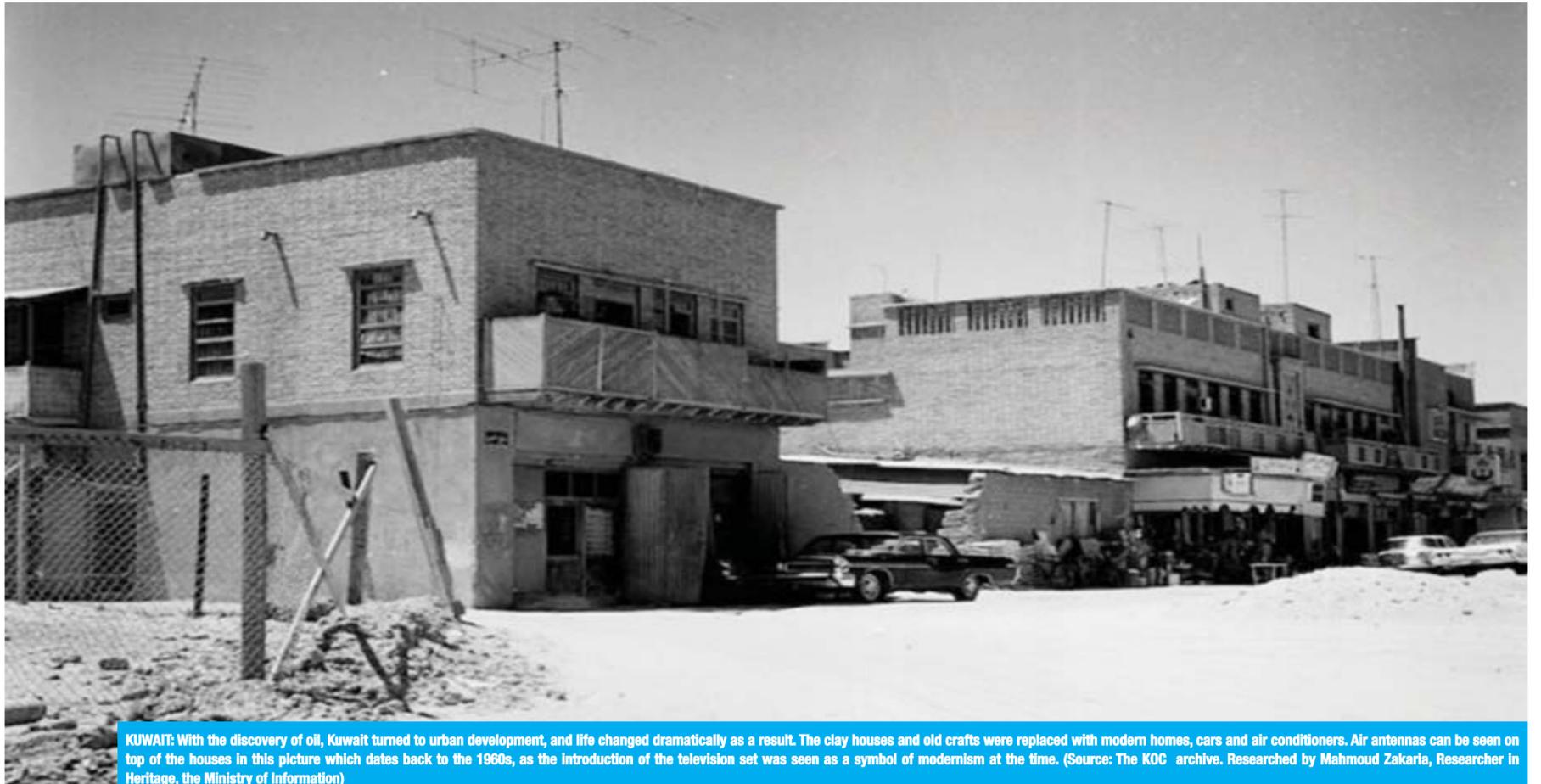


Local



History of Kuwait



KUWAIT: With the discovery of oil, Kuwait turned to urban development, and life changed dramatically as a result. The clay houses and old crafts were replaced with modern homes, cars and air conditioners. Air antennas can be seen on top of the houses in this picture which dates back to the 1960s, as the introduction of the television set was seen as a symbol of modernism at the time. (Source: The KOC archive. Researched by Mahmoud Zakaria, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information)

