

KIBBUTZ HABONIM

M A N S U R A  
-----

YOMAN NO. 1.

APRIL 1949.

We intend to publish this yoman at fairly regular intervals in order to keep chaverim who are not at home (on Outside Work, in the Forces or on Hachshara) informed of events and developments in the Kibbutz. The yoman can also serve as a Forum for discussion of the various problems - social and economic - confronting us as a Chevra. There are many questions bearing upon our development as a Kibbutz which are often dealt with inadequately in our asaphot mainly through lack of preliminary clarification, and also the background knowledge necessary to the forming of a balanced decision. This lack we shall attempt to redress, but only with the active participation of chaverim can the Yoman succeed in its function as a public forum.

.....  
As we were - But not quite.

Despite all the Rhodes Talks and Conferences and Truces etc, the status quo is maintained, so far as we are concerned. At least so it must seem to many chaverim. Most kibbutzim - even those which were in the front line are getting back to normal; their children are being brought back from the evacuation centres; their chaverim are being released from the Forces and absorbed once again into the Meshek; the damage caused by the enemy is being rapidly made good with the help of the national institutions; in most cases they have increased their territory, and so on.

But Kibbutz Habonim is still as it was. We are not yet established on our permanent site, the foundations of our meshek have yet to be laid, our chaverim are separated, we are still unsure about our territory - and the water problem remains unsolved, etc. etc.

All this is true - but it is far from being a full picture. Kibbutz Habonim is not quite as it was - we have moved - believe it or not.

-----  
TRANSFER OF HADESA MACHANEH.

The successful development of the negotiations with the Arab countries has increased our hopes of the withdrawal of the Syrians from

Mishmar Hayarden in the near future. We have therefore decided to transfer the Hadera machaneh to Mansura as soon as possible. This will mean additional accomodation for the chevra and the children. It will also mean a speeding up in our efforts to rid the area of Malaria. In the meantime the most stringent precautions will have to be taken against this menace. The experience of Kfar Elum and other kibbutzim in the Hula has shown that with a thorough sustained campaign it can be mastered.

### MANPOWER

In the past year we have almost doubled our numbers. To-day we have about 140 chaverim. In this respect we are more fortunate than most kibbutzim. It is well known that only a small percentage of new olim go to the kibbutz, and of these an even smaller number remain. The only kibbutzim which have retained a fairly high percentage of their aliyah are those connected with a Youth Movement and they, unfortunately, are only too few.

### OUR DISPERSION

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Hachshara.</u>	<u>Outside Work.</u>
Mansura.	54		
Hadera.	52	2	
Kfar Elum.	8	2	6
Neot Mordechai.	5		5
Gvat.	3	3	
Kfar Giladi.	2	2	
Gan Shmuel.	1	1	
Afikim.	11	1	10
Afula.	1	1	
Tel Aviv.	1	1	
K.K.L.	1	1	
Ayeleth Hashachar.	1	1	
Forces.	2	—	—
	<u>142</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>21</u>

### Hachsharah.

Kfar Elum.	Michael, Shuki.	Binyan.
Gvat.	Sam, Ivor, Lev.	Fruit Trees, Kerem, Poultry
Kfar Giladi.	Alfie, Willy.	Garage, Sheep.
Gan Shmuel.	Tommy.	Carpentry (Binyan)
Afikim.	Arye.	Electricity.
Hadera.	Gavriel, Chaim.	Binyan.
Afula	Michal.	Child Nurse.
Tel Aviv.	Lotte.	Child Nurse.
K.K.L.	Sid.	Surveying.
Ayeleth Hashachar.	Annette.	Bees.

.....

MESHK.Land.

A survey of our territory (by Ossy and Yochanan) has shown that only about 1,500 dunams of Mansura land is cultivable (that is, it will be, after Sikul); the rest is either rock, hill land which does not lend itself to cultivation and certain areas where the sikul would be so "heavy" that they are not worth tackling. 1,500 dunams in this area is not sufficient for our needs, as a meshek - as a "kibbutz mishlat". We need additional territory and have asked for the Tuba lands which adjoin ours. The acquisition of Tuba (together with Shamir and Ja'una) would 2,500 dunams to our territory, making a total of 4,000 dunams. With the exception of 600 dunams (150 dunams at Shamir, KKL land - and 450 dunams Ja'una which we cleared and ploughed last autumn) the whole territory will require sikul. It is not yet certain whether we will obtain the Tuba lands. The mosdot are now considering our request. There are fair hopes of it being granted.

Water.

The 10 to 12 cubes from Tuba supply our domestic needs and also provide sufficient for the refet, stable etc. But for intensive cultivation on a considerable scale we will require a large supply of water. We have been informed by the authorities that a regional water scheme has been drafted (with Malachah, in the Hula, as the source) and when this is put into operation it should solve our water problem.

