

# MORE LORE ABOUT ROLL WITH A HOLE

By SIDNEY PEILTE

In a recent issue, we wrote about a legend associated with the birth of the bagel. Since then, we have learned that that sedate and proper bulwark of literature, The Saturday Review, became embroiled with "bagel scholars" over the real origin of this now-prosaic delicacy.

One such "scholar" has traced the invention of the bagel to a baker named Bagelus, who lived in Crete in the year 381 B.C. At that time, according to this version, the standard remedy for gout was the encircling of the big toe with warm dough. One occasion when Bagelus, suffering from this affliction, had applied the dough to his toes, he fell asleep in the intense heat of that particular day. When he awakened, he discovered that the dough had hardened into brown rings. Curiosity impelled him to sample one, and he found it quite tasty, and thus was the bagel invented.

Now, another "scholar" says that this theory was once believed, but is now in disrepute. This "scholar" admits that the above incident occurred, but that the discovery made by Bagelus was, in reality, the doughnut and not the bagel. The bagel he states, was in existence as early as 527 B.C., and quotes the Dead Sea Scrolls as authority for his findings. At that time it was called a "legab," but was read backwards when transferred into modern language, the way Hebrew is read. The original was in the form of a square and no lesser person than Archimedes, the Greek mathematician, is responsible for the circular form.

Still another "scholar" claims that the bagel originated in Egypt in 1382 B.C. and is a relic of the Egyptian

burial rite of placing various delicacies in the casket of the deceased. One Bhagelramesis, a gourmand, was so buried, and, though all the other viands became spoiled, certain brown cakes retained their edibility. Hence, they were named "bagel," really Bhagel, after the dead man. This theory does not enjoy much popularity.

The business of who invented the bagel occupies the attention of yet another such "scholar," who uses no less authority than the Bible as his source. He refers to the passages relating to David's amatory peccadillos and, particularly, his affair with Abigail. Abby was in a hurry to get to David and took 200 loaves, along with a lot of other goodies, on the backs of asses. Because of the bumpy ride, the loaves assumed their well-known shape and consistency. It was natural, that these resulting loaves should be named after Abigail, which, this "scholar" maintains became "bagel" through the lapse of time and the perversion of language. This, too, is only a theory, and is not generally accepted.

Despite these legends and theories about the origin of the bagel, about the most authentic claim concerning the creation of that succulent delicacy is that of one Zhelleck P. Bagel, of more recent times. Z.P. claims to have invented the bagel in New York in 1893, and, in support of the claim, reference is made to a copyright on the word "bagel" granted to him by the United States in 1893. With the majesty and power of the United States Government behind them, the descendants of Z. P. would rather fight (legal battles, rather than physical combat, according to their lawyers) than switch to any legend or theory.

matter will be soon forgotten and all will be forgiven. Maybe so. But we doubt it. You've heard of political footballs. Bonanza's removal from Nevada will be a campaign issue against every man now holding public office in state and county governments and who seeks re-election. They'll be accused of everything from partisan politics to gross neglect and down right stupidity. The sadness of the matter is that no public official is to blame. Not one was informed of the impending move, and not a soul, apart from the top echelon at Bonanza, imagined it possible. It was a top secret that made the classified information at Mercury look like the public library.

Bonanza's on its own now, without the protective cover a warm, close-knit state like Nevada. But the pendulum we have so much faith in is still swinging. A small airline moves out and a large department store branch moves in. Hello, Montgomery Ward. Good bye Bonanza. You'll be sorry.

# TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



# RELIGION & ISRAEL

By Dr. H. RABINOWICZ

Religion in Israel is much maligned. The less orthodox a Jew, the more orthodox he expects to find in the land of Israel. To him, Israel is a religious Eden, a foretaste of the world to come. The religious Jew on the other hand is occasionally disillusioned. He cannot behold unmoved a sinner in Zion or an unholy act in the Holy Lane.

Both these attitudes are unrealistic. Religious feeling cannot be generated by guided missiles launched from the security of North London or New York. Nor can religious observance be enforced simply by legislation or Government edicts. Religion is an Act of Faith. And in Israel there are many such acts of faith.

There the Sabbath is observed as nowhere else in the world, with genuineness, spontaneity, sincerity. Early on Friday the shops are shuttered. Cinemas and theatres are closed. Train services are suspended. In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv there is no public transport. The Law of Rest provides that business establishments and factories are closed on the Sabbath, the official day of rest, a welcome, well-earned respite after a six day working week. The innumerable synagogues are well attended and even the unobservant cannot remain unconscious of the arrival and presence of the Queen, as the poets call the Seventh Day.

At the yeshivot the voice of the Torah is heard by day and by night. The voice of Mir, Slobodka, and Vlozin rises once more as if the spirits of their young scholars pore over the pages of the Talmud, for Bialik's Mathmid has journeyed from the Ukraine to the academies of Jerusalem, Bnei Brag and Tel Aviv. Alongside the old-style academies are rising the yeshivot Bnei Akiva and Torah Umlacha, where the study of Torah is combined with secular studies or manual pursuits.

In Israel the holy tongue has become a living language, forging a link between the historic past and the equally historic present. The Bible is read, studied and discussed. Dull must be he of soul who can hear unmoved the language of Moses, David and Isaiah in the mouths of little sabras. The people of the Book are coming into their own. Every day brings forth new books and new writers. The Mosad Harav Kook with its 600 publications, the Jerusalem Bible, the Talmudic Encyclopedia, the new Eretz Yisrael Shaas, the continual reprints of our great rabbinical works, all augur well for the spiritual well-being of the nation. The land that gave the world the Bible, the Magna Carta of mankind, may yet make another great contribution to world culture.

