

# BARNEY GLAZER

IN HOLLYWOOD



### CONCLUDING INSTALLMENT

Interview with Dr. Bernard V. Dryer, author of the best seller novel, "The Torch Bearers."

The first installment last week told how the 50-year-old Cleveland physician-author practically locked himself up seven days a week for four years to complete his novel, "The Torch Bearers" (Simon & Schuster). Author of two previous best sellers, "Fort Afrique" and "The Image Makers," Dr. Dryer maintained limited medical contacts while writing his book, which carries an Israeli thread through its story.

Now read ahead for the concluding installment of Barney Glazer's interview in Los Angeles with Dr. Dryer.

Dr. Dryer established his willingness to be frank and straightforward on the whole subject of abortions and birth control, but hastened to assure that, although he covers the subject in his book, he has written a novel, not a crusading editorial.

Away from his book, he discusses the subject freely. "I think that most of our present laws are only one step ahead of medieval times. If five million American women become pregnant every year and one million of them terminate their pregnancies, I think we have a recognizable social problem.

"It is my personal opinion that only the woman, and not the law, should determine freely, and I emphasize freely, when she wants to terminate the pregnancy. I don't think the State should intervene between a man and woman to decide how human production should be handled. The situation should not be limited to medical reason.

"Although three States — California, North Carolina and Colorado — have liberalized their laws to permit abortions because of rape, incest and communicable diseases, such as German measles which harm the growing fetus, it took Great Britain at the end of 1967 to pass a liberalized law with the fourth important reason, the most important of all, the social or economic reason.

"A woman says, 'I have six children. My husband deserted me. We're living on 80 cents a day. I'm pregnant again. I simply cannot feed or clothe this child that's coming along. I'm exhausted.'

That, said Dr. Dryer, constitutes a valid reason for abortion. He also included late-marriage children, if the medical board decides it classifies as social or economic.

In 1963-64, the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem invited Dr. Dryer to establish temporarily there and repeat his American study of postgraduate medical education for the benefit of Israeli medicine. He accepted taking his family along, but refused any salary.

"It was very hard work," recalled Dr. Dryer. "I applied myself 18 hours a day, seven days a week for about a month and a half."

His assignment completed, Dr. Dryer received a medal, which he prized more than any liberal sum of money.

The physician-author's deceased uncle, Harry Dryer, spent a lifetime as a fund raiser for the Zionist movement. "Israel named an entire forest after him," said Dr. Dryer, "but I doubt that its full impact ever registered with our family.

"During our stay in Israel, Esther and I and the children passed a stone marker on the road between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It read 'Harry Dryer' and suddenly it all became very real.

Standing here in the midst of this thrilling young nation, we realized that the planting of trees was no longer an abstract idea. This was no longer a faraway country. Nor was it a vague bare and rocky country, desperate for water and meticulous with its resources.

"To Esther and me, suddenly all of our remembrances added up about dedicated workers who, for more than 50 years, collected nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars; who walked in and out of stores, practically begging for money for the homeland. There, standing in the middle of it all, we saw a dream come alive."

While in Israel, Dr. Dryer argued strongly for wider use of educational television. "If a patient has hay fever and you mention golden rod," he said, "the patient sneezes and coughs. Whenever I mentioned television in Israel, the officials sneezed and coughed. They associated TV with the vulgarity of American commercials."

Arguing that the medium offered tremendous potential in Israel for education and the professions, Dr. Dryer pointed out that in the morning and afternoon it could reach school children. In the evening, it could reach engineers, nurses, scientists, physicians, technicians — all who

needed to be brought up to date in their respective fields. "Nowadays," said Dr. Dryer, "a man's professional degree begins to rust after five years. Television is not only the means to bring information to the masses but it is also an efficient way for the professional to learn what's happening at the time."

Asked if he had any motion picture star in mind to play his main character, when the movie is made, Dr. Dryer said he thought that Marcello Mastroianni would be perfect for the Cuban refugee surgeon living in Puerto Rico and active in Caribbean and South American politics. He said that Mastroianni is now reading the book and has the perfect accent for the role.

He also thought that Anthony Quinn or Gregory Peck could handle the part with conviction.

This is Dr. Bernard V. Dryer, active in Cleveland's Jewish community, author of three best sellers and a distinguished physician-surgeon, truly a man of the hour.

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# "PEARLS" from Harry Golden

James Baldwin, the novelist, says Negro off his back. to the white man; "I don't want to marry your sister, I want you to get off my back."

The tragedy of enforced racial segregation in the South is that the white man needs to get the

therner did not furnish adequate education for his own children because he feared he would have to establish, at least nominally, "equal" educational facilities for the Negro. What a pity!

A Southern culture, the inheritors of the Anglo-Calvinist civilization which gave us habeas corpus, trial by jury, and the free public school, has devoted the best part of the past ten years, not to intellectual advancement, nor even to concern over Vietnam, but to the determination to keep Negro children out of public school and to prevent a Negro dentist and his wife from eating chop suey in the uptown Chinese

restaurant. Amazing, isn't it? Unfortunately it is impossible for even the best reporter to discuss this amazing phenomenon after a two-or three-day visit to a Southern city. It is not an easy matter, for instance, to know why Negroes have to fight for every mile of the Southern terrain; that after "winning" in one sector they face a fearful barricade a few miles up the road.