Sikul.

The tempo of the development of our meshek will be determined to a great extent by the tempo we achieve in Sikul. It is still in the experimental stage, but our aim is to find out as quickly as possible the most suitable methods and machinery for our particular territory. The tools required will include a tractor, tip-up trailer, sledges; also one or two wagons and mules.

Malcha.

Pending the sikul of our own land and the acquisition of a water supply we have been given the use of 700 dunams in the Hula and about 800 dunams near Machanayim. Both areas were ploughed and cultivated before the rains. The following crops were sown:-

	<u>Nr. Machanayim.</u>	<u>Hula.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Beans	90 dunams.		90 dunams.
Barley.	80 "	70 dunams.	150 "
Hay.	160 "		160 "
Vetches.	200 "	75 "	275 "
Chilba (for seed)	—	<u>100</u> "	<u>100</u> "
	<u>530</u> "	<u>245</u> "	<u>775</u> "

As soon as the rains cease we plan to sow a few hundred dunams of Summer crops. In between the rain we have been top-dressing the Barley and Vetches with Nitrate of Lime.

The Falcha Branch is equipped with the following machines:-

TD9 Tractor.

W 9 "

2 Fertiliser Spreading machines.

Disc Plough - 4 furrows.

New Holland Baler.

Plough - 4 furrow International.

Seed drill.

The following are on order and are expected to arrive in the near future:-

John Deer Tractor (Row Crop)

Corn Lister.

McCormick Horse Mower.

Allis Chalmers Combine.

Tractor Mower.

Side Delivery Rake.

#### Gan.

We sowed 17 dunams of onions in March and they have come up very well. Our plans for this year is to extend the gan to 40 dunams including tomatoes, cucumbers and water melons. The soil is rich and despite the lack of irrigation the results should be satisfactory (judging by the growth of the onions).

#### Misspo.

30, clover, beans and barley. A most successful crop - sufficient to provide fodder for a much larger herd than we possess.

#### Refet.

Upto now our two cows and one heifer were housed in one of the Arab houses. We have now erected a building (with timber, tin and a concrete floor) large enough for ten cows. Our present 'herd' comprises three cows, one heifer and ten calves. Our plan includes the purchase this year of another four or five cows and ten calves. Our total budget for Refet this year is £3,500 (including food).

#### Lul.

We purchased 190 birds (age about 5 months) in February. Over 20 have died since then. They began laying at too early an age. Also cannibalism is prevalent amongst them (it seems to be widespread amongst poultry in Aretz.) For such young birds they are laying rather large eggs and the yield of eggs is also high (averaging well over 60%). We plan to extend the Lul when Lev returns from Hachshara.

## Binyan.

Erected up to date: Four Tzrifim, Cedar Ochal, Bakery, Sefet, Masgariah and Nogarish (mission huts), Lul.

Work in progress: Another tzrif, and buildings for the Generator, Laundry and Implements. In the immediate future we shall erect two specially constructed tzrifim (double doors, etc) for the children.

Hachshara. All this of course is not "real Binyan". That will start when we go up to our permanent site and start building with stone and concrete instead of wood and tin. To this end we are preparing a kvutzat binyan. At present five chaverim are on hachsharah in Binyan. This number does not include our carpenters, Zvi and Yossef. All we need to complete the kvutza is a plumber.

## Masgariah and Nogarish.

These two branches will play a vital part in the development of our meshek and the building of the machaneh. In the negariah we can construct the tzrifim needed during this year. And besides the usual work in the meshek we intend to combine the masgariah together with a Foundry to establish an industrial undertaking. Recently we acquired the following useful additions to our masgariah:-

General Purpose Lathe, 36" centre.  
Milling machine.  
Screw Cutting machine.  
Fly Press (for bending metals, hole punching, etc.)  
Folding Press.  
Oxi-Acetylene Welder and Cutter.  
Hock and Tackle (capable of lifting 3 tons.)  
A quantity of hand tools.

## Electricity.

Last week our Generator arrived. A steel framework for a Generator House will be made in the masgariah. The Generator is a 25 kilowatt Buda type (Diesel 6 cylinder) and will supply the meshek and domestic needs.

## Lorry

Our Mack is now a veteran in the Transport business and literally has covered the country from Dan to Beersheba.

## Bakery.

For how long did the notorious, damp, parafinny Machaneyim "bread" spoil our repasts! Now..... nu! said!  
How goodly are they Golden Crusts, oh Mansura!  
And thy Shabbat Rolls, oh Gruenvald!

Avodath Chutz.

During the Winter little work could be done at Mansura and therefore, apart from supplying victims for the "mifal" in Hadera, and maintaining a minimum number as a "garrison" at Mansura, we had a reserve of chaverim for Avodath Chutz. This source of income was badly needed as the Army Budget did not cover our expenditure. We sent chaverim to work at Kfar Hum, Neot Mordechai and also we took on a contract job for "Thlisha" at Herut ( where the working day averaged £2)

Afikim.

It was assumed that in the Spring there would be more than enough work at Mansura - Sikul, building the Road etc - and that we would dispense with avodath chutz. Chaverim were therefore surprised at the suggestion to send a group of ten to work in the factory at Afikim. The rapid development of the meshek calls for the maximum supply of labour, they said. The larger the number employed on Sikul now, the greater the area that will be cleared this year for cultivation. True enough, replied the gizbar, but the till is empty, or will be as soon as the Army support ceases. The work at Mansura is productive but the immediate results in actual cash will be meagre. The real fruits of the work done now will only be enjoyed in the future. We must earn money now. There was no gainsaying the logic of this view and the decision was ratified.

The group to go to Afikim is as follows:- Zami C., Raymond, Shmuryahu, Levi, Issy D., Matty, Benny, Dorothy, Michael C., Sara, and Moshe F.

.....

CHEVRA.

During the winter the Mansura chevra was cut down to a minimum and the numbers increased in Ladera. After Pesach this policy will be reversed. A minimum number (46) will remain in Hadera with the children (pending the final transfer to Mansura - may it be speedily in our days!) the remainder will go up to Mansura.

In the meantime the usual changes of bachurot are taking place:  
 From Hadera to Mansura: Eagle and Chava B.  
 From Mansura to Hadera: Dotty K, and Mina.

.....

ALIYAH CHADASHA.

We warmly welcome the recent arrivals from England and wish them a speedy and successful "alita".

Teddy Bowalski, Alf Dobriner, Asher Wallfish, Joyce Keidan, Rayner Lipkin, Cyril Simon and Joyce, Morris Kaufman, Leslie Green, Gershon Epstein and Shosh.

After three months in Hadera I was on my way back to Mansura. I walked as far as the aerodrome and from there expected the worst. Over 600 millimetres of rain had fallen on Mansura and the road wasn't exactly a beauty before the rains. It was fair going until I reached the Wadi. How many stories I had heard about this death trap for all moving things. On New Year's Day I had passed through it in a waggon without any difficulty - now it was a mess. What had "they" done to it?

I walked round it and reached the Arab cemetery "Knirbet el Munthar". When I had last passed that way Arab children had been playing amongst the graves. Now all was silent. There wasn't a soul about. The black tents of the Bedouin had vanished. A lonely scene. I walked on. The tractor had made havoc of the road. Parts of it looked as though it had been gouged out by a giant fist. Deep furrows ran through it most of the way.

But the fields. What had happened to them during those three months! The transformation was astonishing, and the green was soothing and refreshing. I looked towards Mishmar Hayarden. Behind the Syrian pill boxes the southern stretch of Lake Hula was visible. 300 metres in front of those pill boxes a tent had been erected and soon our representatives would meet there with the Syrians to negotiate an armistice agreement. Maybe those pill boxes would be 'arabrein' in a . . . . well, let us say, a few months. (Allewai- gütter Gott!) They'd solve our shikun problem. One could be a cheder tarbut, a second for ravakim and the third (near the border) for the choir rehearsals.

I cut across the fields towards the Mikhtar's House. The path was hardly visible through the wild grass.

I reached Mansura's Main Street - the site of our chader Kria - miklath and implement shed (in "my time"). Now it looked as though it had been blitzed. The side had caved in under the mass of earth. The roof looked like an embankment and was covered with grass. We had piled enough soil on it to grow a dunam of vegetables (slight exaggeration). Alas and alack! I remembered the herculean labours of Mossey's Gang on that roof. According to our Elong Wonder we had loaded 5,678 baskets of soil on to it in our attempt to make the miklath bomb proof!

### THE FILLY.

It happens in the best of families. There is always something which the family prefers to leave undiscussed - lost in the limbo of the past, happily forgotten. It may be a secret drinker - or an opium fiend - or a shaliach - or a chiksa kriecher - or, it may even be a filly. Tell it not in Gath - or when any of our chaklain are knocking around. After all, they are as sensitive as you or me.

She is a shy, grey beauty. A lovely Arab lady. Her name is Aviva. We received her as a present from Yitzhak Chankin, the Haganah veteran who led the Druse contingents in the Israel Army soon after we came to Mansura. The chaverim in Falcha who worked several kilometres away from the machaneh rode to work on her and she proved invaluable when it was necessary to contact Rosh Pina quickly, and there was no other means of

transport, particularly during the Winter, when even the tractor occasionally found the botz too much for it.

Highly strung and intelligent, she was quick to sense whether she was being ridden by a rider or a sack of potatoes, and it was diverting to watch her antics when she was being 'ridden' by a chaver who was obviously more at home on his tractor than on this noble Arab steed.

