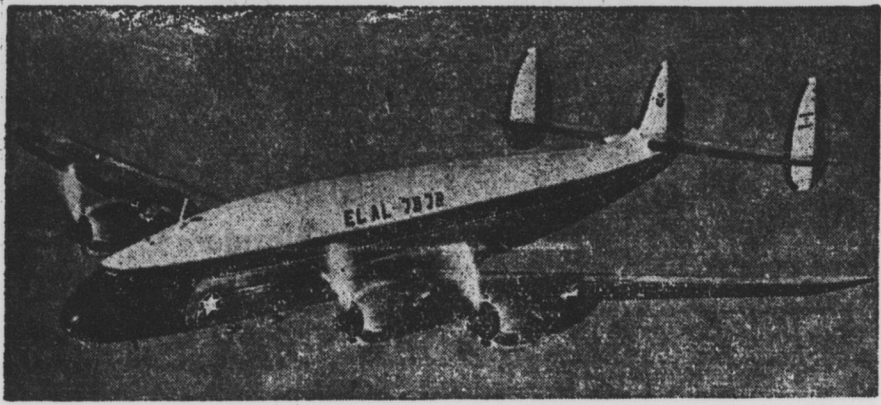


Matzohs in the Sky



BY M. MYRIM

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The catering officers of El Al Airlines have a fond regard for the holiday of Passover. For like the Hebrew slaves whose exodus to freedom the holiday celebrates, they work harder just before Passover than at any other time of the year.

Preparing special dishes and a special menu is not a simple matter even in the kitchen of your own home. On the transatlantic lines of an airline, it can turn into

a major problem in logistics. But that is exactly what the El Al catering officers are doing. During the entire Passover holiday week, passengers and crew alike on all El Al aircraft, in the skies above a dozen countries on four continents, will be eating traditional holiday fare, from matzoh and wine to knaydlach and nuts.

The Passover menu is only one of the many unusual problems with which El Al has had to cope, problems which never arise on other lines. Hitherto, for example, El Al has flown two transatlantic flights a week, but this is being increased on April 19 to three per week. With any other line this would mean merely a technical revision of flying on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

However, with the approval of the Israel authorities, the problem was solved. The third flight will take off on Friday afternoons before Sabbath sets in, and will end on Saturday nights after the appearance of three stars, an ar-

rangement which permits even the most devout to make the flight.

If you had flown with an El Al Skyliner in the past three years, your fellow passengers might have included a Catholic girl from Arizona on her way to an audience with the Pope, her route chosen by her father after a careful study of comparative safety records; a party of Protestant businessmen from Europe who decided to fly with El Al because of its reasonable rates and comfortable facilities; Israeli Cabinet members and high U. S. government officers; prominent personalities from many countries in all walks of life, as well as simpler folk such as the Israeli student on his way to a year's scholarship at an American college.

Nor would your trip have lacked glamor. You might have flown with either of two Israeli beauty queens; a score of American stage, screen, radio and TV stars; the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; an entire Greek theatrical troupe, complete with stage settings and costumes. All these and many more have flown with El Al. Experienced travelers sometimes complain that air travel can be dull. But not aboard an El Al plane. And if there is no outside talent in the glamor field, the El Al air hostesses supply their own brand.

Friendly Atmosphere Pervades Flights

Even more important, an El Al flight has a way of engendering an atmosphere of what is known in Yiddish as "haymishkeit," a pervasive friendliness which is apparent within a few minutes after the planes takes off. An American woman who flew an El Al plane recently wrote to the airline thanking it for making her trip so comfortable. She added:

"El Al is not the biggest or smallest or oldest or youngest airline in the world. But my flight convinced me that it is the happiest line flying."

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The Jewish Calendar

Passover, 7th Day	April 6
Passover, 8th Day	April 7
*Rosh Chodesh Iyar	April 16
Lag B'Omer	May 3
Rosh Chodesh Sivan	May 15
Shevuoth, 1st Day	May 20
Shevuoth, 2nd Day	May 21
*Rosh Chodesh Tammuz	June 14
Fast of 17th Day of Tammuz	June 30
Rosh Chodesh Ab	July 13
Fast of Tisha B'Ab	July 21
*Rosh Chodesh Ellul	Aug. 12
Erev Rosh Hashonah, 5714	Sept. 9

* Also observed previous day.

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