



DR. KORCZAK bringing smiles to the faces of children in the slums of Warsaw. This picture was taken in 1937.

Drink something special this

The 'old doctor' who loved children

By JACK GOLDFARB

WHEN Henryk Goldschmidt was a schoolboy in Warsaw in the 1880's he often got hurt in fights with bullies who picked on the smaller and timid children.

When he was 20, Henryk entered a play he had written in a national drama contest. He submitted it under the pen name Janusz Korczak, a name he had taken from an old Polish tale. He won first prize and kept the name.

For the rest of his life, as a doctor, author, educator, and director of orphan homes, Henryk Goldschmidt was known as Janusz Korczak.

Although his books and magazine articles were widely-read, and he became a successful physician, Janusz Korczak was much more interested in the care of deprived and unwanted children.

Eventually he gave up his comfortable life as a doctor and child specialist to become the director of a newly-opened orphans' home in the slums of Warsaw.

When the First World War was over, Poland became an independent country for the first time in hundreds of years. Dr. Korczak, along with other patriotic Poles, was filled with enthusiasm for building up the new nation.

He founded a boarding school for war orphans, and opened a summer camp where slum children could spend their vacations in the fresh countryside air.

In 1926 there appeared on the newstands of Warsaw the first weekly newspaper written by and for children ever published in Poland.

It was called *The Little Review*, and it had three editors: a boy, for the boys' section, a girl, for the girl's section, and "an old, bespectacled and bald gentleman," as Dr. Korczak described himself, to see that everything worked together smoothly.

The *Little Review* became tremendously popular and received thousands of letters each year. At a time when racism was spreading from Nazi Germany, the newspaper persisted in its noble aim of brotherhood for all children.

He also ran a radio programme but because of the rising antisemitism in Poland, "the old doctor" was asked by radio officials not to reveal his true identity. Although he was well-known throughout the country, he agreed to remain anonymous, believing that his message of tolerance and better understanding between peoples was more important than his personal prestige. Eventually, certain government officials, who disliked his programme, brought it to an end.

World War Two began in September 1939. As the Nazis closed in to capture the capital, Warsaw, the city was bombed by waves of airplanes.

In those dark hours "the old doctor" was recalled to Warsaw Radio to talk to the citizens of Poland.

The Nazis forced the orphans' home to move its quarters inside the walls of the newly-made ghetto. By now the food given to each child was down to one slice of bread, a little jam made of beets, a potato, and a few spoonfuls of cabbage per day.

Early on Wednesday morn-

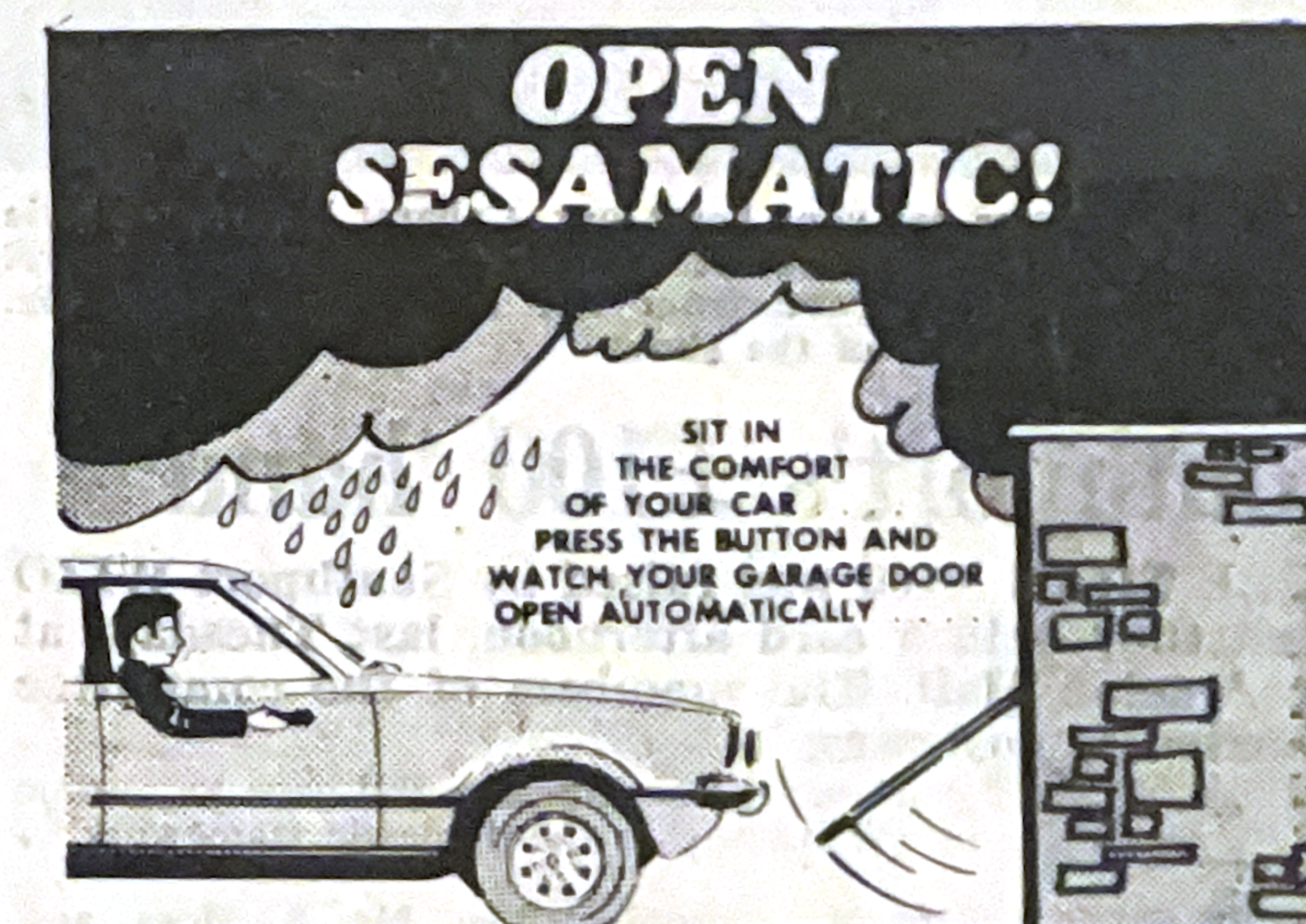
ing, August 5, 1942, the children of the orphans' home were ordered by the Nazis to assemble and march to the railroad station inside the ghetto, to be sent out to a camp somewhere east of Warsaw.

Dr. Korczak walked to the head of the procession and gave the green banner of King Matt, a character he had created, to the oldest boy to carry.

When the column of children arrived at the station a Nazi officer called Dr. Korczak aside and told him he did not have to go with the children. He could go free.

But Dr. Korczak immediately turned away from the officer. He would go with his children wherever it was they were being sent.

None of the children ever returned from their destination. Nor did Dr. Korczak. But his devotion, kindness, and courage have been left behind as an unforgettable legend.



THE NEW SESAMATIC 77
Automatic Garage Door Operator
IT'S SAFE, SECURE & STURDY
And it's only £175-00 (plus VAT)

CASH DISCOUNT
OR
FINANCE TERMS
AVAILABLE —
For more details

AAA MANUFACTURING CO.
BRIDGE WORKS, STATION ROAD,
LUDDENDENFOOT, NR. HALIFAX
PHONE CALDER VALLEY 4161
TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME