

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (WNS) Meyer L. Brown, prominent Labor Zionist leader and one of the founders of the Farband-Labor Zionist Order, died here of a stroke at the age of 77.

BONN (WNS) Deferment for one year of payments due to have been made to Nazi victims who had been unable to file restitution applications prior to October 1, 1953, was announced here this week by Minister of Finance Rolf Dahlgren.

WASHINGTON (WNS) The U.S. Government has no objection to a Jordanian dam that is part of an Arab scheme to divert waters from reaching Israel, it was declared by State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey. According to Mr. McCloskey, Jordan's diversion plans do not appear to the State Department to be inconsistent with a 1955 Arab-Johnston formula for the utilization of regional water resources, adding that the U.S. feels that Jordan's intentions do not violate the Johnston plan.

NEW YORK (WNS) A report on the educational and comprehension differences between Jewish and Protestant children was presented by a noted rabbi, at a meeting of the board of directors of the National Council of Jewish Women. Rabbi Zachary Dershowitz, assistant professor at the Long Island University School of Education, told the women that tests indicated that Jewish children tended to comprehend things as a whole, but to have difficulty in separating component parts, while Protestant children tended to see the parts more easily. This finding, he said, may have great relevance in the planning of teaching programs for ethnically different groups of children. At the same time, Rabbi Dershowitz disclosed that Jewish children were relying less on their sensory perception and more upon their intellect, while the opposite was true of the Protestant children. In addition, he noted that Protestant children have a much stronger sense of self identification and independence and of their own separateness from their environment than did Jewish children.

BONN (WNS) Pleas of guilty in the mass murder of Jews in Tarnopol, Galicia, was entered in a Stuttgart court by two of ten former SS officers on trial there. One of the men said he was forced to take part in the mass murders. The other man admitted participating in the shooting of 800 Jews.

LONDON (WNS) A monument, in the form of a marble sculpture by the well known Czech Jewish artist Oscar Nemon, was erected in the Yugoslavian town of Oshek in memory of the thousand Jews who were deported to death camps by the Nazi regime.

BUENOS AIRES (WNS) Hope that promulgation of Pope Paul of the Vatican declaration on Jews would become an effective barrier to preaching of racial hatred and anti-Semitism was voiced by the leadership of DAIA, the central body of Argentine Jewry. At the same time, DAIA stressed its reservation over the final form of the draft, which omitted the word "deicide" and used the word "deplore" instead of "condemn" in the phrasing on anti-Semitism.

NEW YORK (WNS) Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, noted Jewish scholar, thinker and author, declared that the "perpetuation of Jewish life" was dependent solely on "authentically religious Jews" and that the philosophy of Jewish Reconstructionism was also "valid for other religions" that are in a state of crisis.

CINCINNATI (WNS) A statement condemning anti-Semitism and all forms of racial hatred was issued by Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Faith of North and South America following a visit to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. The Archbishop's statement read: "Because I believe in the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of mankind, I most vigorously condemn anti-Semitism. Any form of racial or ethnic hatred is a sin against all that is holy."

CASABLANCA (WNS) Recent cancellation of Hebrew radio programs by the National Broadcasting Service is being viewed here in Jewish circles as evidence of surrender to pressure by the Arab League. Lending credence to this belief is the fact that the program, a religious project sponsored by the Moroccan Council of Jewish Communities for many years, had been cancelled without any prior notice.

LONDON (WNS) Three more suspects were held for hearings last week in the magistrates court on charges of having set fire last July to an East London Synagogue.

HOLYOKE (WNS) Swastika-smearing vandals broke into the Rodphey Shalom Synagogue here, setting fire to the building, scattering sacred Torahs on the floor and doing sundry damage.

MONTREAL (WNS) Since 1950 some 42,000 Jewish immigrants settled in Canada, most of them in Montreal, it was disclosed here at a gathering of the Federation of Jewish Community Services.

NEW YORK (WNS) Acquisition of a unique document, a diary of Jewish life in the Warsaw Ghetto that lay hidden in a kerosene can until uncovering twenty years ago, was announced here by New York University in a statement which said that the material will be incorporated into the manuscript collection of NYU's Library of Judaica and Hebraica.

Where We Get The Word "Schlemihl"

By Sidney Pelite

Ask anyone, Jew or Gentile, "What's a Schlemihl", and chances are you'll get an answer, which, in one form or another, will describe a person who handles a situation in the worst manner possible or is just a poor, luckless fellow, for whom nothing ever goes right. In a word, a Schlemihl.

