



Dean Carson visited Egyptian-American Oil Co. operations in Egypt. Here a caravan watches drilling activities. Arabic story title is explained by Dean.

Dean Carson visited the Near East and Europe during the summer. Here are some of the sights and sounds he heard. Title is Arabic and is explained in the story.

By DEAN W. H. CARSON, College of Engineering

THE USE OF ARABIC in the title was influenced to a certain extent by the fact that during a recent trip to Asia, Africa, and Europe, Mrs. Carson and I spent considerable time in countries where Arabic is the official language—more about the title later.

When travel takes a person to foreign countries, among other things, he expects to hear strange languages; see different costumes, learn about the customs of people and see, first hand, the geography of places he had read about as a school boy. I guess we could be classified as average travelers

in every respect, except for the strangeness of languages. You see, the educational program of the O. U. College of Engineering has drawn to its classrooms students from many foreign countries. We have become accustomed to hearing numerous languages spoken around the halls of the Engineering Building.

Our trip was made possible through a combination of factors. The Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) invited us to be their guests in Saudi Arabia so that we might observe the oil operations in that part of the world. Also, I was appointed an

Honorary Vice President to represent the Committee on International Relations of the Engineers' Joint Council at the Fourth World Petroleum Congress, held in Rome, Italy. Also we were guests of Millard and Helen Neptune while in Egypt. Among the New York well-wishers for a Bon Voyage were two O. U. graduates—John T. Jordan, B.S., Pet.E. '37, with his wife, and Curtis Mayes, B.S., Mech.E. '36. John has a special engineering assignment with the Shell Oil Company, and Curtis is Equipment Co-ordinator of the Socony-Vacuum Oil Company.



In Beirut, Dean and Mrs. Carson learn the ingredients of typical Lebanese food from their host, Salim Ashi, '54eng.



In Abqaiq, Harry Plummer, '34eng, Mrs. Plummer and daughter entertained the Carsons in their home. Arabian heat makes air conditioning necessary.



In Cairo, Dean and Mrs. Carson have coffee and cakes with Mrs. Millard Neptune, wife of an O.U. graduate who's president of Egyptian-American Oil Co.



In Ras Tanura, the Carsons visited Douglas Ezzell, '37eng, and Mrs. Ezzell. The Persian Gulf is seen in the background.

The journey which took us to many places was perfect in every respect. We flew from New York to Amsterdam, non-stop, in thirteen hours. The twenty-eight hours we spent in Holland gave us an opportunity to take a boat trip through the canals of Amsterdam and go to Volendam. We also went to the Isle of Marken, where the population still wear their picturesque costumes.

On our way to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, we flew over the beautiful snow capped Swiss Alps, and then on to Rome where we stopped at the airport for an Italian dinner. From Rome the flight went in an easterly direction toward our destination, and into the approaching night. Dawn came and in due time the wheels of our

airplane touched the landing strip in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Dhahran is headquarters of Aramco, which is near the Persian Gulf. It is a modern city built in the desert. Through the use of deep well water it has been possible to landscape the place with flowers, shrubs and trees to such an extent that it is difficult for a person to realize that barren ground was the order of the day in that spot only a few years ago. Through the use of centrally located air conditioning plants, the houses, offices, hospitals, schools, clubs, recreation halls, stores, and portions of some industrial buildings are kept comfortably cool. The other company towns and camps follow a similar pattern to Dhahran.

Some of the oil produced in Saudi Arabia comes from Ghawar field, which is considered to rank high among the world's largest accumulations of oil. A portion of the crude oil is transported across the desert through a 30-31" pipeline to Sidon, Lebanon, on the eastern Mediterranean coast, for shipment to European and other markets. A portion of the crude is refined at Ras Tanura refinery, and the remainder goes out through the Persian Gulf by tankers and by pipeline.

As I moved through the oil fields, the refinery, tanker loading docks, and other industrial operations, I marveled at the expert manner in which most of the

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ments. Neutralism's equivalent on the Russian side is undoubtedly present: the Tito break is clear evidence. We have now moved past the historical period in which two powers and two alone controlled the entire world supply of nuclear weapons.

All these threads of evidence seem to lead to a similar conclusion: that the world is no longer so bipolar as it has been. This fact has automatically brought a "New Look" to world politics, a new look which is more fundamental than any shallow shift in outward policy of particular governments.

Deadlock may of course continue, but with any willingness at all to make concessions negotiation from strength has more room for maneuver. We cannot tell whether such willingness exists in Russia but we have wisely begun the process of finding out.

Dean Carson Reports . . .

