

Headliners . . .

★ Conductor From Hollywood
★ A President At First S.A.
Zionist Conference



JAN RUBINI

AMID a welter of stage drapes and house-cleaners, portly Hollywood showman Jan Rubini rehearsed his orchestra for film star Donald O'Connor's welcome. Reared on the dictum "the show goes on," Rubini led volunteers as the trumpet player folded up with stomachache. Jovial-faced drummer Clarrice Benson filled the breach by producing a musical friend.

Becked with diamonds, Rubini waved his out-size baton and the rehearsal proceeded. Johnny "Lights" belched columns of smoke across the screen as the players roared and blew through the bars of Tschai-kow-sky's 1812 Overture. Cannons boomed off-stage. The African singers grinned their approval and mopped his brow. The show was ready to go on.

In his back-stage dressing-room conductor Rubini lines the walls with pictures of his cinema star wife, Perry Walker, and children, Michel and David. Alongside are pictures of Hollywood producers and stars with whom Rubini has worked. Among these figure Ty Power, director Gregory Ratoff, Adolphe Menjou and Lionel Barrymore.

Jan Rubini is no stranger to Johannesburg. At the start of the almost-forgotten 1914 war the Rubini children's trio (two sisters and Jan),

clad in velvet and ruffles, toured the concert halls of South Africa.

Adventure dear to a child's heart dogged them on the return voyage. Pursued and captured by a German man-o'-war, the ship's radio flashed its S.O.S. across the oceans. The radio was silenced. Faintly the distress call echoed in the control room of a British battleship. The race was on. The German ship ran for home. The Rubini trio reached the shores of England in safety.

In addition to memories of enthusiastic Johannesburg audiences, Jan Rubini hopes to include in his scrapbook actuality pictures of animals in the Kruger National Park.



MRS. MARIE GERSTLE

BORN and cradled in Lancashire, Mrs. Marie Gerstle, back on a visit to Johannesburg, first pioneered her way round the streets of Johannesburg at the turn of the century. Following in the wake of a pioneering father, Mrs. Gerstle and five merry sisters braved the hazards of the Rand to see history made.

With a surcharge of politics abroad on the eve of the Anglo-Boer War, in the spring of 1899 the Jews of Johannesburg gathered for their first Zionist meeting.

Billed to appear at the commemoration concert, Mrs. Gerstle and her fellow performers prepared to welcome as guest of honour the venerated President F. W. Reitz. "We waited for hours," reminisced Mrs. Gerstle, "and still the President didn't show up. In despair the M.C. ordered the show on. I had finished my song and was succeeded by a lanky, "very British," Miss McLoughlin, playing a violin solo. Half-way through her performance, President Reitz appeared. In a burst of frenzied

patriotism Miss McLoughlin struck up the strains of "God Save the Queen." Pandemonium reigned. There were boos and there was cheering. Undeterred, the President took his place.

At the conclusion of her "solo," President Reitz rose with dignity, apologised for interrupting Miss McLoughlin's performance and asked her to oblige him by repeating her solo. Miss McLoughlin founced on to the platform, bowed and promptly burst forth once again into the strains of "God Save the Queen"!

Excitement there was in plenty. Top-hatted, Calvinist Oom Paul dominated the scene at the war's end. Of the opening of the Great Synagogue Mrs. Gerstle, singing in the choir at the time, confirms the story of the President's famous dedication. This is her memory of his words: "There was silence in the impressive body of the building. It was a moment of great achievement. President Kruger rose to speak the solemn benediction. We could hardly believe our ears as he rolled out the phrase. 'In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I declare this synagogue open.'"

Palestine and the Red Cross are Mrs. Gerstle's chief interests in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles. "American Jews collected between eight and ten million dollars last year. That takes some doing."

—MOLLY STEIN.

Bulawayo Branch of U.J.W.

A branch of the Union of Jewish Women was recently formed in Bulawayo following a visit by Miss Sally Kussel, organising secretary for the Union.

The following executive was elected under the chairmanship of Mrs. C. I. Jacobs: Mrs. L. J. Schur and Mrs. Merber, vice-chairmen; Mrs. H. Leavis, hon. secretary, and Mrs. Benyaishai, hon. treasurer. A strong committee of ten ladies was also elected.

Mr. Max Spitz on Way to Tel Aviv

According to a cable, dated Geneva, the 30th July, Mr. Max J. Spitz, National Chairman of the South African Jewish Appeal and vice-President of the Israeli United Appeal, left for Tel Aviv in connection with the work of the organisations with which he is associated.

MR. HERBER LEAVES FOR OVERSEAS



MR. H. HERBER

MR. H. HERBER left by air on Monday evening on a six-week's business trip to England and the continent. He is accompanied by Mrs. Herber.

Mr. Herber is the chairman of the Johannesburg committee of the Israeli United Appeal. In an interview with a representative of the "Zionist Record" just before his departure, he expressed regret that he had to give up working for the campaign for a while and said that he was looking forward to resuming the work on his return.

Johannesburg had made a fine start and the campaign was progressing satisfactorily. He had a very good committee and he felt sure that they would continue with their task and reach the target set for the city.

"It is quite unnecessary for me," stated Mr. Herber, "to stress the urgency of the United Israeli Appeal. I know full well that South African Jewry will respond with their customary generosity and that the workers will rally to the cause with the utmost devotion."

W.Z.L. Study Circle

The Johannesburg Women's Zionist League Study Circle will resume its activities from Tuesday, August 10, at the Coronation Hall, at 10 a.m.

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