

# GIRL 'SPOTTER' TELLS OF BENJAMIN'S LIFE WITHIN 'HAREM'

Search for 'King' of Cult Centers in Eastern Canada.

By J. L. O'SULLIVAN  
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ST. JOSEPH, Mich., May 17.—Search for "King" Benjamin Purnell, missing ruler of the House of David, was centered in eastern Canada today.

Judge Harry Dingeman, conducting a probe into charges of immorality into the strange cult, received information that Benjamin had been seen near Ontario.

The quest for Benjamin, characterized as "the man who would be king" and who ruled in Shiloh palace with regal pomp, was intensified as search for additional witnesses in the probe progressed.

The story of life in this alleged twentieth century seraglio was told by a 20-year-old girl, Levina Johnson Henger, a dancer, who said she had been a "spotter" and detective, reporting directly to the "king" on indiscretions of his flock.

Surrounded by his harem of "virgins," the "seventh angel," who is being investigated by Judge Harry Dingeman, lived a life of luxurious ease and splendor in this Michigan "valley of the kings."

Food, was served to the modern sultan, who maintained his corps of maidens long after the abolition of the Turkish ruler's nest, on plates of gold.

Rare liquors were poured to suit his moods and tastes in glistening goblets studded with emeralds and rubies by the young girl attendants. Trained hula hula dancers furnished entertainment at his bidding.

His long grey beard was combed and primed by a maid in waiting. His bath was prepared, clothes carefully arranged and every want anticipated by the score of select "sisters" who vied with each other for the honor for administering to the personal wants of the self-styled "brother of Jesus Christ."

#### Girls Arrived in Silks

The chosen Shiloh girls arrayed in the finest silks while their less fortunate "sisters" in the colony were allowed only roughest cotton clothes of plain styles, maintained the royal apartment.

The king's rooms were furnished with rich tapestries and furnished with luxurious couches and divans. Valuable paintings graced the walls.

Levina, who kept the faith as promulgated by the Israelites and obeyed laws to the letter, while serving as Benjamin's private detective and hula dancer, told a frank and open story of her life in the colony.

"Benjamin seldom slept at night," Levina said. "There was always a light in his room. He said he did his work then, preparing his writings and prophecies. He slept in the day time. The spirits were abroad in the night time and they would inspire his works, he said.

#### Wife Lived Apart

Twenty-three girls lived in Shiloh. They were the favored of the flock. They had nothing to do but care for Benjamin. No other men lived in the apartment. Queen Mary, the king's wife, even lived in a building far separated from that of her husband.

"All other members of the colony worked hard; were given poor food and insufficient clothing. While I was in Mary's retinue I acted as a spotter for Benjamin. I was forced to work in the restaurant and do other hard labor.

"Benjamin's girls arose early, when a general bell was sounded, to be prepared for his appearance, breakfast consisting of the choicest fruits and carefully selected and prepared food were served the king in bed, if he desired.

"While Benjamin and his virgins were satisfying their appetites with the best of foods, the other members of the colony were given only the plainest victuals.

#### No One Eats Meat

"They never had eggs, butter and cream. Of course, none in the entire family ate meat.

"Religious services and ceremonies were few. On the last Friday of each month all the brothers and sisters more than 12 years old were summoned to the assembly hall to hear Benjamin preach. He spoke plainly, especially on the doctrines which provide that women, must lead virgin lives and the men must keep a pledge of celibacy.

"On various occasions decreed by Benjamin the 'cleansing fountain' ceremony was held to 'purify the blood' of the elect. There was no ceremonial attached. We simply wrote out confessions of our misdeeds, flung them into an assembly hall and dropped papers bearing our signatures into a large waste basket. These were all taken to Benjamin.

"Benjamin had a small hypnotic eye and is God-like and sympathizing in his manners so it is hard to resist him.

"I didn't even tell my own mother of my experience until nearly a year later," she said.

"Benjamin doesn't want his girls to wear black. In fact, all black clothes were positively forbidden in the colony. He used to say 'the Devil lives in black.'

"Pink was also a favorite color until some of the favorite Shiloh girls obtained some pink silk with which they intended to make waists. Benjamin scolded them, saying 'pink is a lustful color to man.' However, he finally suggested that the girls make the pink goods into lingeries."

#### BODY OF FIFTH VICTIM IS FOUND IN RIVER

Stray Bullet Hits Man

Motorman Struck by Bullet Fired During Avenue Fight.

Detectives Duncan and Purvis today were searching for the colored man who fired a shot at another colored man on Indiana Ave. Wednesday.

The bullet went wild, striking Dewey Brooks, 311 W. Ohio St., a street car motorman, in the face. Brooks was sent to the city hospital. His condition is not serious.

Police say Harry Bass, 24, colored, and a man named Rudolph were having a fight on Indiana Ave. They alleged Bass drew a gun and fired. The bullet went through Rudolph's coat sleeve, struck the woodwork of the car and was deflected toward the motorman.

## Roman State to Eat 'Latin' Food at Annual Banquet



LEFT TO RIGHT, ELIZABETH HURD, EDWARD CHAPMAN, MARGARET ELROD AND WILSON DAILY.

## LIONS CANDIDATES FORM TICKETS FOR COMING ELECTIONS

Rivalry Keen as Nominating Committees Make Their Reports.

Three tickets have been named for officers of the Lions Club.

The Rev. C. C. Gohm heads the regular ticket submitted by the nominating committee at a luncheon of the club Wednesday at the Shiloh Inn.

Others on the ticket: E. L. Colker, first vice president; Edward Chapman, censor;

Margaret Elrod, praetor, and Wilson Daily, pontific maximus.

Here's what they will eat:

Gustatio (appetizer), ova (eggs), Jetuca (lettuce), lardum (bacon), prototon (roast), caulinflower, panis (bread), mel (honey), saturna (salad), pullus (chicken), olives (olives), radices (radishes), mala (apples), pira (pears), vinum (grape juice), nuces (nuts).

Officers will wear togas. Latin customs will be observed. Food will be designated by Latin names.

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