Some time ago it was noticed by our sharp sighted horsemen that Aviva was beginning to put on weight. Not an awful lot - just - you know....just so as you'd notice. The old girl was having an easy time, so it wasn't surprising.

Weeks passed. The rains came. The grass grew, and when Aviva wasn't being ridden through the botz to Rosh Pina or Machanayim she was happy to browse in the fields.

And Aviva continued to put on weight. There was no doubt about it. Her shapely form was definitely becoming rotund. The horsemen furrowed their brows, pursed their lips, held their chins, played with their beards and made all those other motions which men make when they are puzzled.

"She must be eating too much" said No. 2.

"Right. Cut her food down", said No. 1.

"She doesn't do enough work".

"Then see that she does".

So they cut Aviva's rations, but her girth increased. They worked her hard, but she seemed to thrive on it. They drove her like mad and cursed her in Arabic, but it didn't help. Aviva's averdupois was obviously on the upgrade.

"Chabibi, if she carries on like this we'll have to build a new stable".

Then one fine morning a strange sight was seen by Esther on her way to the refet. Aviva was lying in front of one of the bungalows and by her side a tiny creature lay. She couldn't quite make out whether it was a calf or a filly (in our kindness we attribute this doubt to the early morning light) and ran to call one of the bachurim. He came out, saw that it was a filly and thought it must have strayed in somehow. Then more chaverim came out, amongst them a couple of "know how" boys and after careful examination the truth dawned upon them:-

Aviva had given birth to a filly!

.....

I had heard the story in Hadera - and now I could see the miracle with my own eyes. Aviva, browsing in the long grass, looking as shapely and handsome as ever (the lady knows how to pose! How well she chooses her scene - this natural amphitheatre, the rich green of the fields, the grey brown curves of the Golan hills as a background, the blue sky) and round her it danced, slight, long-legged, vibrant with life - two week's old - Her Filly!

#### INVESTMENT PLAN 1949.

Falcha.....	£8,000	Nagaria & Masgaria.....	£2,500
Sikul.....	3,500	Electricity.....	3,000
Gan.....	1,000	Barn etc.....	1,000
Refet.....	4,000	Lorry (5 ton Fargo)....	1,500
	14,500		8,000



Brought Forward.....	£14,500.
Sheep.....	2,500
	<u>17,000</u>
	8,000
	<u>25,000</u>
Transfer Hadera Machaneh.	5,000
	<u>Total. £30,000</u>

Note: All figures given above are approximate. The £5,000 for the Transfer Haders Machaneh is mainly for Housing. The £30,000 will be obtained from the following sources:-

£20,000 from the Sochnut.

3,500 from the KKL (for Sikul). The remainder from Banks and other financial institutions.

The sum mentioned above does not include Working Capital (for Seeds, Fertilisers, Repairs, etc.) which will have to be covered by Short Term Loans. (An example is the recent loan of £2,200 received for Falcha, Seeds and Fertiliser from KKL and the Anglo-Palestine Bank. This loan will have to be returned by the end of September).

#### DOMESTIC BUDGET - 1949,

The estimated cost of maintaining a chaver (for a year) is £196,233.

This divides as follows:

Food (28 grush per day)...	£102,200.	Personal expenses	£ 7,500
Clothing.	11,500.	Medical.	3,000
Shoes.	6,810	Taxes etc.	11,780
Laundry.	4,500	Depreciation.	4,000
Building maintenance.	4,760	Sundries.	600
Garden "	.100	Care of Children.	14,523.
Cooking.	3,000	Administration.	9,500
Postage.	1,080	Shmira, etc.	1,900
Personal Supplies.	3,160	Interest.	1,500
Tarbut.	4,920.		
	<u>142,030</u>		<u>54,203</u>
	<u>54,203</u>		
	<u>£196,233</u>		

#### Explanatory Notes.

Food. With the development of the meshek and a higher degree of self-sufficiency, we should be able to lower the cost of our food without lowering the quality. Personal Supplies. Soap, Blades, Writing materials.

Personal Expenses. Comprises £32 holiday expenses, £2 pocket money, 500 mils per chaver put aside as reserve for the Vaad Chaverim to use at its discretion.

Care of Children. Expenses per year per child:- Food £62,760. - Clothing £10. Shoes £1,800. Laundry £13. Various £18. Maintenance of Childrens House. £32 Total per year £109,060 per child.

Personal Expenses. An additional £12 per chaver is reserved in a general fund for the purchase of furniture, curtains etc. for the rooms of chaverim, also the purchase of other amenities, musical instruments, etc.

Depreciation. This refers only to domestic premises. (chadar ochel etc.)

Taxes. Histadruth (mainly) KKL, etc.

Tarbut. Newspapers, books, cinema, courses (Hebrew, Music, etc.)

Administration. Gizbarut £8,900 per chaver. Mazkirut .600 mils per chav.

-----