

# Nonagenarian

By Samuel Silver

You'd never know that Bernard G. Richards is 90 years old.

He goes to his office on W. 57th Street in New York every day, and often he does his own marketing. He's a widower.

The twinkle in Mr. Richard's eye is a sign that he is one of our nation's finest satirists. He wrote literary jabs at our follies for the Boston Post over fifty years ago.

When Mr. Richard's eyes gleam it is because he has just furnished data about Judaism to someone who has come to him as the director of the Jewish Information Bureau, or because he is recalling events in his long and fruitful life.

Mr. Richards has much to recall. He can remember summoning American Jewry to form the American Jewish Congress where he served as executive director and brain trust to the late Rabbi Stephen Wise for years.

He remembers the hectic and significant role of a Jewish delegation at the peace conference after World War I at Versailles, France. He helped in the policies and phraseology created by that group.

Mr. Richards can reminisce about the time when the Jewish community of New York tried to create an overall council under the leadership of Rabbi Judah Magnes.

On the inside of the Zionist movement, Richards knew every big name associated with Jewish life in the past, and every big name in Jewish life today loves and cherishes the keen mind and sparkling soul of this indefatigable nonagenarian.

Born in a little Lithuanian town of Keldan, Richards created a Jewish character named Keldansky through whom he offered acid comments on our vagaries as Jews in America.

But essentially Bernie Richards is a sweet personage, to whom we are all immeasurably indebted. Biz a hundert un tvantzig!

## Rabbi H. Goren Perelmutter

by Dr. Samuel Silver

Ever hear of Rabbi H. Goren Perelmutter?

Related to the bridge expert, Goren, Rabbi Perelmutter is one of three brothers who delighted their Canadian mother by becoming rabbis. There's another rabbinical trio named Siegel who brought nachas to their Baltimore

family.

But to go back to Rabbi Perelmutter; he's the spiritual guide of Temple Isaiah Israel in Chicago. Among other talents, Rabbi Perelmutter has the knack of excellent writing. He comes up with the freshest language. For example, herewith is an example of the vivid language in the explanation of the minor holiday of Lag B'omer. (You might clip this and re-read it next year when this festivalette recurs):

Ever hear of Lag B'omer?

It is neither a body of water nor does it have anything to do with falling behind.

It is a minor but lovable notch on the Jewish religious calendar. I say notch advisedly, because it has to do with counting. "Lag" is a word formed by the combination of two Hebrew letters whose numerical value is 33.

And it is the 33rd day of the "omer" that we here celebrate. Now even if it is Greek and has dropped its "aitch," this Omer has an Illiad and an Odyssey, Jewish style of its own.

For as Torah tells us, as often as it lists the series of primary Jewish festivals, between Passover the festival of Freedom, and Shvuos the festival of the Revelation of the Torah, you were to count fifty days.

This became known as the period of Sefira, or Counting, a counting that linked freedom with Torah, as though to suggest that the one without the other was meaningless.

In the course of Jewish history, it was during this period under the reign of Emperor Hadrian, that there was a terrible bloodletting of Jewish scholars, and on the 33rd day one great rabbinic scholar emerged from hiding to carry on the work of Torah.

This was a period, too, when ghetto children in the Middle Ages remembered the heroism of Bar Kochba. And they would go out into the fields with toy bows and arrows, to re-enact ancient heroisms.

I personally prefer the emphasis upon the scholar rather than the bow and arrow. Because, in a final analysis the latter has a kind of ultimate futility which tells us that the way of the scholar rooted in the Torah is the way we must ultimately follow to fulfillment.

But no matter. Let us not allow Lag B'omer to go unnoticed.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Egypt plans to spend \$563 million for defense in the 1970 fiscal year, a rise of 20 percent over military spending in the current budget.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- State Department sources said today that the Soviet-American bilateral talks on the Arab-Israeli conflict would not be resumed before next month.

BONN (WNS) -- Horst Ehmke, the new West German Minister of Justice, has declared he favors abolishing the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecution, a position taken by his predecessor, Gustav Heinemann, now President of the Federal Republic. Mr. Ehmke said he hoped the necessary legislation would be adopted before the statute takes effect at the end of the year.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE GARLIC STAY HOME**

WINE BEER

But... if you like the finest Italian food in all Las Vegas served in a fun-filled atmosphere Come dine at **BOMBARA'S GOURMET ROOM**

The view is breathtaking  
6320 E. Charleston Blvd.  
You Almost Touch Sunrise Mt.

DAILY 5 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

**RISTORANTE ITALIANO**  
Only By Reservations 737-9923  
Your Host Carlo Bombara  
BOMBARA'S SPECIAL HOUSE WINE PITCHER \$2.00

# Happy New Year

TO THE

## Jewish Community In Las Vegas



# WONDERWORLD

OPEN DAILY 10-9 SUNDAY 10-7

EVERYTHING FOR YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HOME AND YOUR CAR  
**DISCOUNT DEPT. STORES, FOOD MARKETS & AUTO CENTERS**

THREE STORES TO SERVE YOU

1501 DECATUR AT VEGAS DRIVE

3651 MARYLAND PKWY. AT TWAIN

3830 W. SAHARA AT SILVER DOLLAR