

Welt stories) and had been asked then I could justify presenting to develop them into full-length mystery novels. I had refused. I thought the full-length detective novel a phoney. There's a murder in the first chapter, a solution in the last and padding in the middle to keep it going. It's artistically false. But if I could introduce a murder into my Jewish community,

the secular, legalistic tradition of the rabbinate. I could write a true and proper full-length mystery novel which would be artistically legitimate. And I did. And that's how the series started. "After the second book, Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry, we—the publishers and myself—re-

ceived letters from all over the world suggesting titles. They were far better than mine. Monday the Rabbi Smoked Pot for instance. But they meant something. They were clues, whereas my titles are meaningless. A rabbi can sleep late on Friday if he wants. After Thursday? Well I'm not limited to days of the week. There are other days in the year—May Day, Columbus Day, Independence Day and so on.

Barnard's Crossing in the novels is modelled on Marblehead, New England, where the Kemelmans live. Is Rabbi Small based on a loyal minister? "No," said Harry Kemelman dryly, "though to my knowledge no less than four rabbis in the area have confided to their closest associates that they were the original. He's become the ideal I suppose. They all like to think of themselves as David small."

"If you think about it, however, he must be a fictional character. No congregation would tolerate him."

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Freedom of Conscience
 The Meaning of **PASSOVER 5735**

- The world today hears much of the struggle for Freedom of Conscience... for the right to worship as they choose... for the right to freedom of self-expression, equally as vital as freedom from want.
- Deep in the vintage of history still glimmers the heroic moment when such gropings towards the ideal of a Free Conscience first stirred the hearts and minds of a small group of oppressed slaves of the mighty empire of History. When the Jewish people sought to obey their historic imperative and return to the Land of their fathers... they sought to break the bonds of spiritual and physical serfdom.
- Emblazoned on the shield of Judaism down through the ages... and in the hearts of all right-thinking men down through the ages, whether of her two great daughter-faiths, or of others... is this identical motif of freedom... the sole issue that yet remains to be resolved in a world still in the grip of a vast, tense, armistice.
- We rejoice with the Jewish community on the occasion of this inspiring festival, and express with them the hope that it may usher in an era of relaxed tensions, and of ultimate and lasting brotherhood between all men.

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New Fuel Hope?
 Recent discoveries in the Negev desert near Arad indicate that almost four times as much oil-bearing rock (shale) exists near the surface than previously estimated. This amounts to an energy reserve which could generate almost two-thirds of Israel's present electricity requirements, according to Prof. Yehoshua Schachter, a specialist in petroleum research, who is in charge of Bar-Ilan University's science-based industries program to develop practical applications for scientific research conducted by the University's academic staff. Since the latest estimates (as yet incomplete) indicate that at least 700 million tons of shale exist near Arad, this would be enough to extract some 50 million tons of oil, or about seven years' supply, at Israel's present rate of consumption. But Professor Schachter has recommended to the Government that this reserve of energy can be used much better for generating electric power rather than for producing oil which is a comparatively expensive process and wastes about half of the energy of the shale. On the basis of the Bar-Ilan Professor's estimates and guidelines, the Government recently contracted with an independent engineering firm to investigate possibilities for early implementation of his proposal. Professor Schachter's main recommendation is to burn the shale directly as fuel for generating electricity, using a special technique he has helped develop. Such

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