

Heritage



ירשה

THE JOURNAL OF *The Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton & Northern Alberta*

Volume 1, No. 4

September 1998

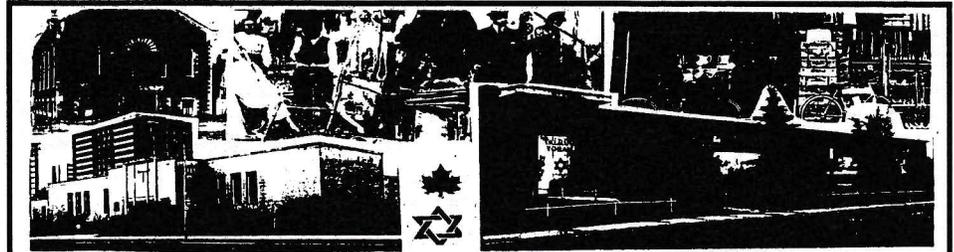
Tishrei 5759

History of Northern Alberta Jewry to be Published

At the historic first Annual Meeting of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, held on May 13th, 1998, plans were enthusiastically endorsed by 60 members of the Society in attendance to publish a pictorial history of the Jewish communities of Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

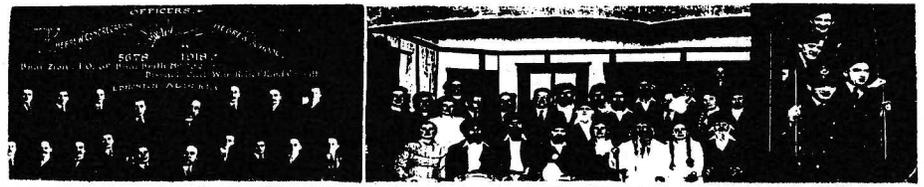
In making the announcement, Uri Rosenzweig, re-elected as President of the Society, stated that in order to bring this project to fruition, the Society must raise at least \$65,000 through foundation grants and donations. The planned book, follows on the heels of a similar one covering Southern Alberta published by the Historical Society of Southern Alberta, located in Calgary and headed by Jay Joffe. Both publications represent the first time that their respective histories have been published by Jewish communities in such a fashion. While the Calgary book covered the period from 1889 - 1945, it's planned for the Edmonton publication to go well beyond that period, although it is a work in progress and plans may change.

Tentatively titled, "The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton & Northern Alberta - 1893-1993 - the First & Second Generations" chapters will trace the



The First Century of Jewish Life In Edmonton & Northern Alberta 1893 - 1993

The First & Second Generations



period in hundreds of photographs and a brief written history of each era covered by each chapter. The book will also contain histories and photographs of agencies, organizations and institutions who will be requested to provide such material. There will also be a section devoted to histories of all families who choose to submit such brief written records.

"Our Society", stated Mr. Rosenzweig, "is a unique Jewish group in Edmonton, that in fact represents the collective memory of the community. I hope that this book will encourage members of the community, our institutions and organizations to help us in our efforts to preserve our history for future generations."

The book is scheduled to be launched early in the year 2000 □

Kipnes Foundation Spurs Effort

The Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation had made a substantial donation to the Jewish Archives and Historic Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) to be used exclusively for research for its planned history book.

The grant has been given on condition that no individual obtains editorial or functional control of the publication. Uri Rosenzweig, president of JAHSENA has accepted the grant on this condition and has stated his intent to form a special committee of the Society's board to oversee the editorial integrity of the publication.

"It's our intent to present the history of this region on the basis of research and fact, without making any judgements about individuals or groups."

In making the donation, Dr. Dianne and Irving Kipnes, enthusiastically welcomed the news of a planned history book of this region's Jewry. "It's an exciting project as we enter the new millennium and a gift to our younger and future generations. We urge the entire Jewish community to support this project not only with the needed funds, but with the historical photos and documents that are now in the process of being collected." □

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The Saga of Morris Abraham "Two-Gun" Cohen

By Uri Rosenzweig

The publishing world has recently resurrected the saga of "Two-Gun" Cohen, with a second book about him, now available, and several book reviews in various publications including the Jerusalem Report of May 25, 1998.

Generally speaking, it seems that every book about Canadian Jewish history, or some aspect of it, glosses over Alberta in general and Edmonton in particular. The same holds true about the saga of "Two-Gun" Cohen. Those in Edmonton and other places in the free world who lived through World War II, will remember the popular graffiti that appeared almost everywhere which told us "Kilroy was here." Well, Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen was also here, in Edmonton, all 200 pounds of him, so the purpose of this piece is for the historical record, and to tell people who never heard of him a little about this Jewish gun slinger, con man who became a general in the Chinese army.

