

THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

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Editorial

Frank Case: Missed Opportunity

(Reprinted from The Charlotte Observer, Jan. 2, 1984)

In refusing to reopen the case of Leo Frank, a Jewish pencil merchant who was lynched near Atlanta in 1915, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles has missed an important opportunity. The board might have proved to the world that the South has changed — that anti-Semitism and mob justice are no longer acceptable behavior.

Mr. Frank was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old worker in his downtown Atlanta pencil factory. Before the sentence could be carried out, a mob took him at gunpoint from a Milledgeville prison to Miss Phagan's hometown of Marietta, some 90 miles away, where they hanged him from an oak tree.

Recently an 84-year-old Atlantan — who had worked as a teenager at the factory — came forward to say he had seen another worker (now deceased) carrying Miss Phagan's body.

Three Jewish organizations, including the Atlanta Jewish Federation, petitioned the board to grant Mr. Frank a posthumous pardon. But the board turned them down, saying there was "no new evidence" to prove Mr. Frank was innocent.

That may be true, as far as it goes. But the board could have investigated further, based on the new testimony. That would have signified to Atlanta's growing Jewish population — and to all those who believe in equal justice — that the South's often bloody, bigoted past is truly behind it. Instead, the board's court response may leave some people wondering.

Editors' note — For more on this see article below and read "A Little Girl Is Dead" by Harry Golden.

Man Lynched In Atlanta

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Leo Frank, a Jewish pencil merchant whose lynching in 1915 helped spark the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan, was denied a posthumous pardon Thursday for the slaying of a teenage girl.

Three Jewish organizations had petitioned the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles for the pardon, arguing that new testimony indicated Frank may not have been guilty of murdering 13-year-old Mary Phagan in 1913.

In order for a pardon to be granted, "the innocence of the subject must be shown conclusively," the board said. "In the board's opinion, this was not shown."

Dr. Marvin Goldstein, president of the Atlanta Jewish Federation, said his group was

"shocked" and "taken aback."

Frank was convicted and sentenced to death for the April 26, 1913, murder of Phagan, who worked in his downtown Atlanta pencil factory.

In 1915, a mob took Frank from a Milledgeville prison at gunpoint. They drove him 90 miles and hanged him in an oak tree near Phagan's home in Marietta.

Alonzo Mann, who was a 14-year-old office boy working the factory when Phagan was slain, offered new testimony in the case. Mann said he saw Jim Conley, who swept floors at the factory, carrying the girl's body. Conley died in 1962.

The board said the testimony by Mann, 84, added "no new evidence to the case."

Candlelighting



Feb. 3 - 5:35 p.m.
 Feb. 10 - 5:42 p.m.
 Feb. 17 - 5:49 p.m.
 Feb. 24 - 5:56 p.m.
 Mar. 2 - 6:02 p.m.

From The Desk of Marty Schneer —JCC Executive Director

1984 promises to be the year that the Jewish Community Center pulls together to fashion a vibrant active organization that reflects common hopes and dreams for our time, and for generations of Charlotte Jewry. It seems only fitting at this point to conceptualize and assess our plans for the future.

The life blood of our Center of course is our programs. We have begun to expand the scope of these programs as demonstrated by the winter schedule of classes and events. Together with a dedicated staff and lay committee support we have devoted ourselves to several key areas. We are committed this summer to providing a varied day camp program of the highest quality. Attracting mature competent staff (that may include an Israeli resource person) and furnishing state of the art recreational equipment and supplies will be a priority. We have agreed that a greater emphasis on sports and skills

development will help allure older boys and girls to camp.

As previously mentioned, providing family programming, including both a family life education series and several other regularly scheduled events, will be central to our goals for the year.

In the coming months we hope to play a greater role in coordinating and organizing community-wide culture events and holiday celebrations. Promoting and restructuring the Institute of Adult Jewish Studies signals our determination to enhance and increase the level of "Jewish" contents in all our programs.

Our adult social committee will take on greater significance as we seek to incorporate and welcome an influx of new members to the Center. The recent smashing success of our New Year's function and a growing sense of our role in bringing membership together socially has encouraged us to pursue plans for future events.



