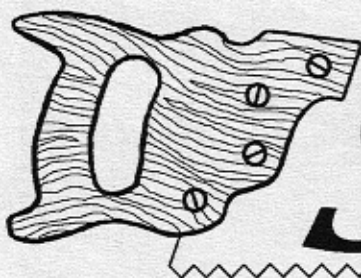


# INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL SAW ASSOCIATION



## SAW PLAYER NEWS

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### Israel – Land of Milk, Honey and... Musical Saws!



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When I play the saw in public, oftentimes people come forward to tell me about some other saw player that they know or have seen. I perform in Israel frequently and so I came to hear about many saw players there. What surprised me was that even in such a tiny country as Israel, most of the saw players there had no idea there were other saw players in their own country! Naturally I had to remedy that, so I organized a mini musical saw festival in Tel-Aviv. At the festival we honored the memory of the first two sawists (known to me) in the country:

Morris Solomon, whom I had the pleasure of meeting about 14 years ago, was probably the first sawist in Israel. While serving in the British Brigade (1940's?) he discovered the musical saw and brought one from England. He settled in Kibbutz Ramat Hakovesh where he performed extensively. His favorite song to play on the saw was Over the Rainbow. "Grandpa Morris," as he was known, inspired and taught many to play the saw.



*Morris Solomon playing for kindergaten kids at a holiday celebration, 1996*

Dr. Moshe Neumann (1882 - 1964) was born in Jerusalem, where he worked as a physician. During WWI he was a medic in the Turkish army. In 1917 he became a spy for the British army, was caught and thrown into the Damascus prison for a year. Dr. Neumann, who played violin, had 6 children. I met with his son Haim and 4 of his grandchildren who told me how the musical saw came to be a big part of their family. In 1948 Dr. Neumann bought two flexatones – a musical instrument which sounds much like a saw. In 1951 his son, Prof. Eliyahoo Neumann, noticed a

musical saw in a music store in Paris, France, and brought it as a present for his father. The saw has a logo "Sonilame, Eric Tokel, Couesnon S.A, 105 Rue Lafayette, Paris." This saw is 101.5 cm long (including handle), 3.5 cm at tip, 20 cm at bottom. Couesnon (pronounced QUE-NON) was established in 1882 and reformed in 1931 as Couesnon S.A. (read: Couesnon, Incorporated). The company lasted until 1967 and was a manufacturer of musical instruments.

Dr. Neumann taught himself to play the saw. He played mostly classical music but also Israeli folk tunes. His favorite song to