Depending on which source you believe, Morris Cohen was either born in England, August 3rd, 1889, of poor, orthodox Polish/Jewish parents or born in Poland and brought over to England with his mother and sisters by his father a few years after his father settled there in the late 1880's.

In London, Morris Cohen became a shill, pickpocket and con man. At the age of 10 he was classified as a Juvenile Delinquent and sent to a reform school. When he got out at age 16 in 1905, his parents shipped him off to their friend in Wapella, Saskatchewan, a Jewish farm colony, where he was taught by a cowboy friend to ride, gamble and shoot. When Cohen tired of farming he went on to Winnipeg, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon working at various jobs.

In Saskatoon, Cohen made an important Chinese connection that shaped his life. He befriended an elderly restaurant owner, Mah Sam by rescuing him during a robbery attempt. Mah returned the favour by bailing Cohen out of jail on a gambling charge. The restaurateur was a high official of a secret tong or lodge and a supporter of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, who was dedicated to overthrowing the hated Manchu rulers in China. Mah took Cohen to Calgary where he was inducted into the tong society, a rare event for a non-Chinese.

Cohen moved to Edmonton in the early 1900's. He operated a gambling den on the 7th floor of the Macdonald Hotel and lived in an adjoining room, having several brushes with the law. He

worked as a realtor, selling land around Leduc for \$15.00 an acre. When Sun Yat-Sen visited Edmonton in 1912 on a fund raising mission to North America, Edmonton's Chinese asked Cohen to serve as his bodyguard for the rest of the trip. Cohen accepted and along the way helped purchase weapons to be shipped for Sun Yat-Sen's army.

Back in Edmonton, Morris Cohen became a prominent figure in Chinatown as a counsellor and champion of the Chinese. He persuaded politicians to amend the Chinese Immigration Act - abolishing the head tax and permitting some Chinese men to bring their wives over. He encouraged the Chinese to vote, promising he could swing their vote (to the highest bidder?) and worked on a successful campaign to elect Joe Clarke as mayor.

It was particularly at election time that Morris Cohen established a tradition of turning up at the Lewis Cafe, located on First Street across the Rialto Theatre, to sell the Chinese vote to bidders. Cohen had a reputation for being a practical joker and in his book "The Best Edmonton Stories", Tony Cashman relates one such prank that Morris Cohen created known as "Going to see Marie."

When Cohen and his buddies spotted a stranger at the Lewis Cafe they asked him if he was lonely and suggested he go see Marie. "Marie" they informed him, was a very attractive lady who lived just a block away and she was lonely as well. Did Marie have a husband, the stranger would inquire and he was told that she had, but he was a railroad man and he'd be on the train.

All the stranger had to do was bring Marie a box of chocolates. She loved that stuff.

When the prankster saw the stranger buy a box of chocolates, they knew the game was on. They would rush over to 102nd Street to "Marie's" house, which was empty. One of the men would hide behind the front door and put blanks into his pistol - the others hid in a junk yard across the street to watch the fun. When the stranger arrived at the house with a box of chocolates, he knocked on the door which flew open with Marie's "husband" brandishing the gun and firing blanks. In shock, the stranger dropped the chocolates and ran like hell.

"Going to see Marie" became the popular prank at the Lewis Cafe frequented by Morris Cohen.

Briefly, the rest of the China connection with Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen, runs as follows; he trained a Chinese hit squad in Edmonton to go to China for the purpose of assassinating the head of the Chinese Secret Police who was also a Russian double agent and had deposed Sun Yat-Sen only 45 days after he ruled China. When the assassins got to China, they found that their target had died.

