

**OUR MAN
IN HAIFA**



CARL ALPERT

*Israel - The Land of
the Unusual
and Unexpected*

HAIFA -- They may not have made big headlines in Israel, and certainly were not considered worth reporting overseas, but human items in the news, like the following, help explain why this country is such an interesting place to live.

To End Soccer Violence. Unruly behavior of fans and players alike has now led to a proposal that soccer referees be women. The fans will not curse them and players will not strike them. And if the girls are pretty the whole atmosphere on the playing fields will change for the better.

Israel Operates on Canadian Money. The first 385 million new shekel coins put into circulation in Israel in the currency shift two years ago, were secretly manufactured in Canada, and

shipped to Israel in coded boxes to prevent any leak of the news.

Israel Philharmonic Goes to Jail. One of its most successful performances was played by Israel's top orchestra before 400 prisoners and wardens at Ma'Asiyahu Prison. Zubin Mehta conducted, wearing a prison shirt.

Another First. Many girls have earned their military insignia for successful parachute jumps, but 22-year-old Ronit Shoval of the Israel Defence Forces, is the first woman anywhere to qualify as skilled instructor to parachutists. Her pupils are all men.

Peace in the South. Say what you will about the slow rate of normalization in relations with Egypt, but the fact remains that all along the Israel - Egyptian border there is no fence, no barbed wire, no mine fields. Peace is a reality on the spot.

A Different Israel. A Japanese television crew came to Israel to make a film which would show the beautiful and the cultured Israel. It concentrated on education, to demonstrate how Israel raises its young people.

How the News is Made. This may explain some of the things you heard or read about Lebanon. Alex Berlyne, in The Jerusalem Post, tells of the Israel radio reporter in the north who was asked to check on weather conditions up on Mt. Hermon. He preferred to remain in his comfortable home in Metulla, but reported there were seven metres of snow on the peak. Next morning, Jerusalem asked him to do a follow-up on the story, so he set out for the mountain, only to be stopped by a policeman. "Nobody is allowed to go any further," he was told. "Didn't you listen to the radio. There's seven metres of snow up there."

Catty Evidence. It had been a bitter divorce trial in rabbinic court; husband and wife battled each other over every issue. Everything was finally decided except who should get custody of the beautiful Siamese cat. Neither party would yield. The cat was brought into court, looked around curiously, and then sprang into the arms of the wife. The file was closed.

Art for More than Art's Sake. Little did the two men know whom they were attacking in Jerusalem. The girl, a professional artist, had a good long look at them, and then presented the

police with sketches of her assailants, so faithfully executed, that they were quickly apprehended.

Kibbutz is Big Business. Things are no longer the same down on the farm. Israel's stock exchange has received application from kibbutz Tel Yitzhak to float a security issue to raise 85 million shekels capital for a plant it operates. They are not the first. Kibbutz Mishmarot already has its company listed on the exchange.

It's O.K. for Hametz on Pesach, Isn't It? When it was proposed to prohibit all El Al flights on the Sabbath, someone seriously suggested that from Friday afternoon until Saturday evening, each week, ownership of the Israel national airline be temporarily sold to an Arab, so it could not be said that a Jewish line was flying on Shabbat.

Occupational Hazard. Knesset member Yigal Cohen has filed suit in a Haifa court, claiming damages suffered as a result of his occupation. Following what he says were several tense and exciting sessions of Knesset committees in which he participated with some excitement, he underwent a heart attack. He asks that this be recorded as an accident sustained during his employment (as a Knesset member) and he is therefore entitled to compensation from the National Insurance.

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WE SHOULD GO TO
THE FUNERAL HOME**



**BUT, I NEVER KNOW
WHAT TO SAY.**

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