

# Academy Children Visit the Zoo      Natural Resources of the Negev Are Being Developed



K & 1st graders arrive at Columbia, SC Zoo. With them are (L to R) Jerry Davidson, teacher Lynn Tarleton and Carol Waldman.



The children were fascinated with (upper left going clockwise) the flamingos, tigers, polar bears, elephants.



Even a teacher likes a "nosh". Ms. Tarleton enjoying ice cream cone.



All that walking makes you thirsty. (L to R) Hardar Etzioni, Ruth Meyers, Rebecca Spangenthal. Photos/Roger Meyers

The natural resources of the Negev are being harnessed. Scientists, researchers and agronomists have responded to the challenge of developing the region which comprises two-thirds of the State of Israel. They have developed techniques and agricultural practices that have been adopted in the world's most advanced countries as well as in developing nations. These techniques and practices have helped California farmers to optimize their high vegetable crops through drip irrigation and have aided Kenyans to adapt newly modified methods of run-off farming.

The Negev, with its natural assets of abundant solar radiation, warm temperatures, large tracts of land suitable for grazing, and the availability of brackish and saline water, potash, chloride, bromine and phosphates, has become a miniature laboratory in the conquest of the desert.

advanced agriculture — and in solar paneling to generate electrical energy. The Dead Sea, for example, has an estimated billion tons of recoverable chloride and bromine, enough for 3,000 years at the world's current rate of consumption.

Scientists are also experimenting with salt-tolerant crops that help desert farmers to irrigate with saline water sources below the surface of the Negev. Other research is exploring the development of a water carrier that would channel the Negev's underground water supply, thus utilizing about 300 million cubic meters of water annually. Off-season vegetables are a big industry in the Negev and there are experiments with tomatoes that will have a longer shelf life and with square tomatoes that can be boxed easier.

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Major enterprises and scientists at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, the Desert Meteorology Unit of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, and the Sde Boker Midrasha (college) are directing research efforts to finding ways by which the arid and semi-arid Negev, and all arid zones throughout the world, may be populated.

There is experimentation in agricultural chemicals, in commercial uses of potash, bromine and bromine compounds — raw materials required for the production of chemical fertilizers needed by

A joint project between the Department of Atmospheric Sciences of the Hebrew University and the Blaustein Institute has begun to experiment in cloud seeding. Another area of investigation is that of the microclimate of the desert, necessary for determining conditions for desert agriculture, human comfort and the siting of desert buildings. In order to promote the settlement of the Negev, the Jewish Agency's rural settlement department has prepared a five-year-plan to help develop agro-industry and the economic climate of the region.

## World Beat

Cont'd from page 4

views, reports of local Jewish activities and drama and music videos from Israel, debuted recently on Manhattan Cable Television, Channel J. Each program also devotes a segment to selling Israeli products and Judaica items.

The show is produced by Israeli-American Television of New York, a firm headed by Haim Scheininger and Yuval Silver. They said they welcome program suggestions. For information, call (212) 840-IATV.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The unleavened bread which links Passover and Easter as it symbolizes both the Jewish exodus from Egypt and the Last Supper took on a modern binding of the two religions.

Several truckloads of matzoh originally bound for Jews in the Soviet Union were instead distributed by a local church near the White House which feeds hundreds of people.

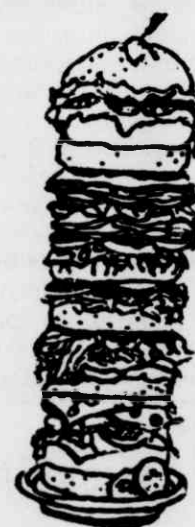
TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel interests section in Warsaw, the first Israeli diplomatic presence in Poland since that country broke relations with Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, opened officially.

ALBANY (JTA) — A university in the People's Republic of China will for the first time offer formal courses on Israel and Judaism this semester. Martin Edelman has been appointed a Visiting Professor in the Department of

International Politics at Beijing University. Edelman, who teaches in the Department of Political Science at State University of New York (SUNY) in Albany, will teach three courses in Beijing: Israeli politics, Jewry and Jewish culture, and a graduate seminar on American politics in the Middle East.

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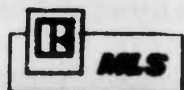
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