

**Barney Glazer's  
'HOLLYWOOD  
HOTLINE'**

Three leading comics this Passover will follow their regular procedure of celebrating the seder on the first two nights by uniting with their families and friends and recalling how, in spite of wandering persecution for many centuries the Jews have survived and preserved their faith and culture.

Joey Bishop takes his first vacation from his ABC-TV show for one week in order

to spend the Passover at home with Sylvia and their son, Larry. Jan Murraray's mother-in-law, Mrs. Francis Patrick Murphy, will again cook the seder meals, with the help of her daughter, Toni, while Jan will conduct the services. Sherry and Buddy Hackett will celebrate the seders for the first time in their new Beverly Hills home.

Instead of taking off the first two seder nights from his ABC-TV show, as he had previously done, Joey Bishop will enjoy his first vacation since he started his popular late-night show. Passover in the Bishop home is never one showbiz laugh after another. Joey and Sylvia regard their Jewish holidays and accompanying services quite seriously, without, of course, losing any of the gaiety associated with the seder.

"You'd be surprised," said Bishop, "how comics who joke all their lives suddenly turn serious when religious ceremonies become involved."

The Bishops have invited his brothers Moishe and Freddy with their respective families, also his professional aide, Mel Bishop, with his family. As usual, the Bishops' son, Larry, will ask the feer kushas - why Matzo? Why Maror? why dip twice? why recline on pillows?

"I've noticed a big difference with the passing years," said Joey. "When we were kids in Philly, we couldn't wait until the services ended so we could eat

and rush out to join our friends and show off our new Passover clothes. Today, kids are different. They're vitally interested in the services and insist on going through the whole thing."

The Bishops have participated in seders ever since they can remember. Even after they were married in Virginia, they refused to permit Joey's induction into the Armed Forces on April 8, 1942, to deter them. They attended a seder in the Jewish USO in Harrisburg, Pa.

Joey makes it a practice of introducing a Christian couple to the traditions of the seder. "I'll probably pick someone," said Joey, "during the week on my show prior to Passover." He wishes his sisters could join him but understandingly they have their own family attachments in Philadelphia.

The Jan Murrays also will celebrate the seder again in their Beverly Hills home. Because Jan was working at the Las Vegas Riviera Hotel, his wife, Toni who had converted many years ago to Judaism, discussed the arrangements. Toni is one of the prettiest, sweetest, friendliest persons I have had the pleasure of meeting in showbiz circles. Where her comedian-husband is frequently reserved and quiet in private life, Toni fills in the gaps with graciousness, warmth and intelligence.

She takes justifiable pride in "my mother, Mrs. Francis Patrick Murphy cooking the seder dinners." Jan and Toni have been married for 20 years. Her mother has cooked the seder dinners for 10 years. When I asked if her mother lives with her and Jan, Toni replied softly but with emphasis, "No, We all live together."

"Have you invited your



SELLING TICKETS FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES "MOTHER & DAUGHTER FASHION SHOW, MARCH 29, NOON, FLAMINGO CONVENTION HALL, TO JULIET PROWSE, ARE BILL MILLER, ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR OF THE FLAMINGO HOTEL; MRS. ORAN GRAGSON, 2ND FROM LEFT, AND MRS. ALEX SHOOKEY, RIGHT, CHAIRMAN OF THE EVENT. MISS PROWSE HAS AGREED TO DO A SPECIAL ACT WITH CORBET MONICA & SERGIO FRANCHI FOR THE MARCH OF DIMES SPECTACULAR.

guests yet?" I asked. "We'll play it by ear as usual," she advised. "It depends on who's lost or lonesome or away from home. One seder night will be theirs; the other will be ours for the family."

For their lonely guests, the Murrays will consider lonesome actors and widows or widowers, pro or non-pro. "Very often they're not of the Jewish faith," said Toni. "They want to come on so much. They're anxious to know what's going on, the full meaning of what we're doing - the ceremony, the songs and stories, the games and pranks, the good food and drink, the matzos. We find these persons by looking into their eyes. When they're lonesome, they transmit give-away signs."

The Murrays are forever intrigued by Jews who weren't raised in an orthodox family or who lived in areas where the seder was seldom celebrated. "most are afraid that it's a deeply religious thing," said Toni, "and, mind you, these are truly Jewish couples. Once they attend, they find complete satisfaction, which opens a whole new life that was really their birthright and had been waiting for acceptance."

This year, the Murrays plan to invite the popular newspaper couple Doris and James Bacon. "Imagine the gag becomes a bit tricky with Lebanon and Israel arching their backs at each

other. actually have Bacon at the table, forgive us our trayfa and hamatz sins."

The Murraray children will attend this year's seder: Diane, 14; Howard, 16; and Cecilia, 18. Only one hitch may upset the family seder. Howard, who is a member of the mini-singers at Beverly Hills High, has a reciprocal deal with Hawaiian children which may take him to the Islands on a songfest exchange.

Jan's son, Warren, 26, from his first marriage, will also be on hand. He's a high school teacher and also writes for television. Warren's son, Ian, will be the youngest at the seder. "Ian, explained Toni, "comes from Itzik."

Toni recalled last year's seder guests: Sid Caesar, Jack Carter, Hal March and producers, Marty Rackin, Dick Rush and Lou Horwitz. When Jan filled Elijah's glass and asked someone to open the door, there stood Jackie Gleason, Groucho Marx and Jack Haley but not a sign of the prophet.

The previous year, Danny Thomas joined the Murray seder and whenever the reading related that the Egyptians were getting the worst of it, Jan rubbed it in by making Danny, a Lebanese, read the passage. This year, of course, if Danny attends, the gag becomes a bit tricky with Lebanon and Israel arching their backs at each

other. During a recent Joey Bishop show, Danny and Joey shook their heads in anguish over the Mid-East situation and fervently prayed that cooler heads would prevail in both nations.

This year, the Murrays have invited Charlton Heston, hoping that Moses can instruct them once again how to smit the Egyptians.

Toni said that Sherry and Buddy Hackett are probably the only Jewish family among entertainers who keeps a strictly kosher house. "I once tried to help Sherry with the dishes," said Toni, "but she almost had an attack. She was afraid I'd mix her milchadicha with the flayshadicha dishes."

Of Toni, who employed many Yiddish expressions, like offshtellbetel (a foldaway bed) during our conversation, Jan frequently has said, "She's runing me in my business. She's too Jewish."

In closing, Toni said, "Thank God, one of the things in our lives that remains constant is the seder. As always, last year's seder was a loving, happy thing. We're happy that all of our family kenahora (there she goes again), will be together again. Our son, Howard, who so wants the world-good for everyone, has gone overboard. He's doing it peacefully and lovingly. Visualize, if you can, the skinniest.

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