US Press Attache bids farewell to colleagues, friends

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Larry Memmott hosted a ghabqa recently to bid farewell to departing press attache Heather Ward. The event was held at Memmott's residence in Salam and attended by local

reporters and invited guests. Ward served as press attache for four years. "It's been wonderful to be here for the last four years; I served three years as press attache and one year as ranking attache. Very few are given this long to serve in one post. I am grateful and truly blessed to be here and able to see the beauty of this country and people," she said.

Ward said the relationship with local media people was a great experience that she will treasure for the rest of her life. "It's really great knowing all you people and actually working with you guys to make sure that our message is sent to all people concerned. I will be sad leaving you guys here, but this is not the end - I will keep you posted and will keep coming to

say hello and meet friends," she said. "Kuwaitis are hospitable people - they invite us in their houses to dine with them. I am also part of a book club, where I enjoyed much," she mentioned. Ward's next posting is in Cairo, but in the meantime, she'll head back to the US for a short break. "Thank you Kuwait and until then, I am grateful to everyone," she said.



KUWAIT: The US Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Larry Memmott (left) and US press attache Heather Ward. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ramadan is a great time for family gatherings

By Faten Omar

Ramadan is a joyful time of year in the Muslim world as fasters gather at sundown to break their fast with family and friends. In Kuwait, there are many traditions and activities that take place every year. To commemorate Ramadan and the experiences of our readers, this year the Kuwait Times is asking readers what they love about Ramadan. What is your favorite food, activity, memory, event, or thing that you absolutely adore and look forward to each year? We want to know. Email local@kuwaittimes with your answer and it might end up in the newspaper.

Mohamed Ayman, 22, a Mechanical Engineering Student in Australian College of Kuwait, told Kuwait Times that he likes family gatherings and having all members of the family breaking their fast together. "I like the vibe and atmosphere of Ramadan in all places, which motivates you even more and is a joy to the eye. Going home to your family and visiting friends is a great thing that helps unite everyone and strengthen our bonds," he said. Ayman added that there are too many opportunities for people to per-



form good deeds and volunteer to help the poor and those who are in need, mainly by donating food or money to them.



AUB distributes 'Maachla' boxes to families in need

KUWAIT: Within its social program for the holy month of Ramadan, Ahli United Bank (AUB) launched its initiative to distribute 'Maachla' foodstuff boxes to Families in Need. A number of AUB volunteers participated in this initiative. They arranged the boxes that include the food items needed in this blessed month to the families in need around Kuwait.

On this occasion, Sahar Dashti, General Manager of Customer Protection Department, and who is in charge of the bank's Social Responsibility Program, said: following the position impact touched of our initiative we started last year to distribute Maachla boxes, we are pleased to distribute these foodstuff boxes for the second consecutive year to the most needy families during Ramadan to pro-

vide them with the supplies of Ramadan according to the best food specifications, reducing the waste of food in the distribution of ready meals. In addition, the distribution of supplies provides the needy a better opportunity to prepare their food in their own home themselves, preserving their dignity.

Dashti added: We are proud of the efforts exerted by AUB team of volunteers who have exhibited great enthusiasm to participate in the arranging and packaging of Maachla boxes and distributing them before breakfast in different parts of Kuwait, including Sabhan and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and other places. Dashti explained that AUB has also participated in supporting and assisting charitable societies such as the Kuwait Food Bank and Kuwait Red Crescent Society in distributing Maachla boxes to the needy. Dashti added: This initiative, which lasts from the 3rd to the 20th of Ramadan, is an extension of AUB contributions to supporting and encouraging social initiatives aimed at developing and building our society and improving the living conditions of disadvantaged families. Through this initiative, AUB has been able to motivate all its employees to play their part towards the society and to consolidate their social work concept.