

Exciting and exhausting

MaryAnn Wilkinson digs history in Israel



ANCIENT DIG -- Part of the excavation at Tel Anafa. This is the "trench" MaryAnn Wilkinson worked in, which started at ground level at the beginning of summer and went down seven feet by the end.

MaryAnn Wilkinson spent her summer digging a trench in a war zone.

The University of Michigan graduate student was in northern Israel in June to mid-August working at an "archaeological dig" that dated back to about 300 B.C.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wilkinson of Rossman Road, Kingston, is a 1971 graduate of Kingston High School and 1975 graduate of U-M, with a major in French.

After various odd jobs, she returned to U-M, where she will be receiving her master's degree in art history in December. Her specialty is renaissance art (15th-early 17th century) in Italy and France.

After receiving her M.A., she hopes to get a job in an art or archaeological museum and may some day work on a doctoral degree in art history.

She described the opportunity to spend the summer in Israel as a "good work experience and a good scholastic experience," as well as a good travel opportunity.

The archaeological dig, in its third of four years, was sponsored by the U-M and University of Missouri.

Miss Wilkinson, 27, was part of the paid technical staff, "people who are supposed to know what is going on." The 15 or 16 people stayed the entire summer.

In addition, there were volunteers who paid all their own expenses, ranging from

college students to college faculty members to two women, age 62, "who just wanted to come." The volunteers came in two groups and stayed for a month, June or July.

There was a total of about 45-50 persons working at the site.

THE DIG WAS LOCATED in a big hill in the middle of a cotton field. The name of the site was Tel Anafa. "Tel" in Hebrew means "hill."

Three different civilizations existed on the site, with the Greek one dating back to about 300 B.C. The Roman civilization dated to about 150-200 A.D. and the Arab one to the 15th century.

The civilizations were not continuous. The Greek settlement may have been abandoned for a couple of hundred years, walls collapsed and the site became covered with wind-blown soil.

When the Romans came, they may have used the original foundations or used stones from the original buildings to construct their own. The same process was repeated by the Arabs.

"People tend to leave debris wherever they are, and that's very important to archaeologists," Miss Wilkinson explained.

WHAT OFTEN WAS found, and of great use, was pottery and coins.

Enough is already known about pottery that when fragments are found, and that is usually all that is

found, they can be approximately dated by such factors as type of clay, color and type of glaze. (Glazing was first used in the 14th century.)

Coins often bore the likeness of the then current ruler and sometimes even had a date on them.

The archaeologists from the two U-Ms were primarily interested in the Greek civilization at the bottom, which meant digging through the Arab and Roman layers. Each of the six "trenches" at the site were about 16 feet square and went down 7 feet.

Everything found was catalogued, photographed and preserved, so that the information and items would be available to those studying the later Roman and Arab civilizations.

WHAT THE SCHOLARS were trying to find out was the function of what they knew to be a small city.

The initial speculation was that it was a trading outpost, but it may have been an artist's colony, or manufacturing center.

The excavation site, about half as long as a football field, apparently was the acropolis, the high point of a larger community. Pieces of pottery could be found while walking in the cotton fields, dug up by the agricultural implements, so it is known the community was larger than what was at the excavation site.

MISS WILKINSON HAD two jobs. The first was digging at the site, which was done from 5 a.m.-1 p.m. to avoid the hottest part of the day. Temperatures averaged about 100 degrees, though very dry.

Her second task was as registrar, who had to catalogue each find as to color, size, age (if possible) and give it a permanent number so it could always be found.

Her cataloguing was done in the afternoon "and in the evening, I usually collapsed."

Living conditions were quite spartan. The excavation team stayed at a youth hostel about 15 minutes away by bus from the exca-

vation site. Clothes had to be washed in buckets and the rooms were so crowded, Miss Wilkinson usually slept outside.

The nearest town, Qiryat Shemona, about the size of Cass City, was about 1 1/2 miles from the hostel.

THE TOWN WAS ABOUT three miles from the borders of Lebanon and Syria.

Though the Americans were never in immediate danger, "We could hear bombs frequently in the distance." Jet planes and helicopters flew by frequently and there were "always soldiers around." There were a couple of times, she admitted, "we were pretty scared."

At the end of the summer, all of the finds and tools were taken to the project worksite in the basement of an unused monastery in Jerusalem.

A representative of the government Department of Antiquities went over the summer's finds to determine what had to remain in Israel as property of the government and what could be taken to the United States. "Most countries won't allow anything to be removed," Miss Wilkinson pointed out, so the Israelis are generous in allowing some to be removed.

THE HIGH POINT OF her summer was finding two Roman coins and an intact Greek pot. "That makes it exciting."

