

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

OF NEVADA

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VOICE OF NEVADA

by
Gov. Grant Sawyer



TELL TALKS

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



A Modern Deborah

By Nathan Ziprin

Golda Meir, who currently is the guest of honor in Miami at the national conference launching the Israel Bond campaign of 1966, is one phenomena of the times--of the world at large, not only of Israel. She is as familiar on the premises of the UN as she is to many people in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. In Moscow, tens of thousands, defying police, sought a glimpse of her. Last year, visiting Burma, she was acclaimed by groups singing the Hatikvah in her honor, and she is one of those to whom the new African nations have delighted to pay honor.

We are a little too close to the events of her career perhaps to take the full measure of her worth and, perhaps, we are also handicapped by the fact that she operates on a kind of noiseless system, so that her own personality is not flaunted before the onlooker.

As a child, she lived in Pinsk, a small Russian town which has brought forth more than the normal quota of celebrities, among them the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, but Milwaukee, where she grew up and taught, rightfully too has a claim on her.

The other day, a woman was chosen as Prime Minister of a great country in the East, but Mrs. Gandhi is a Nehru. Golda Meir's father was a poor carpenter, Moshe Mabovich, who was glad if he could get enough work to support his family. He is said to have constructed the first ice box to be used in Pinsk, but such inventiveness received little reward there. One time, however, his carpentry served an especially useful purpose. Golda Meir had told about it. She remembered seeing her father nailing boards on the door. There were rumors that another pogrom on the Jews was brewing and her father was boarding up the house for protection.

Golda Meir has often told that she could never erase the picture of this incident from her memory, and it doubtless explains much of the story of her life.

At one critical time, the fact that she was American was of great significance in her life and in the birth of the new state. It was immediately after the proclamation of the independence of the Jewish state. The founding fathers of Israel had gathered and valiantly resolved that Israel was and of right ought to be free and independent. But the right had to be maintained by 700,000 Jews facing forty million Arabs. More serious was the weapon shortage.

It is told in the Bible that a Jewish woman long ago inspired the Israelites to battle their oppressors. The Israelites, we are told, were afraid to face the enemy because the Canaanites possessed chariots and cavalry and the Israelites had none.

The situation was much the same in 1948 and Golda Meir took off for America to see if she could raise money to buy arms. A previous emissary had returned telling the Israeli leaders that little could be expected from American Jewry. They had their own problems, which absorbed them, it was said, and moreover there was a general questioning about the new Israel's ability to withstand the Arab millions. Even those most sympathetic to her mission warned her against a realistic presentation of the situation.

However, Golda Meir took counsel only of her self. Like a prophetess she spoke. She would not minimize the difficulties nor trim her speech to suit any faction. No white flag of the Jewish community of her land, she said, would be raised for the Mufti. That decision, she declared, had been taken and it could not be changed. What Americans could decide, she counselled, was whether her people would be victorious or not.

It is recorded in the Bible that in the case of Deborah a thunderstorm broke forth and overran the banks of the Kishon, causing the mud to stall the Canaanite chariots and cavalry. In the case of Golda Meir, her speech was like a thunderstorm in its effect. There was a rain of contributions from all America and Golda Meir went back to Israel with 50 million dollars to save the Jewish State.

Golda Meir has written a radiant page in the history of Israel, holding some of the highest posts a nation can give

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Save Our Parks

Nevadans have become increasingly aware of conservation problems in the past few years. For the first time in our 100-year history, the people of the state are recognizing that although we have seemingly an limited space in Nevada, we must act speedily and decisively if we are to save the areas most desirable for parks and recreation areas.

The best example at hand is seen at Lake Tahoe. Had we not moved when we did three years ago to formulate plans for a State Park on the northeast shore of the lake, we would have, without question, lost the opportunity to acquire the priceless lands there for public use. Backing the drive for a Lake Tahoe Park were dozens of alert and energetic citizens, mainly from the Reno-Carson City area, who banded together to actively work for the realization of the park. Our success has been due in large part to their efforts.

Recently in southern Nevada a similar group sprang into action to achieve a similar goal - to speed the establishment of a park and interpretive center in beautiful Red Rock Canyon which is located but a short distance from the city of Las Vegas.