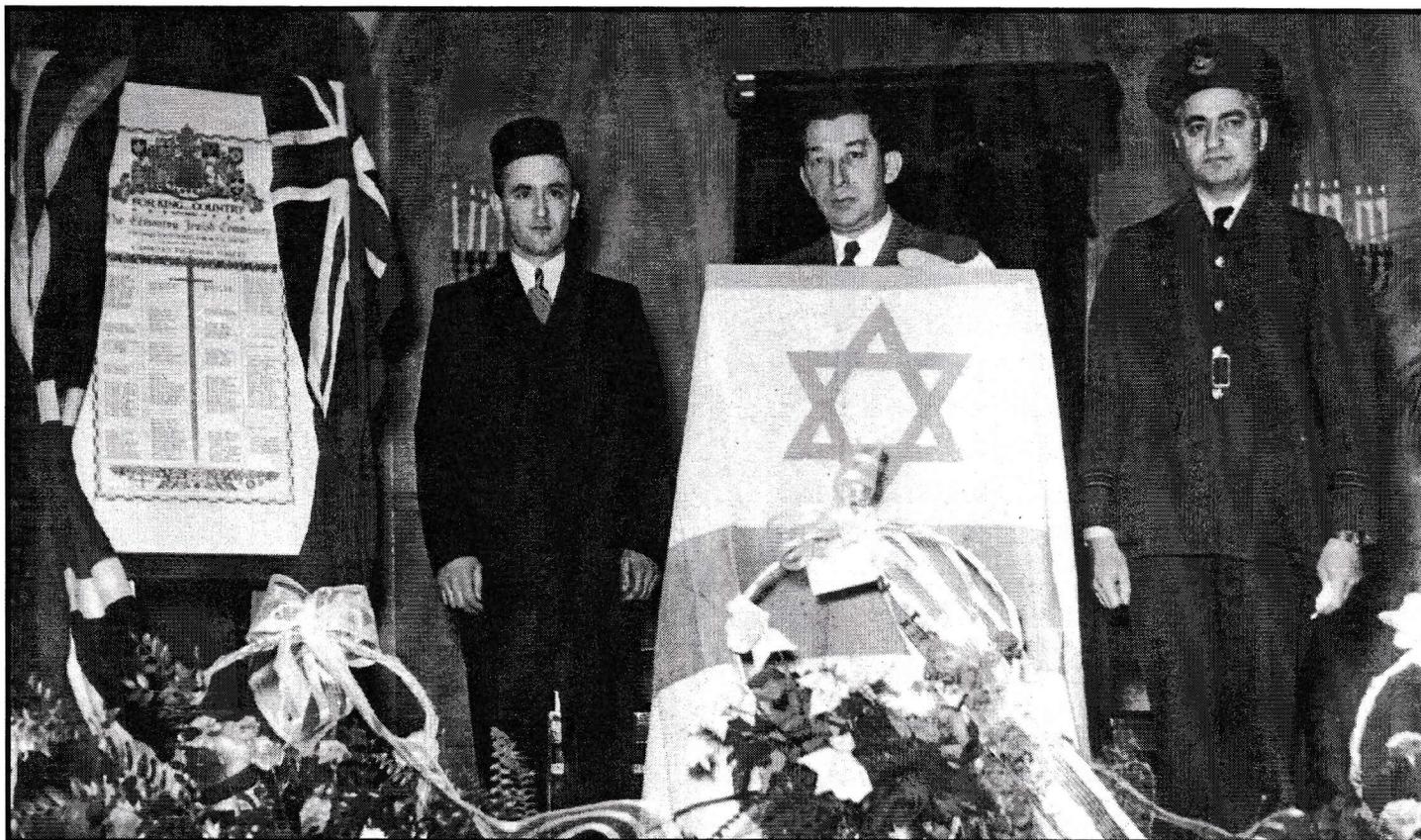
Cohen gave military training to a 750-man amateur army recruited from across Alberta. At the start of World War I, he offered to have them serve as a complete unit alongside Canadian troops, but Ottawa refused. In 1916, Cohen joined the 218th Infantry Battalion called the Irish Guards of Edmonton.

— Continued on Page 4



In March, 1916, Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen, bottom row, third from left, joined the newly-formed 238th Infantry Battalion, called the Irish Guards of Edmonton.

Courtesy City of Edmonton Archives Access #A96-79



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #75 237 Rabbi and Mrs. Postone

Shown conducting a memorial service, circa 1946, for Edmonton Jews in the Armed Forces who were killed in World War II are L-R: Rabbi Abraham Postone of Beth Israel congregation, H.A. Friedman & Rabbi Jacob Eisen, first Rabbi of the Beth Shalom congregation, who served as a chaplain in the Armed Forces. The location of scroll in the photograph is unknown to our Society.

Jewish Military History

By Beryl Nahornick

Starting sometime last year, a search began (with the help of Miriam Rabinovitch) to gather the names of Canadian veterans and soldiers who were living in the Edmonton area with their families during the time of the second world war.

