

ירשה

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HERITAGE

The Journal of THE JEWISH ARCHIVES & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EDMONTON & NORTHERN ALBERTA

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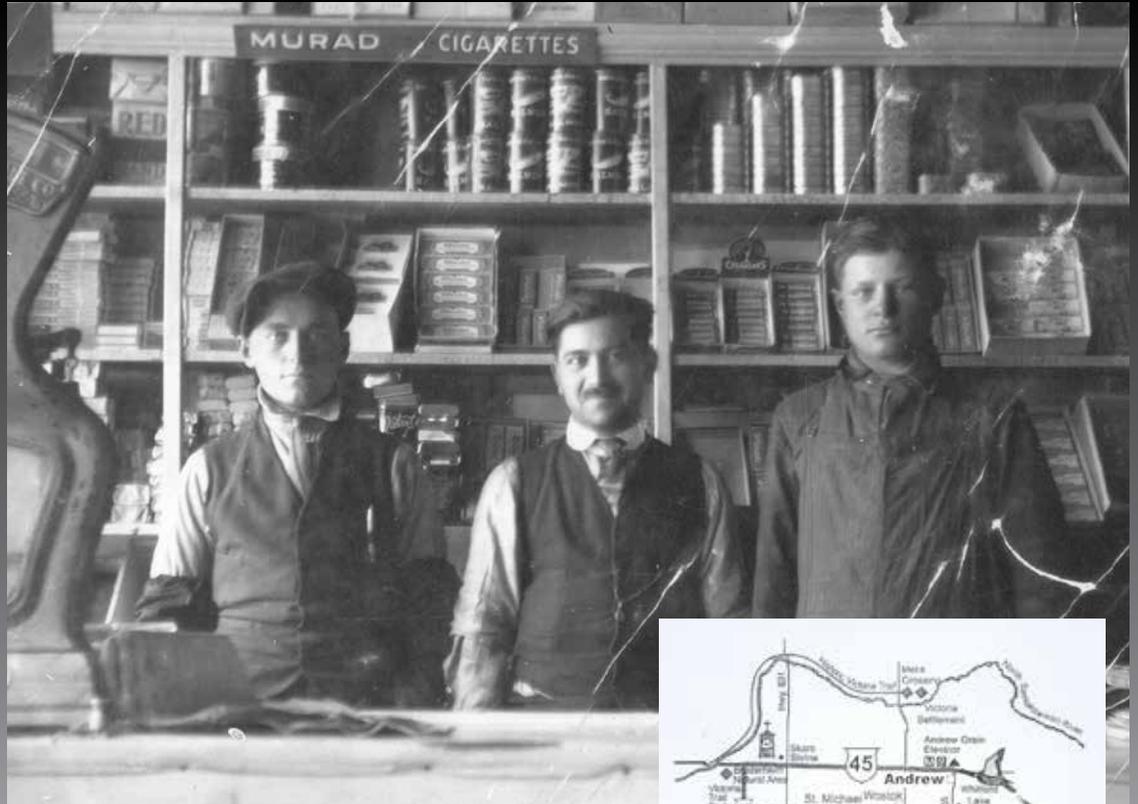
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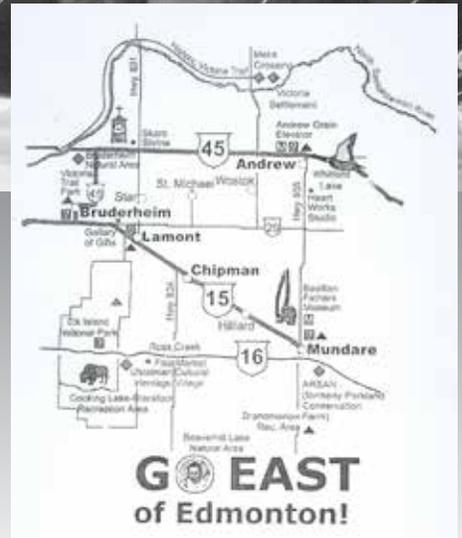
Jewish
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of Mundare
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Dlin Family Store

Left to right: William Dlin, Jack Dlin and Barrel Dlin in William's store in Bruderheim. Read more about the Jewish residents of Bruderheim starting on page 6.



see *The Testament* 7pm, Monday, May 14th
in the Jewish Film Festival at Landmark Theatres, City Centre Mall



Archivist's Report

by Colleen Paull

April 2018

These are exciting times at JAHSENA. Thanks to a grant from the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation our new brochures are now available and on display at the JCC Office entrance.

The first of four genealogy sessions led by genealogist Lyn Meehan had 15 (bewildered, overwhelmed and inspired) people eager to continue their genealogy research adventure! There are three more sessions with opportunities to explore library services, immigration and migration, the power of the internet and how to navigate key online resources. These sessions are supported by a grant received from the Edmonton Jewish Federation.

In the Jewish Film Festival, JAHSENA is sponsoring the movie *The Testament* being shown on Monday, May 14th at 7 pm. *The Testament* is Amaichai Greenberg's first feature film. He was a researcher for the USC Shoah Foundation. The collecting and documenting of the stories of Holocaust survivors influenced his process when making *The Testament* but he said the film was also informed by stories he did not hear. His father was a Holocaust survivor, who chose not to share his wartime experiences with his son.

The director, like the film's hero, was fascinated by the intersection between the historical and personal stories. For Greenberg, the questions of identity raised in the film reflect issues that are coming to the fore all over the world. He observed, "This question of identity and who we are is rising now.

Early in May, the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce is sending us a display recounting the Jewish presence during

and after the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. There were at one time about 200 Jews in Dawson City. The display is made up of three panels, a laptop computer with four videos and a booklet of stories. It will be shown at a few different venues in the Jewish community. Please call the JAHSENA office to find out where and when it is showing.

On Wednesday, July 4th at 7 pm, JAHSENA is participating once again in the Historic Festival and Doors Open event, sponsored by the Edmonton Historical Society. In keeping with the theme of "Food", our Chair, Vice President Gillian Horwitz, has JAHSENA partnering with the Edmonton Jewish Seniors' Centre to present a program that will feature a brief talk about the special foods associated with major Jewish festivals, as well as a demonstration of making challah. Every year our program attendance has grown and I anticipate this year to be the same.

This spring and summer, JAHSENA will contribute again to the salary of a staff interpreter at the HB Kline Jewelry Store in Fort Edmonton. The interpreter's role is to tell visitors about the Jewish items in the store and, by extension, about the Edmonton Jewish community. Members of our community who went last year were pleased and impressed by last year's interpreter, so we hope this year will also be a positive experience for all visitors to the store.

