

TOWARDS THE PERFECT PINE TREE

JERUSALEM -- Scientists are at work in Israel creating a perfect pine tree one that will be fast-growing, tall and straight drought resistant and immune to common tree diseases. It will have a thick trunk and will produce industrial timber that can compete with the best European varieties.

Israeli forest researchers believe the day is fast approaching when pine trees planted by the Jewish National Fund will be raised from properly selected seeds and will be perfectly suited to Israel's dry climate and generally poor soil conditions. It would be a type of tree that could also do well

in the similar soil conditions of several Arab countries.

The break-through in developing this dream tree came several years ago when a strange disease struck large sections of the JNF's 30-year old pine forest along the road to Jerusalem at a section called Shaar Hagay.

"We have since identified the disease and the JNF took appropriate action to renew the damaged parts of the forests," says Dr. Rene Karschon, head of the research team of eight tree geneticists at the JNF's Forestry Division Experimental and Research Station at Ilanot.

EXECUTIVE PLEDGES \$1 MILLION TO WEST POINT JEWISH CHAPEL FUND



Marty Silverman, President, North American Corporation of New York, has pledged \$1 million to the West Point Jewish Chapel Fund building campaign, it was announced by Fund President, Herbert M. Ames.

This brings to nearly \$4 million the total raised thus far against the Fund's \$5.5 million goal.

In a statement acknowledging the Silverman pledge, Mr. Ames said, "We are most encouraged by

this dramatic development. Although we have received many major gifts in the past few months, this is the largest so far. It illustrates the tremendous, growing support of the Ameri-

can Jewish community for a permanent Jewish Chapel at the United States Military Academy. It also demonstrates great vision and a sense of history on the part of Mr. Silverman.

Silverman, a native of Troy, New York, is the son of a tailor who had emigrated from Poland. He worked his way through New York University, going on to graduate from Albany Law School in 1936. During World War II, he fought in the Infantry in Germany with Patton's Third Army. Starting as a Private, and winning battlefield promotions to the rank of Captain during the war, he retired from the Army as a Major.

When the war in

Europe ended, Silverman responded to a call for lawyers to help with the war crimes trials. Mr. Silverman volunteered and assisted in bringing to justice the German troops responsible for the infamous "Malmedy incident" in which an American Infantry unit was massacred after surrendering to the Germans.

After the war, he and his wife, Dorothy, started a business which has grown to be one of the largest private leasing companies in the United States. Although they have leased everything from

lifts to machine tools, most of their business is currently in computer-related equipment. Still a family business, North American Corporation, headquartered in New York City, now includes their two daughters, Carol and Joan, their son, Lorin, son-in-law, Ben, and daughter-in-law, Patty.

"A Jewish Chapel at West Point will be a national symbol of the patriotism and service to this country which Jews have demonstrated since the American revolution. It is a cause that is close to my heart," Silverman said.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The managing board of the Israel Broadcasting Authority ruled that the term "West Bank" will no longer be used in radio and television. It ordered instead that the term "Judaea and Samaria" be used to describe the territory, except in the context of a specific statement or quotation referring to the West Bank. A majority of the board felt the term "West Bank" had political connotations implying that the territory is part of Jordan.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A 34-year-old Syrian who flew into Israel by powered hang glider some eight months ago but made a forced landing after dropping a homemade bomb harmlessly was sentenced to 12 years in prison by a military court in Haifa.

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