Despite the hard work -- "It's not a vacation, by any means" -- and the fact that her stipend wasn't enough to cover all her expenses, she would like to go back next summer, if circumstances permit.

Her stipend paid all except about \$200 of her air fare, plus spending money had to come out of her pocket.

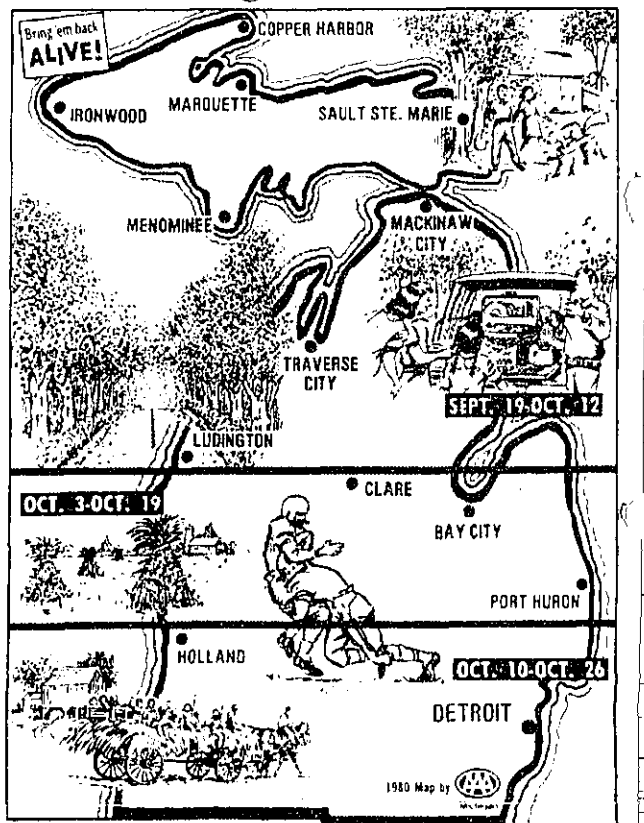
As for what good will come out of the excavation at Tel Anafa, she explained, "It's like any other kind of scholarship. We're doing it as part of research."

"It's not going to make the cost of eggs come down or anything. It helps us understand how ancient civilizations lived."



MARYANN WILKINSON

See Michigan's Fall Color



Michigan Mirror

Proposed tax hike likely doomed in legislature

By Warren M. Hoyt
Mich. Press Association

Admitting legislative approval of a proposed tax hike plan may result in greater support for the Tisch tax cut amendment, House Taxation Chairman George Montgomery has introduced a \$972 million tax increase package to partially offset revenue loss should the amendment be approved by the voters.

Although under constitu-

tional tax limitations which prohibit the imposition of more than \$700 million in additional taxes this year, Montgomery said he offered the larger package to give lawmakers some options on what taxes to impose.

However, legislative observers do not feel the Montgomery plan will have much support in the Legislature, especially in the House where the membership faces election this year.

Montgomery, meanwhile, will retire after this current session and does not have to worry about his political future by authorizing such a tax hike plan.

The executive office will also oppose the package and Governor William Milliken already directed state department heads to prepare a plan to implement the Tisch tax cut should it be adopted.

THE MONTGOMERY plan calls for an increase on most current taxes and proposes new taxes on radio and television advertising, cigars and pipe tobacco.

Montgomery wants the new taxes in effect by Oct. 1 and then expire on Nov. 4 if the \$2 billion Tisch tax cut measure is not approved by the voters.

He called his proposal one of revenue insurance "which would be absolutely needed

if Tisch is adopted and desirable in any case for the Oct. 1-Nov. 4 period to supplement sagging 1980-81 revenues."

Even with the passage of the proposed new taxes, Montgomery said he fears state government may not survive in recognizable form.

He said even though passage of \$700 million in new taxes may anger voters and cause them to support Tisch, taxpayers should know how they will fare if Tisch is adopted.

POINTS OF THE MONTGOMERY package include:

- Raising the income tax by 1 percent, \$600 million in revenue; raising the single business tax by 3 percent, producing \$220 million; raising the per barrel beer tax, producing \$22 million in new revenue; raising the cigarette tax to 17 cents per pack and imposing a tax of 8.5 mills on each cigar and on each 1-10 of an ounce of pipe tobacco, to produce \$70 million in revenues, and imposing a new tax of 60 cents on each minute of radio advertising and \$1.80 per minute for television advertising, producing \$17.5 million.

The plan also calls for

reducing the state payout for lottery prizes to 40 percent from 45 percent, thus saving the state \$20 million annually.

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