This edition of Heritage contains Part II of Dr. Eric Schloss's well-researched article about Jewish settlement in Lamont County. We are very grateful to him for his dedication to this project and for sharing it with all of us. Thank you, Eric.

ירשה HERITAGE

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The Ostry Family and the Capitol Pipe Shop

Source: Ostry, Robert. Telephone interview by Zachary Tankel. July 25, 2017.

Ben Ostry was born in Winnipeg in 1908 to Rebecca and Joseph Ostry. His parents came to Canada from Russia with Ben's older sister, Muriel and his brother, Jack. The date they arrived in Canada is uncertain. Ben's family moved to Alberta around 1914, seeking new economic opportunities in the booming economy of the prairies. They may have first homesteaded in Vermillion, but they ultimately settled in Edmonton, where Ben grew up.

In 1932, Ben Ostry leased the space on the east side of the Capitol Theatre (on Jasper Avenue) to open a pipe shop. Originally, the pipe shop in that space was called 'The Smoke Shops Ltd.,'



Ben Ostry

and, besides tobacco, it was known for selling high-grade chocolate. In 1921, it was replaced by the 'United Cigar Stores Ltd.,' then 'Beaver Cigar Store' in 1924, and the 'Pipe Shop' in 1925. By about the mid-1930s, it had finally become the 'Capitol Pipe Shop.'

Ben and his wife, Ida (Bernstein), had their daughter, Noni, in 1938, and their son, Bob, in 1941. The shop provided enough of a livelihood for Ben to give his family a comfortable lifestyle, but it was not without hard work. He kept the store open every day from seven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night and would only take a break to go home for dinner.

In the entrepreneurial spirit of Jewish immigrants, Ben fit as much business into the shop as possible—probably more than was possible—since the shop was always crowded with goods. Besides pipes, cigarettes, and cigars, items for sale included magazines, Zippo and Ronson lighters, Paper Mate pens, Fisher pens, and even rings, among other products. There were no concessions sold in the Capitol Theatre until about 1948, so moviegoers would stop by the pipe shop to purchase popcorn, soft drinks, and candy. Ben Ostry's shop was also the first in Western Canada to sell Timex watches, thanks to connections he had with eastern suppliers. Throughout most of the time that the



Reconstruction of the Capitol Pipe Shop at Fort Edmonton Park.

pipe shop was open, Ostry had two women employees working for him, and each was awarded a 50¢ bonus for every Timex they sold.

Vogue cigarettes were sold for 30¢ per package, and Ben would have one-dollar sales on pipes. Across the street was another shop, Mike's, which served as Ben's competition in selling tobacco. However, the Hudson's Bay Tobacco Company eventually started selling cartons of cigarettes at lower prices than that with which Ben could compete. Cigars were also sold in the store and Sam Green, the owner of a manufacturing plant specializing in men's dress pants, gave Ben a lot of business with all the cigars he would order.

One of Ben Ostry's special knacks was an anti-theft system he developed for his shop. He would hide cash in boxes of cigars in the back, and given that there were so many boxes, it was virtually impossible for robbers to find which had money hidden in it. Although break-ins did occur, only magazines and snacks were stolen, but never money.

Being situated right next to the Capitol Theatre provided other benefits to the Ostrys, besides moviegoers buying popcorn at their shop. If the line to

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The Historian Doctor

A Brief Look at Dr. Eric Schloss' Commitment to History, Literature, and Community

BY DANIEL ERIN

For over ten years Dr. Eric Schloss has contributed thoughtful, rigorous, and compelling stories to *Heritage*. In addition, he has served on JAHSENA's Board of Directors while also undertaking many philanthropic activities (within and beyond Edmonton)—all while serving patients in his medical practice. So, you can imagine your current author's sense of excitement (and perhaps slightly greater sense of trepidation) when he was asked to write a story about Eric for this edition of *Heritage*.

After enjoying articles such as "Early Memories of a Jewish Community" (Winter 2011), "A Sunday Childhood at the MacDonald Hotel" (Winter 2005), "A Jewish Retrospective of the University of Alberta" (Summer 2009), "The Sammies—Jewish Life on Campus" (Summer 2006), and Eric's review of Janine Stingel's 2000 book, *Social Discredit: Anti-Semitism, Social Credit and the Jewish Response* (Spring/Summer 2005), your author quickly realized that Eric had set a high bar. After getting a sneak peak at his upcoming article, "Jewish Communities of Lamont County," it's quite clear that Eric continues to set a very high bar!

Eric studied History and English during his pre-law program at the University of Alberta. However, after reading one of Eric's papers for a senior English class, Dr. Henry Kreisel—an inspiring English professor and author—delicately asked Eric if he'd ever thought about studying the sciences!

Soon, Eric was taking the requisite science courses to study medicine. In fact, Eric credits his career and much of his ongoing passion for literature to

Dr. Kreisel. After finishing his BA in History (1959), Eric started medical school and graduated in 1963. Eric has served his community as a physician for over 50 years, and he still practices Dermatology and Skin Pathology in Edmonton.

Eric's passion for regional history has its roots in his study of Mundare; his father moved to Mundare in his late teens to live with family. This part of his father's life always interested Eric, and he found himself consistently wanting to look into the history of Jews living in Mundare. When he did study this history, he found it fascinating and ended up learning a lot about many people who lived in the small community. While examining the history of Jews in Mundare, Eric discovered that there were unique histories of Jewish families living all over Lamont County. After studious research, Eric has the start of a comprehensive account of Jewish communities in Lamont County that he is happy and eager to share with *Heritage's* readership.

According to Eric, it was an absolute pleasure doing the research and composing the article. He got to speak with a lot of people, and they were happy to talk about their families and share lots of pictures with our readers.

Interestingly, Eric's love of history extends into the area of book collecting. Indeed, he has an extensive collection focussing on the areas of Judaica, modern literature, Canadian literature, the Holocaust, and military history. Moreover, Eric has donated over 40,000 first editions to the University of Alberta; one of these donations—currently in the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library—



Dr. Eric Schloss.

is the Dutch first edition of the *Diary of Anne Frank* from 1947.

When I asked Eric about his thoughts on history, he stressed that it was very important. According to Eric, we should be very cognizant of history; we need to make sure that we don't let people distort it.

In addition to Eric's passion for history, he is an avid supporter of Canadian literature and its study. In 2004, Eric founded the Canadian Literature Center in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Arts. It is a bilingual research centre that hosts an annual lecture named after the English professor that helped Eric discover his passion for medicine, Dr. Henry Kreisel. Eric thinks that these lectures are an appropriate—yet small—way to honour a great teacher, author, and person.

