

Tuval: The Greening

BY ESTHER ROCKMAN

To those accustomed to visualizing Israel as a speck on the world map, the great tracts of uninhabited spaces come as a shock. Visitors to Israel, and even residents are astounded when they venture beyond the crowded cities and bustling villages into stretches of empty wilderness, which are to be found in Galilee as well as the Negev. The new settlements in parts of Galilee are almost unknown to urban Israelis, and people from abroad, trapped in the air-conditioned tourist route, have to be very determined to find their way to these brave, beautiful and almost unheard of territories. The fact is that the greater part of Israeli territory is still under-populated, or not populated at all.

Tuval is the newest settlement to crown one of the lonely rocky peaks, so high that when the

torrid damp heat make the coastal plain burdensome, their fresh cool Galilee breezes are both stimulating and calming. (Winter is another story when gales and torrential rains make the path from the storehouse to the dining room a cold and hazardous mud trail). With the official establishment on August 3rd, of the Kibbutz, the guests travelled along an isolated rutted gravel way, called only by the greatest courtesy, a road. The only link of the new kibbutz with the outside is a walkie talkie connected to an army post. There is no public transport. The van bringing supplies and mail is the sole lifeline.

The view is magnificent. The kibbutz stands south of Maalot geographically, exactly between upper and lower Galilee and on the border of the historical boundaries of the tribes of Asher and Naphtali. On all sides lesser mounds and stark moorland falls away, the brutal outcroppings of naked rock softened by distance. There are no trees up here. Under four hundred years of Turkish neglect and rapacity every morsel of living green was eliminated by the all-devouring goats.

Remote though it is it is not the first Jewish presence in the district. A grave containing a carved Menorah, symbol of the first Jewish State, lies near the main gate. Nearby are the ruins of a small habitation, probably a townlet called Blaya of Talmudical time 300 - 600 C.E. The remains of a well, now dried up, supplied those villages with

water. Their descendants have it pumped up by pipeline as they transform this archeological site into a modern living entity.

The Kibbutz is already changing the face of the uninviting if lovely landscape. On their very limited piece of land Shalom Lewak from South Africa has a field of peppers glowing green against the drab background. Two young Israelis, Orit Ashgamazi and Micky Cohen, help with those and the melons. A stony patch is being cleared for spice and perfume bushes. Two young girls, Vivian Rootshrain from Johannesburg and Rochelle Reuvenstien from Capetown are the gardeners for whom every inch of lawn and every flower is a triumph of determination over harsh conditions.

GUYS AND DOLLS AT MEADOWS

Guys & Dolls, now at the Meadows, features one of the most popular stage actors in Las Vegas, Bobby Sargent. Sargent will play the role of Nathan Detroit. He came to Las Vegas via Broadway and Hollywood where he was a stand-up comedian and writer and actor. As a comedian he has worked every major theatre, cafe and T.V. variety show, and almost every major hotel on the Las Vegas Strip. He just recently closed a very successful run at the Union Plaza in the Odd Couple.

Guys & Dolls is based on the stories of Damon Runyon,

who became famous for his tales of the big city. The show has had huge success wherever it has played. It is possibly the best musical comedy of the last 20 years.



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