

Communism counts upon two deadly factors: secrecy and surprise.

# PITTSBURGHIA

By Barnetta Davis Lange

It all began when a young Pittsburgh dermatologist married an even younger pianist. The Rubenstein saga, that is.

Myer W. Rubenstein started his career as a general practitioner in the city and later became a fellow at Mayo's, where he received his M.S. in dermatology through the University of Minnesota. He returned to his native Pittsburgh to continue his practice and in 1934 married the attractive Belle Barsky, who had been a music student at Pittsburgh Music Institute.

At the same time that Myer and Belle entered a partnership, so were merged the widely divergent and yet often associated worlds of medicine and music. These two fields were to become unifying bonds as well as to play starring roles in the Rubenstein drama.

Myer is devoted to his avocation of music with almost the same intensity to which he is devoted to his profession. While a medical school student at Pitt (where he's now associate professor in dermatology) he studied French Horn and organized various musical ensembles, some of whom still meet. At the same time that he was building a brilliant career on the staffs of the Falk Clinic (where he now teaches) and the Montefiore, Passavant, St. John's and Belvedere Hospitals, he also studied violin, viola and cello. Currently he's particularly interested in psychosomatic aspects of skin diseases and is Western Psychiatric Hospital's only consultant in this field — yet he manages the time to perform in amateur string ensemble groups. Myer is a member of the "Y" Music Series Committee and contributes to musical and cultural projects both here and in Israel.

At the same time, Belle was "scoring" in musical fields. After marriage she continued her piano studies with Aaron Gross and became active in the "Y" Music Series. In this connection she has contacted innumerable potential artists and has heard dozens of auditions of young aspirants (in New York, at the "Y," and even in her own living room.) She is a

member of the Women's Association of the Pittsburgh Symphony for which she has worked with characteristic energy both in fund raising and in subscriptions. She also teaches music appreciation at the Council Lounge to a class that grew from 8 to 100 members. These "students" are highly conversant with opera and symphonies (each week they discuss the forthcoming local operatic or symphonic presentation) and through Belle's efforts receive complimentary tickets to them. Perhaps even more heartwarming is that Belle has helped a number of refugees to rebuild their musical careers here. She has patiently coached and accompanied them, and has helped them make the necessary musical contacts for positions in both teaching and performing.

It surprises no one that Mark and Bonnie Jane Rubenstein have an innate and profound love of music, which has crescendoed from earliest childhood. Along with their regular school work they spent their winters studying music and their summers at various musical centers. Mark today is baritone soloist at the First Methodist Church and will sing at the B'nai Israel on the High Holidays this fall. At the moment he's at Chautauqua playing violin in the junior orchestra. His chief musical interest, however, is piano, and he enjoys duo-piano performance with his mother. (The Rubensteins have three pianos in their home).

Bonnie, a senior at Pitt, and as charming a lass as is her name, plays piano, cello and harp and was a former Tech Music School student. Although music is a strong force in their lives, neither Mark nor Bonnie plans to make of it a career. Mark will enter Pitt Medical School this fall, having completed the pre-medical course with brilliant distinction. He was graduated magna cum laude and was voted "Mr. Pitt" by the student body. He was also voted the "best all-round student" by his fraternity. While he was at school his chief extra-curricular activity was Pitt Men's Glee Club, and as its

student conductor led many of the concerts presented.

If we have dwelt inordinately long on the subject of music, it is because it plays a major role in the Rubenstein drama. In a minor key another phase of their life is nonetheless absorbing. It is one that has added spice and flavor to their lives. We speak of their in-

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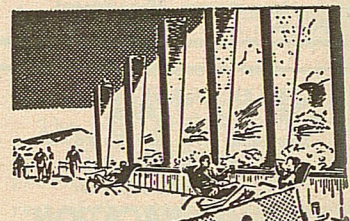
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imate knowledge of Spanish. When Mark and Bonnie were youngsters at Falk School, Belle returned to Pitt for "unfinished business." There she earned her B.A., majoring in Spanish and minoring in psychology. At the same time Myer, with no previous knowledge of Spanish, but intrigued by his wife's undertaking, began the study of it at Pitt. Today he speaks Spanish so fluently that when young physicians from South America and Mexico come to Pittsburgh for their residencies or fellowships, they instantly seek out Myer, who always befriends them and converses with them in their native tongue. As a result of one of these pan-American friendships, Myer was invited to Mexico where he saw that country as no tourist ever did. Last year in Mexico City, through the acquaintance of Dr. Latapi, Mexico's most distinguished dermatologist, Myer presented, to a Spanish, South American, Mexican and French audience, a speech on "Psychosomatic Aspects in Dermatology"—in Spanish!

Myer is a perfectionist, whether it is in his profession, music, linguistics or sports. In golf, he scores in the 80's—yet he's never satisfied. He is also fond of the "racquet games." Mark is an excellent swimmer and also enjoys squash and tennis. Bonnie's chief sport is dating. The Rubenstein household, when it is not full of musicians, doctors, professors and South Americans, is full of kids, both sexes, all sizes.

