

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

Stripped of his uniform and royal medals, King Hussein of Jordan looks and acts like an average college sophomore. He is obsessed with hot-rods, racing cars, pin-ups and feminine adventures, as any average rich college playboy anywhere in the world. In a small poor country like Jordan it's just more noticeable.

The first time I saw Hussein was in Jerusalem shortly after his grandfather, King Emir Abdullah, was murdered by a Palestinian fanatic while at prayer at the mosque of Omar in 1951. One of the assassin's bullets fired in the direction of his grandfather ricocheted off a pillar and struck one of the medals on the young prince's chest while he was praying.

"It might as well have killed me, the shock was so great," Hussein said later. He had only been back from England's Harrow that day, where his strong-willed mother, Queen Zain, had sent him "to learn how to get along with the fickle British." The young prince was then a thin spoiled unimpressive lad of 15. He would be seen milling around the public squares of Amman, sipping cokes in the heat and then, vaulting into the open seat of his hot-rod, racing away indifferent to man or beast crossing the dirt road in front of him.

Hussein Inherited Trouble
Soon after his grandfather's death, Hussein's sick and neurotic father, Talal, was proclaimed king amidst serious opposition in and out of Jordan. Less than a year later King Talal was deposed and exiled to Istanbul and later to Beirut. It was in the lobby of the St. George hotel in Beirut that we last saw King Talal. He was sick in mind and spirit and so weak he had to be carted in a wheel chair. Rumor had it that venereal germs had infected his brain.

In April 1953 Prince Hussein was called back from Britain's West Point, Sandhurst, to become king of Jordan on the same day and by the same route that his cousin Faisal was proclaimed king of Iraq. The route: British decision and approval. From the very beginning the young king resented British rule. "They made me feel inferior in my own house and my own country," he confided to his intimate boyhood friend, Shirif Zeid, on a trip to Lebanon.

By then Hussein was 17 and already had ordered the British commander of his Arab legion, Glubb Pasha, to gradually Arabize the legion to Jordanian command not later than 1962. It was the handwriting on the wall against British rule of Jordan. But the Arabization of the legion came sooner than that. "I was driving over the Jordanian countryside one evening," Hussein said, "and was stopped several times by British-speaking sentries. Right there and then I made up my mind the British had to go." The next morning he gave General Glubb 24 hours to leave Jordan, after 26 years in command of the Arab legion.

What's King Hussein Like
Young King Hussein today at 21 certainly is not prepared for his role as defender of the pseudo-state of Jordan. For Jordan is not really a nation. It was created as a British-French compromise on a barren waste barely the size of Ohio by the British as a buffer between Palestine and the mandates of Syria and Lebanon under control of the French. From 1953 to 1956 King Hussein existed under the \$35,000,000 British subsidy, as his royal predecessors, and played the role

of resident manager in Amman for the British government. As per Hashemite custom, his family—and the British-Jordan desk in London—selected a British educated Egyptian girl, Dina Hamid, almost eight years his senior, to become his bride. After securing an M.A. at Cambridge, she taught English literature at the University of Cairo and American college in Beirut. The royal couple occupied a new palace built for them on a hill-top just outside Amman. In February 1956 Queen Dina presented Hussein with a daughter, Alia, while the Israeli radio jeered that the baby's first gargle was "Glubb-Glubb."

Hussein's Problems
Until recently King Hussein was content to let the British, or his appointed older statesmen, run Jordan; while he raced his Mercedes 300 SL, engaged enthusiastically in gazelle shoots and sundry escapades around the palaces and spas of Europe and the Near East. This royal indifference to the affairs of Jordan resulted in incredible corruption and thievery inside his government the minute British supervision ended.

Things gradually went from bad to worse, aggravated by anti-western propaganda from radios Moscow, Damascus, Cairo, and especially from the underground Jordanian Bath party, which hates the monarchy and worships Egypt's Nasser for standing up to the west. This rise of Arab nationalism all around Jordan has had an electrifying effect on Hussein's subjects. The growth of Israel when compared with the stagnation of Jordan across the uneasy frontier creates jealousies and copy for anti-west propaganda. The 400,000 Palestinian Arab refugees, the largest single group absorbed in the smallest Arab country, is a constant reminder of the tragedy befallen on so many Arab peoples, which they blame on the west.

