

Home of the first pioneers



*Preservation of
the last cabin
in the North-Eastern Negev
in Israel*

On September 13, 1951 a group of young adolescents from the Hungarian Zionist Youth Movement Hashomer Hatzair, survivors of the Holocaust, went out to the barren wastes of the Northern Negev, set up a few tents and established a new settlement - Kibbutz Dvir.

At that time most of the Negev was still unsettled. There were only 2 neighboring Kibbutzim, and the nearest city, Beer Sheba, was only a small town with one paved street.

Over the years the tents gave way to wooden cabins, and later to concrete buildings. Even the communal dining hall underwent the same process.

In the year 1953, members of the Youth Movement from Chile and Cuba immigrated to Israel and settled in the Kibbutz, and were later joined in 1955 by members of the Movement from Israel. During the years many individuals joined the Kibbutz and now there are members from over 20 different nations.

On September 13, 2001, Kibbutz Dvir celebrated its' 50th Anniversary, and today numbers some 350 inhabitants - members, children and parents.

In the framework of the Jubilee celebrations, we decided to preserve the last cabin remaining on Kibbutz grounds. This cabin was the first nursery, and later kindergarten. Generations of Dvir children were born and raised in that cabin since 1953.

Today, after all the other cabins have been torn down, this cabin is the **only** one of its kind left, and we plan to preserve it. We want to convert it into a museum "The Home of the First Settlers", and in it a standing exhibition showing the life in Dvir since its' inception in 1951.

In the whole area of the Northern and Eastern Negev there is no other wooden cabin still erect to tell the story of the first pioneers, so the preservation of this one is of even greater importance.

We appealed to the Board of Site Preservation, and after a visit of the representative of the Southern Region and the Chief Engineer, the shack was declared a preservation site. The estimate given for the over-all cost of preservation was \$30,000.-.

Today, to our sorrow, the economic situation in Israel is very bad, and as a result also that of the Kibbutz. Although the Kibbutz very much wants to establish this memorial to "The First Pioneers", our funds are limited, so we have decided to lay out one tenth of the necessary sum for this important cause - \$3,000.-

We know this sum is inadequate so we are asking other organizations to help us fulfill our dream of turning the only remaining wooden cabin in the whole area into a unique and fitting heritage to those brave pioneers who settled these barren wastes and turned the Negev into a blooming garden.

We sincerely express our thanks to all those willing to lend a hand!
Tzipporah Wagner - Kibbutz Dvir
In Charge of Preservation



The "Dining room" 1951 - the first year- Dvir



The year 1951



Today

Donor's names will be displayed on a prominent place at the entrance to the preserved cabin.

A donation of \$500 - \$1000 : the donor's name will be included in a plaque listing donors.

A donation of \$1001 - \$5000 : the donors name will be written on an individual plaque.

A donation of \$5001 - \$10000 : a separate memorial plaque will be dedicated to the person or cause, according to the donor's choice.

A donation over \$10.000 : the preserved Cabin and Museum will be named after the donor or donors.

Donations should be transferred to the Account of:

Kibbutz Dvir Tzrif Rishonim

Bank INVESTEC Ltd. No. 26 - Branch No. 101

Account No. 72917-5

Or by check to the order of: Kibbutz Dvir Tzrif Rishonim

And sent to: Kibbitz Dvir - Mobile Post The Negev 85330

(to Tziporah Wagner - optional)