

Spring Flowers, Picnics Highlight Iran's New Year

By ESSIR MORTAZAVI
It undoubtedly seems strange to Americans to even consider celebrating New Year's Day without snow, Christmas decorations, and January 1st; but to Iranians it would seem even stranger to have New Year's Day without spring flowers, outdoor picnics, and freshly sprouted grains.

In America, the New Year festivities are somewhat overshadowed by Christmas day itself, with the entire holiday period ended by New Year's and imbued with a religious significance pertinent to those of the Christian faith.

In Iran, however, Noruz Jamshidi is a universal holiday, the only Persian holiday which has no religious connotations — or at least no implications confined to any particular religion. The words themselves mean: No new, Ruz day, and Jamshidi the Persian name for the first legendary king of Iran.

The Iranian year begins with the first day of Spring, which is usually March 21. The year is renewed with nature. The Noruz festival is a tradition in Iran brought down through history from the earliest times.

Weeks before Noruz arrives, every family begins preparation for it. Tailor shops and stores selling men's and women's apparel are very busy at this time, since at the arrival of Noruz everyone should be wearing as many new things as possible. Also, candy and gift shops are at the peak of their yearly activities.

On Wednesday, before the New Year, Charshanbeh Suri, the first occasion for festivity takes place. At sunset small heaps of fire are made, over which all the able-bodied individuals jump and pro-

nounce something like this: "May my ills go to you and may your brightness come to me." This tradition goes back to the time when the Iranians practiced Zorostricism. In that religion, fire is the symbol of purity and cleanliness of both mind and body.

For celebrating Noruz, a tray is prepared containing seven articles beginning with the letter "s." This letter is the beginning of seven words in Persian which stand for seven virtues, such as salamatl (health), sorooos (happiness), and saadat (success). The articles are intended to symbolize these virtues. Also on the tray are usually found the Holy Book and a pot of green grass, a mirror, a fish in a bowl, and some food-stuff.

No matter what time of the day or night it may be (even if it happens to be 3:49 a.m.), everyone in the family should be dressed in his best and gathered in a large room around the tray at that moment. At this time prayers are offered and a good year ahead is earnestly sought.

Soon after the Noruz has arrived, the family members and the attendants all congratulate each other and exchange gifts.

Thus begins about seven days of visiting and all sorts of festivities. The schools are closed for about two weeks and the govern-

mental and business establishments are closed for a few days.

The New Year festival is concluded on Sizdah Bedar, 13th day of the year, with a mass picnic. Families without transportation facilities combine the pleasure of hiking with the joy of picnicking. Games of various kinds are played. The older game of alak-dolah, the Iranian baseball, is a favorite.

When the sun sets, the people, tired of the day-long activities, return home and begin another year with the desire for happier days ahead.

The Iranian Club at the University has scheduled a New Year's celebration party on March 16, 8-11:30 p.m. in the Pan-American room of the Student Union.

Forum . . .

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are asking the people whether they favor setting up an Urban Renewal Authority and having liquor by the drink.

In another way, however, the Student Council is unlike the City Council. The NU legislators spin their parliamentary wheels and get stuck on whether the students should vote on a big issue like NSA. But the City Council makes up its mind relatively fast; it puts the big question right up to the people.

If Student Councilmen really want to, they can no doubt find some obscure rule lurking in Roberts Rules of Order to rescue the indefinite postponement of the campus vote question. They should want to.

As for Rag reporting on the March 7 Student Council meeting, Tom Kotouc did his usual job of competently relaying the facts, but he didn't do a vital thing — he didn't let the campus in on who voted how.

He should, especially on extremely important votes like those on the NSA question. He should list (maybe in agate?) who voted yes, who voted no, who didn't vote, and what college or organization each Councilman represents.

If he did that, then students who disagree with their representative's vote could so inform said representative, who should listen respectfully to his constituent. He should listen, even if he's one of the 18 aristocrats.
Roger L. Wait

Study in Guadalajara, Mexico

The Guadalajara Summer School, a fully accredited University of Arizona program, conducted in cooperation with professors from Stanford University, University of California, and Guadalajara, will offer July 2 to August 10, art, folklore, geography, history, language and literature courses. Tuition, board and room is \$245. Write Prof. Juan B. Rael, P.O. Box 7227, Stanford, Calif.

Campus Calendar

NEBRASKA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION Book Project committee will meet in the Episcopalian Chapel at 4 p.m.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS will meet in 345 Union at 7 p.m. The program on the 1963 Farm Program will be followed by question and answer period.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STUDENT EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION, will meet in the Union party room at 7 p.m. for the election of officers.

AGING PROCESS, Dr. Albert I. Lansing will address a public meeting of the Nebraska Chapter of Sigma Xi at 7:30 p.m. in the Bessey Hall auditorium.

RED CROSS mass meeting for old and new members at 7 p.m. in the Student Union. An explanation of the various committees and a movie will constitute the program.

AG UNION HOUSE-MOTHERS' TEA and Bridge Party at 7:30 p.m. in the Ag Union lounge.

CHEMISTRY LECTURE, Dr. Charles F. Curtiss will speak at a meeting of the Nebraska Section of the American Chemical Society at 7:30 p.m. in 324 Avery Laboratory. The meeting is open to all interested persons.

