

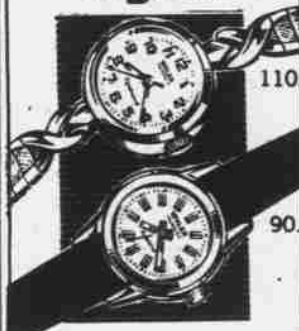
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Passover Feature

IN HONOR OF PASSOVER, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE ISRAELITES FROM EGYPTIAN BONDAGE, THE LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH A SERIES OF FEATURES. THIS YEAR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL IS INAUGURATED AT SUNDOWN ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, APR. 14 AND ENDS APR. 22-

First Seder in 50 Years

By Victor Perry

Beersheba - For most citizens of this city the coming Passover will be different than many others in the town's 28 years since it was liberated by Jewish forces in Israel's War of Liberation.

But not for Dimitri Zilber, temporary resident in the Jewish Agency hotel for oldsters here. For Dimitri, once called Motil, now known as Mordechai, this will be his first Seder in 50 years. "My last Seder was in Zhitomir, Poland, when I was 14 years old," he recalled. "I wasn't the youngest in the family then so I didn't recite the 'Ma Nishtana,' but I did manage to grab the Matza. "Yes, yes, the Afikoman," he recalls as someone reminds him of the proper terminology.

"Today, I don't even remember the Four Kashes (questions) except for the first four words," says Zilber as he excitedly proves his point by repeating them several times; ma nishtana halaila hazeh.

It was these four words which the solidly built, still vigorous Motil Zilber repeated over the years whenever Passover came around in his newly adopted city of Kiev, capitol of the Russian Ukraine, to where his family had moved. There was no chance to celebrate Pessach there, but like many Jews for whom the ember still burned, Dimitri-Motil ordered Matzah from a local non-

Jewish bakery a month in advance. On the appointed day he took his place in line and stood for four hours to get his portion.

"It wasn't enough," he recalls, "so during Passover we continued eating bread together with the little Matzah we managed to get."

Motil - Mordechai will have a proper Seder this Pessach - his first in 50 years - promises Mrs. Geniah Ben Yair, chief social worker with the aged in the Beersheba Municipality's Communal Activities Department and an alumnus of the first graduation class (1950) of the American Joint Distribution Committee's (JDC) Paul Baerwald school of Social Work in Paris. In fact none of this city's 4,000 aged will be alone on the Passover Seder night. New immigrant aged, like Mordechai Zilber (who arrived alone in Israel and has no relatives in the country) will have their Seder in the local Absorption Center operated by the Jewish Agency.

Most of the other aged, living independently, will join their families or neighbors. The rest are invited to Beersheba's modern Home For the Aged, where they will join the 80 residents there, many of them confined.

Thanks to such JDC assistance Beersheba's aged today are well taken care of, so that not only will none be alone on Passover, but they will also have plenty with which to occupy themselves during the rest of the year. In keeping with JDC's basic approach Beersheba is in the forefront in developing community services for the aged, designed to enable them to continue living in the community. These consist of such services as: "meals on wheels" whereby close to 100 elderly receive one hot meal a day delivered to their homes, three day centers, one for blind aged, where they enjoy a wide variety of activities and services including a hot meal; medical services, physiotherapy and domestic help brought to the home where needed. Beersheba is one of 10 model communities in Israel where this approach is being developed by Eshel, as a means of helping the aged to stay in the community as long as possible.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

AJC PLAN TO ATTRACT INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A new plan to attract American investments in Israel and increase exports to the United States was proposed by Elmer Winter, president of the American Jewish Committee.

Speaking during the AJCommittee's Board of Governors meeting here, the first ever held in Israel, Winter called for the establishment of 20 regional "task forces" throughout the U.S. to encourage investments in Israel on a purely business basis. Winter also noted that Israeli exports to the U.S. rarely went further than the Eastern seaboard, a situation that called for immediate remedies.

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