

# Barney Glazer's "HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE"

Mark Mirsky, Stanford University's honored professor of English, has written, as I recently reported, a most delightful first novel, "Thou Worm Jacob" (Macmillan.)

I became intrigued by the story about Shamos Yossel Finkelstein, who tries to round up a minyan on a busy afternoon in the Blue Hill Avenue area of Roxbury, a Boston suburb, so I asked author Mirsky, "Howcum?"

"I began it in a course at Harvard Under Professor Albert Guerard," young Mr. Mirsky dutifully reported. "The flight of the Jews from Blue Hill Avenue to Brookline and Newton fascinated and at the same time disturbed me.

"Obviously, something old, very old and European, was breaking apart, a community was disappearing."

It was then that Mark remembered Irving Howe's introduction to "A Treasure of Yiddish Stories," in which

he pointed out, "Yiddish literature assumed that the one subject truly worthy of a serious writer is the problem of collective destiny, the fate of a people."

To Mark at the time, Blue Hill Avenue mirrored the disintegration of Jewish life in the ghetto. He found himself regretting this because, as he wrote, he found disappearing life becoming more and more important to him.

"In the four years that I worked on the book, I reached moments of despair when I was ready to abandon the work," said Mirsky. "Fortunately, I enjoyed the journey, I enjoyed the friendship of those who encouraged me to continue - namely, William Alfred, author of 'Hogan's Goat'; John Clardi, the poet; and my Macmillan editor, Richard Marek."

Obviously, there is good reason why Mirsky blends the accents and wit of the ghettoists with those of Roxbury and Boston proper sufficiently to make his characters form before your eyes in three-dimensional authenticity.

And the reason lies in his family background. His grandpappy Israel fled Pinsk and service in the Russian army (sound familiar?) and set up a wholesale flower shop in Boston, where he became a leader in the Jewish community, serving on the Va-ad Ha'Ir, the council of that city.

When Mark's father arrived, fresh from German-Russian warfare in front of his own home in Pinsk, like so

## Shearing Opens at Trop

LAS VEGAS -- Jolly and jazzy Old England combine in a paradoxical parlay when the New Vaudeville Band and Gerge Shearing open a two-week run in the Blue Room of Hotel Tropicana.

For the something new note, the English group that rang the bell with "Winchester Cathedral" makes its Las Vegas debut, while the English-born Shearing re-sounds his jazz piano stylings in one of his regular appearances in the spacious showcase.

Primemover of the New Vaudeville band is Geoff Stephens who composed the Cathedral chart as a protest to the "glut of mediocre records" and the too serious

nature of pop music. He reached for a happy-go-lucky, tongue-in-cheek tune and turned up the nostalgic "Winchester Cathedral," which immediately caught on with the public and subsequently was recorded by 80 artists, including Dizzy Gillespie, Lawrence Welk, Floyd Cramer and Frank Sinatra.

While the Blue Room turns to England, France still dominates the Tropicana Theatre restaurant, where the all-new Centennial edition of the Folies Bergere continues its successful run, while Mafalds and Lou and Julian Foorman remain in La Fontaine lounge and the Gourmet Room, respectively.

many bright immigrants he mastered English quickly and dashed through six grades of elementary school larnin' in a single year.

Poppa won many scholastic awards at Boston Latin when he was still carrying a dictionary in his hip pocket! He continued to Harvard and Harvard Law School and from 1948-1952 and 1954-1958 represented Ward Fourteen, embracing most of Blue Hills Avenue, in the Legislature.

The elder Mirsky, recounts Mark proudly, was the first Chairman of Education in the Massachusetts

House from the Jewish district. With this political excitement rubbing off, Mark's mother dismissed her domestic role to serve on the Industrial Accident Board as a Commissioner.

Mark also graduated from Boston Latin and Harvard College, where, with others, he founded Mosaic, the Jewish Student Journal. He went to Stanford on a Wilson Fellowship, has been an actor and director, and this year teaches freshman English at Stanford.

These are the ingredients. "Thou Worm Jacob" is a most delightfully.

## HERE & THERE In Our Community

Popular attorney Robert Cohen will be back east on June 2 for the 30th reunion of his law class. He was graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Goot will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on June 14th. Good luck.

Supreme Court Justice David Zanoft received the Hank M. Greenspun award from Temple Emanu-El in Reno, Natch!

The photo of Pery Villa's granddaughter, Jean Marie, is the most beautiful baby picture that ever appeared in the Israelite, on Page 5. That's not counting, of course, Michele Tell's beautiful likeness that was run on Page 4.

This Sunday Fran Cohen steps down as president of Las Vegas Hadassah. The Israelite expresses the gratitude of the entire Jewish Community: "Thanks for a Job Well Done."

If you have friends or relatives who should be reading The Las Vegas Israelite, send us their names and addresses and we will forward FREE sample copies to them

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA  
Application No. 23799  
Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of April 1967, Dieleman Industries of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to appropriate 0.02 of a second foot of the public waters of the State of Nevada. Ditch is to be made from an underground source at a point in the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 32, T. 21 S., R. 61 E., M.D.B. & M., or at a point from which the W 1/2 section corner of said section 32 bears N. 85° 35' 29" W., a distance of 2,063.0 feet. Water will be conveyed to the place of use located within the same subdivision as the point of diversion and will be used for industrial (Crane and Rigging Yard) and domestic purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year.  
GEORGE W. HENNEN  
State Engineer  
Published May 12, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9 1967.

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