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THREE CENTS NEW YORK CITY

**ZIONISTS PROCLAIM NEW STATE OF ISRAEL;
TRUMAN RECOGNIZES IT AND HOPES FOR PEACE;
TEL AVIV IS BOMBED, EGYPT ORDERS INVASION**

When Dr. Theodor Herzl returned home after the First Zionist Congress, in 1897, he wrote in his diary: "At Basel, I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in fifty years, everyone will perceive it."

There was good reason for calling Herzl "the visionary of the Jewish State" for in the autumn of 1947, 50 years after having written this, the UN discussed the possibility of establishing a Jewish state in Eretz Israel; a few months later the Jewish state - Israel - rose. Herzl's Zionist plan, and that of the leaders that came after him, made the road to the establishment of Israel in May 1948 possible.

The Jewish National Fund was established at the Fifth Zionist Congress in Basel in order to create an organization to buy and develop land in Palestine for Jewish settlement. In the spring of 1903, JNF acquired its first parcel of land: 50 acres in Hadera. Over the past 50 years, JNF, as it came to be known, would purchase land throughout Palestine, land that would one day become the State of Israel.

At times, however, it appeared that the dream of a Jewish state was destined to remain an afterthought. However, on November 29, 1947 that dream became a reality when the UN Assembly passed the resolution for the partition of Palestine and the establishment of a Jewish and Arab states within its borders. By midnight on May 15, the British completed the evacuation of Palestine. Eight hours later, with thousands waiting in anticipation, Ben-Gurion convened a special meeting at Rothschild Boulevard in the Tel Aviv Museum, and read what is to be known as Israel's Independence Declaration:

"Accordingly, we, the members of the National Council representing the Jewish people in the Land of Israel and the Zionist Movement, have assembled on the day of the end of the British



Making Hadera green in 1935.

Mandate for Palestine and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, do hereby proclaim the creation of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel - the State of Israel."

All of the city's inhabitants poured in to the squares and started dancing in the streets. The excitement reached its zenith with a spontaneous singing of Hatikva. Hatikva, or "The Hope," symbolized more than anything the unrelenting promise that the people would never forget the undying Jewish hope for independence. Yet, despite the elation, the celebrations came abruptly to an end with the Arab invasion.

To many, the war seemed hopeless, as they wondered how the newly formed Jewish state, composed of 650,000 people, could compete with five Arab armies. However, fueled by the fear of defeat and of a new Holocaust, the Jews managed to counter every Arab challenge. By the summer of 1949 the war ended with an overwhelming Israeli victory. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), which was established only two and a half weeks after the founding of the State, soon after became a strong and formidable army. Large numbers of Jewish immigrants began pouring into Israel, and so by the end of 1949 there were one million Jews living in Israel - a figure that couldn't have been envisaged ten or fifteen years earlier.

By that point in time, JNF owned 12.5% of all the land of Israel (on which 80% of Israel's population now lives). With this

**This Month
in Israeli History**

January 5, 1985 - Beginning of Operation Moshe to bring Ethiopians Jews to Israel

January 16, 2003 - Ilan Ramon becomes the first Israeli Astronaut

January 18, 1991 - The Gulf War begins, first Iraqi missile hits Israel

January 28, 1910 - The first olive tree is planted by the Jewish National Fund

ownership came the responsibility of transforming the land into a beautiful and fertile area that would be a suitable home for the new state. It was no coincidence that the 15th of Shevat - Tu B'Shevat - the day which symbolizes the revival of nature, as highlighted by the flowering of the almond trees, and of the renewed ties between the Jewish people and its land - was chosen by various institutions as their inauguration day: The cornerstone of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was laid in 1918; The Technion in Haifa in 1952; and The Knesset - The Israeli Parliament - in 1949.

This year our community will be celebrating Tu B'Shevat by highlighting JNF's efforts to improve the quality of life for Israelis across a country, flowing with milk and honey, but very little water. This year as we celebrate Israel's 60th year of Independence, the children of the Charlotte Jewish community will learn the important lesson of water conservation and caring for the environment - lessons shared by their brothers and sisters in the land of Israel for more than a century. ☆

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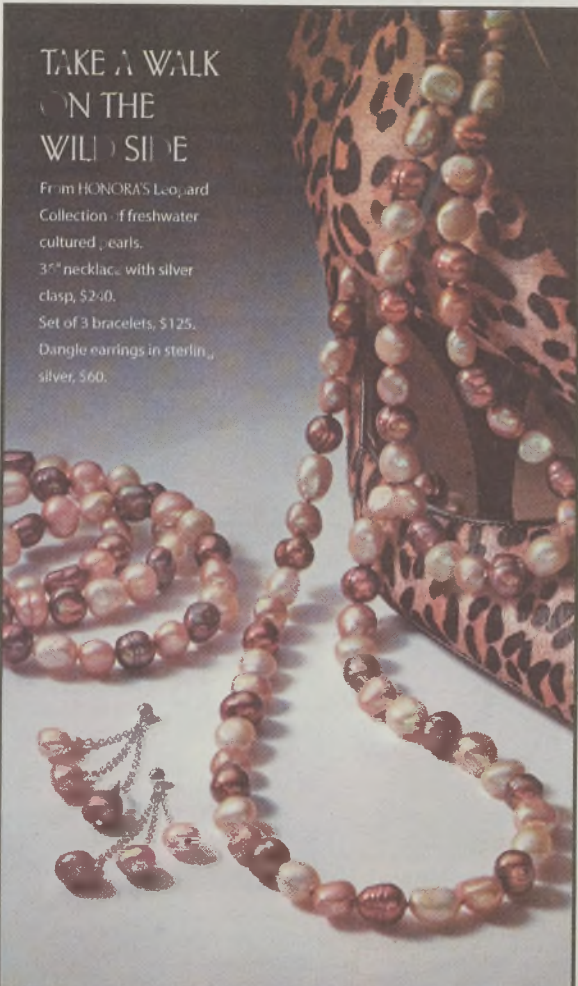
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Portable Aquatic Lift Helps Special Needs Swimmers Get Into the Pool

Getting in and out of the swimming pool is easy and something most of take for granted. But for those with disabilities, pool entry can be difficult and potentially hazardous. Because swimming is therapeutic for the disabled, Harry Swimmer wanted to make sure that our disabled members had easy access to the pool.

So Swimmer made the funds available to the aquatics department to purchase a Portable

Aquatic Lift that helps special needs swimmers into and out of the pool. This lift was custom made specifically for our facility and took over four months to build. The lift arrived in late October and is available for use at specific times. Please contact Aquatics Director Peter Perers for more information on use of the lift and availability, 704-944-6745. ☆



The new pool lift in action.