was a picture of a former American and now grand lady of Jerusalem, Kitty Falk, who had invited our entire group up one afternoon for tea. She showed us the city from the roof of her home (which formerly sat atop the Jordanian border) and told us how she escaped in her car alone during the Six Day War.

When we asked why she chose to live in Israel, she said, "If something happens to my people -- good or bad -- I want to be here."

She also took us through her ages old stone house with walls several feet thick and asked because no one can find out why sometimes a wall interior is damp. "Oh, well," she shrugged. "You can't have history and a perfect paint job."

Some of the folks had their snapshots real organized in a scrapbook so you could get negatives of the ones you missed. Like Rabbi Menahem Porush, the Vice-Mayor of Jerusalem whose personal message to us was to encourage Americans to spend at least a few of their productive years in Israel. For the country needs these talents to keep growing and survive.

Luckily someone had taken a picture of me the night of our farewell dinner in Tel Aviv with Molly Lyons Bar-David, who writes "Diary of an Israel Housewife" for Hadassah Magazine. It was funny how we had met. I was waiting for her in the lobby and she was waiting for me and I was looking at her and she was looking at me and finally I broke down and said, "Are you....?"

Molly had brought along her friend, Sylvia Satten Banin, who is the editor of several journals in Israel. "Sylvia will answer the intelligent questions," Molly said. "I'll answer

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the haimish ones." And when everybody rushed up to tell how much they enjoyed her column, she gestured in typical Israeli fashion, "Don't tell me, tell my editor."

We tore ourselves from the snapshots to go downstairs in the gameroom and see the slides and movies. Everybody called out what every picture was and we were all fairly bursting with excitement. There were only three slides that nobody knew where they were taken. (Not counting the seven that were disputed between Caesaria and Acre.)

It's grand having people come to your house who have never been there before. Together you have a new set of interests. And they call attention to old things you once were thrilled about but hadn't noticed for a long time. Like the sketches of my husband the Sunday painter. The table filled with our forgotten collection of seashells. The driftwood we found on the beach at Kitty Hawk. I guess I wasn't the only one who had a grand time. Because we found eight hours was not enough for a reunion. And already our group is planning for the next party. And thinking about next year in Jerusalem.

Like I was saying, a trip to Israel is forever.

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