

Everyone Will Be **MAX GOOT** Honoring "Man of the Year" **Jan. 12.**

Do You Swear to Tell the Truth?

by Sid Pellte

Sit in a courtroom during the progress of a trial, and you will see each witness, before being allowed to utter one word of testimony, go through a ritual so commonplace today, that the spectators hardly give it a thought. You will hear the clerk of the court, or sometimes the judge, instruct the witness to place his left hand on the Bible and raise his right hand, and then intone the question whether the witness swears to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

This ritual is an ancient legal institution intended to impress the witness with the solemnity of the occasion and the testimony he is about to give. It is also meant to guarantee the fulfillment of the promise thus made through the religious beliefs of the witness. Yet not all persons are willing to follow this practice or be bound by its implications. There are certain sects who for religious reasons refuse to take the oath in that prescribed form, and are permitted that form of declaration they feel binding upon them. Arthur Train, one-time district attorney of New York County and creator of that lovable lawyer, Mr.

Tutt, fictionalized various actual legal points. One of his stories centered around an Oriental who took the oath in the prescribed form, only to give false testimony with no compunctions at all, until the attorney discovered that this witness felt bound only by an oath taken on the blood of a freshly killed chicken.

The reason for the modern rite of placing the hand on the Book, or holding it, is that it brings the witness into direct physical contact with that which is holy to him, and he feel impelled to tell the truth. The custom of raising the other hand is thought to have its origin in an oath sworn by Abraham. Another theory is that the practice is derived from the Anglo-Saxon custom of branding the palm of the hand of the convicted felons, were disqualified as witnesses. The raising of the hand was a demonstration to the court that the witness was eligible to testify.

In the courts of ancient Israel both parties were required to take oaths, but witnesses were not. They were admonished about dire things to happen if the truth were not told. A distinction, too, was made between the testimony

REMEMBER YOUR TEMPLE

Can you think of an institution more worthy of your support than your Synagogue?

It has always been the heart and soul of Jewish life, symbol to the non-Jews of Jewish ideals, virtues, ethics, dignity.

Try to imagine what the community would be without the influence of the Synagogue.

Think of these things when you are listing benefactors under your will or final survivors to receive your insurance money.

to be given in civil cases and criminal cases, for in the former money damages were considered satisfactory, but in the latter the accused's life and reputation were at stake. Whenever one was sworn, the swearer was required to hold some sacred object, such as the Torah or his Tephillin.

Way back in the 13th Century, and for many years following, when the Jews was fair game for the satraps and petty princes of the era, particular delight was exhibited in humiliating the Jew in the courts of the period. They were compelled to recite a humiliating oath, wearing, in

some places, a wreath of thorns and standing ankle deep in water. In some places the Jew was required to stand on the skin of a pig while reciting the oath; in others he was made to recite the oath while trying to maintain his balance on a stool from which one leg was removed. This he did while wrapped in his Tallis and wearing his hat which Jews are obliged to wear as identification -- much like the armbands and other insignia devised by the Madman of the 20th Century.

Many Jews rebel at being made to take an oath, and though acceptable now in this country, there are places -- notably in Israel -- where subterfuges are used to avoid swearing. Examples, gleaned from court records, attest to this. One Orthodox Jew exclaimed: "My bank trusts me with thousands on my signature alone, but here I must take a solemn oath where a paltry sum is involved." Another referred to the Third Commandment and in a long discussion proved that it referred to truthful oaths, too.

Many other incidents could be related to illustrate the reluctance on the part of Jews to take an oath. It is believed, by one judge, that the fear of taking an oath has become to deeply imbedded in Jewish consciousness, because of the ancient ceremonies and the threat of fearful consequences included in them.

The modern penalty for false swearing is a term in prison for perjury. Compared to the dire consequences which were to follow for the same offense in ancient times, this punishment is a vacation at the state's expense.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The second General Meeting with the Temple Board of Directors will take place on Monday, January 10, 1966, at 8:00 P.M. The agenda is as follows:
1. Report to the Congregation by Chairman of all Committees.
2. Rabbi Gold's report.
3. Introduction of Mr. Leo A. Wilner, Temple Beth Sholom's Administrative Director.
There will be a question and answer session also, and refreshments will be served.



Dialoc

NEW! NEW!
MAKES HOUSE KEYS OBSOLETE

- Rugged metal construction
- Change combination anytime
- Compare beauty with locks costing \$60.00 or more
- Only **24⁹⁵**



JONES BOYS FIX-IT SHOP
2516 Las Vegas Blvd. North N.L.V. 642-8296

We Repair . . . Washers - dryers - small appliances - heaters - rooster service - vacuum cleaners
SALES TOO! Reconditioned appliances and fixtures



THE SPECTACULAR Folies Bergere

Presented by Arrangement with PAUL DERVAL
Conceived and Directed by MICHEL GYARMATHY
Choreography by PETER GENNARO

FEATURING **LILIANE MONTEVECCHI**
AND INTRODUCING *The Magic Screen*
Produced by TIBOR RUTAS

Tropicana LAS VEGAS
FOR SHOW RESERVATIONS CALL 736-2022

PAT'S CHINESE KITCHEN

Low Calorie Dishes

NEW COMBINATION PLATE FOR ONE



PAT GINN
Invites You To **WATCH THIS SPACE**
For His Guest of The Week who will be hosted to Exotic Dinner For Two

THIS WEEK'S HONORED CUSTOMERS
Dr. & Mrs. Brumfield

FOR CONVENIENCE OF WEST SIDE RESIDENTS CALL PAT'S SUB STATION 382-4900



LARGE DINING ROOM TAKE-OUT SERVICE

RAPID LUNCHEON SPECIALS UNDER \$1
(COMMERCIAL CENTER)
953-30 E. SAHARA 735-5795