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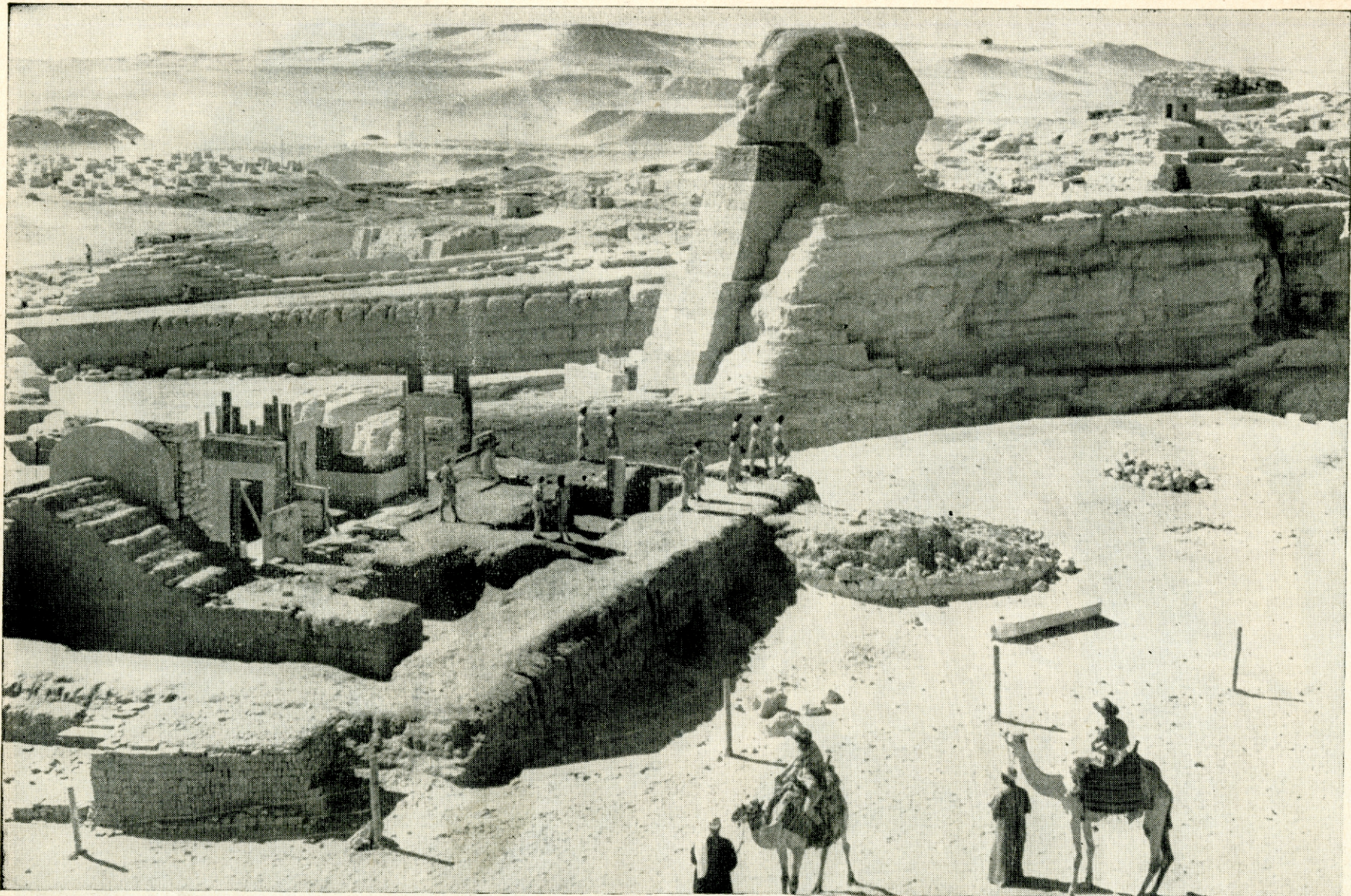
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The Sphinx: A.T.S. admiring the ancient majesty from some of the old ruins which have been unearthed in recent years. In the foreground, Anzacs are taken for a ride.

Climbing the pyramids: here the A.T.S. girls are starting up, but it was a rather more formidable proposition than they had imagined, and they did not reach the top.



FOR FEBRUARY, 1943



Sphinx Gets New Face

Sudanese dragomen view the Sphinx, 5000-year-old eighth wonder of the world which was completely cleansed of desert sand in a clean-up job ordered by Egyptian authorities.



