

Delaware

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

An underwear manufacturer, Louis Topkis was the No. 1 Jew in the small State of Delaware, one of those men who used his wealth and talents to serve the Jewish cause. Decades ago he was a friend of Chaim Weizmann and a typical parnass, who spoke for the Jewish people, even exerting influence on the DuPont family.

Delaware is a small state, but it has other Jewish claims to fame in addition to the splendid record of the Topkis family.

For example, who do you think is the chief justice of that state's Supreme Court? A Jew who enjoys his Jewishness: Daniel Hermann. And in Delaware the brilliant Irving Shapiro is a DuPont vice-chairman. And recently there died in Wilmington I. B. Finkelstein, a man for all seasons, who doubled as one of the leaders of the Jewish community and one of the most distinguished of civic leaders, a former president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Another outstanding Delaware Jew was the late Milton Katz, a DuPont official, whose benefactions (and those of his late wife) extend from Brandeis University, to the sanctuary of Wilmington's Reform temple, to an old age home in Wilmington, to a camp for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, etc., etc.

The former Attorney General of the state was H. Albert Young, who is also one of the leaders of American Conservative Judaism.

Perhaps you wonder why I offer you this catalogue, only a small one about "The First State" (Delaware was the first of the colonies to sign the Declaration of Independence).

Well, if you must know, I was born there and most of my family still lives there. It's a great state!

NYC SYNAGOGUE FIREBOMBED

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Mayor John V. Lindsay has ordered a full investigation into the firebombing of the 75 year-old Chevra Bachurim B'nei Ahavas Achim synagogue on the Lower East Side.

Rabbi Nison Alpert, spiritual leader of the synagogue, reported that the sanctuary has been totally destroyed and estimated damage at more than \$100,000.

This was the 16th incident of arson or major vandalism involving a Jewish house of worship on the Lower East Side during the

last two years, according to the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty and the United Jewish Council of the East Side. Jerome M. Becker, president of the coordinating council said his staff launched a private investigation and preliminary findings "would seem to point in the direction of a systematic plot to obliterate the last vestiges of (Jewish) communal life from the Lower East Side."

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