I thought it important that all veterans, especially those now buried in our cemetery, should be remembered, (especially on Remembrance Day), not just those fallen soldiers named on our cenotaph.

We found that a very large majority of Jewish families in Edmonton had someone in the service during the years 1939 - 1945, many with two or more in the military. There were even a few women who enlisted. We also found some veterans from World War I as well as some who fought in both, such as Mandel Nozick's father.

We would like to record any other military histories and photographs that you or the families can contribute. And, please, don't let any war memorabilia go to an estate auction - it is part of

Editor's Note: One of the important chapters in the history book planned by JAHSENA is one about Jews of Edmonton and Northern Alberta, men and women, who served in the Canadian Armed Forces in World War I or II.

Last year, Beryl Nahornick, on her own initiative, assisted by Miriam Rabinovitch began a search for photographs, documents and histories of all those who served to be recorded and preserved. Mrs. Nahornick was invited to join the JAHSENA board in a joint effort.

We thank those who have already volunteered information, to Justice Samuel Lieberman, himself a member of the British Armed Forces, who compiled a list from memory and the Canadian Jewish Congress for donating copies of two volumes they published after World War II, one containing decorations awarded to Canadian Jews in the armed forces and one of casualties. All the material collected will be used for our history book and then deposited in the JAHSENA Archives located in the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

We are certain that names and information is missing from this story. Should you want to add any material to this record, please contact Beryl Nahornick or Miriam Rabinovitch □

Edmonton's history.

First there is the list of eleven soldiers which can be found on the cenotaph at the cemetery: *Mandel Bloomfield, Irving W. Garfin, Leonard Gold, Samuel Goorevitch, Hyman Greenberg, Ben Levine, Moe Marder, Alex Podolsky, Allen Rodd, Harry Urestsky and Morley Wachnow.*

Decorations were awarded to the following: *Jacob Eisen*, Chaplain and first Rabbi of the Beth Shalom Congregation, *Al Hanson, Lawrence Allen,*

Leon Kagna, Benjamin Satten and David Wolochow.

There were many veterans who returned to their families in Edmonton, married, had children and lived their lives here. There are still many living here and we would like your history: *Dr. Max Dolgoy, Harry L. Fefferman, Manuel Fefferman, Cecil Feldman, Cecil Goldstick, Dr. Tom Hardin, Judge Samuel Lieberman, Ansel Mark, Johnny Milner, Abner Rubin, Max Satanove, Alfie Simons, Leon Warhaft and Julius Weil.*

— Continued on Page 6

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Mission

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta was founded in 1996 and a year later became a registered not-for-profit Society under the Societies Act of Alberta.

The aims and purposes of the Society are to gather, sort, catalogue, preserve and present the history and the religious and cultural heritage of the Jewish people of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. To this end we have embarked on an ongoing program of acquiring documents, photographs, memorabilia and artifacts as well as recording oral histories of elders of the community.

By special Permanent Loan arrangements with the Provincial Archives of Alberta, material deposited by the Society will be available for research, genealogical study, publications and periodic exhibits and serve as a central resource for students, teachers, authors, historians and others.

Until such time that we are able to engage in fund-raising activities, membership fees are our only source of income and are tax deductible.

New Historical Society Board Elected

At the first annual general meeting of the Jewish Archives Society of Edmonton & Northern Alberta, (JAHSENA) held May 13, 1998, a new board was nominated and elected unanimously. A well-attended meeting of 60 members heard from Roz Usiskin, of Winnipeg, President of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada as guest speaker. In addition, special guests, Dr. Sandra Thomson, Director of the Provincial Archives of Alberta and Jay Joffe, President of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta also addressed the meeting. A beautiful, nostalgic exhibit from Winnipeg, "Selkirk Avenue Revisited" was on display. All speakers praised the efforts of JAHSENA and the progress it has made in so short a time. Uri Rosenzweig, Founding President of the Society praised and thanked the outgoing board and executive members for their contributions.

Subsequently, in accordance with Society by-laws, the first meeting of the new board elected the officers of the

Society and assigned each board member their respective tasks as follows: President & Publications Chair: *Uri Rosenzweig* 1st Vice-President & Treasurer: *Daniel Kauffman*, 2nd Vice-President & Special Research: *Theodore Shnitka, M.D.*, Secretary: *Dr. Leona Jackson*, Oral History Co-chairs: *Dr. Joy-Ruth & Ed Mickelson*, Casino Chair: *Patti Kagan*, Cemetery Project Chair: *Cory Dlin Felber*, Assistant, Cemetery Project: *Sharon Abbott*, Computer Associate: *Dr. Frank Jackson* and Military Research: *Beryl Nahornick*

At its first meeting the board made some policy decisions as follows: The membership category of organizational affiliation will be discontinued. Mr. Rosenzweig thanked all organizations in the community who had chosen to initially affiliate with the Society and lend their financial support, which greatly contributed to start up costs for the Society. Organizations will still be asked to play a major role in writing and contributing their respective histories for the planned history book and will be

contacted in due course.

A second policy decision was that of a uniform membership year starting September 1st of each year, regardless when a member joins. Fees of all current members are now due. Members of the community are invited to take an active part in the work of the Society and those interested should call Uri Rosenzweig at 481-1997 or any board member □

Two-Gun Cohen

Continued from page 2

He became a sergeant in the Canadian engineers at Flanders and Ypres. He lost his stripes twice after being wounded in the head and leaving a British hospital without official leave. In 1922, back in Edmonton, Cohen received an invitation from Sun Yat-Sen to come to China. He served as Sun's confidant, intelligence advisor bodyguard for many years.

After the Communists took power in China in 1949, Cohen's ties with China were ended. Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen died in England in 1970. According to one source he acquired his nickname while in China after he was wounded guarding Sun Yat-Sen. He started carrying a second pistol, one on hip and one on his shoulder and became adept in using them in both hands □

Sources:

The Life & Times of Two-Gun Cohen by *Charles Drage*,
Two-Gun Cohen: A Biography by *Daniel S. Levy*,
The Best Edmonton Stories by *Tony Cashman*

PART-TIME RESEARCHER

for Jewish Community History Book

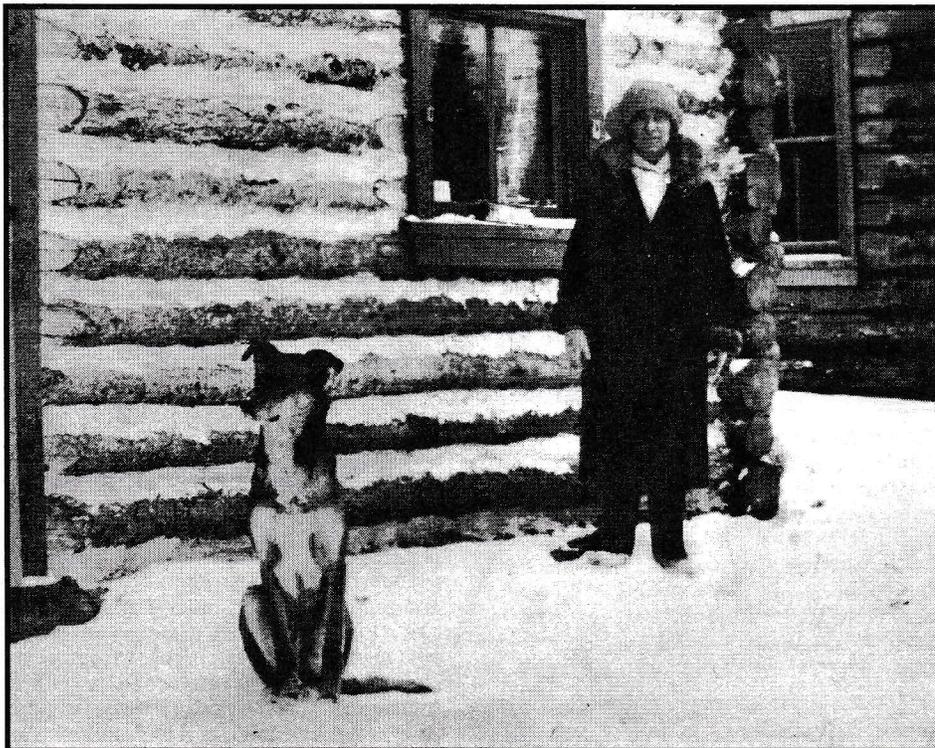
Experienced. Must have good knowledge of Edmonton Jewish community, be computer literate, have a car and enjoy social mobility.

Job expected to last at least 12 months. Salary negotiable.

