

**MOLLY PICON AT JEWISH MUSICAL INSTITUTE**

Molly Picon, the famous Jewish artiste, attended on her last day in Johannesburg, a rehearsal of the Jewish Youth Orchestra of the Jewish Musical Institute. During their stay in Johannesburg both Molly Picon and her husband showed great interest in the work of the Institute.

The orchestra, conducted by the musical director, Mr. Solly Aronowsky, played a few Jewish items and Molly Picon expressed her surprise at finding such an excellent Jewish Youth Orchestra and added, that as far as she knew, there was no Jewish Youth Orchestra anywhere in the world, not even in the U.S.A., which fact she intended to broadcast.

**A Zionist Lecture Tour**

**By W. Rybko**

**LUSAKA**

Lusaka, the capital of Northern Rhodesia has now a population of more than 1,000 Europeans. It is divided into residential areas and trading and business areas.

But in 1913, when Mrs. Freda Glasser arrived there, it was a mere railway siding in a wild expanse of bush. There were neither people nor houses, "only trees, rocks and God", as Mrs. Freda Glasser, the oldest pioneer living in Lusaka, told me.

Mr. Henry Kollenberg, who now lives in Bulawayo, came to Lusaka with his father in 1907. They bought the only shop there from Mr. Rolnik,

greatest problem was to procure water. Every morning she sent two natives with a wash-tub to a distant pool, and every evening they returned with the tub from which the water had run out as they swung it, leaving a residue of a little lime water. Twice a week a train passed by the siding, and Mr. Glasser got two bottles of oily water from the engine. Their bread was sent up from a relative in Cape Town, and Mrs. Glasser became more and more despondent over her children's hunger and thirst. Eventually she decided to return to Lithuania and when she opened her luggage, which she had not even bothered

the railway line leading to Broken Hill came for the High Festivals to Lusaka because the Kollenbergs, father and son, were good chazonim. In 1914 they bought a Sefer Torah.



MRS. S. FISCHER

During World War I, Lusaka grew in numbers, new Jewish inhabitants also arriving. Lusaka district grew into an agricultural centre and Lusaka itself became a proper railway station.

Mr. Samuel Fischer, who came there in 1923, told me that on his arrival he found a hundred Europeans and a dairy, and the first bottle of milk and loaf of bread ever bought or sold from Livingstone to Broken Hill came from the bakery and dairy which she had opened with the sole intention of feeding her three children.

In 1914 Mr. Kollenberg built the first brick house and Mr. Glasser the second. By the time Abraham Glasser, the first white child born in Lusaka, arrived, Mrs. Glasser's brother, Mr. M. Ch. Bloch, had come to Lusaka. He knew shechita, and so Mrs. Glasser was able to eat meat again after years of being without it. She was worried about the education of her children, whom she did not want to send away to another town. Mr. Glasser pleaded with the District Commissioner for a school, which was opened by the government in a corrugated iron hut. The first teacher, who came from Johannesburg, brought her two children with her, and they joined the Glasser children at their lessons.

According to Mr. Kollenberg, the first minyan in Lusaka took place in 1910. Jews who were scattered along

But soon the position of the Jewish trader changed altogether. The Great East Road was opened and a great influx of British Indians to Northern Rhodesia began. The Jews of Lusaka as well as of other towns in Northern Rhodesia could not compete, and they had to sell out their shops and their goods to these Indians. To-day most of the native trading stores are in the hands of Indians, and only six families of the "old stock" remained in Lusaka.

But in the thirties a big wave of immigration from Germany reached Lusaka, and within the last eight to nine years a Jewish community has sprung up, which consists of 129 souls, of whom over 30 are children. There is a very fine synagogue, the foundation-stone being laid in 1941 by Mr. Henry Kollenberg. The first Jewish wedding was celebrated in 1942 by its first reverend, Mr. Metzger.

The present spiritual leader is a man of great distinction, Dr. Poswell. The Hebrew school has 17 pupils, taught by Dr. Poswell, who is also conducting a Hebrew class for adults.

There are in Lusaka 12 Jewish shopkeepers who serve the European trade, one jeweller, one tailor, one shoemaker, one hairdresser, one doctor, one solicitor, one dry-cleaner, one cinema operator, two electricians, two plumbers, one radio engineer, one dressmaker, two farmers, one brickfield-owner, one miller, one bookkeeper, one cinema-owner and five government officials.

The leaders of the Jewish community are Mr. S. Mendelsohn, president of the congregation; Mr. Julius Mohrer, vice-president; Mr. J. Monrer, chairman of the Zionist Society; Mrs. S. Fischer, chairman of the Lusaka Ladies' Guild; Mrs. J. Mohrer, treasurer and hon. secretary.

**The Oldest Residents of Lusaka**



MR. H. KOLLENBERG

and Mr. Kollenberg's wife was the first Jewish woman in Lusaka. By the time Mrs. Glasser arrived, Mrs. Kollenberg was away, and for a long time Mrs. Glasser was the only Jewish woman, and her family, consisting of her husband, three children and herself, was the first family settled in Lusaka.

She arrived in October, and her to unpack, she found her clothes eaten up by white ants.



MRS. FREDA GLASSER

But somehow she stayed on, and soon a few farmers settled near Lusaka. Mrs. Glasser opened a bakery and a dairy, and the first bottle of milk and loaf of bread ever bought or sold from Livingstone to Broken Hill came from the bakery and dairy which she had opened with the sole intention of feeding her three children.

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