Today King Hussein is walking on the proverbial tight rope and is depending entirely on King Saud for his survival. It is ironic that he should turn to Saud. His ancestors, the proud Hashemites, ruled the Near East and held absolute control over Mecca for several centuries. It was back in the 19th century that Ibn Saud's warriors stormed out of their desert lands and drove the Hashemites out of their sphere of influence, to be saved from total obscurity by the British who appointed the two prominent Hashemite brothers, Emir Faisal and Emir Abdullah, as kings of Iraq and Jordan for their help to Lawrence of Arabia against the Turks.

Young King Hussein is faced with an almost insoluble dilemma today. If he

plays along with the west, he will lose the support of Syria and Egypt. If he continues to accept help under the present Syrian-Saudi Arabian-Egyptian economic agreement, he is forced to refuse U.S. aid. If he accepts U.S. aid, he will be opposed by the thousands of Jordanians and refugees inside his own country. The Arab legion does not share his pro-west leanings, nor his mild attitude toward Israel. If Hussein becomes more dependent on King Saud, as his recent trip indicated, he will alienate his rich Hashemite cousin, King Faisal, in Iraq, who despises his people's ancient enemies, the Saudis.

In our opinion, with or without King Hussein, Jordan cannot indefinitely exist as a nation because it cannot support its population. It is more likely that the strongest among the surrounding Arab nations will absorb Jordan, most likely Iraq or Saudi Arabia. In all probability, an Egyptian puppet will rule what is set up as an Arab state within Palestine, in accordance with the 1947 UN ruling, which has not as yet materialized. It appears likely that forces outside the Jordanian frontier will determine whether King Hussein drives his fast cars inside or outside Jordan.

Winners Told At Narbonne Science Fair

Exhibiting the talent of the Narbonne High School mathematics and biological classes, the annual Math and Science Fair was held in conjunction with the recent open house. Three trophies were awarded for the best projects. Winning grand prizes was "Teeth and Tooth Troubles," by Rene Embres. The sweepstakes prizes in the physical division was won by Terry Mertz with "Geometry in Paper Folding." Theme prize was for "Rocket V-2" by Jack Patton.

Winners Named:
In the senior division (10th, 11th, and 12th grades) winners were:
Biological class — 1. Rene Embres; 2. Gloria Gohert; 3. Geraldine Daniels.
Physical class — 1. Pat Manning; 2. Terry Mertz; 3. Geraldine Daniels.
Senior division honorable mention—Charles Shoemaker, Richard Hale, Patricia Pinder, Priscilla Moleck, Ivar Tomback, Ron Omohundro, Allen Anderson, Jerry Hale, Phyllis Beth and Nori Hanooki.
Ninth Grade
Ninth grade—1. Curt Manning; 2. Carol Gibson; honor-

able mention, Joyce Usul, Holly Morris; Nancy Gibb; Betty Watson; Chuck Ewing; Rick Smith; Richard Pearcey.
Junior class biological — 1. Diana Dechimer; 2. Bobbie Cribbs; 3. Bonnie Baker.
Junior class physical — 1. Jack Stanley; 2. George Warren; 3. Terrilee Hamilton.
Honorable mention—Sylvia Gilhouse, Ron Williams, Janet Gervais, and Corclyn White.

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Membership in the Star Club is based on 1956 sales records. White is associated with the Long Beach office while Stokoe and McEune are with the Crenshaw-Los Angeles office.

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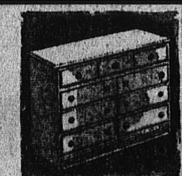
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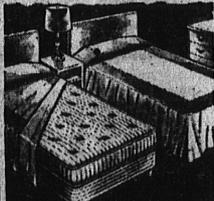
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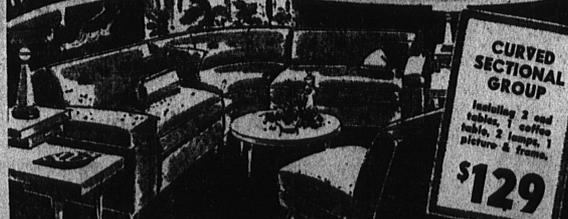


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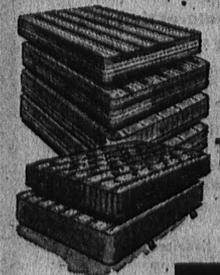
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