Eric met his wife, Elexis, in 1966 because of a mutual friend; Elexis was originally from Calgary, so when she came to Edmonton to do some work, she and Eric met and went on a couple of dates. However, after they had been seeing each other for a while, Eric volunteered to participate as a medic with Israel during what would become known as the Six-Day War. It was the third day of the war and, before leaving for Israel, Eric waited for Elexis to arrive in Edmonton in order to say goodbye. The couple said their tearful goodbyes, and Eric boarded a plane to begin his journey to Israel. But when Eric arrived

in Toronto, the war was already over, and the Israeli army told him that they no longer required his services, so he went to Montreal, where he telegraphed the following message to Elexis: "Have arrived in Israel... Pavilion Expo!" The couple married in November 1967, and they celebrated their 50th anniversary last year. They have been blessed with two children and two young grandchildren.

Elexis, who holds the Order of Canada, and Eric—who will receive the Order of Canada this year—both contribute their time to important volunteer efforts. For example, they have volunteered in Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda (twice), Kenya, and twice in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010. During these trips, Eric often taught medicine (Pathology or Dermatology), but he also treated children in Haiti while living in very poor orphanages, often with one basic daily meal of rice and beans (with no available water). Interestingly, on their return trip to Haiti, the couple worked at a support camp—living in a tent—established and supported by actor Sean Penn, where Eric worked in a M.A.S.H. unit performing general practice for the first time in forty years. During this time, Eric saw patients suffering from malaria and tuberculosis. Importantly, Eric credits Elexis with influencing his philanthropic endeavours, because she is always thinking of others.

Lastly, Eric stresses how important it is to volunteer. He emphasizes that people should do what they can to help others: if one is in a position to help—to make a positive contribution—then one should do it.

Clearly, Eric lives by these words with humanistic passion and a deep appreciation for the things that enrich the lives of the community and its members. Your author considers it a privilege to participate in the same publication with Dr. Eric Schloss and enthusiastically encourages you to enjoy his latest contribution to this edition of *Heritage*.

DONATION CARDS

JAHSENA has donation cards with historic pictures on them available for purchase. Mark your special simchas by sending a donation to JAHSENA. Contact the office for more details at: 780-489-2809. We have received the following donations:

MAZEL TOV

- To Jini Vogel for her special birthday from Aaron and Jean Oshry.
- To Michael and Colleen Paull on the engagement of their daughter, Samara, from the JAHSENA Board.
- To Clyde Hurtig and Karen Farkas on the birth of their grandson from the JAHSENA Board.
- To Dr. Eric Schloss on receiving the Order of Canada from the JAHSENA Board; Michael and Colleen Paull, George and Judy Goldsand.
- To Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg on the birth of their great-grandson from the JAHSENA Board; Dr. George and Judy Goldsand; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Chris Gregson and Shawna Vogel on the birth of their grandson from Dr. George and Judy Goldsand; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Dr Cyril and Faye Kay for their son, Lewis, receiving the NSERC Herzberg Canada Gold medal for excellence in scientific research, and the Order of Canada, from George and Judy Goldsand.

GET WELL

- To Mel Wyne from the JAHSENA Board.
- To Dr. George Goldsand from the JAHSENA Board.

SYMPATHY

- To Stephen and Lynn Mandel on the passing of Rachel Mandel, z'l, from the JAHSENA Board; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Sid and Emily Hanson on the passing of Ethel Wiss Hanson, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Norman and Roberta Hanson on the passing of Ethel Wiss Hanson, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Karen Farkas and Clyde Hurtig on the passing of Rick Farkas, z'l, from the JAHSENA Board; Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Phil and Penny Hardin and Family on the passing of Marlene Warhaft, z'l, from the JAHSENA Board; Michael and Colleen Paull
- To Luba Allen and Family on the passing of Clive Allen, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Jeff Rubin and Gaylene Soifer on the passing of Abner Rubin, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To David and Florie Axler on the passing of Abner Rubin, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Dr. Rosalie Shadlyn on the passing of Abner Rubin, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.
- To Farrel Shadlyn and Lisa Miller on the passing of Abner Rubin, z'l, from Michael and Colleen Paull.

STORIES CONNECTING US ALL

HOME-Stories Connecting us All is a community-created eBook composed of stories by community members and organizations that shares their personal/community/family experience in coming to Canada. The Jewish community is represented by a story about the early Jewish history of Alberta, written by Debby Shoctor and featured in JAHSENA's book, *From Generation to Generation: Jewish Edmontonians as Heritage Builders*.

Read these stories on Facebook at: [HOME-Stories Connecting Us All](https://www.facebook.com/HOME-Stories-Connecting-Us-All).

JEWISH COMMUNITIES of MUNDARE & LAMONT COUNTY PART II

This is the conclusion of the two-part article that was researched and written by Dr. Eric Schloss. The first section appeared in the Winter 2017 edition of Heritage.

BRUDERHEIM

Other communities near Mundare in Lamont County also had Jewish residents, particularly Bruderheim, located 34 miles northeast of Edmonton and approximately 29 miles northwest of Mundare. **Leon Freifeld** (1869-1952) with his wife Marcia came to Bruderheim in 1907 with their children and opened a general store, L. Freifeld and Co. Ltd. They had emigrated from



The Freifeld children: Stella (Aaron), David, Pearl (Shnitka), and Sarah (Wolch)

Ukraine to Emerson, Manitoba two years earlier. Their children, William (Bill) (1894-1989), Pearl (1897-1976), Stella (1900-1994), Sarah (1902-1996) and David (1905-1989), grew up in Bruderheim before pursuing their careers and marriages; (Pearl to Abe Shnitka in 1920, Stella to Charles Aaron and Sarah to J.D. (Daidie) Wolch in the late 1920's or 1930).

Another brother, Harry, died earlier in 1911 at the age of 18. The business was operated by Leon and later briefly by William, until at least 1930. Leon had operated a clothing and grocery store in Leduc in 1911 (Freifeld and Shore). He also opened a store in Lamont and was very helpful to William Dlin in establishing his first store in 1912/13 and to Sam and Jesse Fogelson in the 1920s in starting their own small business in Bruderheim. Mr. Freifeld also helped Sarah and her husband establish a store in Bashaw following their marriage.

Leon also sponsored and financed his brother's family to emigrate from Russia to Edmonton. His brother had died of typhus a few years after the Russian Revolution and his widow, Olga, and her two children, Eric and Anna, along with their Russian nurse, arrived in Edmonton

in 1924. Olga (1887-1972) worked as a public health nurse in Peers, Alberta from 1927 to 1940 and delivered more than 300 babies during that time. Her children went to school in Edmonton and her son, **Eric Freifeld** (1919-1984) became a famous Canadian artist.

Leon and Marcia eventually moved permanently to Edmonton but he was plagued by bad health for many years before they both passed away in 1952. Each of their four children had a family of one child; Dr. Ted Shnitka, Bob Aaron, and Ron Wolch, plus William's daughter Nora Freifeld. David broke the mold by having two daughters.

As related earlier, William Dlin had established a store in Bruderheim (1912/13) and, after his marriage in 1918, they raised their family there. Barney (**Dr. Ben Dlin**) and **Norman Dlin** detailed the history of the Dlin family experience. Dr. Ben Dlin had clear recollections of his childhood in Bruderheim, recording in great detail the joys, trials and tribulations of life in the small farming community, recalling the wood pile, wood burning stove, lack of indoor plumbing, the crank phone, icehouse and the chicken coop that provided eggs for the family. He also described their close family life and William's honest business dealings with his customers. Ben reveled in exploring the fields and woodlands around the village, particularly during threshing season.

Both Dlin brothers eventually wrote

interesting memoirs. Ben, who graduated from Medicine in 1949 from the University of Alberta, wrote "A Country Doctor" in 2000, which was a memoir of his time as a family doctor, mainly in Eckville, Alberta, the small town made notorious in later years by the Keegstra affair. He later became a well-known psychiatrist and expert in psychosomatic medicine in Philadelphia, before retiring to Vancouver Island.

His brother Norman, in his memoir, *A Virgin in the Galilee* (published 2005), recounted his childhood memories and subsequent experiences as a Mahal volunteer in Israel during the 1948 War of Independence, and as a PhD candidate in geography at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He subsequently became a noted geography professor at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Harry Tarnow and his wife Leah came to the small village of Bruderheim in 1915 with their three daughters; Estelle, Lil and Ann. Their young son Charlie (1916) and daughter Frankie (1918) were born after their arrival. Mr. Tarnow managed a grain company and also operated an ice cream parlour until the family moved to Edmonton in 1934. Frankie eventually married my cousin **Norman Samuels** in 1944 when he was in the Canadian Army. After the war they moved to Vancouver. Their daughter, Marilyn Samuels Cramer, now of Calgary, told me that her mother used to tell her children how much fun and excitement it was during the High Holidays when the Tarnow family would take the train to Edmonton to attend synagogue services, and at every stop there would be Jewish families coming onboard for the same destination. To add to the many family interconnections, Evelyn, daughter of Rose and Ralph Samuels, married Frankie's brother Charlie in 1948 and they then moved to Vancouver.

Abraham and Ethel Loomer moved from Russia to Bruderheim

Continued on next page



The Tarnow family, circa 1923. Back, left to right: Lillian, Estelle, Anne. Middle: Larry, Leah. In front: Charlie, Frankie (Samuels)



Frankie Samuels & Sara Dlin dressed for Purim.

PURCHASER'S RECEIPT.—To be retained by the purchaser. Form A 4 10895

CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS LIMITED

TRANS-PACIFIC — TRANS-ATLANTIC

RECEIPT FOR AMOUNT PAID FOR WESTBOUND PASSAGE ORDER DRAWN ON

Agent THE CANADIAN PACIFIC STEAMSHIPS, LIMITED, at **Russia**

NAME	Age	FROM	TO	VIA	
Abraham Loomer	62	Moscow	Bruderheim	Direct	
Sara Loomer	48				
Neaj Loomer	16				
Estelle Elka Loomer	20				
Bernah Goltman	40				
LEAH GOLTMAN	9				

	FULL FARES	HALF FARES	CLASS	BATH	AMOUNT
EUROPEAN FORWARDING CHARGES					
SWITZER R.R.					
RUSSIA PASSAGE	Five One 3rd				895.75
CANADIAN AND/OR U.S.A.R.R.	Five One Immigrant				183.70
CASH TO BE PAID TO PASSENGER					
U.S. HEAD TAX (IF REQUIRED)					
					TOTAL \$1077.45

PAID BY **A. Loomer,**
ADDRESS **Bruderheim Alta.,**

Street and No. **Yinnies, Podolska Gub.**
Place **Nekrasovka Ul.,**
Country **Russia.**

Agent **W.C. Casey, per G.M.K.**
At **Winnipeg Man** Date **Feb 22nd 1916.**
ISSUED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS ON BACK.

Cable charges \$9.80

NOT GOOD FOR PASSAGE

Abraham and Ethel Loomer's transportation slip for Canadian Steamship Lines.



Abe & Ethel Loomer in front of Loomer's Confectionary circa 1931.



Sam and Jesse Fogelson.



Ethel Fogelson, Hymie Loomer, Roy Loomer, Gertie Fogelson and other children, circa 1933.

around 1921 (with their infant son Joe born en route) to open a confectionary store. They were joined by other family members in 1926. These included Abe's father Nachum and his stepmother Sara, her daughter Elke and son Norman, plus two cousins. Norman soon apprenticed in a grocery store in Vegreville, and then became a grocery manager for Safeway and the J. Lawrence and Co. in Camrose where he met his wife Minnie (Kurtzberg). He then managed the grocery department in Christie Grant's Ltd. in Edmonton for Ralph and Joe Samuels for a number of years before entering the hotel business in Saskatchewan. While managing the Dorchester Hotel in Regina, Norman and his family were joined for a few years (1946 to 1949) by Abe, Ethel and their son Roy.

Abe and Ethel's son Hymie (father of Neil Loomer) was born in 1926 and his brother Roy in 1931, while the family was in Bruderheim. They grew up there until the family moved to Edmonton in 1939. Their grandfather Nachum, born in 1864, died in Edmonton in 1945. His wife Sara then lived with her daughter Elke in Toronto until her passing. The Abe and Norman Loomer families eventually moved to Vancouver with interim stops in Victoria.

Sam and Jesse Fogelson opened their general supply store in Bruderheim in the 1920s and their two daughters Ethel and Gertie (Lerner) went to elementary school there. When their store was burnt

down in 1937, some blamed it on anti-semitism, but the Fogelsons stayed until 1939, when they moved to Edmonton.

Another familiar Edmonton name, **Max Stochinsky** (1894-1967), managed the Bruderheim Mercantile Company for a few years in the mid or late 1920s.

CHIPMAN

The eldest Dlin brother, **Barrel** (Boris) (1879-1953) and his wife Henia Riva (Henrietta) (1880-1962,) were forced by difficult circumstances to stay in Mirgorod, Ukraine during the Pogroms, Russian Revolution and the subsequent Civil War. With their seven children they underwent severe hardships and were saved from starvation at one point by the gift of a cow from their friends the Simberg family who lived in a nearby town. **Joe Simberg**, his future wife Lisa (Rabofsky) and his sisters (including Luba Panar) were frequent visitors in the Dlin home and eventually settled in Vegreville where the cousins Teddi (Simberg) Riskin and Dave Panar grew up. A further family connection was that Lisa Simberg's younger sister Sonya ultimately became the mother of Terrie Margolis and Dr. Earl Ghitter. The Dlin children were: Ann (born in 1902), Saul (1904), Minnie (1906), Lucy (1908), Bory (1914), Sally (1916) and baby Mickey in 1919. They finally managed to reach Canada in 1923, and briefly joined the William Dlin family in Bruderheim in January, 1924. Looking for new opportunities, they moved briefly to the hamlet of Hilliard, and then established a general store in neighbouring Chipman for many years. The older girls left for Edmonton and marriages followed to well-known members of the Jewish community: Ann to Harry Hardin, Minnie to Leo Pekarsky and Lucy to Jack Shugarman. The younger siblings also soon went to Edmonton for their education. Saul remained with his father in the store until they finally closed the business in



50th Anniversary of Barrel & Henia Riva Dlin, circa 1940. Back row, left to right: Mickey Dlin, Sally Dlin (Kane), Minnie Dlin (Pekarsky), Lucy Dlin (Shugarman), Bory Dlin. Front row: Saul Dlin, Henia Riva & Barrel Dlin, Ann Dlin (Hardin).

1935 and moved to Edmonton. While living in Chipman, Saul (1904-1981) was a close friend of **Dr. Ben Shlain** (1902-1984) in neighboring Mundare, and they enjoyed frequent fishing trips together over the next 50 years or more until both passed away in Edmonton.

The Dlin family members were prominent and active members of Edmonton's Jewish community. Saul and Mickey were both Negev Dinner honorees, as was Leo Pekarsky. Mickey's wife Sybil (Podolsky) and Saul's wife Helen (Srolovitz) were also very active in community organizations.

Harry (1884-1974) and Betty (Bella) (1888-1974) **Olyan**, longtime residents of Vegreville, had earlier lived in Chipman. They had come from Ukraine with other Olyan family members and were married in New York in 1909. Their eldest daughter Rose (Shapiro) was born there in 1911, and they came to Edmonton circa 1912/14. They soon settled in Chipman where Harry operated a general store. The family had grown with the arrival of Hayman



Ben Shlain and Saul Dlin, Emerald Lake.

in 1913, and the subsequent children were born in Chipman; Adele in 1916, Sarah (Shur) in 1919 and the youngest son Naphthali (Nip) in 1924. They remained in Chipman for many years and Harry became active in the community including a term as acting mayor of the village. Unfortunately, tragedy occurred on September 2nd, 1927 when Hayman was the first reported case in the province that year of what was then called infantile paralysis (polio). Family lore held that, following this tragedy, Harry decided that he did not want to

Continued on next page

JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

These items have recently found their way into the archives, and are available for research purposes:

The book "Facing the Shards" written by Joy-Ruth Mickelson from Gillian Horwitz.

Historical documents on the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO organization from Karen Farkas.

One Remembrance Day photo at the Jewish Cemetery at the Cenotaph, circa 1949.

Several reference and historical books for the library by Bill and Trudianne Dolman.

A complete set of the Encyclopedia Judaica from Jon and Francie Nobleman.

A "Celebration of 75 years of AZA" program booklet from 2000 by Jeff Sky.

Part of a publication on the immigrant experience written by Tenvy Estrin donated by Esther Starkman.

Family photos from several families in relation to the two part article published in this Heritage and the past newsletter by Dr. Eric Schloss. Contributions were made by Cory Felber, Judi Card, Lynn Pechet-Bruser, Neil Loomer, Leah Neaman, Sondra Schloss, Michael Nozick, Marilyn Samuels, Sharleene Sherwin, Gail Rudolph.

We are still accepting donations of books relevant to local family or organizational history. Should you have any questions about donations, please contact our office.

IN APPRECIATION:

A special thank you to Sharon Abbott who continues to comb through all local publications to bring us clippings, invitations, magazine articles and newsletters.

Thanks again to Jini Vogel and Alex Krimberg who continue to come into the office to help with organizing books and archives.

Uncle Tom's Corner

THE BULLETIN'S ALADDIN CLUB
KINDNESS HONOR COURTESY LOYALTY OBDIANCE

Dear Uncle Tom,

May I be a member of your Club? I read all the letter in the Bulletin, and think they are very nice, so I would like to join. Please send me a badge. I am nine years old, and in Grade 5. I have a cat whose name is Tom. I have three brothers, the oldest is seven years old. My cousin Rosie Olyan joined the Club. I read her letter and thought it very good. I wish you and your Club every success.

Rose Bricker

Lavoy - September 9, 1920



The Olyan Family, circa 1910-12 in New York. Left to right: Harry Olyan, Betty (Binder) Olyan, mother Sheindel (Livshitz) Olyan, Pat Olyan, father Moishe Olyan, Clara (Olyan) Bricker and Louis Bricker.

bring up his young son, Nip, in such a small village (population 250) and soon settled permanently in the larger "metropolis" of Vegreville, (population 1500) where they became leading members of the Jewish and general communities. Their eldest daughter Rose married Joe Shapiro of Calgary in 1933, in the first wedding held in the new Vegreville synagogue. Subsequently, Adele passed away at an early age in 1942. The children otherwise had reasonable longevity. Rose passed away in 2009 at almost 98 years of age in Calgary, where she had spent most of her life. Sarah (Shur) passed away in Edmonton in 2004 and Nip in 2013.

Harry Olyan's parents, Moses and Sheindel, also resided in Chipman before moving to Vegreville where they passed away in 1933 and 1938. The Canadian government had initially cited Moses in a list of people termed "aliens", but he was granted his certificate of naturalization on April 4, 1923 in Chipman.