That Judaism is a way of life has become a palpable cliché in the communities of the Diaspora; yet nowhere is this way of life lived as it is in the religious kibbutzim. Here religion is not confined

to the synagogue; it permeates every aspect of life, in the kitchens and the school-rooms, in the orchards and the vineyards, in the field and in the dairy. Here traditional Judaism is taken off the dusty shelf and lives again as in the days of Hillel and Shammai. Halachic solutions are being found for the problems of shemitta (Sabbatical Year) and the milking of cows on the Sabbath. Where else in the world can the Jews openly live a truly religious life, unashamed of their ancestral heritage? Here religious observance comes naturally and children are spared the conflict between the home and the outside world.

As for kashrut, well, even the police dogs in Israel are restrained from eating chametz on Passover. Public institutions all adhere to the laws of kashrut. The Standing Orders of the Israeli Defence Forces enjoin strict traditional observance of the Sabbath, military operations permitting. Army kitchens and food stores are organized in accordance with dietary laws.

Members of the Rabbinate are salaried officials of the State, and rabbinical authority is powerful and far-reaching. Not since the time of Rabbi Judah the Prince (the editor of the Mishna) have the rabbis wielded such power. The Rabbinical Courts Jurisdiction Law, passed by the Knesset, granted these Courts exclusive jurisdiction over all the Jews in Israel with regard to marriage, divorce and chalitzta. A visit to the Beth Din in Tel Aviv is a stimulating experience. Here in busy courts, the laws of the Shulchan Aruch are applied with the administrative efficiency of the twentieth century. One feels, somehow, that both the Dinim and Dayanim are on trial in the eyes of the world. Jewish law in Israel demonstrates its competence and relevance to modern life.

The Ministry of Religion has been responsible for the building of places of worship and many yeshivot, and tries to meet the religious needs of the new immigrant settlements.

Now, what's on the debit side? Taxes are seen on the Sabbath in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Bus services are allowed on Sabbath in Haifa. Many factories work on the Sabbath even when "Pikuach nefesh doche Shabbat" (For saving a life the Sabbath may be deferred) is not applicable.

The energies of the religious parties are dissipated by petty squabbles and Sinat chinam (causeless hatred) and this lack of unity even on essentials does not further the cause of religion in Israel.

Just as the modern chalutzim are transforming the desert into fruitful gardens by the sweat of their brow and the strength of their idealism, so our religious students must go out to the people and demonstrate their indigenous ideology by practices as well as by example.

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

## LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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# FORGET BONANZA

Bonanza Airlines will move to Phoenix, and nothing anyone says or does will effect this decision, according to Larry Decker, vice president in charge of soft-salving the Las Vegas populace.

So any nonsense you hear from politicians in every level of office about using their influence to reopen negotiations, which in some way or another may keep the airline in Nevada, is just that --nonsense. The die has been cast. In answer to a direct question put to Decker after his address to the Men's Club of Temple Beth Shalom, his response was that there is no possibility, however remote, of the large company's main base of operations remaining in the state where it acquired its birth and where it received every cooperation that contributed towards it becoming a multi-million dollar venture with monopolistic privileges.

There are many reasons why a firm moves from one locale to another. All kinds of seemingly logical statements accompany the announcement of the transposition, but no matter how you slice it, as a general rule, it all narrows down to one factor - money. That is, except in the case of Bonanza's betrayal of the place of its inception. It wasn't money. And time will tel for whenever personal animosity obscures common sense, something falls by the wayside. It could be the beginning of the decline of Bonanza.

Lots of companies move their homes. A manufacturer will move from the industrial east coast to the south, because cheaper labor is more accessible. Sometimes, excessive union demands is the prevalent cause. Taxes have forced some large firms to move or open branches in foreign countries, like Ford in Canada, etc., all understandable and acceptable. With municipalities competing to induce new industry into their own areas, the intense rivalry has created heretofore unheard of proposals, like tax free operation for long periods and no-rent terms for large numbers of years. But there is a vast difference between most of the other moves and the one taken by Bonanza.

In 99 per cent of the moves, the company owed no obligation to the locale from which it was moving, and in 100 per cent of the situations, the company couldn't care less about the feelings of the populace in the departed area because its merchandise is sold nationwide or even throughout the world.

This is not the case with Bonanza. True, much of Bonanza's business originates outside of Nevada, but just as true, a great deal of the airline's trade has its inception here in Las Vegas, and in Reno.

We doubt if Bonanza's stock in trade would be at its present high level, if the airline were to lose all or most of its Nevada patronage. No longer being a favorite son, there is absolutely no reason why it should receive any extra dispensation from state or county governments. Even-steven on this score, four competing airlines would stand a good chance to dent into Bonanza's local business.

Then again, there's the matter of Bonanza's exclusive run between Reno and Las Vegas. It may take six months, or perhaps a year or two, but sooner or later there will be other companies flying passengers between the two cities.

You may be of the opinion, as Bonanza hopes, that the

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BEA AND SID PEILTE ARE OFF TO CHICAGO TO ATTEND GRADUATION FROM MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THEIR SON JORDON ON JUNE 12. THEN ON TON.Y. TO VISIT SON, DR. STANLEY AND OTHER RELATIVES.