From every indication, it is likely that the campaign launched by the southern Nevada group will prove effective. The group is large, consisting of nearly 100 prominent citizens of Clark County. Further, it is supported by several organizations whose roots go deep into the community -- the League of Women Voters, the Sierra Club and others.

I recently received a letter from the chairman of the group, Edward J. Austin, with which was a copy of the set of recommendations they had prepared for the State Park Commission. I was impressed by this report. Extremely well written and thorough in its approach to the problem, the report urges the creation of a State Park at Red Rock and the formulation of plans for an interpretive center which would be the park's main feature. This building would house exhibits depicting the geological and archeological aspects of the area, and from it visitors would be able to take walks along a series of nature trails, and to visit an arboretum or botanical garden which the southern Nevada group believes would be a popular addition to the park. Obviously much hard work and careful planning went into the proposal, including recommendations for land acquisition, financing, and a staff which would include a resident archeologist.

It is, all in all, a very impressive job.

I notified the group a few days ago that on the state level here in Carson City we would do everything possible to speed the realization of the project. I have long approved the idea of a park at Red Rock, and a recommendation that the area be developed was made in the Master Plan issued by the Division of State Parks last fall. Many problems still need to be resolved before the park can become a reality, beginning with the fact that the land belongs to the Bureau of Land Management; but because of the well-organized drive launched by the southern Nevada group, our park officials here are giving priority to the preparation of a feasibility study which will tell us how the necessary steps are to be taken. It is important, in developing this park, that it be coordinated with the overall park and recreation picture outlined in the Master Plan.

The action taken by this alert group of southern Nevada citizens is an excellent example of democracy in action at the grass roots level. Thanks to the initiative they have shown, more people than ever before in Clark County have become aware of conservation matters and encouraged to lend their support not only to the Red Rock project, but also to county park planning and the expansion of the state's entire park program. This is a timely and commendable effort on their part, for only when we have the enthusiasm and backing of the average John Citizen can we expect to obtain the parks and recreation areas we must have for our rapidly growing population.

TO BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, THE OBSERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY JACK TELL ARE HIS AND HIS ALONE, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS THE OPINIONS OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM OR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

So Long Sophie

NEW YORK (WNS) Sophie Tucker, one of the most colorful figures in the world of entertainment and of an era that produced a number of outstanding Jewish performers, died here at the age of 79 after battling a lung and kidney ailment that defied medical treatment.

Famed among several generations of theatre lovers as the "Yiddish Mama," Miss Tucker was born of a Russian-Jewish family named Kalish. Her father fled Russia to escape military service. He settled in Boston, later moving to New York.

Miss Tucker was a tireless worker on behalf of Jewish causes, never turning down an offer to appear for Jewish causes she deemed worthy. She supported the Jewish Theatrical Guild and helped establish schools and youth centers in Israel. In 1955 she endowed a chair in the theatre arts at Brandeis University through the Sophie Tucker Foundation. It was said of her that she never worked on High Holy Days or on other Jewish religious holidays.

We were not close, intimate pals. Nothing like that. She probably knew thousands like us, who crossed her path for fleeting moments and were then forgotten in the melange of new places, new associations and new faces.

But even a slight meeting with Sophie Tucker left a lasting impression on us. Later, we realized why we'd never forget her.

The year was 1948 or 49. The new Jewish state was in serious trouble with overwhelming forces attacking from three sides. Many prominent Jews here in America, who knew the circumstances, saw no hope for our little country and were ready to throw in the sponge. Not Sophie.

She was so positive Israel was here to stay, there just wasn't any other side to the subject. She knew the going was rough. She was aware of the perils of setbacks, but ultimate defeat for Israel was out of the question. Not for Sophie.

How heartwarming it was to hear a woman of her stature talk without qualification. We can't remember the exact quote, but her words ran something like: "We'll just have to work harder, longer, sacrifice more, until they let us alone." Give up? Not Sophie.

All this came about because we sought Sophie's help in getting a fund-raising project started for one of Israel's fighting forces. There were many factions in the new, but sidorganized country at the time. We knew little of Israel's internal politics and had asked other prominent persons to join the committee to raise funds for this cause. Some refused claiming their interests were in aiding other groups in Israel. Not Sophie.

As long as it would benefit Israel, Sophie consented

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SOPHIE PURCHASES FIRST TICKET FROM JACK TO BENEFIT HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI COUNCIL FOR RELIEF OF ISRAEL.