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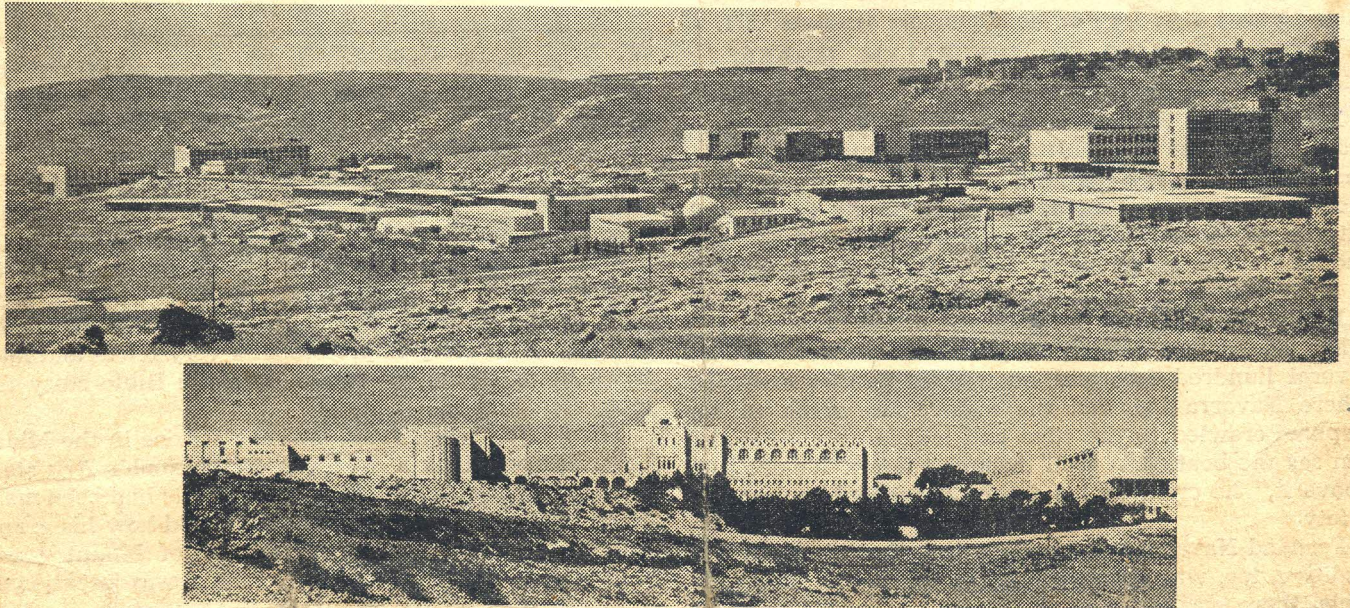
MOUNT ZION REPORTER

Looking East. Mount Olive in the distance, with Old City Jerusalem AND JERUSALEM MESSENGER between. West Wall, and Mount Zion in the foreground.

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Top picture, is the new Hebrew University located adjoining the west edge of Jerusalem. Lower picture is the old university building and campus on the north end of Mount Olives, now in Arab territory.

HOW THEY FOUND NOAH'S ARK

The Greatest Discovery of the Age In Cold Storage on Mount Ararat

GEORGE LANGELAAN

Reprint From Previous Issue of Reporter

Locked in ice 3,000 feet from the peak of Mount Ararat in Eastern Turkey, lies the skeleton of a 5,000-year-old ship. The man who found it has not the slightest doubt that he has solved the mystery of Noah's Ark.

After making two fruitless expeditions to Mount Ararat in search of the ark Fernand Navarra, a French businessman, climbed the 16,946 foot mountain a third time, last summer, accompanied only by his young son, Raphael. They found an immense structure, 500 feet long, faintly visible through the ice of a glacier. And the 50-pound piece of wood which they managed to dig out of the ice is judged by French and Spanish scientists to Middle East, is at present being examined at the Saclay be about 5,000 years old.

