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TELL TALES
"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



ORT Sets Fast Pace

A number of revealing facts emerged at the National Conference of the American ORT Federation held in New York at the end of January. Most notable was the dynamism and relevance of this organization for Jewish communities all over the world that was evident in the reports and projections for the future.

In Israel, there are 63 ORT schools. Last year they provided instruction in technical skills related to the country's industrial development to 27,000 persons, chiefly youth. The relevance of an undertaking of such scope is self-evident, not only to the economy but for a modern defense which is necessarily geared to technological "know how."

The conference, nevertheless, made clear that ORT would not stand still with what it has. A five year plan to double the number of students in ORT vocational high schools in Israel is being accelerated. New schools are being constructed. The John F. Kennedy ORT Apprenticeship Center in Jerusalem has just been opened and will move into high gear in 1968. Sub-professional education in electronics, marine and aviation mechanics, drafting, are but a few examples of what is in store.

While ORT's North African programs are diminishing with the exodus of Jews, the schools remain the only places for propelling the youth of these communities into the modern age. The French ORT schools are moving ahead to receive the tens of thousands of recent Jewish refugees. They are also introducing such occupations as automation, color television, refrigeration and machine design so that young Jews may be directed into fields that are expanding, jobs incidentally where few Jews could be found in former times.

In India, in Argentina, in its projects of aid to developing nations on behalf of the U. S. government, ORT continues to keep up with the times, and in many instances to anticipate and to pioneer.

It is strange perhaps that Jews who have so often been accused of avoiding manual and technical work should have created the largest non-governmental network of trade schools, but ORT is there to prove the denigrators to be wrong. It is certainly unusual for an 88 year old program to be so aptly pertinent to our present age, but governments, United Nations agencies and the success of ORT graduates are all there to show that this is in fact the case.

American Jewry may be justly proud of its participation in ORT. Obviously there is still a big job for it to do in the years ahead.

Interfaith Marriages Rise

Again the attention of American Jewry has been called to the subject of Jewish Christian mixed marriages, this time by Dr. Victor Sanua, associate professor of psychology at Yeshiva University, who in a published report just

A Rabbi's Prayer

Modern man must learn to be skilled at the art of prayer. Prayer must become personal as well. These words are my personal reflections upon life and things that we ought to pray for.

O Eternal Master of Mankind—

Behold the lights of our universe!
They pierce the dark of midday;
And lighten the obscured at night.
They burn to dispel the fears that confront man:
Fear of ignorance
Fear of prejudice
Fear of starvation.
Let these lights shine forth;
In every country where the light of man's inner spirit has
been extinguished,
In each home where light has become the shadow of im-
poverished living,
In each person where the spark of noble living flickers out,
Thy lights in the eternal heavens never cease,
They illumine the path of man, for those constellations,
planets, asteroids and meteors are the Fatherhood of God.
Let us behold them, so that we might search out heavenly
lit bodies here on earth -- the Brotherhood of Man.
Where are the lights of our Brotherhood?
Find them in your inner being as your hand rescues your
fellow man -- black, white, mullate -- and there radiates
from his eyes, that glow of thanks.
Search out these lights as we restore children, babies, un-
born even, to their homes, destroyed by wars provocation.
Feel the strength of their hand as gratitude binds us to-
gether, and cast that glow of brotherhood.
Delve into life and see lights,
As refugees wander aimlessly -- no dirt their home, no
pebble theirs to rest upon;
Restore them and behold the halo-like quality of light as a
grateful heart touches yours, the light of brotherhood on
earth.
Change the apathy of children to happiness; tears of grief
to Thanksgiving;
words of anger to love, chains of slavery to strength of
friendship; stock piles of wars' demolition to silos of
wheat, grain and food; distribute food not fully; -- and
then you behold the lights that brighten our world.
Let us see the starry heavens, the asteroid filled firmam-
ent, the skies openness.
Let us behold too, here upon the sil of earth this Broth-
erhood of man.
May its light illumine our path as we strive to live.
AMEN.

issued states that the rate of interfaith marriages in this country, which stands now at 17 per cent for Jews, (among Catholics and Protestants the rate of interfaith marriages is much higher) is steadily climbing and threatens the future growth of the Jewish population in this country.

Dr. Sanua further corroborates last year's finding by Dr. Eric Rosenthal of Queens College, who reported that a 30 per cent rate of interfaith marriages among third generation as a whole. Dr. Sanua, on his part, cautioned that with the exception of religious Jewish students, the Jewish college youth which he surveyed showed a growing acceptance of intermarriage.

