

Minyonaire News

By Herbert Brown

At the crack of dawn, recently, a group of eighteen hardy and lucky Minyonaires, guests and friends assembled at the David Coblenz Chapel for a doughnuts and coffee klotch. This was not an executive board meeting or a prelude for a conference, it was rather a gathering for a bus ride to the latest excursion plotted by The Minyonaires -- A BUS TRIP TO DEATH VALLEY.

The beginning of this momentous escapade started out good, and the old adage that "WHAT STARTS OUT GOOD ENDS UP GOOD" held true, because we had a real ball. The weather was terrific, the bus driver knew the way, and the people were real swingers. Our first stop was in Beatty, there for a pit stop and also for anything for refreshments if the courageous Chai group desired. After this a couple of hours later we rode into east-central California to Furnace Creek.

The majestic scenery was breathtaking. The Panamint mountains standing west of the valley at 11,045 feet high brought on more beauty, if

that was possible, as we saw the milky white clouds laced through the peaks of the rugged range. It resembled a fine white tapestry mincing through the brown color of the mountains creating a breathtaking picture postcard that you would send home. Sheer beauty is very difficult to describe, you have to see this mountain range to appreciate it.

We arrived at Furnace Creek and while enjoying a delicious lunch it was hard to realize that in a few months Death Valley will have temperatures soaring up as high as 125F., and this is only average.

We took in the sights which goes back to pioneer days. There were wagons that our early American ancestors rode that were dated to 1837. There were log wagons with their extra large wheels, some filled in with concrete, to allow for extra weight of the logs. All of this with visualizing old prospectors who discovered copper, gold, lead, and silver in the nearby rugged mountains. Mining towns that sprung up around Death Valley with such colorful names as Bullfrog, Greenwater, Rhyolite, and Skidoo. The towns died when the ores were exhausted. Today only cluttered remains are its ghostly past. If any of you are so young to remember the 20 Mule Team Borax television program, you'd be interested to know you have a lot of company -- all of the Chai group remembered it.

Such was the beautiful day the Minyonaires spent at Death Valley. We intend to have many more -- I'll keep you posted. As Walter and Glenna Trahan from Providence, Rhode Island, said, "The tour was a pure delight, the company was great, and the scenery was breathtaking."

Shcharansky Reported Hospitalized

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The family of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky has been informed by Soviet officials that he has been hospitalized, but his wife, Avital, said the officials declined to give details of his illness.

Avital said she had spoken by telephone to her mother-in-law in Moscow and was told that she had recently met with a high Communist Party official "who said that Anatoly had been hospitalized, but the official refused to reveal his whereabouts or say what he was suffering from." Avital said that in Shcharansky's "last

letter he complained of poor health. We know he has had heart problems." The last letter was September 5. Avital added that "The fear is growing that perhaps something terrible has happened to him and the (Soviet) authorities are trying to cover it up."

Shcharansky is serving a 13-year jail sentence after being convicted in 1978 on charges of spying for the United States. Last November, Soviet authorities told his mother, Ida Milgram, that he had been transferred from a prison near Moscow to a labor camp in the Urals.

11TH Hour Reprieve Granted To ATA Textile Firm

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The giant ATA textile combine, in the hands of a government receiver for the past

several months, won an 11th hour reprieve from bankruptcy.

The Haifa district court which ordered ATA shut down at midnight December 31, postponed the deadline until February 3 after ATA's creditors agreed. The government meanwhile promised to allocate \$9 million to keep the textile plants in the Haifa Bay area operating for another 12 months.

Eilat Welcomes Ethiopian Jews

(Continued from page 1)

the townspeople.

The United Kibbutz Movement has joined in the absorption process to smooth the way for the Ethiopian Jews. Its affiliated kibbutzim will offer ulpanim to teach

Hebrew to the youngsters and pre-military service training. The kibbutz leadership has stressed that religious facilities will be provided for these people whose traditions and religion are tightly linked to their way of life and Jewish identity.

Even so, Uri Gordon, a Labor Party member of the Jewish Agency Executive and head of Youth Aliya, has expressed concern that the cultural shock the

Ethiopians will experience in Israel is sufficiently traumatic without their being exposed immediately to the essentially open and secular society of the kibbutzim.

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