

Travel Talk

By Joel Goldman

Some Cities Age Well

London maintains its dignity and traditions. Chicago, brazen and can-do, nevertheless offers Mid-western friendliness and down-home cheer. And Hong Kong, as it was many decades ago, continues to be a splurge of sights and sounds infused with Oriental charm and mystique.

Other cities, however, pass through maturity having lost something special in the journey.

Los Angeles comes to mind when I think of an old friend not

having aged with the vintaged grace we might have wished for.

I knew Los Angeles in the mid-1940's, when orange trees grew on almost every street and snow-capped mountains were visible each and every day. Smog, freeways and crime were words for a generation yet to come to worry about. There was a beauty and leisurely pace to the City of Angels that has now passed into memory.

In those more tranquil times, the eastern part of L.A. was a refuge for European Jews who fled the horrors of war. Boyle Heights, an enclave in East Los Angeles, was a melting pot for Russian, Hungarian and Polish Jews.

Orthodox synagogues, kosher markets and Yiddish newsstands dotted the palm-tree lined streets. A special treat for newly arrived Jews was to catch the famous "Red Car," a street-car that stopped at

bustling Broadway in downtown L.A. before snaking its way to the beaches of Venice and Santa Monica.

No such scenes now exist. The city began its metamorphoses in the mid-1950's, when smog, traffic and crime dominated newspaper headlines.

East L.A. was caught in the change. European culture was replaced with Hispanic, and the Jews of Boyle Heights dispersed to Beverlywood, Beverly Hills and, of course, Fairfax Avenue.

Fairfax Avenue, located between Third Street and Melrose Avenue, approximately three miles east of Beverly Hills, features all aspects of Jewish life. For restaurants, there is the famous Canters' Deli. Name the Jewish dish, and it can be found on Canter's menu. (Be sure to see the mural depicting Jewish life in Los Angeles between the mid-19th century and the 1970's. It's painted on the wall of the building housing Canters.)

Other multi-ethnic restaurants beckon from both sides of Fairfax, and gift shops featuring Israeli artifacts entice both Los Angelenos and

tourists alike. Also, a wide selection of yarmulkes, taleysim and phylacteries can be purchased in



stores specializing in religious articles.

Happily, Fairfax is in close proximity to other tourist attractions. This is no small blessing to

those on a limited time schedule.

The famous La Brea Tar Pits are one block east of Wilshire Blvd. and Fairfax. The Tar Pits are a fascinating exhibit of pools of bubbling tar where pre-historic animals were trapped and died. Their remains are continually being unearthed, and these fossils are displayed in the Page Museum adjoining the pits.

Also nearby on Wilshire Blvd. is the Los Angeles County Museum of Arts. Classical, paintings, sculptures and - Pavilion of Japanese art are featured, with tours available daily. Phone (213) 626-6222 for schedules.

On 3rd Street and Fairfax, several blocks north of Wilshire Blvd., is situated the renowned Farmers Market. The market is a popular attraction for visitors from around the world.

Because of the size of Los Angeles and the numerous sights of interest to Jewish tourists, we cannot hope to cover the City of Angeles in one column. The next time I write, Travel Talk will look at more Jewish museums, famed temples and Jewish life in neighborhoods outside of the city proper.

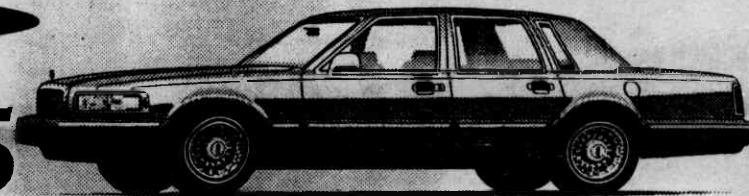
WELCOME TO THE TOP FLOOR IN LUXURY

1995 LINCOLN

Town Cars

WERE \$37,595

NOW
\$25,995



1994 LINCOLN

Mark VIII

WERE \$38,675

NOW
\$22,995



1994 LINCOLN

Continental

\$20,950



All Cars are Fully loaded • Low miles • Program vehicles

LINCOLN

What A Luxury Car Should Be

- The Lincoln Commitment
- 4 Years/ 50,000 miles bumper to bumper
- Service loaner
- Roadside service assistance
- Trip Planning Service
- Emergency Travel Expense Reimbursement

SAM JOHNSON
Lincoln Mercury
535-7810
5201 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD.
CHARLOTTE, NC

C5045381

SWIMMER INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Providing Personal

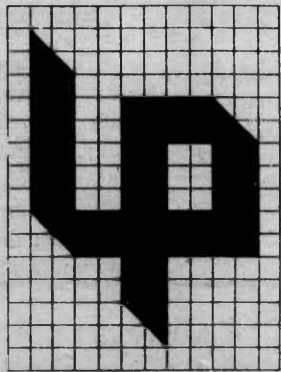
& Commercial

Insurance In Charlotte

for Over 42 Years

DAVID SWIMMER
CRAIG KATZMAN
HARRY SWIMMER
.....
BRUCE KANTOR
• LIFE & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

725 PROVIDENCE ROAD • CHARLOTTE, NC 28207
704/333-6694 • FAX 704/333-3864
WATS 800/438-4933



LEVINE PROPERTIES
Commercial • Industrial • Management

Greetings to all this Rosh Hashanah. Let the Shofar herald a coming year of peace and understanding for all mankind. May you have a New Year blessed with prosperity and health.

P.O. Box 2439 • Matthews, NC 28106 • 366-1981