Write, don't call, with details of knowledge and experience to:

Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton & Northern Alberta

K-16413 - 89 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5R 4S1



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #75.145 Mrs. Anna Freifeld Lemkow

Nurse Olga Freifeld standing outside her log cabin in Peers with her dog.

Nurse Olga Freifeld's Epic Career in Peers

By Anna Lemkow

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story about Olga Freifeld was written by her daughter, Anna Lemkow of New York in 1976. The career of Mrs. Freifeld and the life she spent dedicated as a public health nurse to the people of the Peers and district of Alberta for 13 years, came to light in an interview with Mrs. Stella Aaron of Edmonton, Olga's aunt, early in 1976. Mrs. Lemkow, who still lives in New York, worked for

many years as an economist at the United Nations. Her late brother, Eric, was a celebrated Canadian artist and teacher and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department of the Ontario College of Art in Toronto. This material has reposed in the Provincial Archives of Alberta for 22 years and it's believed that this is the first public revelation in a Jewish publication about this dedicated, heroic mother and nurse.

Mother passed away on 8 August 1972 at the age of about 90. She received her professional training at a medical college in the city of Saratov, Russia, where she completed a four-year course for nurses which included midwifery, medicine, anatomy and public health, a course given alike to nurses and medical students in all branches of medicine except surgery which the nurses did not study. Her certificate is dated 24 November 1913.

We arrived in Canada in 1924, at which time Mother knew no English. (By 'we' I mean Mother, Nyania, our Russian nurse, Eric, my brother and I - our father had died of Typhus. His brother, the late Leon Freifeld of Edmonton, the father of Mrs. Stella Aaron, whom you mention, financed our

immigration). As soon as Mother had learned some English she worked for a time at the University Hospital in Edmonton and thereby became accredited for employment in Canada. She had had some years of extraordinary experience in public health in the provinces in Russia. (Story in Edmonton Archives files).

The period spent in Peers was 13 years. She retired after a heart attack (was it in 1940?). Her work in Peers was inherently heroic to my mind because of the nature of the situation there: her district extended for at least 25 miles in each direction from her office/residence at Peers; there were no other medical personnel or facilities in that whole area; the nearest hospital or doctors were at Edson, a town 30 miles west of Peers itself;

the roads were very poor and there was at least one river that could only be crossed by ferry or over ice; the inhabitants were mostly very poor homesteaders, made poorer by the depression (of a variety of ethnic backgrounds). In addition to receiving patients at her office, she was on continuous call, day and night, every day of the week.

Confinement cases and many other cases entailed travel on her part no matter what the weather, road conditions or distance. She was brought to the patient by whatever means of transport was available - horse-drawn sled or wagon, auto, etc. In some instances she had to tranverse considerable distances on foot. Many trips were arduous, if not dangerous, because of such factors as cold, blizzards, mud, etc. And on arrival at the bedside she often had to contend with difficult circumstances, as when a baby had to be delivered in a very poorly-equipped one-room shack inhabited by a large family.

Needless to say, the burdens of responsibility were enormous, and I believe she saved many a life by sheer resourcefulness, devotion and persistent and hard effort. She would not leave a patient until a crises subsided even if this took many hours or days. One of her anxieties was caused by the incidence of overlapping confinement cases located in different parts of the district.

The range of cases was indeed varied. She delivered more than 300 babies in the 13 years at Peers; vaccinated and inoculated the children at 10 or more schools in her district; attended to many sawmill accident cases requiring the application of stitches; maintained a dispensary; prepared and sterilized supplies of dressings, etc.

There were also a number of extra-curricular activities inspired by her concern for patients. One was the contact she maintained with several philanthropic sources of supplementary food and clothing. She was in the habit particularly of distributing canned tomatoes and baby clothing to her expectant mothers. She was also instrumental in arranging for diverse services for patients through cooperation with the relevant officials in Edson - hospital officials, police, ministers - matters ranging from the performance of a wedding ceremony for a couple whose baby she had already delivered to the sterilization of a patient suffering from epilepsy.

Among the many with whom she had close rapport were the nuns (nurses) at the (Catholic) hospital in Edson, where she brought stretcher cases on occasion.

— Continued on Page 6

1. What is the Jewish Archives & Historical Society?

JAHSENA was incorporated as a society under the Province of Alberta Societies Act on February 22, 1997. It became a registered charitable organization September 1, 1997 and therefore all contributions to the Society are tax deductible.

