

Times, 23 Mar. 1951

# STREET IS RENAMED FOR WOMAN ZIONIST

## Bit of East Side Thoroughfare Is Changed to Szold Place in Chilly Ceremony

Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, national president of Hadassah, ascended a ladder yesterday on East Eleventh Street between Avenues C and D, mounted a scaffold and changed the street name-plate from Dry Dock Street to Szold Place.

A block-party spirit prevailed among the 100 members of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, who braved the chill winds to come from Brooklyn, Bronx and Long Island for the mid-morning ceremony. Shivering, they joined a delegation of Hadassah housewives who wheeled their babies over from Stuyvesant Town to see the narrow lane from Tenth to Twelfth Street renamed in honor of Hadassah's founder, the late Henrietta Szold.

Many onlookers, like Mrs. Edward Jacobs, a past president of Hadassah who helped found it, wished Miss Szold could have lived to see the ceremony which was taking place on the thirty-ninth anniversary of Hadassah and the Jewish holiday of Purim.

Even the city officials sharing the flag-adorned platform with Mrs. Halprin and Louis Lipsky, chairman of the American Zionist Council, reflected the Purim spirit in their remarks. Deputy Mayor Charles E. Horowitz explained to Commissioner Charles S. Hand, representing the Borough President, that "hamantaschen" were Purim cakes, and Mr. Hand said he would like to try some. But both were serious when telling how the City Council on Feb. 9 passed a local law making Dry Dock Street "a shrine to Miss Szold."

"Neighborhoods change," remarked Joseph Relsey, supervisor from the Borough President's office, who brought the six new sign plates for the 800-foot alley. Born nearby at 85 Goerck Street, he saw it changed to Baruch Place. "Dry Dock Street was so named forty-eight years ago because of the ships that were repaired here. And the old ferry ran from here to Greenpoint," he recalled.

Some residents resented the change. Neighborhood boys, seeing new markers, called out, "Take 'em down." Sitting before her home at Number 13, Mrs. Ruth Gwenskie sighed.

"It's still Drydock Street to me," she said. "My mother had nine children here. Why, I was brought up here, and my poor dead husband, Stanley, used to drive horse cars for the old Belt Avenue line. We old-timers here are proud of our neighborhood history. We sent a petition not to change the name to Szold Place. Yes, it's still Drydock Street around here, just like for lots of folks the Avenue of the Americas is still Sixth Avenue."