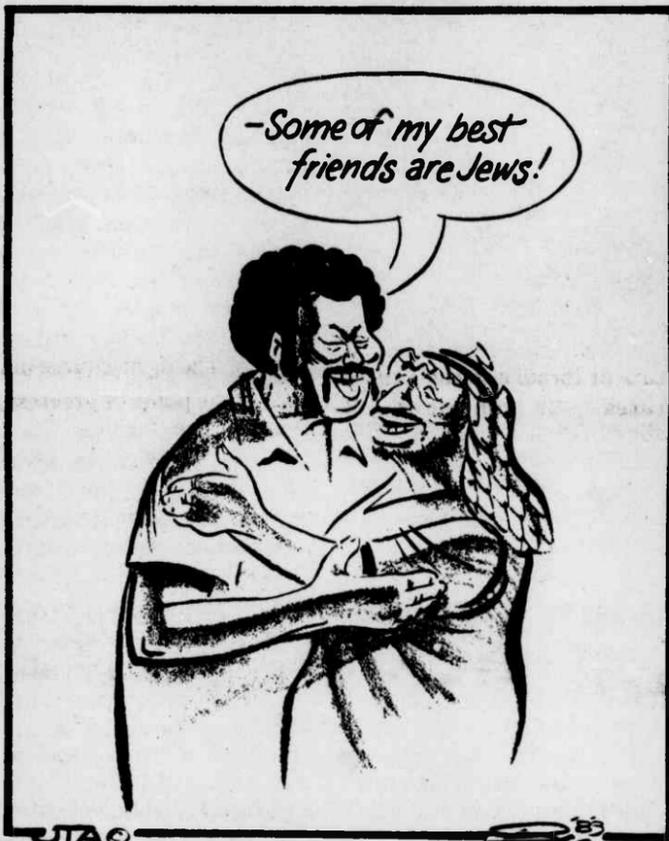
Marty Schneer

In addition, a new older adult committee has recently formed to raise the level and sophistication of our programs for seniors. Trips, special programs and other outings have already been instituted to diversify the group's experience. The issue of providing transportation for the recreational and basic needs (doctor visits, shopping, etc.) of senior adults continues to be a problem which should be addressed by all interested parties this year.

Leadership development and Board training have been designated as priorities for the incoming Board this Spring. As we speak of developing new programs and planning for the new facilities, we must simultaneously seek to make our internal structure more efficient and responsive to the membership. Anticipating astronomical increases in expenses, our Board has dedicated itself to creatively raise funds through special events and instituting new donor and patron membership categories.

Finally at the end of the year, after we've accomplished everything we set out to do, it will be time to launch a major membership and public relations campaign to recruit members for the new facilities.

We look forward to your joining us on this exciting journey and as always we encourage hearing your perceptions on our agenda for 1984.



When Salami Was 29¢ lb. And Corned Beef Was 79¢

OMAHA — A what it was like in prices in the good old days piece in The Jewish Press here had kosher salami in 1940 at 29 cents a pound and corned beef at 79 cents a pound.

WRITTEN BY Bert Lewis, a staff writer for the paper, it brought back memories to those who did shopping then.

Schmaltz herring could be bought at two large ones for 27 cents, and chickens, kosher ones, were 18 cents a pound, while for those who made their own gefilte fish — there was no other way — could buy carp at 8 cents a pound.

Continuing on other prices, she wrote:

KEEPING YOURSELF looking nice cost less then too. You could get four garments cleaned and pressed for \$1 (on special) and at the beauty shop a shampoo and "finger wave" was 50¢. Brandeis Department Store would sell a lady

new shoes for \$8.75 per pair and a man could buy an all wool coat at Kilpat's for \$35. A Stetson hat was \$5.

After you were all farpootzed, you might have taken a trip, by train of course. The Union Pacific Challenger to Los Angeles cost \$32.30 by coach...that included two meals the first day, calculated at 65¢, three meals the second day at 90¢, and breakfast on the third day at a quarter. That, with the \$30.50 ticket came to \$32.30.

THE BURLINGTON line offered a round trip coach to New York for \$45.20, but of course you have to include that expensive food! (Notice that an entire day's meals then would hardly buy one drink on an airplane today.) Yes, there were lots of bargains back then, including a 53 piece set of Noritake fine china on sale for \$13.95. And

a made to measure venetian blind for a window could run as low as \$2.95. But my favorite of all the ads I read in those Jewish Press pages was this one: the Leavenworth Bar and Liquor (proprietors Dan and Ralph Cohen) advertising what must have been some of the earliest take out food. A fried chicken dinner with salad, french fries and vegetable — 35¢.

AND THAT'S how it was, 43 years ago.

Our Apologies

In last month's issue the adult representative for the youth groups' brick project at the Foundation groundbreaking was misidentified. It was Larry Segal who spoke and then presented the check to the Foundation.