

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Lender's Bagels Invites Town To Breakfast

NEW YORK (JTA) — The calm ambience of Mattoon, a central Illinois community of about 19,000 people, apparently is wholly back to normal following a brief disturbance one morning last July.

Kraft Inc. celebrated the opening at its Mattoon factory of a Lender's Bagel Bakery Inc. line by inviting the entire town to a five-block-long bagel breakfast in the middle of the main street. Half the town showed up to eat 21,000 bagels and other Kraft products. The bagels were not toasted.

The 5,450-sq.-ft. bagel factory employs about 100 people. When fully operational in two years, it will produce about two million bagels daily. Annual bagel sales in the U.S. have almost doubled in four years to \$350 million.

Curbing Traffic Accidents In Israel

NEW YORK (JTA) — A new system of computerized infra-red traffic monitors developed at the Jerusalem College of Technology (JCT) is expected to drastically improve Israel's horrendous record of highway accident fatalities, which is one of the highest per capita in the world.

The device known as "black boxes," is presently being tested in Israel and shows great promise of rapidly curbing dangerous driving habits. It consists of an electro-optic traffic monitor with a built-in

video camera designed by a JCT team.

The devices are mounted between pairs of 20-foot-high pylons on each side of the highway. The monitors provide computerized photographic print-outs of every vehicle using the highways. The print-out records the speed of the vehicle and the distance between it and the vehicle immediately ahead.

This enables police to record speeding and tail-gating violations, two of the principle causes of highway accidents. According to the police, the system is more accurate and flexible than radar monitoring.

Since the State of Israel was founded in 1948, some 14,500 persons have been killed in road accidents and 185,000 injured. This is significantly higher per kilometer traveled than in most developed countries. More Israelis have been killed or injured on highways than in all of the country's wars since 1984.

Congress Recognizes Gaucher's Disease

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Congress adopted a joint resolution that declared the week of Oct. 19 National Gaucher's Disease Awareness Week. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) and Rep. Lawrence Smith (D. Fla.) to help bring public attention to the little known, but devastating genetic disorder.

Gaucher's Disease afflicts approximately 20,000 persons in the U.S. and is most

prevalent among Jews of East European origin. The disease is even more prevalent among Jews than the better known Tay-Sachs Disease.

Sweden Rejects Political Asylum

STOCKHOLM (JTA) — The Swedish government has rejected a request for political asylum made by Karl Linnas, the former chief of the Nazi concentration camp at Tartu, Estonia, who is facing deportation from the U.S.

Georg Andersson, Sweden's Minister of Immigration, in disclosing his government's decision stated that "war crimes cannot be compared to any other kind of criminal activity." Andersson declared that the Swedish government wanted it understood that "Sweden will not and cannot become a haven for war criminals."

ADL Wins Payment From LaRouche

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has received a check for \$1,178.86 from Lyndon LaRouche — a court-ordered payment to cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred by ADL during the political extremist's failed libel suit against the agency. The order to pay came from the Virginia District Court, which rejected LaRouche's claim that he was defamed when described as an "anti-Semite" and a "small-time Hitler" by an ADL official on the NBC-TV program "First Camera" in March 1984.

Tid-Bits

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel is rushing medical and other supplies to help the estimated 100,000 people affected by the earthquake in San Salvador.

JDC president Heinz Eppler announced that the JDC is making a contribution of \$10,000 of its own funds towards emergency relief for the victims of the disaster.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Efforts by the ultra-Orthodox community of Bnei Brak to segregate the sexes on public buses ran into a roadblock — the law.

The Transport Ministry and the Dan bus cooperative said there was no legal way to implement a ruling by two Bnei Brak rabbis that men and women not be permitted to sit side-by-side.

The rabbis decreed that men sit on the left, women on the right. If there are no aisle seats, women passengers would be required to sit in the rear to spare men the temptation of looking at them, if only at their backs.

VIENNA (JTA) — Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal was inducted into the French Legion of Honor. The presentation was made by the French Ambassador to Austria at a ceremony attended by the Israeli Ambassador.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About 200 Israelis living in South Africa returned to Israel over the past few months and a larger number is expected to return in the near future. About 15,000 Israelis live in South Africa and the Absorption Ministry has sent representatives to Cape Town

and Johannesburg to encourage them to return. Ministry officials said the yordim are motivated by the increasing violence in South Africa and better employment opportunities in Israel.

REGO PARK, N.Y. (JTA) — The Jewish Community Services of Long Island is in the midst of a four-pronged effort aimed at alcoholism education and identification among the Jewish population of Nassau County.

This is the first such program targeting the Jewish community here. An estimated 12,000 Jews, or five percent of the county's Jewish population, are alcoholics.

MONTEVIDEO (JTA) — The National Post Office has issued a special stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of B'nai B'rith of Uruguay. The stamp is in three colors with two menorahs in the center. Over 200,000 have been printed and are being sold all over the country.



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