Although not well documented, other Olyan family members apparently also lived for a time in Chipman. They likely

included Harry's brother, Paretz (Pat) (1891-1959) and his wife Elka with their daughter Clarissa (Bercuson) (1915-2000), son Jack (1915-1993) and youngest child Della (Osten) (1921-1993). The family then settled in Vegreville and eventually in Edmonton. Della's daughter Ellen Sue (Osten) Mesbur, who had a career as a prominent social worker in Toronto, told me that at her wedding in Edmonton, Mickey Dlin related that as a young boy in Chipman he was particularly attracted to the pretty Della Olyan in nearby Vegreville. He had apparently not noticed her as much when she was a much younger child in Chipman. Elka Olyan's sister Rose (Alpert) (1903-1989) lived in Chipman on arrival in Canada and left in 1926 when she married **Joe Shtabsky** (1901-1975), who with his brother Sam had arrived in Vegreville in 1924. They eventually spent most of their lives in Edmonton, actively involved in the Jewish community where Joe served for many years as secretary of the Beth Israel Synagogue, Chevra Kadisha, and Talmud Torah.

According to Wayne Shur, his grandfa-

ther Harry Olyan's sister Clara, and her husband Louis Bricker (both 1889-1966) initially worked in the Chipman store before moving with their family to Lavoy, 11 miles east of Vegreville by 1920. Their daughter, Rose Bricker (born 1911), was a prolific letter writer as a child and, between 1920 and 1923, often wrote to "Uncle Tom's Corner", the publication of the Children's Aladdin Club sponsored by the Edmonton Bulletin. Children from many small towns in the area wrote to Uncle Tom reporting about news and events in their respective communities. This was well before radio came to western Canada. **Rose Bricker** and her cousin **Rose Olyan** in Chipman corresponded frequently with Uncle Tom. Rose Olyan was praised as a nice letter writer and was president of the Club for three consecutive terms. Uncle Tom referred to the girls as the "two Rosies". Rose Bricker described her many visits to spend time with her cousin in Chipman. Her brother Mitchell (born 1913) also started corresponding in the Club. However, in 1923, Rose commented that her seven-year-old younger brother Jerome (Jerry) (1916-



Morris & Sarah Kagna's 20th Anniversary, circa 1939. Back row, left to right: Sarah Lyons (Kagna, Kline), Leon Kagna, Marcia Kagna (Lowenstein), Morris Lyons, Laura Wener (Lyons), Earl Lyons. Middle row: Morris Kagna, Clara Mahlin (Lyons) (Spivak), David Spivak, Lottie Newhouse (Lyons) holding son, David, Irving Lyons. In front: Alan Lyons.

1995) also wanted to join the Club but she said that he couldn't write very well, and therefore told him to "wait until he could". Jerry did not have to join the Club to become popular. I had the pleasure of knowing him in later years and he had the widest circle of friends of anyone. He operated the iconic Frontier Fishing Lodge in the Northwest Territories by Great Slave Lake for at least 26 years. Jerry's four younger Bricker brothers did not have time to join the Aladdin Club as it folded at the end of 1923.

My Aunt Sarah (Engle) taught school in Chipman for a few years in the late 1920s before moving to Calgary. Ten years ago I had patients, originally from Chipman, who were planning their 70th wedding anniversary in their home town. When they saw my name, they asked me if I was related to their former grade school teacher, Miss Sarah Schloss!

LAMONT

Lamont, like Vegreville, was a relatively bigger town, and **J.H. Chmelnitsky (Jake Samuels)** (1886-1979), had opened

a mercantile company there for a few years before coming to Edmonton with his wife Leah (Parker) after 1913. His sister, Passie Riskin, already resided in Edmonton. They had four children. Ralph (Samuels), who graduated in law from the U of A, was a lawyer in Edmonton for many years. He also built and developed the Savoy Plaza apartment hotel on the southeast corner of 110 Street and Jasper Avenue. Arthur practiced medicine in Los Angeles until he retired; Dorothy (Curtis) was a well-known pianist and spent most of her life in Vancouver; and Trudy made early Aliyah to Israel. Jake started several clothing wholesales in Edmonton and became a partner with the Dower brothers. He also established Parker's Sportswear Ltd. which he named after his wife's family. The company was finally sold to Sam Green in 1949. His clothing company, J.H. Samuels Wholesale, had been opened in 1938. Jake was very active in the Edmonton Jewish community and was the inaugural chairman of the committee forming the Beth Shalom

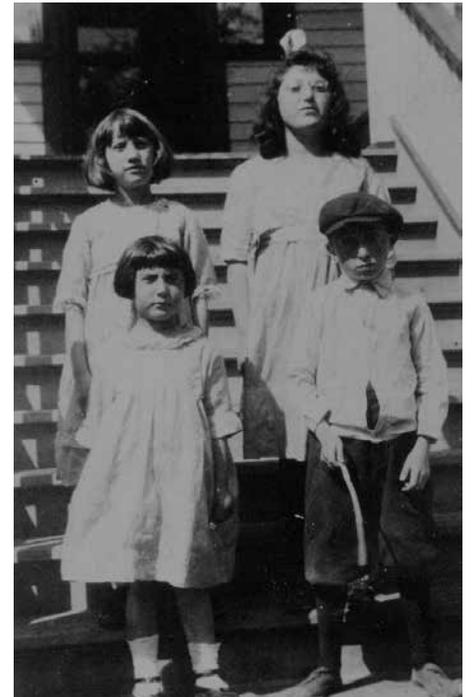
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Ralph, Jake & Joe Samuels circa 1960.



Joshua & Rose (Shaw) Newhouse circa 1907



Back row, left to right: Unknown, Lottie Newhouse (Lyons). Front row: Tryna Newhouse (Rudolph), Jack Newhouse circa 1919.

Synagogue in 1932. I knew him through my Samuels relatives and he was known to be a character, but he also stepped forward to be Godfather at my bris!

The **J.H. Newhouse family** also lived in Lamont for several years after briefly forming the Shaw Newhouse Firm, with Rose (Shaw) Newhouse's brother Joe in Vegreville circa 1911. The Newhouses married in Winnipeg in January, 1907 and their first child, Lottie (Lyons),



Ruth (Grabow) Superstein in her wedding dress with her parents, Mr. and Mr. Jacob Grabow, circa 1944.



Rebecca & Isaac Simkin circa early 1900s.

was born at the end of that year. Her brother Jack was also born in Winnipeg in 1910. Around the time that the youngest child Tryna (Rudolph) was born in Edmonton in 1913, they decided to move to Lamont, where they operated a small general store for the next eight or nine years. Subsequently, they determined Jack had to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah and moved to Edmonton in 1921 or 1922, where Newhouse Wholesale was incorporated. They were in Lamont during the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 and Rose's mother, Sosia (Nozick) Shaw, mother to the large Shaw family, who was living at the Newhouses with her husband Dov Ber (Bernard), tragically succumbed to the virulent flu virus.