A sample of the wood, a species of oak found in the atomic research laboratory near Paris. By a series of tests lasting several months, French nuclear scientists

will be able to pinpoint its age within fifty years.

"If only I had had my tools and my workmen," exclaimed Navarra, who is a demolition contractor, the whole of Noah's Ark would be in France today. But, you see, I only had my son, a boy of 11, and a very small axe. The piece of wood that we did manage to chop off the ark was just about all we could carry".

Though not particularly difficult to climb, in spite of its height, Mount Ararat with its masses of snow and ice is constantly swept by fearful storms.

Roped together most of the time, Fernand and Raphael Navarra climbed for two days before reaching the glacier by which they camped. Though only a youngster, Raphael was already an experienced climber with several peaks of the Pyrenees to his credit. The third morning, Fernand discovered they had reached the wrong side of the glacier. The only possible course was to cross the dangerous mass of ice that reared up some 300 feet above them; and once an avalanche of stones and ice nearly swept them off their feet.

THE REPORTER

THE MOUNT ZION REPORTER, AND JERUSALEM
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Acts 20:28, 1 Cor. 1:2 For Headquarters see Acts 15:1, 2.

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A little later, Raphael slipped and disappeared over a ledge. His father just had time to drive his ice axe into the ice, coil the rope around it and hang on grimly. A moment later it tightened with a sickening twang and after a few seconds of ghastly silence, he heard the boy shouting: "I'm sorry, papa. I slipped—but the camera is all right!"

It was late in the afternoon when they reached the other side of the glacier, only to find a sheer drop of several hundred feet and no way of getting down to where Navarra believed the mysterious wreck to be. Raphael crawled to the edge and looked over. "Papa! I can see the boat quite well through the ice. We are just above it," he cried as his father dragged him back to safety.

Fernand Navarra sat down, feeling that his third expedition, too, was doomed to fail. Even had it been possible, there was not enough time left to go up or down the mountain to find another way around. They had promised Madame Navarra not to be gone more than five days and, in any case they had little food left.

Papa... look! I have found a crevasse. It seems to slope right down through the ice and I can see daylight at the bottom." Raphael had found the only way down the ice instead of over the ledge.

It was almost dark by the time they reached the bottom and it was beginning to snow. They would have to spend the night there. After eating a few biscuits and sipping rum, they settled down for the night. The father sat down in a sort of niche, making his son sit on his knees and sleep in his arms, hoping to protect the youngster from the biting cold. A glance at his thermometer showed the temperature had suddenly dropped to 11 degrees Fahrenheit below zero.

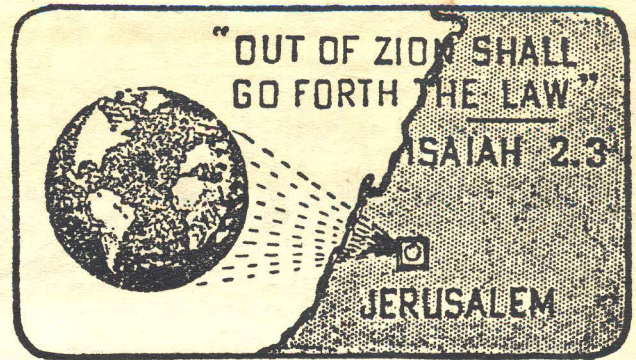
Stiff, and feeling sick, they staggered out of their hole at dawn and found to their surprise it was much warmer outside.

At last, Fernand Navarra started digging through the ice to what looked like black wood, barely a couple of feet under the surface. The ice was not very hard and in a matter of minutes he had broken through. But he found only brackish, muddy water. Then Raphael thrust his arm down into the water.

"It is wood," he cried excitedly. "Feel, papa!"

It was wood, all right—although strangely soft and mucky. They had not the tools or the energy to do much digging, but father and son were soon tearing away frantically at the crumbling ice. By noon they had hacked off a piece of wood four feet long.