While most idiomatic expressions and coined names for special kinds of irritating persons or of events are the inventions of some smart alecky writers or of conversational trends of various localities, who would suspect that the word "Schlemihl" to be, as some scholars claim, of Biblical origin. (I read the Biblical story relied upon by these scholars and must confess to finding it difficult to see the connection between the word the incident described, or the people concerned in the tale.) But I am not a scholar; and that could account for my not seeing the connection. The story concerns a fellow named Zimri, who incurred the anger of a priest, and his girl friend, Cozbi.)

It was Heine, the German poet, who supplied the connection. He stated that according to an old oral tradition, it was not really Zimri who was killed by the zealous Phineas, but an innocent bystander, named, Schlemihl ben Zuri Schaday. He got in the way just as Phineas launched his attack on Zimri and lost his life. So, by a quirk of fate, he became Schlemihl the First, and gave

his name to posterity to designate a hapless character.

Another version of the origin of the word, as describing a hard luck guy, is the story of a man named Shemuliel. It seems he'd been away from home for over a year, and on his return, he found that his wife had given birth to a baby. While his friends and neighbors expressed misgivings, the child was declared to be legitimate by the local rabbi, and this Shemuliel, it is said, became the forerunner of Schlemihls, there being a slight corruption of his name.

A Schlemihl is not just an unlucky person, he is something more, for the word includes an implication that the person is something of a dumb bunny, as well. Jewish proverbs emphasize this facet of the word, as: "When a Schlemihl kills a chicken, it walks"; "When he winds a clock, it stops"; "When he falls on his back, he breaks his nose."

You can select whichever of the above versions you are inclined to accept as being the origin of the word "Schlemihl", or if you like, you can even recognize the claim of the ancient Spanish-Jewish poet to the distinction of being not only the inventor but of being the prototype of Schlemihlism. I am inclined to the view that this pithy expression, whose meaning is never mistaken by anyone, is another creation of delightful Yiddish patois, which gave us "Noodnick", "pasgoodnyak" and "kochleffel" and many more.

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MILITARY BALL LARGE SUCCESS

The Military Appreciation Ball at the Convention Center was an outstanding success according to the young airmen and their dates who were in attendance.

Over three thousand Clark County residents attended. Members of the V.F.W. Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary served refreshments consisting of pop, cookies, coffee, etc.

Ann Wynne was Chairwoman of the V.F.W. group, which consisted of Nina Cummings, Kathryn Harvell, Theresa Vigne, Dorothy Starke, Irene Ackerman, Betty Titus, Gloria Campbell, Billie Shannon, Grethel Gillam, Helen Jo Clark, Opa Bruner, Mildred Roades, Helen Searls, and Rose Keele.

Lou Nelson was chairwoman of the legion group which consisted of Grace Bates, Jessie Metcalf, Edna McKinney, Alberta Freimanth, Tina Hunt, Mable Runes, Margaret Wagner, Grace Lundblatt, Helen Brown, Lillian Strom and Shirley Larson.

Much of the success of the affair can be contributed to the dedication of these wonderful ladies.

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JEW HEADS NAZI PARTY

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. (WNS) A twenty-seven-year-old New Yorker by the name of Robert Joseph Burros has been identified this week by the Middletown Times Herald Record as a young man of Jewish origin who is serving as top aide to James H. Madole, leader of the neo-Nazi National Renaissance Party.

Robert Burros is no relation to the Daniel Burros, a KKK organizer who committed suicide on the heel of revelations that he was of Jewish origin.

Robert Burros, according to the disclosure, was born of Jewish parents who were affiliated with Temple Beth Jacob in Newburgh, N.Y. and became bar mitzvah in the temple on January 26, 1951. Newburgh school records list him as a Jew and a pupil with a good record.

When faced with the facts about his Jewishness, Burros at first denied his Jewish

roots. Later he admitted it, but contended that his father had been "sharply critical of the Jews," that he had never seen his father "enter a temple" and that his parents "were at baseball games during the services." His father, he explained, "never behaved as a Jew."

Asked to comment on the development Rabbi Norman Kahan of Temple Beth Jacob said the young man had written to him telling "he had been bar mitzvah here and that he would like to talk to one of our temple groups about socialism. When he received literature from Burros, the Rabbi said, he sent it on to the FBI.

Burros, like his namesake who committed suicide, lives in the Queens area of New York. Like his dead klanmate, he does not consider himself a Jew, but a descendant of "white Aryan stock, from the White Russian Nordic race."

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