

Lebanon Drops Suit Against Hye Papers



Hrair Diar Bekirian

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Celebrations occurred in Armenian districts throughout Beirut upon word that the suit against two Armenian newspapers had been dropped.

The two dailies were sued by the Lebanese Attorney-General's office at the request of the Turkish Embassy. The Turks alleged that the two papers had carried libelous statements against the President of the Republic of Turkey.

Lebanese court determined that the articles in the two papers which dealt with the Turkish genocide did not contain any libelous remarks against the person of the Turkish president and only "reflected a deep-rooted protest against the suffering of the Armenian people during the first World War."

A furor was caused in Lebanon over the suit. Lebanese newspapers were loud in their denunciation of the government's suit claiming it abridged freedom of the press in the country.

The suit reportedly resulted from pressure exerted on the Lebanese government by Turkey because of articles published in April 1969 concerning the Armenian genocide.

As news of the legal action spread Armenian political groups drew together to protest. More than 20,000 persons gathered at the Hall of Justice in Beirut and staged a demonstration against the Turkish action.

Art Exhibition Of Paintings By Hrair Diar Bekirian Set For L.A.

LOS ANGELES — The unique and exotic paintings of Hrair Diar Bekirian will be on display at the Juarez Gallery beginning August 3 for one week. The gallery is located at 635 N. La Cienega, Hollywood.

The talented Armenian artist was born in Beirut, Lebanon, where he studied architecture. He first exhibited his paintings in his native city in 1960 at the Sursack Museum. Since his successful debut he has had over 18 showings of his work.

According to a recent appraisal by art critic Dorothy Parramore: "... Hrair's mastery of color becomes as effortless as 'abracadabra,' and, finally, his painting potential seems to be greater than anyone could have expected. It is impossible not to like his paintings."

Among those who include his paintings in their collection are Queen Elizabeth of England, Princess Grace of Monaco, Jackie Kennedy Onassis and the Vicomtesse of Rhibes.

The artist's work was shown earlier this month in Las Vegas

under the sponsorship of Frederic Apar, noted empressario and creator of the Casino de Paris show at the Dunes Hotel.

Philanthropist Dies In L.A.

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian - American Community of California was stunned by news of the death of John Gogian, who was the victim of a stroke on July 16. Mr. Gogian was known throughout the Armenian community for his philan-

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thropic activities in behalf of Armenian charities.

The wealthy 59-year-old businessman was active in several business enterprises including Pacific Cold Storage Co., Gogian Tire Co. and Xebec Industries.

Funeral services were held on July 20 in St. James Armenian Apostolic Church. Vesper services were held on the previous evening at St.

James. Burial took place at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Rosalia, and a son, John, Jr. A second son, David, passed away several years ago.



John Gogian

Schools In Mass. Language Class

Schools, West and East, in Watertown, Mass.

The classes will be part of the regular school curriculum, Armenian being offered as a second language among with others customarily taught.

According to Dr. William Mackolin, Assistant Superintendent of Watertown schools, the course will be taught to 7th and 9th grades in the East Junior High and to the 7th grade in the West Junior High. In the latter case it is possible that 9th graders will be admitted to the class.

Conversational Armenian will be stressed, followed by writing and reading.

The summer is being utilized to assemble the necessary materials and prepare an instructional program in which the Armenian General Benevolent Union is involved.

It is anticipated that a total of approximately 45 students will enroll for these classes, and study Armenian as their second language.

Miss Anahid Yacoubian has been appointed to teach the classes.

St. Paul Slates Grape Blessing

FRESNO — The St. Paul Armenian Church Annual Grape Blessing Picnic, sponsored by the Men's Forum, will be held August 9 at the Fresno District Fairgrounds.

Fred DeOrian, general chairman of this year's picnic, will be assisted by committee members: Milton Avakian, Zorab Ohigian, Nelson DeRanian, Bob Ber Matoian, Harry Marashian, Charles Markarian, Peter Terian and Ara Yazijian.

Delicious Armenian foods such as shish kebab highlighting the menu, will be served continuously throughout the day. There will also be ice cream, snow cones and cold drinks available. Armenian music will be provided by Guy Chookoorian's Orchestra. Games for all ages are planned. The younger children will be especially entertained with a merry-go-round.

An attractive display advertisement for the event appears on this issue on page three.