

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



HOLLYWOOD, Calif. -- When H. Lew Zuckerman, one of the founders of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aged, recently accepted his well deserved award at the Junior Auxiliary's 36th Annual Charity Ball in the International Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton Hotel, he summed it up in the proverbial nutshell when he said:

"I can not accept this award without first giving credit to Ida Mayer Cummings, our Auxiliary President, who has been a dynamic worker day and night to

provide comfort for the aged."

Back in 1957, when the L. A. Times paid her glowing tribute in print for exemplifying the highest standards of selfless spirit and devotion, Ida Mayer said, not boastfully but proudly,

"Mary Pickford, Florence Irish and I call ourselves 'The Three Musketeers' of the Jewish Home for the Aged."

In her 26 years as President of the Junior Auxiliary, the pint-sized (4 feet 10 inches) sister of the late MGM Studios head Louis B. Mayer and mother of Producer Jack Cummings has built an enviable and unchallenged record for aiding Jewish services.

The 53-year-old Home for the Aged at 325 So. Boyle, East Los Angeles, includes a \$500,000 Mary Pickford Wing. In 1931, Ida enlisted the support of America's Sweetheart, who has continued to work at Ida's side. The pair have staged giant membership parties for many years at Mary's fabulous Pickfair estate.

It all started back in the spring of 1912 when three homeless old Jews in the Los Angeles County "poor farm" approached a young visiting widow, Mrs. Ray Corenson, and lamented their plight.

"Passover is coming and we have no way to observe the holiday in the orthodox manner which we have followed all our lives."

Returning home, Mrs. Corenson enlisted the aid of a grocer, the late Simon Lewis, and a young couple, Sadie and H. Lew Zuckerman, who on the night of the recent 36th Annual Ball not only accepted Lew's award but also celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

They rented a small house, hired a cook to make the Passover foods and invited the original three plus 17 other destitute old Jewish men and women as their guests, thus giving birth to the first organized kindness and consideration for Jewish old folks in the Los Angeles area.

Recognized as "Mother of the Home," Mrs. Corenson passed away in 1957 at the blessed age of 92.

Men and women living at the Home are orthodox Jews, including scholars and others who have made lasting contributions of great value to the world.

Residents observe High

Holy Day services in their own beautiful 450-seat synagogue where they also assemble daily for prayer and Talmudic studies.

It proves a thrilling sight, on Rosh Hashonah, for example, watching 88-year-old Abraham Levinson holding the Sacred Torah while Jacob Kushner, also 88, blows the solemn and poignant notes of the Shofar to arouse the conscience of mankind, offering each person an opportunity for self-appraisal and introspection of man's values.

A permanent replica of a Succoth has been built of redwood adjacent to the Home's synagogue for use during the Feast of the Tabernacles. It is also used by the old folks throughout the year as an outdoor reading room and area of contemplative relaxation.

Staff members of "Our Home," a newspaper published by Home residents, include Editor-in-chief Joseph L. Malamut, 78, noted Jewish newsman for 60 years before entering the Home last year. He conceived the combination English-Yiddish newspaper.

Now in her mid-80's, Ida Mayer Cummings loves to recall her beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mayer, who left Russia to settle in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, where they raised five children.

Jacob was a Talmudic scholar and Ida's black eyes kindle when she remembers her mother saying, "Never give charity to people as charity. Spare their dignity."

Said Ida, "Mamma taught us that the holiest of all acts is to look after the old people - Moshav-ze-Kaynim - a personal concern for the aged in the homes for the old."

Between them, Jacob and his wife managed successful-



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

CHESS PLAYERS AND VIOLINISTS

Why are the champion chess players Jewish? And the violinists? I can make only an observation standing on one foot, the psychologists will have to take over from there.

The chess players in the United States include the stars Reshevski and Fischer. In the Soviet Union the three top men are also Jewish, Betvink, Boleslavski, and Smislov. The Hungarian star is a Jew by the name of Sza-

ly to fashion young Ida's concept of giving and loving.

Asked for her magical formula, Mrs. Cummings replied, "It doesn't take magic to ask for funds. If any person refuses, I ask, 'What's the matter? Didn't you ever have a mother or father?'"

She holds up the Fifth Commandment as her inspiration, regarding it as the most eloquent of the Ten and reciting at the slightest invitation, "Honour Thy Father and Thy Mother That Thy Days May Be Long Upon the Land Which the Lord Thy God Giveth Thee..."

When a newsman asked Ida, "What is the reward, if any, expected by you and your workers for your complete dedication to the Jewish Home for the Aged?" Ida replied,

"Our reward is the blessing of those pious folks whose prayers to Heaven are a constant benediction, a far greater gift than the material comforts we bestow."

To which one may add only, "Amen."

bb, and so is the Argentinian, Neudorf.

Did the 150-year experience in the European ghettos encourage speculative thinking? Or perhaps the need to be ready always with some plan of escape?

But what about the violinists? Except perhaps for Zino Francescatti all the other great violinists, past and present were Jews; Elman, Kreisler, Zimbalist, Heifetz, Menuhin, Sziget, Millstein, Isaac Stern, and of course, Oistrach.

Pablo Casals tried to explain it. He said Jews possess the patience and the inbred toughness which are the necessary requirements to produce great musicians. He added reflectively, "I am probably the only great instrumentalist in the world who is not Jewish." Even the two best known female violinists are Jews, Erica Morini and Ida Haendel.

Nathan Millstein, too, has tried to explain it, "In the ghettos of Eastern Europe, the Jews studied the violin because when they had to run for their lives, it was easier to pick up a violin than a piano."

All of which means that the ancestors of the great Jewish artists of the piano, Joseph Hoffman, Rubenstein, Horowitz, and Serkin, were greater optimists than the forebears of Stern, Millstein, Heifetz, Elman, Menuhin, and the others. Is this not so?

FILES FOR CITY COMMISSIONER



BERT LEAVITT

Bert Leavitt, Las Vegas businessman and civic leader has entered the race for City Commissioner.

Mr. Leavitt said: "In recent weeks there has been much speculation as to my intention to seek the office of City Commissioner. Many of my friends have urged me to enter the race in opposition to Mr. Mirabelli. I have decided to do so. There is no question in my mind that a long and hard campaign is in store for me. But, I feel that there are many important issues at stake which will help the voters to decide who can serve their best interests as City Commissioner. I intend to bring these issues to the voter; in the confidence that once the facts are known, I will have the support of the large majority of voter; the people who are truly interested in seeing Las Vegas grow and prosper as a respected and dynamic city.

Leavitt has been active in the "Lions Club" and "Rebel Rousers". He was born and raised in Clark County and comes from a prominent southern Nevada family. He attended the University of California and is a graduate of the School of Commerce. He resides with his wife Joyce, and their six children at 5705 Heron Avenue, Las Vegas.

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