

JACK TELL'S NEWSPAPER

# LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

OF NEVADA

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Editor and Publisher ..... Jack Tell  
 BUSINESS MANAGER.....BEA TELL, 870-1255  
 VEGAS NEWS.....HELENE STADLER, 384-3685  
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## Our Jewish Heritage

### 7. PHINEHAS



Phinehas slays Zimri the Israelite and Cozbi the Midianitess who had retired to the tent.

"And . . . Phinehas . . . saw it . . . and took a spear in his hand. And he went . . . into the chamber, and thrust both of them through" (Num. 25.7-8).

According to Aggadic tradition, Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was descended from two Israelite tribes and from Jethro, Moses' father-in-law (Sotah 43; Baba Bathra 115). He slew Cozbi, the daughter of Zur, and consequently was granted "the covenant of an everlasting priesthood" for himself and his descendants (Numbers 25.13). The sages said that he was one of the two spies sent by Joshua to Jericho (Yalkut Shimoni, Joshua). Shortly before Joshua's death, Phinehas went up to Gilgal and prophesied there before the people (Yalkut Shimoni, Judges, § 40.2). Scripture refers to Phinehas when it says: "The angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal" (Judges 2.1). He was alive when the incident of the concubine at Gibeah took place (Judges 19). The Aggadah declares that he lived into the period of Gideon and rebuked the people for worshipping Amorite gods (Judges 6.8 ff.), and that he was still alive when Jephthah saved the people (Genesis Rabbah 60.3; the end of Leviticus Rabbah). Only because he did not go to Jephthah to annul the latter's vow did the Divine Spirit depart from him (Leviticus Rabbah, based upon 1 Chronicles 9.20; and Yalkut Shimoni, Judges, § 88).

According to Maimonides, in his introduction to the Mishneh Torah, Phinehas received the orah directly from Moses.

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



### "Oy Vey-Gas"

Lotsa words about a number of items to get down on paper for in and out-for-town readers.

There's a friendly note to Paul Price about a swimming pool at Spring Mountain Youth Camp, that'll be in the next Letters Column, whenever space permits it to run. No harm in writing a letter to ourself, is there?

The Neil Galatz story, that's ruuning on P. 1, is an inspiration to all locals about how a single-o gent can contribute to the general economy by spearheading conventions to Vegas. Also of interest to attorney-readers from all over who will convene at the Sands on May 13, thanks to Neil's efforts.

We must headline the last minute decision to hold the community Seder this Passover after last year's black-out -- the first Seder-less holiday since the beginning of the Temple in Las Vegas. We'll attempt to arouse some enthusiasm at this late date to bring out all the Jewish families, that otherwise, for a variety of reasons could never celebrate the Holy festive occasion on their own. So much for round-ups of thought.

Recently a couple of public favorites passed on, and it wouldn't be right if we didn't chronicle for posterity small incidents in the past where our paths crossed.

Paul Frawley, the skinflint neighbor of the Lucy Arnez TV show, was a long-time favorite of Broadway audiences. He never starred, in our recollection, usually played the part of the comic friend to the hero. It was during the run of either a Jack Donahue or a Harry Richaman musical production, about 30 years ago.

We'd heard that the phony Prince Mike Romanoff had a part in the play and we dropped backstage at the Imperial Theatre to see if there was a story in the item. That's when we met Frawley.

"What's this about Romanoff playing a bit part," we asked. It was the first we heard of him working since he established himself as Russian royalty.

"It's true," answered Frawley, "he was here until word got around. Then so many creditors filed attachment on his salary, the rest of the cast could hardly elbow their way in and out the stage door. They had to let him go."

Then Frawley commented the remark that stayed with us all these years.

"With all his arrogance and phony aires, I like that Romanoff. He'll strike it big some day," Paul predicted.

Every try to get in to Romanoff's restaurant in Hollywood on a weekend?

The other gent on today's dossier is the late Sunny Jim Fitzimmins, "old Fitz" the grand old man of the horse racing profession.

One of the heart-warming gratifications of more than a decade of employment with the New York Times, was cultivating the friendship of a man, we believe to be the most informed human in the entire world, Bob Simpson. Bob was a copyreader for more than 50 years. If he didn't already know everything about any subject, as soon as it was brought up in conversation, he checked it out. His forte was an intimate understanding of every reference book on any topic. What brough Bob and us together was our mutual interest in the bang tails.

Once Bob suggested we meet at 5 a.m. the following morning and visit the stable area at Jamaica for information on horses that were running that day. If you ever have the opportunity to witness the morning workouts, take it. It's an experience you'll never regret, that is, if you ever make a wager on the ponies.

At the rail, Bob introduced us to a kind, old gent, slightly stooped. It was Mr. Fitz. He smiled as he spoke. We remember neither the words, as they came out slowly, nor the names of the horses mentioned in that conversation. But we'll never forget the eyes that spoke with authority.

Old Fitz gave us five horses, which he believed could win that day. One was a two-year old, first time starter. But the human element, the scourge of all gamblers, got the best of us. We bet only one of the horses, the first-time-starter, which wheeled at the gate and never had a chance. Of course, the other four won easily at fair odds.

Fitz nodded to us in the crowd as we were leaving the track. We nodded back. "Watch that two-year-old," we read his lips through the din of shuffling feet.

That's the last we ever saw of Sunny Jim.

Oh yes, the two-year-old went on to become one of the leading stakes purse winners as a three year old.

them what a great chapter we have. There will be workshops, Israeli dancing, and a change (as in money) race between the Jr. and Senior USY groups, the money col-

lected going to B.S.B. EVERYONE MUST ATTEND!!! It's going to be fun -- don't lose out by not being there in the Danny Kolod Youth Center at 2:00, April 10.

## U.S.Y. YOURS

by Jan Klein

Be sure to come to the next membership meeting,

6:30 p.m. in the Danny Kolod Youth Center on Sunday, March 27. There will be a program featuring Jimmy Grippo, a magician from the Strip. The evening promises to be very entertaining, hope to see everyone there!

Sweatshirts have been ordered and should be in with-in the week. All delegates to conventions will be expected to have one for the trips to show our chapter spirit-- ORDER YOURS NOW!!! Bring \$3.50 to the meeting and give it to Sharon Kersch or Beth Weinstein.

There will be a model seder for members of USY on April 3 at temple. Everyone who attended the last USY seder knows what a great time can be had by all--to say nothing of the cultural and religious benefits to be gained by the participants. So be sure to come and we'll have an even bigger turnout than last year!

It seems that on the weekend of April 9-10 some regional officers will be in town. A program is being planned for Sunday afternoon, April 10, so they can meet the members of our chapter and so we can show

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