There is no doubt that the present situation with regard to Jewish-Gentile intermarriages should give us pause, though we must not become panic-stricken over it. We should instead calmly ask ourselves as to what went wrong with our American Jewish youth, particularly our college youth, that so large a proportion of them are willing, often anxious, to marry outside the faith. Have the parents failed to give them a proper Jewish education? Have their parental homes been denuded of all Jewish values? Have we their elders, their parents and their spiritual leaders, failed to imbue them with a proper respect for Jewish traditions, for Jewish secular as well as religious culture?

Jewish congregational and Hebrew schools in this country today are tragically short of properly qualified teachers, as a recent report has shown. Have parents, members of religious congregations and others, done enough to see that there should be many, many more Jewish teachers' training schools than we have now?

American-Jewish youth--even college-trained youth--will not break with Judaism if we can show them how Judaism will benefit them spiritually. It is up to us, their elders, to roll up our sleeves and show them before the wave of mixed marriages -- which usually means abandonment of Judaism--overwhelms us.

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the free and clear, it looks like we can breathe a bit easier. Now, we look back at where and what we've been through, take inventory, analyze the pros and cons and perhaps venture an opinion on things to come.

It started with a suggestion from Jack Entratter that an English-Jewish newspaper which not only brought news of interest from outside, but also conveyed what was happening in our own area, could be of advantage to the entire Jewish community. The next step was to sound out other Jewish leaders, and the results were most encouraging. Especially, from Harry Wallerstein, president of Temple Beth Shalom, were we induced to proceed with the idea. Harry's wife, Kay, one of the most active women in charity, religious and civic affairs of Las Vegas, was the most sincere in her opinion on our commencing a newspaper. She will be endowed, always in our mind as a cherished friend.

Kay said she had faith in our ability to put out an interesting and provocative newspaper, but she feared the pitfalls that had to be overcome. Two years ago, Las Vegas was commencing its worst economic recession of all time. Now, the area is just about starting to rise from the depths. Thirty-six months ago the Jewish community was starting to split into factions. Under capable and strong leadership, it appears to be more solidified and compact than ever before. It was not only the general conditions at the time that disturbed Kay as she cautioned us in her encouragement to go ahead with our plans. Kay said if the venture flopped, it wouldn't matter so much, it would just be another of those "nothing ventured, nothing gained," projects. What did matter to Kay, was how a failure would effect this writer's disposition. That's why Kay will never cease being the No. 1 favorite of the Israelite.

The next step was to get the show on the road.

We sent letters to everyone we knew in the Jewish community, in addition to most VIPs, prominent businessmen and others, stating that if they desired an English-Jewish newspaper, it would be necessary they support it by sending in promptly, subscriptions of six dollars for one year or ten dollars for two. The returns were phenomenal, beyond our wildest expectations. We had enough finances to pay for the preliminaries and get the first edition into print. We were through with fancy ideas, paper work and planning. Now we had to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

We never disputed that ads were the life blood of any publication, but our main interest was in editorial content and makeup. Get enough readers, we contended, keep them excited and interested, and the ads will beat a path to our pages. We believe we were then, and still are, on the right track.

The first edition, Vol. 1, No. 1, dated January 29, 1965, was dedicated to Temple Beth Shalom. All the pioneers of the Jewish Community and the important founders of the synagogue were respectfully chronicled and for the first time, the twelve past presidents of the Temple were pictured. Although not necessarily in order of their tenures, they were A. J. Shur, Nate Mack, Mike Gordon, Jake Kozloff, Harry Levy, Lloyd Katz, Mel Moss, Jack Entratter, Al Goot, Dave Zenoff, Harry Wallerstein and Jerry Mack.

Since then, Stan Irwin, Jack Entratter (serving his fifth term) and Art Marshall (our current leader) have held office as president.

The story of Judaism in Vegas started back, about 1931, when a dedicated group called "Sons and Daughters of Israel," conducted services in private homes, determined to keep our religion alive in the desert. Then about 1943, a B'nai B'rith chapter organized High Holiday Services in the Rectory of a Catholic Church. The next year it was in the old Elks building, and then the first Temple at 13th and Carson Streets, now a Greek Orthodox Church. When space became limited Services were conducted at the Huntridge Theatre. The ever-growing Jewish Community, now conservatively estimated at about 6,000 families, finally found a haven at the present Jewish Community Center, a complex equal in stature, dignity and beauty, with any home of religion anywhere.

On sprawling, well-kept grounds, abundant in luxurious foliage and path through grassy lawn, are our Sanctuary and social hall, Hebrew School, pre-school, Sunday school and the Danny Kolod Youth House, dedicated by the late Ruby and our dear Ester Kolod in memory of their son.

Then, of course, there were the advertisers, and as we flip the pages we find some who have been with us from the very beginning, the Sands Hotel, Mel Aire

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OY VEY

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