HAIR OF MOHAMMED is prized possession of serene Badshahi Mosque in Lahore, Pakistan, vigorous new Moslem state.

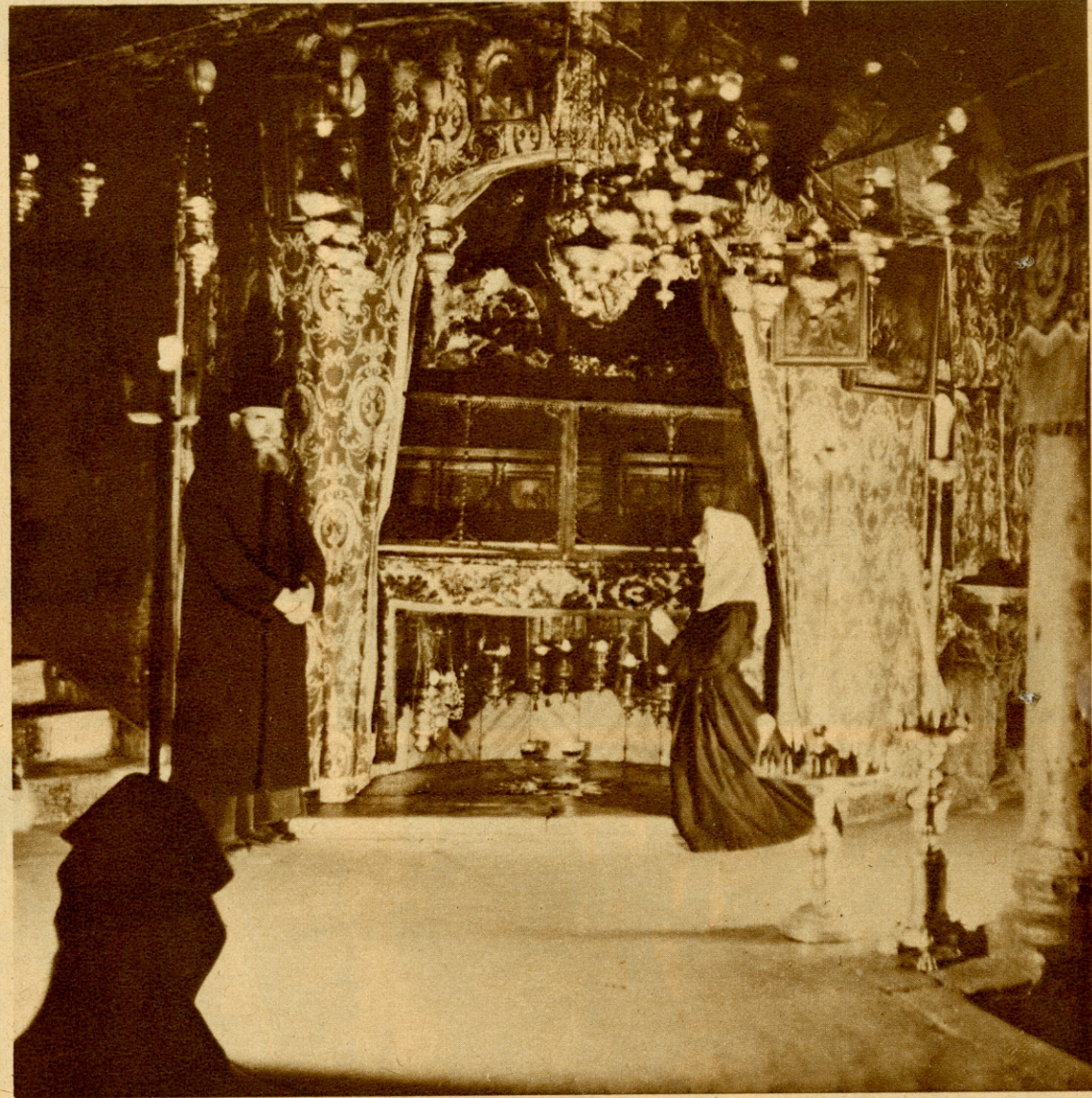
David Peskin

Turkish Information Office

ISTANBUL'S BLUE MOSQUE of Sultan Ahmet, built in 17th Century, is famed for its colored tile and six slender minarets.



LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



(Left) SHE PRAYS FOR PEACE ON EARTH, much needed when many parts of the world—including Palestine itself—echo with bombs and bullets. Behind the nun are Greek orthodox, Armenian and Latin holy lamps which burn constantly near the Manger of the Christ. Because of different calendars of different creeds, Palestine celebrates no less than eleven different Christmases, from Dec. 25 to March 25.

"A NUN BREATHLESS WITH ADORATION."—The line from Wordsworth best describes this photograph of a Franciscan nun kneeling before a sacred corner of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, traditionally the holiest place in Christendom. A priest of the church is standing at the left. On her right hang various holy lamps which burn constantly. (Associated Press photos)



"THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH" for 500 million Moslems whose lives center around their mosques, both great and humble. Five times

daily the muezzin calls, and the faithful turn to Mecca in prayer. Above: the hand-carved dome of Alexandria's Abou-el-Abbas Moursi.

Ivan Dmitri

IN the STEPS of the MAGI

Centuries have not hid
traces of their journey.

By MADELEINE S. MILLER

THE story of the Magi will be told in countless homes and churches this week, as the Christmas season nears its end. Churchly custom sets Christmas Day for the story of the Bethlehem shepherds, and on Epiphany, or "Little Christmas," tells of the Magi—the Wise Men from the East, "Kings of Orient," journeying far to kneel before a peasant child who would one day, they believed, become a prince greater than they. Year after year the brief and simple tale, contained in twelve verses of Matthew's Gospel, moves the hearts of millions.

When Jesus was born, there came Wise Men from the east, following a star, seeking the child to worship Him. Of Herod in Jerusalem they inquired where the newborn king might be found; and jealous Herod, consulting scribes versed in olden prophecy, directed the strangers to Bethlehem, bidding them bring him word when they had found the child for whom they foretold so much.

Down from Jerusalem the Wise Men went, still following the star, till it came and stood over where the young child was. In a house in Bethlehem they saw the babe with Mary His mother; and they fell down and adored Him, and gave Him gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

THERE the story ends; but legend has expanded the theme through the years, and the great painters and musicians have made it a subject for beautiful embellishment. Legend numbers the Wise Men as three, from the number of their gifts. It gives names to them—Kaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. It credits them with royal magnificence of raiment and retinue. A Teutonic tale relates that their bodies were brought to Constantinople, then to Milan and at last to Cologne, where they now repose in a shrine in the cathedral—the "Three Kings of Cologne."

Were they dreamers, sages, astrologers, Zoroastrian priests, perhaps Chaldean exorcists like those seen by Queen Esther in the palace at Shushan, or dream interpreters like Daniel? Was Balthasar a Syrian ruler, as medieval tradition held, and one of his companions a swarthy Ethiopian king? The world really knows nothing more about them than Matthew told.

In Palestine after nineteen centuries the traveler likes to try to reconstruct the visit of the Wise Men and to trace their steps through a land that cannot have greatly changed in physical aspect since their day. It is a fascinating Christmas-time ritual.

THEY came "from the east," says Matthew, and there is confirmation of that in the nature of one of the gifts they brought. Frankincense was a product of Southern Arabia; the resinous gum, packed in goatskins, was shipped by camel to Saba, whence it followed trade routes to the Red Sea, to the Euphrates Valley, and through Petra north to Palestine and Damascus. Myrrh comes from the same region. The Frankincense kings were sometimes religious and worshipers of stars, and they took naturally to the pilgrimage idea, as Arabians do today.

The star-following Wise Men may have



*The storied town
of Bethlehem as
seen from the bel-
fry of the Basilica
of the Nativity.*

J. Lane Miller

ridden along the old caravan route across what is today the Arabia of King Ibn Saud, following the "Fertile Crescent" from the Mesopotamian Valley, until they reached Damascus in its oasis of palm trees and cooling rivers. From there, probably, they fared southwest along the Roman road, traces of which have lately been discovered by airplanes.

Crossing the Jordan near its source in the now carefully tilled farmlands of Jewish colonists, they perhaps rounded the heart-shaped Sea of Galilee, with its teeming port towns; wound among the rolling hills of fertile Galilee through busy Nazareth, and across the wide Plain of Megiddo, contested for then as now by eager landmen.

Possibly they halted to refresh their thirsty camels at Jacob's Well, on the edge of snarly old Schechem, recently discussed as a possible capital of Arab Palestine. Then their little procession plodded along the Plain of Dothan, where now

their old trail has been succeeded by a ribbon of macadam more comfortable for rubber tires than for camels' velvet feet. And so, at last, through Shiloh, shrine of ancient Israel, they came to their first sight of the Holy City.

