

# Flute Factory in the Emek.

By Dorothy Kahn Bar-Adon.

One of the busy corners of the communal settlement of Alonim (Oaks) in the Emek is the flute factory. It is only a hut of tin (referred to as the "flute studio") and half of it is occupied by the shoemaker's bench. But hundreds of instruments, known as the "Miriam Flute," make their way into the local market annually from this hut. There is a great demand for flutes to-day among schools, scouts and youth movements.

An Italian immigrant, from Milan, once remarked, "In Italy I associated music with the opera or with pianos and violins. Here, in Palestine, my children talk of nothing but the flute."

## FAVOURER INSTRUMENT.

It is fitting that the flute should be a favoured instrument among young Palestinians since it flourished here in ancient times.

The Bible is speckled with references to the "halil" which translators render as "pipes." No matter how instruments may be grouped in Biblical orchestras, we usually find the "halil" among them.

And it seemed to express a wide range of moods. For instance when Samuel tells Saul that he will meet a company of prophets coming down from the high places, he says that the prophets will be "with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe." When Solomon was anointed King "the people piped with pipes." When Jeremiah wished to express his lamentation for Moab, he declared that his heart would "sound for Moab like pipes."

And, to judge from Isaiah, the versatile instrument played its part in revelry, being heard perhaps instead of jazz in the ancient equivalent to the modern night club, for Isaiah cries woe unto them that continue—till wine inflame them and "the harp and the viol, the tabret and pipe and wine are in their feasts."

## A WOMAN MANAGER.

The manager of the studio is a young woman of 22, Miriam Turnowsky, who was brought here by her parents from Germany some years ago. She comes of a musical family and plays several instruments herself. At an early age she became an apprentice to Eliahu Rappoport, the violin maker of Tel Aviv.

When the import of flutes to Palestine was stopped in 1939 and prospective young flautists were left high and dry without instruments, Miriam began to devote herself to the making of ancient "pipes." On becoming a

member of the communal settlement, Miriam succeeded in infecting Alonim with her enthusiasm, and the flute factory became a branch of their carpentry shop (one of the largest in the country).

It seems that flutes cannot be turned out with "mass production" methods. While the bare hollow stick can be made in the carpentry shop, Miriam herself must fashion the mouth piece and other vital parts of every instrument.

Her "studio" is a table and a few tools. Since she must thoroughly test each finished flute for clear tones, this corner of the settlement sounds rather like the detested saxophone player who lives next door. So there may have been a specific reason for isolating Miriam with the shoemaker; for when the shoemaker gets going on a sole, the flute rehearsals are quite drowned out.

To-day, every second child in Palestine seems able to draw some tune or other out of a flute. And many are the parental hearts that swell with pride when little Rachel or David play their parts in the flute orchestras which invariably accompany Chanukah, Purim or other festivals. But like most new undertakings in Palestine, there is a story behind Miriam's attractive flutes.

## WHAT OF THE OLIVE?

How do you start making a flute? This was the problem which faced her in 1939. She began asking people who had seen flutes made abroad. She interviewed menders of flutes. After she had learned the knack of the thing, there was still another grave problem—wood. Flutes can be made only from very dry wood. The one wood-drying establishment could work only in large quantities, far beyond her needs.

Finally, by mere chance, she found a small stock of dry maple wood belonging to an Arab in Acre. That was the beginning. The question of suitable wood is still a bother. If olive wood (with which experiments are now being made) can give a clear, strong tone, it would be a great boon to flutemakers.

In Alonim (a settlement founded by German and Palestinian youth) the flutes of Miriam accentuate the pastoral note in the general picture. Many of the 140 members (and most of the 52 children) have become flute enthusiasts. After duty in the fields, kitchen or barn, you can spot them under the oaks, "piping with pipes."

—("Palestine Post.")

## Social & Personal.

The marriage of Judith, younger daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. Marcus Zurnamer (formerly of Stormsvlei), now of Claremont, and Alfred Edelstein, of Johannesburg, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edelstein, of Muizenberg, will take place at the Great Synagogue, Gardens, on Sunday, January 6th, at 2.15 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

The marriage of Beatrice (Bailey) Shirken, formerly of Worcester, now of Muizenberg, to Aaron Kessel, of Cape Town, will be solemnised at the Synagogue, Muizenberg, on Tuesday, 8th January, 1946, at 3 p.m. Reception at the Balmoral Hotel, Muizenberg, 3.30-6 p.m. Relatives and friends cordially invited. No cards.