Morris and Sarah (Lyons) Kagna (1898-1975) lived for a short time in Lamont. **Betty (Aaron) Kagna** told me that her husband, their son **Leon**, was born at the Lamont Archer Memorial Hospital in 1922. He was an aviation hero in WWII and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Morris Kagna passed away in Edmonton in 1939 and Leon in 2016. Others who

lived for a while in Lamont included the **Louis Milners** and later the **Tunis family** before they settled in Vegreville. William Dlin and Leon Freifeld also ran Lamont general supply stores for some time. Many years later in 1948, **Jacob and Faye Fialkow**, together with their young son **Sam**, lived there and owned and operated the Lamont Hotel.

HILLIARD

The **Grabow family** who had emigrated from Pinsk to Alberta in 1925/26, comprised of parents Jacob (died 1948) and Molly (1900-1995) with daughters Dorothy (1921-2011), Ruth (1922-2016), son Max (1926-1948), and son Ben born in Edmonton in 1928. Initially Jacob had worked for Mr. Griesdorf (grandfather of Tevie Miller, Helen Paull and Leon Miller) and lived in the basement of his store before finally bringing his family to Edmonton. After a short time in Edmonton, the family moved to the small village of Opal, northeast of Edmonton near Redwater. Benny, who has lived in Vancouver since 1966, told



The Simkins Family circa 1940. Back row, left to right: Lou, Esther (Comisarow), Isaac, Rose (Pechet). Front row: Unknown, Marsha, Rebecca (Isaac's wife).

me he was expected in 1928 to be born in the closest hospital at Lamont, but as he was not quite ready to be delivered, they were returning in the car to Opal when he was born in transit in his parent's car! The family then moved to the small hamlet of Hilliard for at least 12 years where Jacob ran a small shop until they moved back to Edmonton prior to Benny's Bar Mitzvah. He told me that the man who taught him his maftir in 1941 was a Mr. Chaim Schloss, who happened to be my grandfather. Dorothy had recently married Norman Hoffman, and they had short stays in Mayerthorpe and Thorsby before settling in Calgary.

Ruth wed Jake Superstein in 1944 in Edmonton, where they spent their long, married life. Molly and Jacob arranged emigration to Edmonton for many well-known families from Pinsk. The "Pinskners" included the Supersteins, Rubins, Lutskys, Brezers, Fialkows, Feldmans and Heckleman families. Hymie Lieberman told me that his Aunt Molly (nee Lieberman - sister of Hymie's father) and her husband Jacob arranged for his emigration to Edmonton from Pinsk as a small child along with his parents and older siblings in 1931.

ANDREW

In the small, largely Ukrainian village of Andrew, 34 miles due North of Mundare, **Charles Margolus** in 1912 became a silent partner with his brother-in-law **Zalman Nissen Brown** (Brullon) and **Isaac Simkin**, to operate a general supply store serving the surrounding farmers. Charles had brought Mr. Brown to Toronto in 1906, followed by his wife Dvosha (1880-1964, Charles' sister), with her children a year or two later. They eventually came to Edmonton in 1912. The new active partners, Brown and Simkin, bought a team of horses and began peddling merchandise in the small towns and villages near Edmonton before they opened the



Seated, left to right: Ben Margolus holding daughter Celia, Ben's brother Charles Margolus, and brother-in-law Zalman Nissen Brown. Standing: Dvora Margolus (wife of Ben), Raisel Margolus (first wife of Charles, passed away in 1918) and Dvosha (Margolus) Brown (sister of Ben and Charles and wife of Zalman Nissen.)

general store in Andrew.

The Brown children, including **Tillie (Levine)** (1904-1995) and Sam, who had been born in Russia; and Anne and Ben, born in Toronto, were eventually joined by **Harry** (1913) and **Fanny (Sheinin)** (1915) when they lived in Andrew. Tillie Levine wrote a memoir with her husband Maurice in 1993 entitled *Roots and Wings*, at the time of their 65th wedding anniversary. She detailed her family's life in Andrew, arriving there on a horse and buggy and initially living in a two-room log cabin which had formerly been the village jailhouse. They had no electricity, no running water, and no indoor plumbing.

After several years, they moved to Edmonton, and the partnership of Brown and Simkin became even closer when Isaac Simkin married Mr. Brown's sister Riva (Rebecca). After two years in Edmonton, the business partnership dissolved and Isaac Simkin went to the village of Round Hill near Camrose, where he became a partner with **Sam Simovich (Simons)**. Zalman Nissen Brown also started a store in Smoky

Lake and the family lived there and in Edmonton for a number of years. The eldest daughter, Tillie, married Maurice Levine (1906-1999) in Edmonton in 1928. In 1929, Mr. Brown, his son Sam and nephew **Max Margolis** (father of Dr. Bob Margolis) moved to Saskatoon to open a branch of the bottling company (Dominion Bottling Company Ltd.) which Charles Margolus had established in 1914 and which was later operated in Edmonton by his older brother Harry and his three Margolis sons, Max, Ben (Marliss) and Harry. The company was eventually famous for producing 7-Up. The Levines also went to Saskatoon in 1929 where Maurice served as a driver to deliver the soda pop to towns around Saskatoon. Their daughters Sherna and Bryna were both born there over the next 18 months. Mr. Zalman Nissen Brown unfortunately passed away there in 1930. His sons Sam, Ben and Harry continued to operate the company with Max Margolis until 1950, when the Margolis family moved to Edmonton. The Levines also moved to Edmonton

Continued on next page

and their youngest daughter Debby (Smolkin) was born there. Maurice worked with Charles Margolus and his sons in The Canadian Bedding Company (Sealy Posturepedic) for many years before eventually moving to Calgary. Tillie's mother, Dvosha Brown, passed away in Calgary in 1964.

Isaac Simkin (1885-1962) and his wife Riva (Rebecca) lived in Round Hill with their children Esther (Comisarow) born in 1920, and Rose (Pechet) (1923-

1982). Harry and Marsha (Goldfeder) completed the family. In the early 1930s the family moved to Thorhild and Thorsby before settling in Edmonton. Howard Pechet related that his mother, Rose, attended Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton and that the actor Leslie Nielson, who came to star at the Mayfield Theatre, confessed to Howard that he had had a crush on Rose when they both attended the high school. After Rose's marriage to Eugene

Pechet, Howard stated that when Eugene bought his first hotel in North Battleford, his father-in-law, Isaac, along with his son Harry, initially went to manage it before returning to live in Edmonton, where Isaac died in 1962.

