

MEETING PLANNED
Junior Woman's Club executives will plan for their first regular meeting of the year, slated for Wednesday, Sept. 8,

at the Clubhouse, when they meet the previous Tuesday evening at the 1625 Juniper Ave. home of Mrs. R. R. Dexter.



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Fresh Vegetables Craved by Family After Nearly Three Years in Tripoli

Enjoying the novelty of having many vegetables to choose from instead of a single "in season" variety are First Lt. and Mrs. Van H. Barnard and children, 3-year-old Lori and 8-year-old Roger, who returned to the United States last week after 2½ years in Tripoli, Libya.

The family landed on the East coast after a 23-day journey across the Atlantic by ship, their itinerary taking them to Istanbul, Casa Blanca, Naples, Livorno, and Athens. Picking up a new car in New Jersey, they drove across continent to Torrance, and while Barnard is on 30-day leave from the U. S. Air Force are visiting at the home of his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Fish of 1719 Apt. C, Cabrillo Ave.

They also will spend some time at the 2325 Sonoma Ave. home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Barnard, before going on to Mur- oc, where the first lieutenant will be stationed at Edwards Air Force Base.

WANT GARDEN PRODUCE

"We're all mad about salads and any kind of fresh vegetable we can get," Mrs. Barnard said. "In Tripoli, one month you will have tomatoes, another month will bring the carrots, the lettuce is not worth talking about. And because of the Arab practice of using human waste for fertilizer, all vegetables must be soaked in chemicals before they are edible. This kills most germs but is apt to give the eater what we call the 'Tripoli Trots!'"

Food is the biggest problem in the North African land. All meats which the Barnards purchased at the Air Base commissary were frozen—"and tasteless," Mrs. Barnard added. "But this was preferable to buying meat at the native markets, for here it is hung in the open where flies swarm over it constantly." Fresh fruit, of which there is plenty, presents another problem, Mrs. Barnard said. "You have to be so careful when you eat it that you don't take a bite of a

worm too that it isn't worth the trouble."

HOUSEWORK EASY

Another difficulty in planning meals, especially for her growing children, was the absence of fresh milk, but if food was a problem housework—definitely was not.

For the small sum of \$30 a month, the housewife was able to hire an Italian maid who did all of the cleaning and most of the cooking. For another pittance she obtained an Arab woman who did all of the family's washing.

The Barnards' house, made of pumice rock to keep it cool in summer and warm in winter, was a shade inconvenient until the lieutenant did a little carpentry work. For an Arabian house has no closets or cupboards. Their dwelling was better than most used by the natives, however; these homes have dirt floors and no furniture except what they can steal or make themselves.

"Consequently, they sit, eat, and sleep on the floor, and even the meals are cooked on the floor," Mrs. Barnard said.

DISLIKE NATIVE DISH

If you are invited to share a native meal, it might be wise to take with you a large-size handbag, the returned traveler advised. The traditional native dish is kushkush, a cold stew of greasy lamb, fatina, and vegetables, she said, "and mother and I (the Fishes visited Tripoli last summer) took the dinner home in our purses!"

To the woman belongs the task of cooking and serving the meals—also the heavy work such as working in the fields, chopping down trees, and carrying the water home from the well. She is looked upon as an animal-slave to man, doing all the tasks while the man just sits.

She's not allowed on the street after dark, and when she goes out with her husband during the day, he will ride down the street on a donkey, and she will trail a few paces behind on foot.

ONE EYE SHOWS

Her costume consists of a baracan, a heavy robe which she wraps completely around herself, leaving only one eye uncovered. Her forehead, chin, and backs of her legs are tattooed to conform with her Moslem faith.

A little girl doesn't stay a little girl very long in Tripoli, for most are married when they reach 13. Parents arrange all marriages, and neither the bride nor the groom sees her or his intended until the wedding ceremony, which lasts three or four days. During each day of feasting, each guest dyes one knuckle each day, so by the time the ceremony begins his hands are henna-colored.

Donkey carts, bicycles, and camels are everywhere in the streets of Tripoli—and everywhere are beggars. It is not uncommon to see children from 2 to 5 years old begging, and if you stop your car, it will be completely surrounded by people asking for alms. They'll ask either for money or cigarettes—even children 4 and 5 years old smoke.

FINED FOR SMOKING

"But if a native is caught smoking an American cigarette, he will land in jail for six months," Mrs. Barnard said. "Our brand is so valued that to smoke it, when it could be traded for all kinds of goods, is like smoking a dollar bill."

The surprising thing about Tripoli, when one sees the filthy life the people have, Mrs. Barnard said, is that the streets are never littered. At least, it was surprising until we learned that the natives pick everything from a scrap of paper to tin cans and weeds, not to mention garbage.

Winter, spring, and fall in Tripoli are much the same as they are in California, the ex-Libya resident said, but summer is much hotter, especially when

the wind blows in from the desert. "It's a very humid heat," she added, "because Tripoli is right on the sea, and the thermometer many times soars to 113 degrees."

INDEPENDENT NOW

Libya, until very recently, Mrs. Barnard reported, was always ruled by another country. Now the people are independent and are trying hard to improve conditions both economically, socially, and politically. Their chief ruler is a king, but the country is governed mainly by a parliament much like the English body of law-makers.

"Libya has two capitals," she continued, "Benghazi and Tripoli. In the first, the king is popular, but he rarely comes to the second for he is so disliked there that a mass riot, if not an assassination, is always imminent." "The majority of the people in Tripoli feel friendly towards the Americans," Mrs. Barnard said, "much more so than they do toward the Italians, their last rulers. More animosity exists between the English and Americans than between either group



GREEN GRASS . . . is quite a novelty to three-year-old Lori Barnard, left, who has lived in Tripoli, Libya, with her parents, Lt. and Mrs. Van H. Barnard, and 8-year-old brother, Roger, since she was nine months old. Grass did not grow in the near-desertic land because of the difficulty of obtaining enough water. Here Lori toys with an Arabian flute made of goat horns and reeds while Roger shows off two daggers from his collection.

and the natives, although children of neither are allowed to play with the native tots. "This isn't prejudice or snobbery," Mrs. Barnard explained. "It's just self-protection, because most of the children have diseases of many kinds." Of her life in Libya, Mrs. Bar-

Slate First Home Show

Highlighting the observance of the YWCA Centennial in 1955 will be a Home and Garden Show sponsored by the local branch early next spring, Miss Nell Colburn, branch chairman, revealed this week. This is the first time that a show of this type, similar to the annual tour of Pales Verdes homes and college, will be held in Torrance, she said. Co-ordinating arrangements for the headline event are Misses Walter Levy and Dean L. Sears.

Internationals Slate Picnic

Games and races for children and adults will spark the International Woman's Club picnic, slated for Sept. 12 in Compton. Candy and ice cream will be served to youngsters attending. Plans are being made for a rummage sale and dance in the future. The International Woman's Club meets every other Thursday at the Compton Community Center, 923½ N. Rosa Ave. New members of all foreign nationalities are welcome, according to Mrs. William T. Clinkenbeard, press chairman.

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