They had found the Ark—they are both certain it is



the Ark—some 3,000 feet from the summit and less than 1,000 feet from where Navarra's studies had led him to expect to find it. The Ark is mentioned in the Bible as a "huge vessel, 300 cubits long and 50 broad and 30 high." A cubit is equivalent to about 18 inches.

Fernand Navarra was five years old when he first heard the story of Noah and the Ark. A well handled boathook had just saved him from drowning in the muddy waters of the Gironde, and it was his nurse who, as she scrubbed and spanked him, told him about the flood. This story impressed him very much and later, when he was able to read, it was the Bible story that interested him most.

Years later, when doing military service in the Middle East, Fernand took a new interest in Noah's Ark story. He met a young Armenian whose parents had been massacred by the Turks. The young man told how his grandfather—a peasant living at the foot of Mount Ararat—used to talk about the Ark which was occasionally glimpsed through the ice up on the mountain.

For the next 18 years Fernand Navarra bought every book he could find on the subject. He visited libraries and museums, consulted countless documents and even went to London especially to see certain tablets in the British museum.

He bought all the maps and guide-books of the little known frontier between Turkey, Russia, and Persia and pored over them. He read all there was to read about various expeditions up Mount Ararat—and there were quite a number during the 19th century. At least two of these groups, one Turkish and one Russian, seemed to have located the Ark. He was convinced there must be something to find. But where? Mount Ararat is not a place to explore inch by inch in a few short weeks with no special equipment or help.

Then in 1949 Navarra discovered an Englishman, Egerton Sykes, had also spent many years studying Noah's Ark. He read carefully an article by Sykes, who had evidently had access to yet other papers and documents concerning the Ark. Sykes seemed to have a clear idea of where it might be found, but had failed to obtain the necessary permission from Turkish authorities to enter the military zone of Mount Ararat.

Over the past 50 years numerous Swiss and Austrian climbers have scaled twin-peaked Mount Ararat in a vain search for the Ark. In 1951 and again in 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Douglas joined in the search. He, too, found nothing.

In 1952 in Bordeaux, Fernand Navarra met Jean de Riquer, a member of the Paul Emile Victor expedition to Greenland, who wanted to explore Mount Ararat but could not find the necessary funds. In a matter of

weeks the expedition was decided upon and organized. Without even waiting for visas they set off for Turkey with four enthusiastic recruits and, after weeks of waiting in Ankara, finally got permission to enter the frontier zone.

Though they reached the summit of Mount Ararat and found nothing, Navarra was not too disappointed. He had managed to explore on his own the region indicated by Egerton Sykes and had seen what looked like the shadow of a fairly large construction in a glacier on the western side of the mountain.

The following year he went back with a friend and came within 100 yards of the glacier he wished to explore. They were nearly caught by an avalanche there and had to retreat in the face of a snowstorm. By the time the storm blew over, they were both suffering violently from mountain sickness and reluctantly decided that to go in fresh snow and in such poor physical condition was unwise.

Months went by and, back home, Navarra began to doubt. Had he really seen the Ark or was it only rocks visible through the ice? Then, toward the end of 1954, came what was for him shattering news. He learned that an American explorer had been within a few yards of what he thought to be the Ark and was planning to return the next year. Then and there Fernand Navarra decided he would make a 3rd attempt as soon as possible.

He talked it over with his family. Organizing another expedition was more than he could afford, and getting visas and authorizations a third time would have meant months of delay. By now he knew the country well and it was finally decided the whole family would go, on what officially was nothing more than a motoring holiday.

With ordinary visas, they knew they could get within 50 miles of Mount Ararat. Then they would simply wait for an opportunity and strike across country toward the mountain. They all had mountain equipment and, should they be unlucky enough to run into a Turkish military patrol, they would play innocent.