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Saudies carried out their assignments. They are engaged in many skills including rotary driller, bull-dozer operator, refinery worker, laboratory technician, plumber, carpenter, etc. Many of these Saudi workers came from the desert, which makes them the first of their generation to do any kind of mechanical work. A monthly average of 2,893 Saudi employees received on-the-job instruction in 1954. This number is in addition to those who received training in company industrial training schools. A number of early-day workers have become contractors, and are now doing work for the company and others. Private business is thriving in Saudi Arabia.

The company has co-operated with the Saudi Arabian government in building schools, developing agricultural projects, building a railroad, constructing roads across desert sands, and in many other ways. His Majesty King Sa'ud ibn'Abd al'Aziz is cognizant of the importance of primary schools for his people. In December of last year he took time off from a busy schedule to dedicate two company-built primary schools in the eastern part of his country.

Rock ballast is used on the road bed of the Saudi Government Railroad, which has the latest type Budd streamlined cars, including combination diner and lounge car. I was told the trains sometimes streak across the desert at 110 kilometers per hour, with no discomfort to passengers who enjoy the air conditioned interior of the cars—while the thermometer stands at 120° F. in the shade outside.

Creeping sand dunes, some of them thir-

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ty feet high, can become troublesome when they decide to cross a road. The control of the movement of dunes, and other shifting sands, has been effected to a certain extent by oiling the surface exposed to the wind.

Trachoma, a serious disease, is a problem in many parts of the world; it is a particular menace in the Middle East. Aramco has found, for example, that 80 to 85 per cent of patients treated in its clinics have trachoma infection—to the extent that these patients have impaired vision. The company is contributing \$100,000 annually for a period of five years for research which, it is hoped, will discover a means of preventing this disease. There are other projects on preventative medicine.

If you have been wondering if O.U. graduates are responsible for any of the vast operations carried on by Aramco, the answer is yes! The second morning we were in Dhahran, Sam Zimmerman, B.S., Geol. '30, stopped by the guest house to have mid-morning coffee with us. Sam is chief geophysicist, and he told me exploration parties continue to work throughout large portions of the concession area.

One day we went to Ras Tanura over a hard surfaced road, which replaced a camel trail a few years ago. There is considerable traffic on the road, mostly made up of cars owned by Saudi Arabians.

We visited Douglas N. Ezzell, B.S., Ch.E., '37, his wife and some friends, took a tour through the refinery, and inspected the dock area. Douglas Ezzell is acting district manager of the Ras Tanura District; his regular assignment is assistant district manager, Abqaiq District.

Another interesting day was spent in the Abqaiq Production District with Harry Plummer, B.S., Pet.E. '37, who is general superintendent, oil operations, of the district. We also had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Harry's wife and children. The day we were leaving Dhahran we saw S. Lee Biggerstaff, B.S., Elec.E. '52, at the airport for a minute or two. Lee had just returned from a two weeks local leave.

WHAT DO THE transplanted Americans do for recreation? They have desert parties, play golf, tennis, billiards, and other games, dance, swim, fish in the Persian Gulf, go to motion picture shows, drive, and do diverse things of a recreational nature. They do not have cocktails—it is unlawful to take alcoholic beverages into Saudi Arabia.

Most of Aramco's engineering and design work for new construction is done by Aramco Overseas Company in The Hague. The company's engineering staff in Saudi Arabia devotes much of its time to studies

of future needs. On our return trip from the Middle East it was our pleasure to visit with three O.U. graduates who are in AOC in The Hague. They are: Edward Weber, Jr., B.S., Ch.E. '48, supervisor of plants design; C. V. Copeland, B.S., Ch.E. '47, project co-ordinator, and Charles N. Windle, B.S., Ch.E. '50, M.S., Ch.E. '51, design engineer.

From Dhahran we flew to Beirut, Lebanon. Beirut has a climate similar to southern California—without the smog. During our stay in this, the capital city of Lebanon, we visited the American University, the National Museum, and other points of interest. While strolling in the business section we were surprised to see one man carrying an electric refrigerator on his back, and another delivering an upright piano in the same manner. We were told that these were mountain people, who are very strong. Two enjoyable Lebanese evenings were spent with Salim Ashi, M.S., Civil E. '54. One evening was spent with his sisters. On both occasions we had food typical of the country. Salim is a sanitary engineer for the government.

We traveled out of Beirut to Baalbek, Syria, The Holy Land, and to Egypt. These places should be a must for anyone who travels to the Near East.

The ruins of ancient Baalbek date back so far that Arab legends associate it with Cain. The ruins of this shrine to the sun god Baal are in the fertile valley of Lebanon between two ranges of snow-capped mountains, the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon. Long before Rome ruled the world there were trade routes connecting Sidon, Beirut, and Tripoli, with the East that lay beyond Damascus, which converged at Baalbek.

It is evident that the Greeks and Romans were responsible for building the Temples of Baalbek, whose ruins are viewed by today's visitors.

