



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

THANKS TO THE SCANDINAVIANS

Why did the Danes save the Jews of Denmark?

Why did the Swedes agree to accept the escaping Jews? And all of this at a time when Denmark was totally occupied by the Nazis and Sweden was at the mercy of the Wehrmacht.

The questions might suggest a degree of cynicism. But even when you meet some of the important participants of this amazing operation, these are the first questions you ask them.

And we dare not minimize the implications. The Nazi holocaust reached into every nook and corner of Europe. It was an infection, an operation of murder so vast that a single act of mere decency becomes at once a monumental resolution of raw courage with a total disregard of the risks involved. The risks were very great indeed.

Hundreds of Danes were involved in the rescue operation, men, women and yes, even children. The men

included school teachers and clerks, government officials, and police, and finally the fishermen who ferried the seven thousand Jews across the straits to Sweden. The women made the coffee and the sandwiches and provided blankets for the mid-night voyages, and there were young Danes of Boy Scout age who led Jews from their homes through the back alleys to the water-front and the fishing boats that awaited them. The Nazis would have executed the men involved, if they had caught them, and they would have sent their women to concentration camps.

The story has been told a thousand times and the books have been written and the operation still stands as the wonder of human kindness in the world's darkest period.

And now a fund has been established to give "Thanks to Scandinavia." A New York lawyer, Richard Netter, with the help of that great Dane,

Victor Borge, established a "Thanks to the Danes Scholarship Fund." The organization entered into an agreement with the American Scandinavia Foundation for the joint administration of the scholarship program.

The other day in Denmark at a meeting with the Danish Prime Minister, the official announcement was made in which "Thanks to the Danes" was officially extended to Thanks to Scandinavia Scholarships.

While the larger fund-raising objective is being pursued, resources already available will enable the fund to provide new scholarships for six students in the 1965-66 academic year just beginning. In addition, several of the eight scholarships awarded last year will be continued. The scholarships amount to \$1,500 per student and are supplemented in certain cases by board and lodging provided by chapters of Phi Sigma Delta, a national college fraternity in the United States.

We come back to those same questions and a careful study provides the answers. The Danes and the Swedes did not save fellow citizens from death because they were Jews. They saved them because of their deep concern for human dignity and justice.

The clue to the answers may be found in the Danish attitude toward the Nazis after the liberation. When victory came the Danes feared that an outraged population would do physical harm to the Nazi administrators functionaries. And so the Danes rounded up the Nazis and guarded them against violence until they could be evacuated.

Now when the German tourists pour into Denmark each of them says, "I was on the Eastern Front fighting the communists." The Danes laugh and say, "Skoal."

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits



Hollywood, Calif. (TCNS)- Billy Gray delayed reopening his Los Angeles nitery, the Band Box, for one week to go on a diet "just to feel fit for opening night." Asked how much he lost, Billy replied, "Seven days." While waiting for curtain time, elf-like Gray discussed the days when radio, instead of television, entertained America's housebound millions.

At the time, Billy worked on the Fanny Brice show. One night, when Fanny suddenly collapsed, Billy stepped into the breach and understudied the voice of Baby Snooks. So perfectly did he recite the nasal-toned lines of Fanny's precocious young character nobody in the vast outside audience became any the wiser.

Gray also played the little girl on the old Abbott and Costello radio show. He made her famous with the familiar line, "I'm only three and a half years old." Remember?

Sid Kuller wrote the great lines for the Band Box show. He dreamed up the satire, "Goldfinkel." As the fearless, redoubtable Billy Blond, Billy Gray asked a bellydancer, "Why do you wear that jewel in your navel?" "Because it's my wedding ring," she replied simply. "The what do Egyptian bridegrooms wear in their navel?" Billy asked. "Int," answered the dancer.

Billy told about a resident of "the outside," resplendent in colorful western attire, who drove his Avis

Rent-A-Car around Hollywood gaping at the sights until he apparently lost his way and wandered into the strange surroundings of a Fairfax Avenue delicatessen. Sniffing the delicious aromas of pickles, salami, cornbeef, pastrami, blintzes, marinated herring and special cheeses, he asked the lady behind the counter in complete wonderment "Where am I?"