At the Damascus Gate, by which the Wise Men may have entered the city, there are still camel caravans, led by men astride donkeys. But there is motor traffic, too: whizzing buses, machine-gunguarded trucks, drowning out with their noise the music of the caravan bells. Within the walls the sights and the smells and the confusion must be very like those that the Wise Men found here long ago.

BAREFOOTED children climb the stony, narrow streets of the old city. Blind men tap their way along stepped thoroughfares. Orthodox Jews in fur-trimmed caps with pious forelocks pass by, and energetic Jewish business men, and Arab merchants in graceful striped robes and veils.

By the Gate of the Friend one leaves Jerusalem for Bethlehem, as the Magi may have done. Here one rides south be-

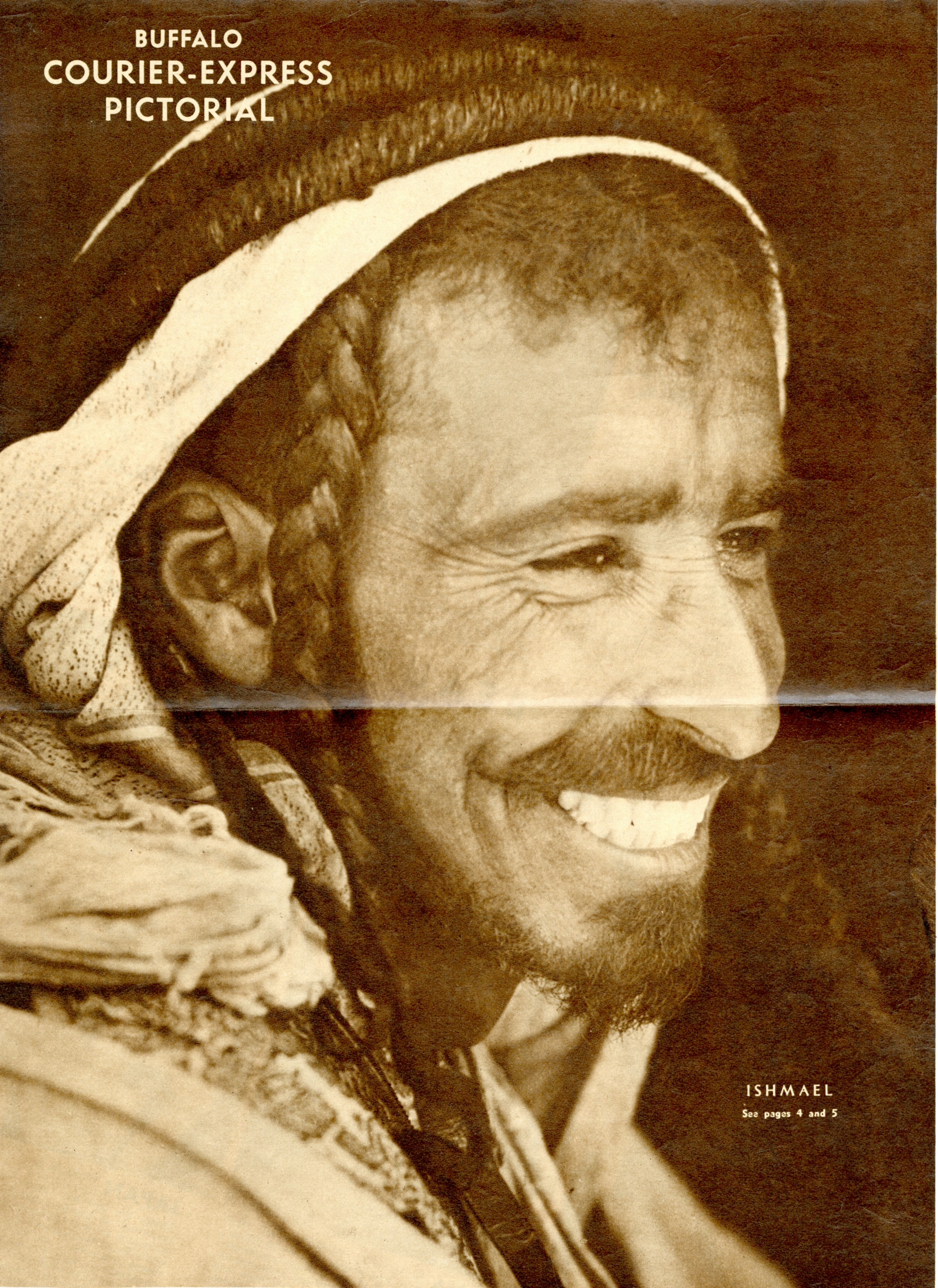
tween groves of olive trees; and beneath their boughs, as the amethyst twilight gathers over the Judean highlands and the canopy of blazing stars spreads over the scene, ragged shepherds and their plump sheep take shelter for the night.

