

The Bernard Shuman family of Sioux City, Iowa, immigrated to Israel in 1972. His "Odyssey to Israel" series has kept magazine readers informed of the family's progress. This installment is the first in a year and a half.

A minyan of rabbis, 10 learned men, representing all three major branches of Judaism, participated in the marriage of Ellis and Jodie Kaufman, giving the ceremony an ecumenical flavor as they blessed the couple under the bridal canopy.

Jodie is the eldest daughter of Reuven and Doris Kaufman, formerly of Ithaca, N.Y., who immigrated to Israel in 1971.

The wedding ceremony was held at Moshav Neve Ilan, the cooperative settlement which is the home of the Kaufmans' and is located in the picturesque Judean Hills less than 15 kilometers from Jerusalem.

Since only Orthodox rabbis are legally permitted to perform weddings in Israel, the rabbi officiating was Rabbi Yosef Harel, a chaplain in the Israel Defense Forces. He was selected since Ellis was still in service.

The chaplain was attired in his khaki-colored military uniform, topped by a bright red beret. However, the military uniform in no way distracted from the bride's traditional white wedding gown and the groom's matching white shirt.

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One of the two witnesses to the signing of the Ketuba, the standard Jewish marriage contract, was Rabbi David Zisenwine, formerly of Sioux City and now of Israel, who had presided at Ellis' bar mitzvah ceremony in Sioux City. Another participant in the ceremony was Rabbi Hyman Rabinowitz, the rabbi emeritus of Shaare Zion Synagogue, and now also of Israel, who had presided at Ellis' birth in Sioux City.

The wedding took place before sunset on a Tuesday — often the preferred day for weddings in Israel because God twice blessed the third day of the week when He created the world and He saw how good the day was. The wedding was held outdoors in fulfilling a tradition that the couple should be blessed with as many children as there are stars in the heavens.

As Ellis and Jodie were the first two members of Kibbutz Yahel to marry, the kibbutz held a party in their honor two nights later, and the Shumans and the Kaufmans, accompanied by their wedding guests from abroad, traveled to the kibbutz for the occasion.

Intense heat curtails much of the kibbutz activities during the summer, but in the months ahead, the fields would be plowed and fertilized and vegetables and flowers would grow primarily for export to European countries.

However, the small factory managed by Ellis, which checks transformer parts, functions around the calendar. And during the summer, some of the kibbutzniks guide tours of the region for overseas youth groups, while others journey to the U.S. to serve as counselors at youth camps. There are always chores to keep these pioneers occupied.

In the early stages of our aliya, I

Continued.

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Odyssey to Israel

Continued.

wrote an article describing our absorption period, which emerged as "some days I'm up, some days I'm down." A bureaucratic encounter could engulf me in gloom for an entire day; in contrast, a successful shopping experience at the neighborhood Supersol could make me glow.

Today my life is on a steady keel. Gone are those daily fluctuations of mood that prevailed during this transitional period.

Credit for some of this steadiness can be attributed to the new synagogue — Kehilat Yovel — which we helped organize two years ago to observe the Jewish High Holy Days. It is one of the approximate two dozen conservative synagogues in a country which has more than 7,000 houses of worship.

Ours is but a short, brisk walk from our Ramat Danya apartment in Jerusalem, and is family-oriented, with emphasis on participation by the congregants. Whereas weekly attendance (Friday evenings and Saturday mornings) is generally small, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur will find the school auditorium that we use for our services crammed with men, women and children. The conservative and reform movements are making slow inroads into this Orthodox-dominated society.

That previous comment on moods prompts me to recall the euphoria that engulfed the country — the feeling among many of us that peace was attainable — when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem in No-

vember, 1977. But reality quickly invaded the scene as the bilateral negotiations faltered and then ceased altogether.

Now, however, the Camp David Summit is over, with some surprising and welcome results for those of us who were inclined to be pessimistic when President Jimmy Carter invited Premier Menachem Begin and Sadat to the plush Maryland retreat. Perhaps peace is no longer the impossible dream in the Middle East.

Nevertheless, I'll delay putting my head back in the clouds in the realization that countless "ifs" and "buts" must be hurdled before a peace treaty is actually signed.

Many times have I been to the West Bank and Gaza, the controversial territories that the Arabs call "occupied" and Israel refers to as "administered." Friends live in these areas, and it would be shattering for them to pull up stakes after devoting so much time and effort to developing the land that had lain barren so long.