Twin Tower Bids Open On Thursday

Bids on the new \$4.7 million Twin Tower dormitory, which will house 960 students and be located on the west side of 17th street between Vine and R streets, will be opened at 2 p.m. March 15. Construction is expected to begin immediately after the low bidder is awarded the contract, said Carl Donaldson, University business manager.

In an effort to speed the completion of the dormitory project by the fall term of 1963, Donaldson said an incentive bonus plan has been worked out by the property committee of the Board of Regents.

According to the plan, the contractor will receive a \$90,000 cash bonus if the entire project is ready for occupancy by August 1, 1963, \$60,000 if one tower and the food-service facility is completed by August 1, or \$30,000 if only one tower is ready by the same date. The project is being financed by revenue bonds. No tax money is involved, he said.

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Peace Corps Marks First Anniversary

The Peace Corps, created by executive order in March, 1961, marks its first anniversary this month. The Corps became a permanent agency through congressional action last September, according to Sargeant Shriver, director of the Corps.

From more than 18,000 applicants, the Peace Corps has selected, trained and sent 698 volunteers overseas. They are now living and working in 12 countries.

All of these countries have asked for more volunteers; in fact the Corps announced they need 500 home economists for programs slated for the next 12 months. Director Shriver explained:

"The range of skills that the newly developing nations desire from the Peace Corps has assumed a definite pattern. A substantial and important part of this pattern is the skill of the home economist. Most of the nations we serve are asking for home economists with the largest number being requested by the countries of Latin America."

In addition, 20 other countries have requested help. By August, over 5,000 volunteers are scheduled to be overseas or in training. Many countries have requested more volunteers than the Corps can now supply.

Peace Corps applicants come from every state in the union, plus Puerto Rico, the Virgin Island and Guam. Of the 888 volunteers now in training or overseas, about one-third are women. Though the average age is 24 for men and 25 for women, 42 are under 20 and six are over 60.

Candidates undergo several weeks of intensive training at an American university.

Many groups spend an additional 26 days at the Peace Corps Training Center in Puerto Rico. All groups also receive orientation in the project country before they begin their assignments.

Besides the field of home economics, the volunteers act as rural developers, teachers, agriculture advisors, nurses, surveyors, and geological mappers.

The countries receiving the larger number of volunteers are: Nigeria with 107, the Philippines with 182 and Columbia with 62. Other countries aided by the Peace Corp Volunteers are: Chile, Ghana, India, Malaya, Pakistan, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, and Thailand.

Down Slips Due

Down slips will be turned in by professors at the end of this week, the only time this semester that they will be issued.

The change from sending out downslips twice a semester came by action of the University Faculty Senate last semester.



'LET'S TWIST'

Twisting has inspired a whole new spree of clothes ideas. Karen Costin, above, models one of the more controversial numbers—the "twist blouse" which has been likened by some persons to the maternity top. The ruffles are found not only on blouses this spring, but also dresses and suits. The blouses come in a range of colors and patterns from white to peppermint stripe.

Be-Ruffled Twist Blouse Finds Favor With Coeds

By WENDY ROGERS

If you can't lick 'em, don't join 'em.

"It is not a maternity top!" A certain loose-hipped, fitted top blouse has "twisted" its way into popularity despite accusations by some that it is much more suitable for females approaching motherhood.

A new clothing fad springing from the "twist" dance, the blouse is "feminized" by ruffles and more ruffles—

around the neck, bottom, sleeves, and down the front.

"Tuck it in or take it off,"

is the cry echoing from the direction of Omaha where a freshman high school student left school after refusing such instructions from school officials.

Just think again — what unsightly bulges would have occurred if little Miss freedom-fighter had tucked all those ruffles in?

Journalists To Regional Confab

Seven members and one sponsor of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society, attended the seventh regional convention Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.

Panel discussions on journalism job opportunities and freedom of information and a tour of the Kansas City Star highlighted the day-long program.

Attending from the Nebraska chapter were undergraduates Norm Beatty, president; Jerry Lamberson, vice

president; Cloyd Clark, treasurer; Jim Woodson and Jim Forrest. James Morrison, advisor of the undergraduates; Jim Raglin, president of the professional members and Dr. Robert Cranford, treasurer of the professional members also attended.

The convention delegates were guests of the Kansas City Press Club.

The seventh region includes Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

LUCKY STRIKE presents: LUCKY STUFFERS

"We wanted you to be the first to know, Mother...Mother? Mother?"

"Mom! Pop! Come on in and meet my roommates."

"Now you boys see that my Jimmie gets to bed by 10:30, won't you?"

"ARRRRGH!"

"I'm afraid your father's a little burned up about your grades, dear."

BREAKING THE ICE FOR DAD. When Dad comes to visit, help him bridge the years with questions like this: "These old ivy-covered buildings never change, do they?" "Say, aren't those girls the cat's meow?" "Dad, do you remember how great cigarettes used to taste?" Then inform your Dad that college students still smoke more Luckies than any other regular. He will realize that times haven't really changed. He'll be in such good, youthful spirits that he'll buy you a carton.

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