The last stretch of the road is much as it was, doubtless, in the dim past, winding up the hill to little Bethlehem, above the Field of Boaz, veiled in the Jordan mists. But on the site of the ancient inn of Bible days rises a hoary mass of stone architecture bearing a cross. The arms of the cross terminate in stars, and there is a new electric five-pointed star in the forecourt below—the symbol of the Magi that has persisted here through the years. This is the best-loved church in the world, the Basilica of the Nativity.

Centuries have not lessened the appeal of this favorite story of kings who journeyed far to lay gifts before a lowly child; wealth and power kneeling at the feet of Peace.

Today the war-ridden world reads and hears the story again—and prays for the vision of the Wise Men from the East to be fulfilled.

BUFFALO
COURIER-EXPRESS
PICTORIAL



ISHMAEL

See pages 4 and 5



IT IS SELDOM that Arab womenfolk sit with the men; but this is a family affair to celebrate the birth of a son. A fatted ram has been killed for the occasion in this typical desert home.

THE ARAB AT HOME

LIVING IN A LAND which is their own by an undisputed heritage, the Bedouins have preserved inviolate the dominion of their deserts and pastures through all time; and have, with a singular tenacity, retained from age to age the vices and virtues, customs and manners of their ancestors, without borrowing improvement to any great extent, even in later years, from their knowledge of and intercourse with people of other nations.

Dwelling in tents, moving in tribes, and living a pastoral and predatory life, they battle against the desert and elements in a never-ending struggle for existence. Fighting hunger and thirst and death, even from malnutrition, is their eternal problem, yet they persist and remain one of the hardiest and healthiest people on earth.

As an individual the Bedouin is sometimes of towering physique, sometimes lean and sinewy and often as handsome as film stories depict him. He is friendly and likeable, but fierce of temper. Poverty forced upon him by the uncontrollable rigors of nature have made him grim and squalid.

Preferring manliness, born of his love of freedom and independence, to the sophisticated, highly-regulated life of Western civilization, he attaches great importance to honor which he values more than life. "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" is his unwritten law. He is subject to none but his tribal sheik who is his counsellor and judge.

The camel, now less in demand owing to the far-reaching effect of the automobile, is the axis around which his whole life moves. It not only provides him with transport but it is his storehouse, too, for it supplies him with milk, meat, fuel, and long hair from which he makes clothes, blankets and curtains for his tent; its skin he uses for making various items of equipment and sandals.

These remarkable photos, including the Sheik on the front cover, were obtained by The Courier-Express from William Charles Bellingham of Baghdad, Iraq.



SLUMBER (Left) A man and his beast of burden succumb to the laws of nature after a weary ride across a trackless expanse of desert which now forms their mattress.

UNDER A CANOPY OF GOATS-HAIR, men gather when not attending their flocks and herds, to muse, smoke hookas and drink bitter coffee.

FEASTING

Arabs attach great importance to eating. They eat only from the right hand and consider the left unclean. Western table equipment and chairs are unknown, so they squat on the floor, around dishes of rice placed for disposal by an hospitable sheik.