Studying the strange customer carefully, from the pointed toes of his highly polished boots to the neat crease on his wide Stetson, the intrigued deli-sales woman said, "Well you can bet your life you're not in Marlboro country."

Remember Bert Gordon, once famous on radio as "The Mad Russian," who always came on with his prescriptive, "How Do you do!"? Bert is another highlight in the Band Box cast, still flapping his elephantine ears and sporting standup hair that makes Sam Jaffe's electric-chair hairdo look like a crew cut.

In "My Fairfax Lady," Kuller's winsome satire on G.B. Shaw's you-know-what, Eliza said, "I don't understand your semantics." "Playing the good professor," Gray said, "That's because you're anti-semantic."

The idea being to rid Eliza of her cockney speech and teach her how to speak with a proper Jewish accent, the professor explained his system as "making Yiddish-

cisms from Britishisms." Towards that end, he instructed Eliza, "I want you to try for the pickle-shaped tones. When I'm through with you, you're going to get a life membership in the Hadasah."

Professor Gray boasted that he once took a Galit-seana and made him talk like a Litvak. After Carol Shannon, portraying Eliza, sang a few numbers with Sid Kuller's classic parody lyrics, Gray turned to the audience and said, "She's a Jewry."

Kuller is one of Hollywood's most brilliant comedy writers. No matter how big the comedian, name him and rest assured that Sid put the laugh lines in his mouth. A few years ago, Kuller wrote another hilarity for the Band Box, a satire of "The Cain Mutiny" For the benefit of residents of L.A.'s Fairfax Avenue borsht belt, he renamed it "The Cohn Mutiny."

Gray's lovable Yiddish accent and Kuller's scintillating writing stamp both as artists. To their credit it must be said that neither has ever offended even the most sensitive.

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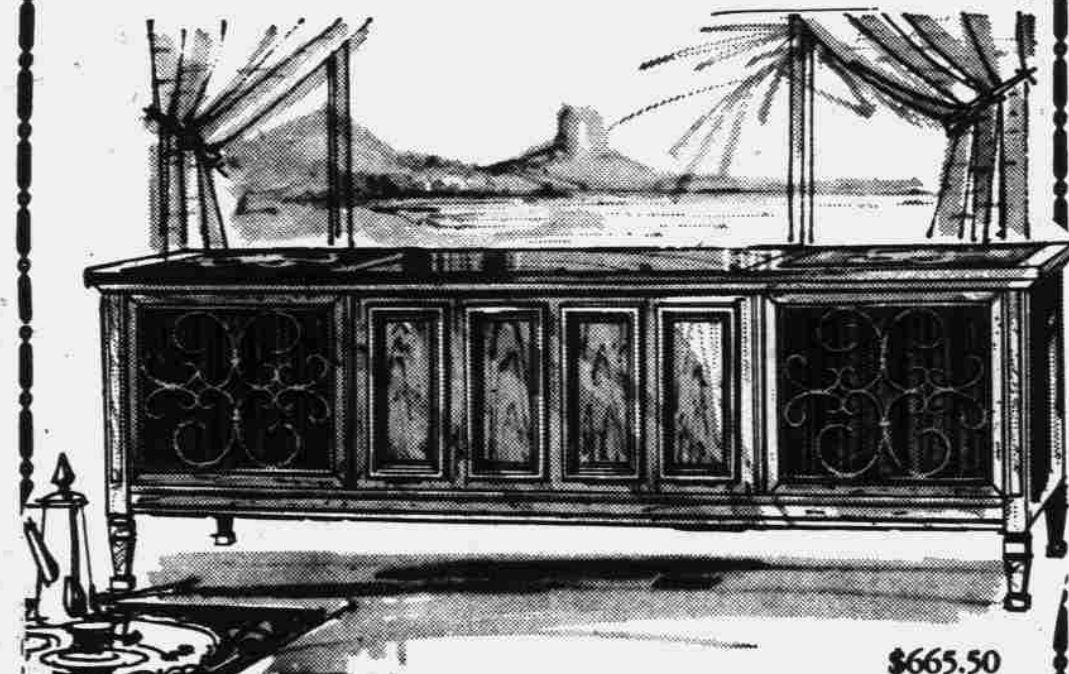
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