

Experience Is Best Teacher



THE WORLD IN HER HANDS — Jackie Scott, an English teacher at West Iredell High School, spent two years serving with the Peace Corps in Africa where she taught high school English in a secondary boarding school. Her memories and experiences have left a vivid impression on the young teacher.

NICOLE SNOOK/IREDELL CITIZEN

By NICOLE SNOOK
IREDELL CITIZEN

She thought she might like to walk like an Egyptian. Instead she was offered monkey and termites to eat.

While a student at Queens College, Jackie Scott volunteered to go to Egypt with the Peace Corps. As time progressed, she was asked to go to Africa, where there was a greater need for teachers. She taught high school English in a secondary boarding school.

In the village where she was assigned, electricity was something they had only once a year — at Christmas time.

"They had a generator, but not enough oil to use it all year long." Without electricity, the rest of the year open fires were used for cooking and light.

That wasn't the hardest adjustment for Scott. To get water you either went to the river or collected rain water. Bath time was a large bucket. If you want-

ed to shower — you danced in the rain. Scott had two buckets to hold water.

She would alternate the buckets, collecting rain water in one, and use the other for cooking and drinking water.

The river was about a mile away from the village — quite a walk with a bucket full of water.

It was unheard of for men and women to go to the river together. Women were sub-

missive.

They did what most women do — wash clothes and cook — but they did not have freedom. A bride was bought from her family with money or through a trade.

Whatever the woman had was property of the man. If there was a divorce, the man would get the children.

The village people had their own justice system. If someone yelled for help, every
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