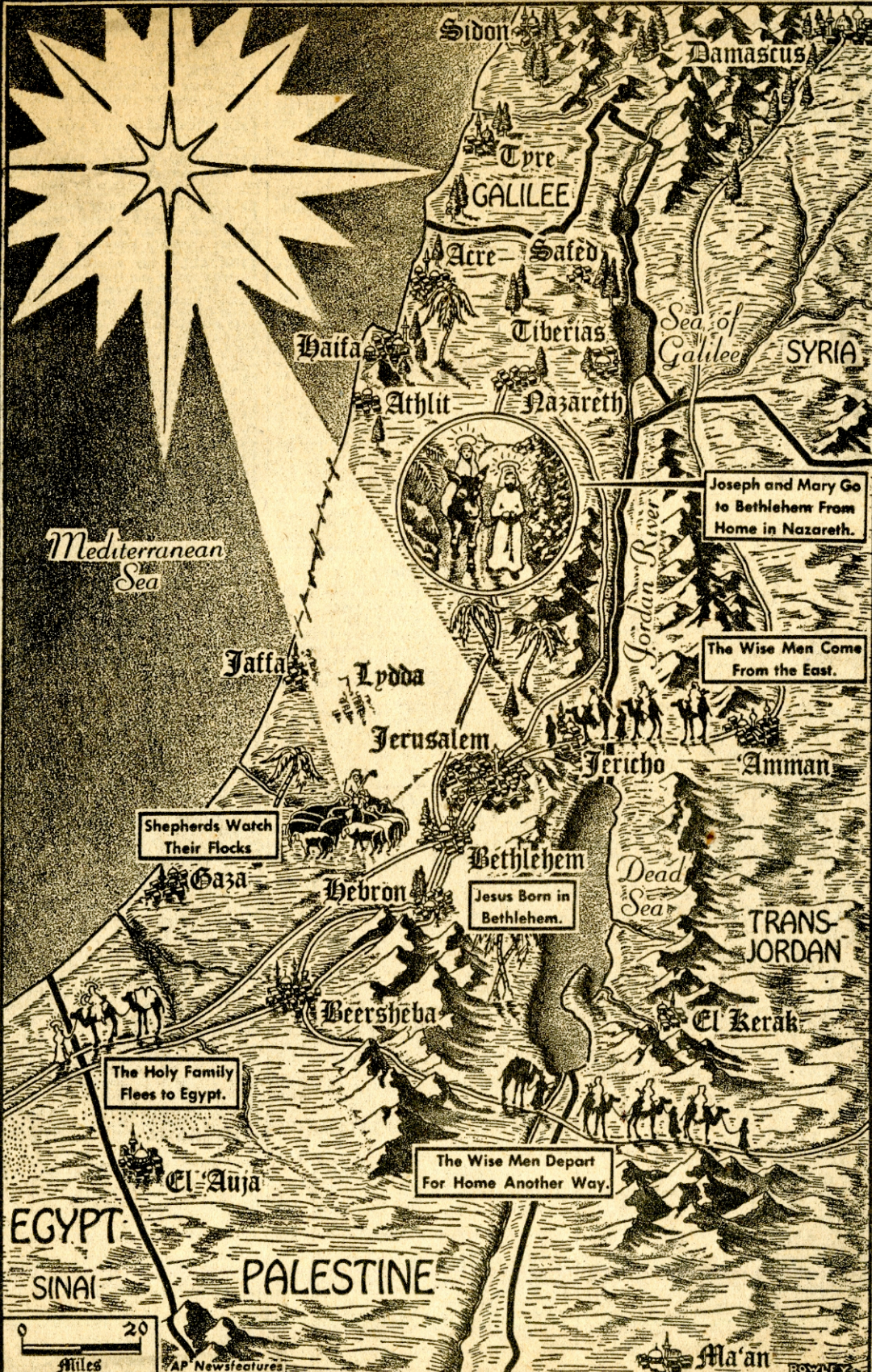
THE SHEIK

(Left) Loyal unto death are his followers. He is their counsellor and friend. Judgments meted out by him remain unquestioned.



(Left) A CONVERT to the soothing effect of tobacco, the cool smoke of which he draws through the water of this hooka. His grim features are burnt with sun and seared with countless sandstorms.

HOWEVER POOR a Bedouin dwelling, for the guest there is always coffee, but not like ours. Theirs is pungent and bitter and aromatic. It belongs to the desert and has the desert's strength. It is kept in bags of berries and is roasted over the embers of a camel-dung fire only as required. The first cup is always given to the guest and after he has given thanks with hand to breast and brow, his host drinks. Three times must the cup be passed to a guest ere the duties of hospitality are fulfilled.



Sidon Damascus

Tyre GALILEE

Acre Safed

Tiberias

Sea of Galilee SYRIA

Haifa

Athlit

Nazareth



Joseph and Mary Go to Bethlehem From Home in Nazareth.

Mediterranean Sea

The Wise Men Come From the East.

Jaffa

Lydda

Jerusalem

Jericho

Amman

Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

Bethlehem

Jesus Born in Bethlehem.

Dead Sea

TRANS-JORDAN

Gaza

Hebron

Beersheba

El Kerak

The Holy Family Flees to Egypt.

The Wise Men Depart For Home Another Way.

El Auja

EGYPT SINAI

PALESTINE

0 20 Miles

AP Newsfeatures

Ma'an

ROWLEY



Wheat Threshing, Egypt.