Joe Hoffman, left Romania (Bessarabia) in the late 1920s to come to Canada with his brothers Norman, Sam and Laibel. They all eventually reached Alberta except for Laibel, who spent his life in the Jaffa orange business in Israel. After a brief time in Eastern Canada, Joe arrived by train in Edmonton almost penniless and very hungry. His family said that, as he arrived, the Salvation Army was at the train station giving out bananas. Joe was so thankful for his free banana that for the rest of his life he never turned down a Salvation Army appeal and his grandchildren continue this tradition. He established a general store in the small village of Andrew in 1929 and immediately arranged for his future wife Gertie's emigration from Bessarabia with the aid of the Jewish Colonization Association.

Note: We have their correspondence (translation required) in letters from Joe in Andrew and Gertie's responses from Romania and from her Canadian Pacific ship. Upon Gertie's arrival in Edmonton, she was helped by Morris and Naomi Shoctor (parents of Joe Shoctor) and the families remained close friends.

The Hoffmans were married in Edmonton in 1930, and then lived in Andrew with their son Saul (born 1931) (MD University of Alberta 1955, a classmate of Joe Miller and Manuel Friedman), and his sister Sarah (born 1934). Saul later became a well-known plastic surgeon in New York. Joe Hoffman operated the Andrew Mercantile general store and often traded with the local Cree for beaver pelts, which he then sold to Edmonton fur dealers. According to his granddaughter, Dana Sair, he even learned words and phrases in the Cree language.



The Hoffmans arrived in Canada on the Steamship Montcalm and opened the Andrew Mercantile Co. after settling in Andrew

The family moved to Edmonton in 1944 where their youngest daughter Fern was born. They then moved to Calgary shortly after the war. Sarah and her husband Dave Sair moved to Vancouver around 1959 and Joe, Gertie and Fern eventually followed.

CONCLUSION

Currently the entire population of Lamont County has enlarged to approximately 3900. Chipman has a population of 274, essentially the same as when the Barrel Dlin family lived there in the 1920s and early 1930s. Andrew is larger at 425, and was only a maximum of 170 when the Hoffmans lived there in the 1930s. The population of Hilliard today may be too small to accurately count. The larger towns of Bruderheim and Lamont currently have populations of 1308 and 1774 respectively, but were much smaller at a maximum level of 300 and 500 when Jewish families lived there. It is interesting that Mundare's population at the time of the opening of the Nozick and Dlin's stores in 1911 and 1912 was a total of 152. This grew to 832 by 1931, and today it remains largely unchanged.

The ethnic composition of the population of Lamont County has always been predominantly Ukrainian since their first settlement in 1884 at the hamlet of Star, just a few miles north of Lamont. Bruderheim may be the main exception as it has always had a more mixed population, initially of predominantly European immigrants and a large German population.

The Jewish residents of the County were always a very small minority and have been largely absent since the 1940s, with the lone exception of Jack Dlin in Mundare, who stayed until his death in 1970. **However, if we have missed anyone, please notify us and identify yourself!!**

There are many popular tourist attractions in Lamont County such as the Ukrainian Village and the large scenic Elk Island National Park. The towns and villages are particularly noted for their numerous churches for which many tours are available, but you will obviously not find a synagogue on the various excursions. For many years, Mundare's proud emblem has been the giant kielbasa sausage overhanging the town entrance. As it is almost certainly not kosher this may symbolize the final absence of the historical Jewish population of Mundare and Lamont County.



The iconic Mundare Sausage.

CAPITOL PIPE SHOP

Continued from page 3

get into the theatre was long, Ben would occasionally take Bob, Noni and their cousin Judy into the theatre through a back entrance. When Ben was in his early sixties, he had to have heart surgery, and left Bob in charge of running the shop for about a month. Each night, Bob found that the shop was already very quiet by about eight o'clock, so would sneak into the theatre for five or ten minutes at a time to catch glimpses of the show, while intermittently returning to the shop to check that there were no customers.

The pipe shop was hardly unique as a Jewish-owned business in downtown Edmonton. Other Jewish-owned stores on or around Jasper Avenue included a shoe store owned by Ben's brother-in-law, Jake Wener, and a furniture shop owned by Hymie and Celia Baltzan. In fact, in the early 1950s, Ben and Hymie raised the money to build a new Talmud Torah schoolhouse on 133rd Street and 106th Avenue. Like many of the Jewish businessmen, the Ostrys were involved in Beth Shalom Synagogue, which was where Bob had his Bar Mitzvah.

After World War II, Ben and his close friends, George Levine, and Wolfe Margolus, sponsored three Holocaust survivors to immigrate to Canada, and even opened businesses for them in Edmonton. One of these survivors was Saul Reichert, who bought the well-known Teddy's Delicatessen from them in 1950.

Ben Ostry continued to run his pipe shop until the early 1960s, at which point he gave up his lease on the space in the Capitol Theatre building. Then, for several years, Ben sold mutual funds in Edmonton. In 1979, Ben and Ida joined Bob in Vancouver, where they enjoyed retirement until Ben passed away at the age of ninety. Today, Bob lives with his wife, Gerri, in Toronto and Noni lives in Blaine, Washington.

Thank-you to the families who donated family photos to this two-part article by Dr. Eric Schloss published in this *Heritage* and the past newsletter. Contributions were made by Cory Felber, Judi Card, Lynn Pechet-Bruser, Neil Loomer, Leah Neaman, Sondra Schloss, Michael Nozick, Marilyn Samuels, Sharleene Sherwin, Gail Rudolph, Naomi and Ron Wolch, Bernie Adler, Harry Warhaft, Lori Shekter and Gerald Sair.

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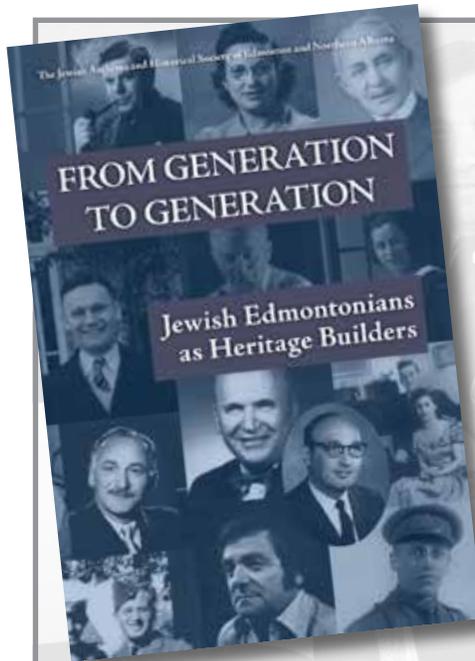
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