They were staying at a little hotel within sight of the mysterious mountain when one of the children fell ill. "You go Fernand," said Madame Navarra. The weather was just right and next morning Navarra and Raphael set off across country in the family car.

On their return from the mountain exhausted but exhilarated by success, they were within sight of the car when spotted by a Turkish military patrol. But they were soon released by the Turks, who figured the Frenchman and his young son could hardly be up to anything serious. No one had asked any questions about the contents of their rucksacks—in which they were carrying the piece of wood from the Ark, chopped in three pieces.

Back home in Bordeaux, Navarra sent samples of the wood to different European laboratories. So far, reports received from the Madrid Forestry Institute, the Paris Technical Centre of Wood and the Bordeaux faculty of science confirm that the wood is about 5,000 years old. Later the report of French nuclear scientists will pinpoint the date more exactly.

In the drawing-room of Navarra's home I examined his find. Surprisingly heavy, the wood looks more like ebony than oak. The pieces are evidently part of a beam or rafter, some eight to 10 inches thick. It is impossible to say with what sort of tool it was cut or hewn, but one of the remaining angles—exactly 90 degrees—shows the work was done by experts. According to the laboratory reports, this wood has been cut from the heart of

an oak, the trunk of which must have been 25 inches thick.

Though it was soft and easy to cut when the Navarras dug it out of the ice, it is today as hard as iron and can be cut only with a hacksaw.

According to Fernand Navarra, what is left of the Ark could be dug out, but that would necessitate an important expedition and heavy equipment. Naturally enough, his great ambition now is to be able to organize the expedition which would dig out all of those 5,000-year-old remains and, perhaps, also find definite and conclusive proof that Noah's Ark has at last been found.

REMARKS.—The above report was widely circulated through a number of religious journals two years ago. Its appearance in the Mount Zion Reporter created unusual interest, and we had more calls for the papers than we could fill, and for the benefit of many new readers, as well as the old ones we are reprinting the report. The Editor has been noting with interest some other minor reports since, and the latest we have on this marvellous discovery appeared in the "Jerusalem Daily Post" the last of September this year, which is as follows. — EDITOR.

THE BOAT ON MOUNT ARARAT

ANKARA (AEP).—A 150-meter (460 foot) long boat-shaped object has been revealed in aerial photographs of the Mt. Ararat region, the Turkish Air Force has revealed.

The Government has decided to send an archaeological team to the site to see if the find is in fact Noah's Ark.

FURTHER REMARKS

Since this portion of Mount Ararat is in the Turkish Empire the Ark when salvaged will belong to Turkey, and when moved to an area more accessible to the public, will be the greatest attraction for tourists the world has ever known. The ancient account of the flood recorded in the book of Genesis, doubted by skeptics, ridiculed and scoffed at by infidels, will be confirmed beyond any question, while millions of doubters should have their faith greatly increased in the scriptures.

Mount Ararat is to the north east of Jerusalem just over the Iraq line in the Turkish Empire. We are contacting the Archaeological Dept. of Turkey by correspondence to obtain direct information about the progress of this "Archaeological Team," and will keep our readers posted. — EDITOR.

AN INVESTMENT WHERE TREASURES ARE SAFE AND DIVIDENDS SURE

The master is soon coming to reckon with his stewards (Matt. 25:19). Our time is short to prove our stewardship, and to be counted with the profitable servants. Each one must do something to gain sheaves for the Master, and warn the wicked before destruction comes, that blood will not be required at their hands Ezekiel 33:6. Dear ones, let us store our TREASURES in heaven by paying a faithful tithe, and also offerings to give this last message of warning while the winds of war are being held in check. Soon, and very soon it will be forever too late.

LADIES HOME LEAGUE

Remember the Ladies Home League, for boxes of used clothing, conducted by Mrs. Elizabeth Zion of Jerusalem. Thanks to those who have sent good used clothing for it is appreciated very much, and is given to the poor.

