

Beth-yerah, Oct. 5, 1952

Boy, what a day! I am rushing around so fast, that I find it difficult to get to sleep at night time, or rather after I have finally gotten bed completely exhausted, I wake up after an hour all ready to go again, and find it hard to get to sleep, so I read till the wee hours of the morning.

This morning, I paid my bill at the King David for three days, with lunch and breakfast included, and was almost knocked over when I got the bill. In the first place, all tourists who stay at the King David must pay in dollars; secondly, they must buy a hundred pounds, for which they pay \$140, and if any of the pounds in the form of a letter of credit are left over, they are returned in dollars when leaving the country. I had taken a suite, that is a bed-room and sitting such as I take at the Plaza, when I want to receive the press or meet a lot of people. I thought they had told me the suite would cost \$24 a day. Well, with this and that added, I found that I payed about \$120 for three days. At that rate, I can't afford to stay in the country and take suites. I shall have to wangle something, which I think I can, so that I can pay my bills in the blocked Israeli pounds, which the Mosad Bialik owes me.

The Government car called for me at 9 A.M., and I started off for Tel Aviv. Before that, however, I had decided to confirm my Oct. 30 departure date on the TWA, and went to the TWA office in the King David Hotel to see if they could do it for me. They said that the Tel Aviv office was the place to get it fixed. I have decided to keep the Oct. 30 departure date, which means that I shall be in New York City the next day. I love being here, and it is one constant thrill after another, but somehow or other I can't really enjoy being away without you any longer. I got to Tel Aviv and went to the Government Public Information Office, where I had a date to meet that former student of the College's, David Passow, who, I believe, I have previously indicated as being with the Weizman Institute now. When I walked in, Feigel Braude yelled at me. She and Baruch and their little daughter live at Herteliah now, and she still works for Reuters. I was interviewed by Moshe Brilliant, a N.Y. Times man, and made an appointment to meet the Christian Science reporter in Jerusalem next week. He is a Jew, speaks with an accent, but got into the Hadhra-maut with Wendell Philips and Albright last year. He says the American Minister knew he was Jewish. More power to that particular Minister. He was not, however, able to get into Yemen.

I had a luncheon appointment with Aubrey Eban at the Amalssdor Restaurant, which is a small and by no means elegant place on the second floor of the Central Hotel on the corner of Trumpeldor Street facing the sea. We had a very nice lunch, a diplomatic one, which means that we got better food, and he and I discussed all manner of things. I then left to keep an appointment with Ben Gurion at the Sharon Hotel in Herteliah at 3 P.M. In fact, Eban knew about it, and asked me if I remembered that I had the appointment. I got there in time for the appointment, which was put between 3-3:15 P.M., only to be startled to see just before my car got to the Hotel, his car cavalcade, with him in one of the cars leaving in the direction of Tel Aviv. Boy, I was sore. I am still awaiting an explanation. I know that an hour or so previously, they arrested a chap who was armed and seemed to want to shoot Ben Gurion

So I drove on to Beth-Yerah via Beisan. I took with me a movie photographer, to make some pictures of part of my trip. I am to pay for the pictures by sending film in exchange when I get back home. The whole country is just bursting with new settlements, new towns, new forests and endless numbers of people. Every bus stop, and at numerous points along the roads, people are waiting for lifts. There simply does not seem to be enough cars and trucks to handle everybody. The country makes a strong, virile, creative impression, however.

The ride from Beth-Shan, which is now completely Jewish, along the west side of the Jordan valley was beautiful beyond words. It hurt me a little to be able to look over on to the east side of the Jordan and know that I couldn't get over there, but on the other hand I was very grateful that I had all of the expropriation of that part of the country behind me. As a matter of fact, I am filled with a sense of deep gratitude that fortune of a wonderful kind enabled me to do that archaeological survey of Transjordan when I did it. I am beginning to feel now, that I might not have the energy or endurance at this stage of the game to do that kind of thing on the same comparatively primitive scale again.

I got here about 6:30 P.M., and was astounded by what I saw. A most wonderful little building and a separated dining hall capable of holding several hundred people have been built directly on top of a previously excavated section of Beth-yerah. The buildings directly overlook the Lake of Galilee. The interest of the people of Israel in anything and everything scientific is absolutely amazing. A platform had been erected out in the lawn between the two buildings, and there was a group of more than 500 people, that had come from all corners of the land to participate in this archaeological congress. Maisler made, a speech, extremely attractive young general, Moshe Dayyan, who has had one eye shot out, made a speech, and then I gave a talk of about three quarters of an hour in length in Hebrew on the Jordan Valley. I am afraid I was far from my best. I had intended reading the talk, but after seeing Maisler read his, I decided not to. I misjudged the audience. They are hungry for the detailed kind of facts that can come only from a detailed paper, such as I had had ready, and they would have listened for hours. However, that's that. I shall remain here the rest of the week, and then go back to Jerusalem for a day or two, before trying to get down to Elath. There is a wonderful HUC pre-rabbinic student, Alan Feinberg, here, who really half runs the place.

Yeivin, Maisler, Pinkerfeld, Stekeles, Sahalem, Dr. Hirshberg, oldman Slousch, almost every Jew in the country who is interested in archaeology is here. We are really a wonderful people.

The moon was out over the Lake of Galilee last night, and it was wonderful to behold.