Take the cities of Winston-Salem and Greensboro in my own state of North Carolina. Winston-Salem had had no trouble; the city desegregated its facilities completely. But a few miles away in the city of

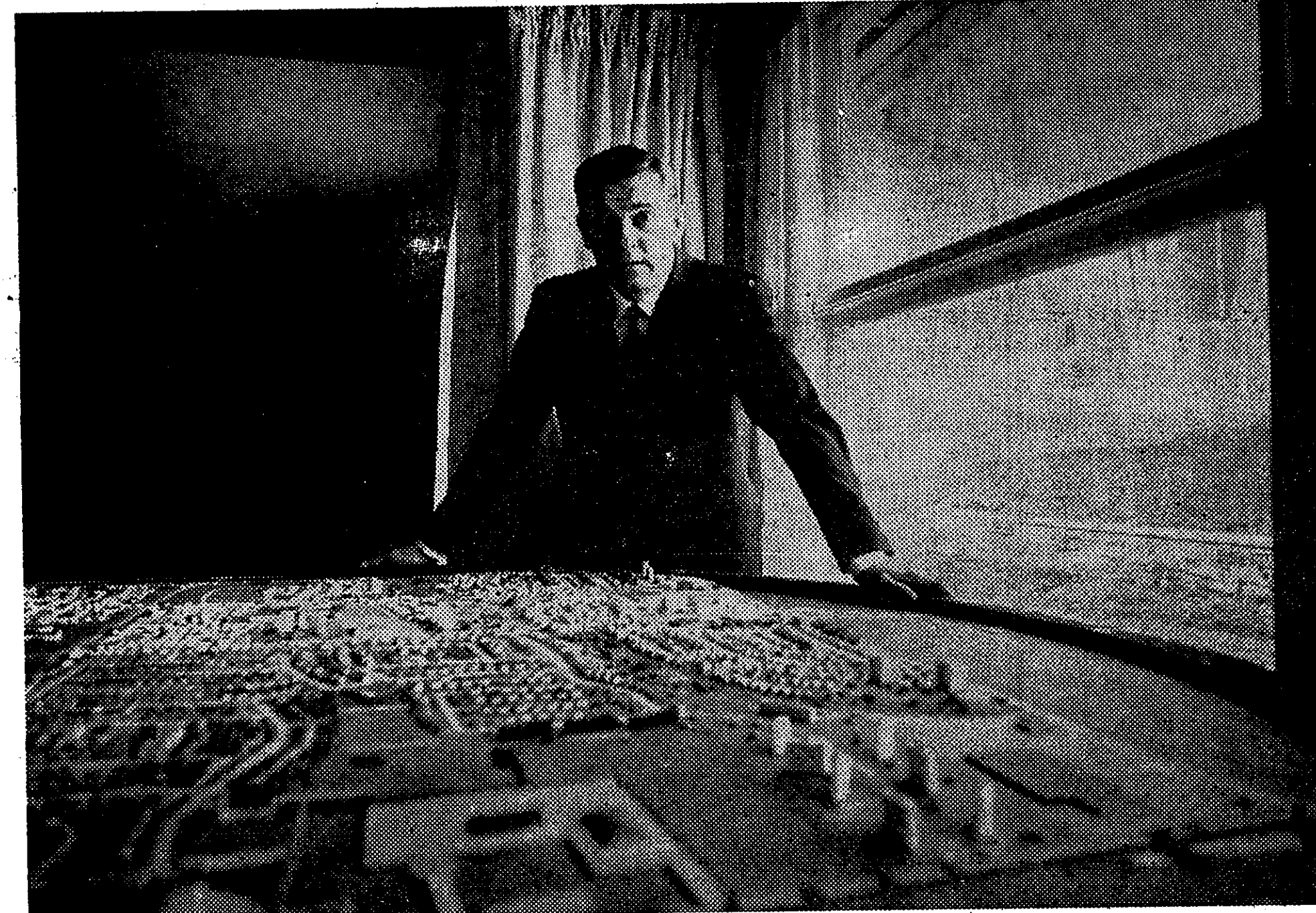
Greensboro, we have had trouble. Why? The white populations of Winston-Salem and Greensboro are essentially the same people in background, religion, and attitude, and they are only 25 miles apart.

But it takes years of study to understand the reason for fantastic inconsistencies. Winston-Salem has 14,000 Negroes who work in the tobacco plants. There was very little chance of the tobacco-worker Negro taking his wife for Sunday dinner to the plush dining room of the Hotel Robert E. Lee; or for that matter to participate in any of the other middle-class facilities, and so they desegregated.

But Greensboro was an entirely different story. Here we have the Negro A & T College and incomparably large Negro middle class; many of them wealthy people; real estate, insurance; and in Greensboro there was indeed the "danger" of many, many Negroes taking their wives for Sunday dinner to the restaurants, and to the theatre and an annual visit to the opera; and the whites knew this and that is why they fought for every inch of territory, while over in Winston they desegregated and smile cozily-like the rest of us "liberals."

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