I have never travelled deep into the Sinai, which, according to the summit accords, is earmarked for Egyptian sovereignty.

The favorable conclusions emerging from Camp David motivated the country's teachers to return to the classrooms as they felt a need to be with their students at this historic time. The dispute over their wages, however, remained unsettled as studies resumed after a weeklong strike.

On the negative side of the ledger, the



The wedding ceremony was held outdoors at sunset.

Camp David accords are likely to trigger more terrorist incidents within the country. Still, we will not disrupt our daily pursuits; instead we will be more alert for suspicious objects. We pray for no more bombings such as the blast that killed the police sapper, a former American who chose to live here and sought out his dangerous profession.

The untimely death of my brother Carl in Omaha thrust me into perhaps the most traumatic hours of my immigration to Israel, as I was separated from family at a time when families should be together. I was emotionally shaken by the experience, enduring feelings of guilt for the separation that I had spawned.

But the decision of aliya was mine,

reached with an awareness of what the consequences could be.

With the exception of Judy, each of us has returned to the U.S. for a vacation during the past six years. Fortunately, many of our family and friends have visited Israel during our "odyssey" — and the recent Shuman-Kaufman nuptials brought 13 guests from abroad, including the Jack Niskers of Lincoln and Mrs. Edythe Ocker of Sioux City.

Now, however, the visitors are gone, and we are entrenched in our daily routines. But I can exclaim at this particular reflection point that we are part of the Israeli scene, willingly accepting the good and the bad that is offered. The commitment and the challenge of living in the Jewish homeland has been met.

What creature sleeps the most?

Worms. Certain species of worms "sleep" for many years without waking.

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How small is the smallest book ever printed?

The smallest book printed is a copy of the Lord's Prayer in seven different languages. This book is only 13 hundredths of an inch square.

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How long is a person's vision blacked out when he winks?

About three-tenths of a second. Most people, when they are awake, have their vision blacked out completely 10 percent of the time.

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Would an armadillo make a good pet?

Yes. They are friendly and take only a few days to adapt themselves to life with humans.

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What is Eva Gabor's secret of success with men?

"It's simple," says Eva Gabor. "You play to a man's ego. You make him feel important. You convince him you are helpless."

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What is the punishment for people who steal citrus fruit in Yuma, Ariz.?

A strange law placed on the books years ago decreed that anyone caught

stealing citrus fruit should be given a dose of castor oil.

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Do different nationalities mean different things when they refer to corn?

Quite often. The English frequently mean wheat when they speak of corn; while the Dutch mean corn when they speak of Turkish wheat. The Turks call corn Egyptian corn; the Egyptians call it Syrian durra; the French call it Spanish corn; and in Africa they call it mealies.

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How fast do meteors travel?

At speeds of 10 to 60 miles a second — 36,000 to 216,000 miles an hour.

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Has singer Elton John been playing the piano for long?

Yes. He taught himself to play by ear when he was 4 years old. At 11, he studied music at the Royal Academy in London. "But rock and blues were my real interest," says Elton John, "so I quit school at 17 to play piano with a

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Here's Howe

By Pete Howe



Elton John

number of different groups, before I finally settled into doing my own thing."

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Do all mammals have four legs?

No. The whale doesn't.

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Can a baby elephant make use of its trunk soon after it is born?

It could if it knew how. When an elephant is born, it doesn't know what to

do with the appendage. Indeed, its a downright nuisance.

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How does an icebreaking boat break ice?

The bow is undercut and rides over the ice. The ship's speed and its weight on top of the ice combine to saw and break the boat's way down through the ice, like a knife cutting through a cake.

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Does frost make autumn leaves change color?

No. Most of the fall color is there all the time. But we don't see it because the green chlorophyll is too strong. In autumn, as the trees prepare for winter, they pull back into their branches and trunks all the foodstuffs normally present in the leaves. The chlorophyll breaks down chemically and becomes colorless. The other colors — small bits of solid yellow pigment, and red and blue dyes dissolved in the cell sap — come visible.

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Who nominated George Washington to be commander-in-chief of the Colonial forces during the American Revolution?

John Adams. When George Washington retired to private life, and Adams succeeded him to the presidency, Washington again was named as general of the army by Adams.