Before we say adios, we'd like to state that Pittsburghia is proud to have inaugurated this new series of vital local families with the Rubensteins, and to wish them every continued success.

**Reports On Refugees**

NEW YORK, (JTA) — The people of Israel have responded to a current Jewish refugee crisis by putting aside all questions of their ability to absorb more immigrants, and to save lives are taking in newcomers "at a feverish rate," Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, reported this week to 150 U.J.A. leaders.

Rabbi Friedman declared that new Jewish refugees for 1957 are expected to total at least 120,000 persons who must be resettled in free land. "Israel will provide haven for the vast majority."

**Mixed Seating Decision Due**

NEW ORLEANS, (JTA) — A secular court judge took under advisement this week a plea for an injunction from a minority group in Chevra Thillim Congregation to ban a plan for mixed seating voted by the majority. Judge Frank J. Stinch of Civil District Court announced this action after hearing concluding arguments from attorneys for both sides and said he hoped to announce his decision by the end of July.

In his closing arguments, David Gertler, attorney for the plaintiffs, stressed that one of the basic principles which led the minority

group to seek the injunction was the protection of the rights of a minority from violation by the majority. Asserting that lay witnesses for the majority group had testified there could be no objection to separation of the sexes during worship on theological grounds, Mr. Gertler said that the plaintiffs could not pray in the synagogue if mixed seating was retained.

Robert Weinstein, attorney for the defendant, said that the four rabbinical experts for the plaintiffs were in disagreement as to whether Chevra Thillim could be considered Orthodox, since it has no center "Bimah" and the microphone is used for services, both of which are in violation of Jewish Law. He argued there was, therefore, no basis for the injunction.

**Agency Heads Discuss US Migration To Israel**

JERUSALEM, (JTA) — Thousands of middle class American Jewish families might settle in Israel if proper conditions were available and if a more realistic exchange rate were assured, Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, told the Zionist Actions Committee this week. Mrs. Halprin reported that Zionist youth activity was on the increase in the United States and that a number of new Zionist groups had been organized on college campuses.

Abraham Shenkar, another

member of the Agency executive, revealed that eight American professionals were recently prevented from immigrating to Israel by housing and employment difficulties. Eliahu Dobkin, another member of the Jewish Agency executive, reported that the problem of immigration to Israel from Western countries was the major question confronting the Zionist movement. He said there has been an increase in immigration in general, but not from the United States. Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, warned the delegates

that the Zionist movement is losing the "soul" of American Jewry even if it gains its contributions. The success of Zionism, he continued, will be measured by the contact it establishes with the soul of the American Jew.

**U. S. Aids Egypt Refugees**

WASHINGTON, (JTA) — The State Department announced that the United States Government has allocated \$763,175 to assist in the movement of 17,100 refugees from Egypt, including an estimated 12,000 Jews, to new homes, largely outside of Europe.

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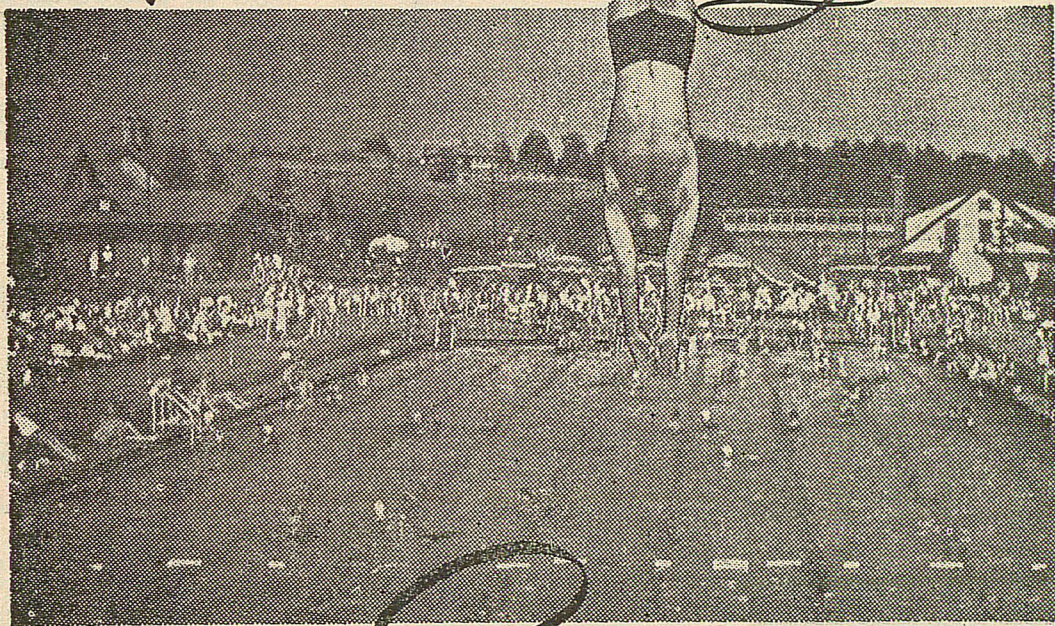
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