



This photo taken in 1924 shows Bedouin men at ease in Safat.



The American Hospital, considered one of the most important cultural sites of Kuwait, as seen in 1939.

The three-walled city was always looking for water. Water meant life for Kuwait. Sometimes the water came by sea, other times by land. Water vendors entered the old gates with water from some nearby wells outside the walls, while large boats came by sea with water from Basra. Water sellers gathered near Sheikh Mubarak Kiosk with goatskins on donkeys, while others had carriages. Some donkeys remained standing for hours waiting for buyers. The load was heavy, so the municipality

issued a decision that goatskins should be on the ground not on the donkeys' backs.

Bedouins come from the desert loaded with ghee, honey and milk. After they sold their goods, one could see them in the market buying lanterns to light their way as they passed through the dark desert at night upon their return. Some of them also came for treatment. One could find them in front of the gate of the American Hospital with their tents and camels. They

received treatment at the hospital for a week or two, then returned where they came from.

The scenes of old Kuwait are colored in black and white. We feel nostalgia for the days of the past and its memories, ancient Arab houses and wonderful traditional crafts. We lost all of this when modernity arrived.