\* \* \* \* \*

The marriage of Lea, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Glick, "Kadimah," Virginia Avenue, Cape Town, to Sam, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Krawitz, of Vrede, will take place at the Vredehoek Synagogue on Tuesday, 8th January, at 7 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

The engagement is announced of Freda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Astrinsky, of Cape Town, and Sam, son of Rev. and Mrs. J. Rubinstein, of Moorreesburg.

\* \* \* \* \*

The marriage of Freda, only daughter of Mrs. S. and the late Rev. M. Segal, of Berea, Johannesburg, and Con (Alchonon), eldest son of Rev. and Mrs. I. L. Pakter, of Sea Point, will take place at the Sea Point Synagogue on Tuesday, 8th January, at 2.30 p.m.

## Obituary.

### MR. BARNETT SHROCK.

The death took place at Dordrecht on 25th December of Mr. Barnett Shrock, father of Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, Mr. B. Shrock and Mrs. J. Wainstein.

The late Mr. Shrock originally lived in Cape Town, but settled many years ago in Dordrecht, where he was a highly respected member of the community. He was honorary reader of the Dordrecht Synagogue where he conducted the services last Rosh Hashona. He will be greatly missed by the community.

The funeral took place at Pinelands last Friday and was attended by representatives of many congregations and institutions. Rabbi I. Abrahams, Rev. S. Kassel, Cantor B. Rome and Cantor M. Katzin officiated.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family in their bereavement.

## Bible Reading in Jewish Home.

The chapters to be read during the week commencing January 5th (3rd Shevath) are Numbers 22 to 28.

## ANGLO-TRANSVAAL CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

Continued from Previous Page

utilised to the fullest, then of necessity the increased national income arising will give greater opportunities to the European. I realise that progress in this direction will, naturally, be slow and fraught with difficulties, but I do say that a courageous policy is necessary and that we are not making the best use of our non-European labour by creating artificial barriers, based largely on prejudice and groundless fears.

The Government through its Wage Determination, to my mind, has a very serious responsibility with regard to the rising scale of wage rates in this country. As I have previously stated, I do not necessarily advocate a lower wage scale, but I do stress the importance of relating wage to output. There is general agreement that while wages have increased very steeply during the past few years, the output per man has, if anything, decreased. This is obviously a very serious state of affairs and unless remedied can only lead to a general decrease of production.

On that very contentious matter of Government competition with private enterprise, I believe that there should always be a measure of Government co-operation with private industry, and I accept the position that, in certain essential public services, it may be in the interests of the country as a whole to have some degree of Government control of policy and perhaps of profits. There will always be considerable variance of opinion as to what particular type of service or industry should or should not be controlled, administered or subject to a degree of guidance by the State. The decision, however, is a matter which affects industry very seriously. It is a matter of broad national policy which should be decided by the Government and given clear and unambiguous expression.

I feel sure that the prospective strength of Mining and Industry would be greatly enhanced by a long term fiscal policy ensuring an adequate return on capital invested and by adopting a system in industry whereby the scale of wages bears a definite relation to the rate of output, thereby reducing the inflation of production costs which can only have the effect of stifling expansion and progress."

The Chairman stated that Mr. G. J. V. Clarence had resigned from the Board since the close of the financial year, and that Messrs. B. L. Bernstein and W. Patrick Jones had been appointed Directors. Seventy-three members of the Head Office staff had proceeded on active service, of which number five had given their lives. The Chairman then paid tribute to the employees who had proceeded on active service and to the executives and staff of the Head and London Offices.

The motion for the adoption of the Report and Accounts was seconded by Mr. S. G. Menell, and was carried unanimously.

The retiring Directors, Messrs. C. H. Leon, B. L. Bernstein and W. Patrick Jones, were re-elected.

**Madam! Make every snack a banquet by serving ZIMAN'S ARISTOCRAT PICKLES and SAUCES and also SQUASHES.**

Their delicious taste results from the choicest ingredients.

Ask your grocer or bazaar for ZIMAN'S or direct from ZIMAN BROS. LTD., P.O. Box 949, JOHANNESBURG.