

Jewish Holiday

Families Hail 'Festival Of Lights'

The centuries-old Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, which began when the sun went down Tuesday, Jan. 3, is a festival as often misapprehended and misunderstood as it is misunderstood.

Jewish people, themselves, admit they have a little trouble deciding where to put the C's and H's.

On a box of Israeli candles, for instance, the Festival of

Lights is referred to as "Chanuka," on a greeting card, as "Hanukkah," and on the title of a child's storybook, "Chanukah." Reference sources generally prefer "Hanukkah." The "Chanukah" is explained as an attempt to utilize the CH sound of Hebrew.

Often confused with a Christmas-type celebration because it falls during December, Hanukkah began with a battle more than 2,000 years ago--

the first recorded religious war in history--between the Syrians and the Jews of Israel, who were led by Judah.

Judah's followers, called Maccabees, went to war to defend their invaded homeland and religious beliefs, returning victorious to Jerusalem only to find their holy temple desecrated.

The Maccabees went to work repairing and cleaning and rebuilt the lamp, using coe

remaining flask of oil to light it. But, "Ness Godol Hayah Shom" ("A great miracle happened there"). The lamp, which contained only a one-day supply of fuel, continued to burn for eight full days--until new oil could be prepared.

The "miracle of the light" became Hanukkah, an annual eight-day celebration of thanksgiving.

In Jewish homes throughout the Livonia area, sundown



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS -- Mr. and Mrs. Paul Greenfield, 19645 Rensselaer, Livonia, lighted the first of eight candles in the family "menorah" (candelabrum) for Hanukkah. The Jewish celebration began last night and will conclude Wed. Jan. 3.

Tuesday will mark the lighting of the first of eight candles in the family menorah, or holy candelabrum. Each consecutive night another taper will be lighted in memory of the eight days the original menorah burned until, finally, Jan. 3, all will be ablaze.

In the Livonia home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Greenfield, 19645 Rensselaer, the family menorah, Israel blue in color, will be brought out Tuesday for the first day of the Hanukkah celebration.

According to Mrs. Greenfield, Hanukkah is hailed in their home as a happy celebration with some special foods, gifts, games and songs by the children.

"We say a special blessing each night with the lighting of another candle," she said. "We don't often sing, but our children, (Andrea, 8, and Julie, 5) have learned little Hanukkah songs in Sunday School."

Keeping the Greenfield children happy during Hanukkah, besides special foods and songs, will be traditional games.

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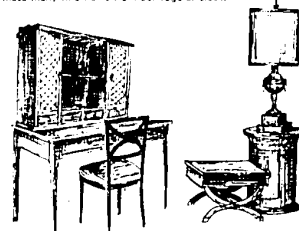
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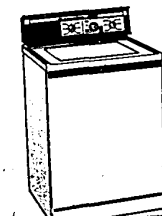
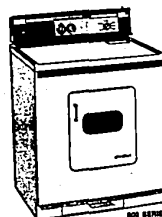
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