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Scholarly Nomad in the Ottoman Empire

Like an Arab steed awaiting its master's whim, a specially equipped Land-Rover now sits in a sooty New York City parking lot. Its tires are oversize and extra-tough for desert driving; its springs and joints are sheathed in leather to protect them from the desert sands and it mounts a powerful winch to extract it from rough goat paths and treacherous *wadis*. The car belongs to Associate Editor Edward Kern, who produced and wrote the three-part series, beginning in this issue, on the background of the current conflict in the Middle East.

The three essays on the Ottoman Empire and the Middle East were assembled by Kern and his staff from hundreds of old pictures and dozens of books. This is the sort of story Kern likes best; he has, in the past, written most of the essays in our series on ancient Greece, ancient Rome and World War I. A scholarly and retentive reader, he does not depend entirely on books. Ed is a nomad at heart. In his youth he spent many summers driving through Europe with his father, and two years ago he passed his love of travel along to his own son, David, by taking him on a three-month camping tour of the United States. A few years before that he took a "traveling high school" of 18 youngsters on a year-long trip around the world; one way or another, on assignment or on his own, he has savored first-hand the history he writes about. He did this in Greece, and in Rome. That he should have recently toured the Ottoman Empire as well was an unexpected bonus.



EDWARD KERN

The summer of 1966, well before the crisis that inspired this series, Ed took David, then 16, to London and picked up the Land-Rover fitted out to his specifications. They drove down the Dalmatian coast, crossed Macedonia (the Balkan battleground of 1912—"You get a sense of what the fighting must have been like"), explored Istanbul ("the seedy splendor of the Ottoman days still clings to the place") and paused at Gallipoli. "The feeling of history comes to a peak there," says Kern. "We could look down and see an old British landing craft still rotting in the surf, then out to sea, where the British invaders came. Then stand at Troy, two hours away, and look out and imagine the Greeks invading 3,000 years ago." The pair of them drove down the Turkish coast and explored Syria, using goat tracks and stream beds for roads, then south through Jordan to the Gulf of Aqaba, following the route Lawrence of Arabia took in World War I. "Bouncing down to Aqaba," says Ed, "we could appreciate what it was for Lawrence to get there on a camel." Back in Arab Jerusalem they talked to families who had lived through the fearful time of the Turkish reign of terror, and camped out in the Dead Sea valley they shared a meal with an Arab soldier who had fought the Israelis in '48.

Where will his urge to roam take him next? "I'm not sure," says Ed. "I've an English friend in Brazil who wants to go up the Amazon and go across the Andes and the Inca country to the Pacific coast."

George P. Hunt
 GEORGE P. HUNT,
 Managing Editor

TIME

BEGINNING A SERIES
ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Roots of Bitterness

The 100 convulsive years
behind the trouble today



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New member of the Real Great Society

The subjects of the story that begins on page 76 call themselves the Real Great Society—and they intend no irony. They are slum kids, with a poverty program of their own. Most of them are Puerto Rican, some are illiterate, many have been inmates of reform school and prison, and all of them at one time were leaders of street gangs. They came to the attention of Roger Vaughan when he heard that the group had received a grant of \$15,000 from the Vincent Astor Foundation. An assistant editor, Vaughan, who is 30, came to us from the *Saturday Evening Post* two years ago.

Roger pedals to work through New York traffic on a 10-speed metallic-green Italian bicycle which he parks in his office. He would sail to work if he could; he spends all his spare time on sailboats and is enthusiastic enough to have served as crewman in four Bermuda races. Professionally, at the moment, he is specializing in stories about young people, and he has grown knowledgeable enough about their tastes for his older colleagues to turn to him for advice when they buy records for their children. They know that what Roger picks will never brand them as squares.

Looking into the story, Roger and Photographer Steve Schapiro went down to the Lower East Side loft where the Real Great Society was holding a meeting. "At first it didn't look like much," says Roger. "Here were these kids holding a raucous meeting, yelling back and forth in broken English with no apparent leadership. The first few nights, Steve and I left those meetings shaking our heads. It seemed impossible that this disorganized bunch had really been given a substantial grant from a foundation. But we knew that they had, and that, combined with their real charm and hustle, made us stick it out. And hustle us they did. The story wasn't their only interest. As soon as they saw Schapiro's cameras and learned that we were from LIFE, they began pumping us about two projects they then had in the works: a photography lab and a magazine. One night they cornered me on one side of the loft, Steve on the other, and it was the Real Great Society that was doing the interviewing. That night they elected us to their board of directors—they wanted to make darn sure they didn't lose us.

"One of the most refreshing things about being one of this Great Society is that its members always have fun. Even after a tough business meeting with a lot of loud disagreement, there would always be enough small change rounded up to buy a couple of quarts of beer. Then some good Latin sounds would be put on the record player and things would get lively. They have a great spirit and love of life that many generations of poverty haven't been able to squelch, and that's what's really behind the success of the Real Great Society. I'm glad I'm a member."



ROGER VAUGHAN

George P. Hunt
GEORGE P. HUNT,
Managing Editor