Because of limited time we made a driving tour of Damascus. We did, however, stop at the new modern Omayyad Hotel for luncheon.

On the flight from Beirut to Jerusalem, we passed snow-capped Mt. Herman, and we could see the Sea of Galilee in the distance. In Jerusalem our hotel was located about two hundred yards from Arab-Israel "No Man's Land."

A volume would be required to tell about the places of interest we saw in the Holy Land. Some of these places were: The Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; the Golden Gate, the Church of The Nativity in Bethlehem; Jericho; the River Jordan, and the Dead Sea.

WHEN WE DEPLANED at the Cairo airport, we were given a warm welcome by members of the Egyptian State Tourist Administration, representatives of the Egyptian American Oil Company, and Mr. Mahmoud Abouzughla, a brother of a former O.U. student. The combined planning of this group came up with a program which made it possible for us to do a maximum amount of sightseeing during the few days we spent in the capital city on the Nile River.

The evenings afforded us an opportunity to attend social functions with our friends. One such an occasion was a dinner at the Neptunes' home. Unfortunately for us, Millard K. Neptune, B.S., Mech.E. '34, L.L.B. '37, was in New York on business; however, his wife, Helen Blyth Neptune, B.S., Liberal Arts '33, proved to be the perfect hostess.

Millard is president of the Egyptian American Oil Company, which holds a 50 million acre concession in the Western Desert of Egypt. The concession is on the site of World War II battles between the British Eighth Army and the German Afrika

Hal Muldrow, Jr.

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Corps. The Egyptian American Oil Company is a subsidiary of Continental Oil Company, which is handling development for its partners, the Cities Service Oil Company, Ohio Oil Company, and Richfield Oil Company.

Land mines laid during the war present a major problem as Coy H. Squyres, B.A., Geol. '51, field geologist, and others can testify. The first wildcat has been started with a rig which is capable of going 15,000 feet if necessary.

Some of the points of historical interest we saw in Egypt were the Biza Pyramids, Sphinx at Giza, ruins of the old city of Memphis, Tombs of the Sacred Bulls, the Stepped Pyramid, and the Cairo Museum. The Cairo Museum contains, among other things, the marvellous treasure found in the tomb of King Tut-Ankh-Amen.

We left our friends in Egypt, and proceeded to Rome, where I was to attend the Fourth World Petroleum Congress. The Congress was held in Rome's Universal Exhibition area in the auditoriums and rooms of the Congress Building and the Civilization Building. The purpose of the Congress was to discuss any subject of a scientific, technical, or economic nature which would relate directly or indirectly to the oil industry. One of the main purposes of the

Congress was to encourage personal contacts among participants coming from various countries, but who are bound by common interest in work and study.

While in Rome we saw the Roman ruins, and spent a day in Vatican City. While we were in Saint Peter's Cathedral, we met Kenneth B. Barnes, B.S., Pet.E. '30, Min.E. '33, and his wife, Altom Waivia, '30. Kenneth is editor of the *Oil and Gas Journal*, Tulsa; he was in Rome attending the Congress. Also attending the Congress was E. E. (Frank) Barberii, Pet.E. '44, with whom we had a nice visit. Frank is director of the School of Petroleum Engineering, University of Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela.

We traveled from Rome to Amsterdam by rail, with stop-overs at Florence, Pisa, Zurich, Heidelberg, Saarbrucken, Paris, and The Hague. Our activities in these cities were too numerous and varied to enumerate here. I do wish to tell about a chance meeting with Clifford C. Hines, '34, in Paris. When we arrived at our hotel room we were greeted by a large bouquet of flowers, an invitation to a luncheon, and two tickets to the Folies Bergere, all of which were the compliments of our friends among the executive group of the Prospection Elictrique, Procedes Schlumberger. We went to the Folies and in the box next to us

was Clifford Hines. Clifford, who is a lieutenant colonel in the Army, had just completed a three-year tour of duty in Germany. From Amsterdam, we flew at about 18,000 feet where the air was perfectly smooth—our destination was New York City.

I almost forgot about the title of this narrative of our trip. When persons of our age go sight-seeing on many successive days, they are quite fatigued by nightfall. The title is translated as, "Our Feet Were Tired From Walking So Much."

A Note for Kathryn . . .

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ing" to get into war work. "I tried out as, of all things, an Air Corps inspector—and this sounds like bragging but these are only statistics; 1,100 of us took the test and 27 got through. I quit the studio and the Air Corps sent me to school at the University of Southern California, and believe me, that *was* rough. From eight in the morning until six at night, straight classes. Every night, 125 math problems to do, and exams every week. If you got below a 95 on any test, you were out automatically. Eleven of us finished it, and I became some kind of an expert in hydraulics and electrical

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