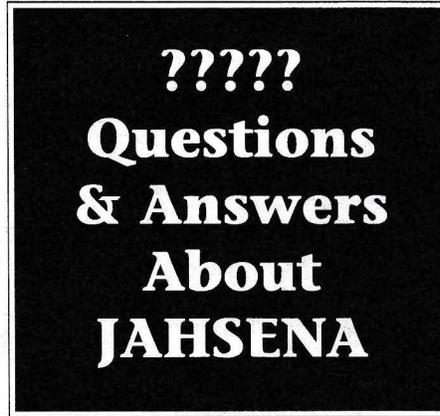
The Society is a legal entity with membership. At each annual meeting, members are entitled to attend, hear annual reports and elect members of the board who operate the Society in accordance with its by-laws. Anyone may join the Society by paying an annual fee based on the schedule that appears on the return envelope in this issue.

2. What is the purpose of the Society? (see mission statement p.4)

Briefly its purpose is to gather photographs, documents and other printed material donated by both individuals & organizations, for genealogical purposes and to preserve the history of the community. At the present time, the Society is not in a position to accept artifacts.

3. What does the Society do with material donated to it?

By virtue of a special Permanent Loan



Arrangement with the Provincial Archives of Alberta the Society catalogues and deposits this material in the Provincial Archives of Alberta. Unless restrictions are placed on the material by the donor to the Society (subject to approval by the Society), this material is accessible by the public at large. All material donated to and deposited by the Society remains its property to use as it chooses and therefore belongs to the Jewish community.

4. I want to keep original photographs or documents. Can I lend this material to the Society to make to make copies for its own files?

For the sake of safety and preservation under Provincial Archives climatic conditions, we encourage donors to donate originals and we will provide copies of originals we accept at no cost to the donor. If the donor wishes to keep originals and allow us to make copies for our files, we will do so at no cost to the donor, for material we accept for deposit.

Whether the donor gives us originals or copies, the Society will only accept such material if the donor signs a certificate of gift form, which in essence authorizes the Society to use this material as it sees fit.

5. Can I deposit material directly in the Provincial Archives collection rather than the JAHSENA collection?

Donors may exercise whatever option they want, but should be aware that material donated to the Provincial Archives of Alberta remains property of the Crown. Material donated to JAHSENA remains the property of the Society and can be removed by the Society at any time. For example, if at some future date, should the Society decide to establish its own Archives and display space in some Jewish communal facility, it has the right to relocate its material. Material donated to the Provincial Archives of Alberta cannot be removed at any time

Military History

Continued from page 3

Those no longer with us: *Mickey Dlin, Mel Friedman, Bill Furman, Barney Goldberg, Sidney Goorevitch, Lazar Kushner, George Levine, Max Macara, Dr. Ben Margolis, Burton Margolus, Stan Millar, Abe Satanove, Abe Segal, Jack Shugarman, Henry Singer, Jack Soifer, Malcolm Wasserman, Dr. Harry Weinlos and Jerry Zurin.*

Then there is a list of veterans, living or deceased, who left the community: *Sam Feldman, Dr. Leonard Fratkin, Richard (Dick) Fratkin, Eric Friefeld, Arthur Hiller, Al Hanson, Bory Margolis, Abraham Mickelson, Marty Mickelson, Evelyn Miller, Danny Podersky, David Wolochow and Dr. Paul Wolochow.*

Lastly we have been gathering a list of veterans, living or deceased, who came to this community to live shortly after the war years bringing their families here to live or else they married Edmonton girls whom they met when they were stationed here and stayed. These are: *Solomon Argonin, Bill Abrams, Hershel Bookhalter, Albert Charnow, Allan Cooper, Sam Frohlich, Max Kaplan, Abe Katzin, Joe Kline, Herb Leon, Dr. David Mintz, Lou Raymond, Gene Rollingher, Nate Shore, Jack Sokora, Buddy Spaner and Art Zeavin.*

These lists are certainly not infallible and so if there are any errors let us know. Also, we know we are missing some names. Please let us know who and their history

Olga Friefeld

Continued from page 5

She was also loved by other Public Health Nurses that came to know her, for example, those that relieved her when she took her annual three-week vacation. One such nurse, Mrs. Kay Cardiff, wrote to my brother and me at the time of Mother's death as follows: "I am remembering the past; the wonderful nurse and friend in Peers who sheltered and advised and fed – so lovingly all those who crossed her doorstep, myself included. Her dedication to her duty there will always be a shining example to any who tried to follow in her footsteps. Only you, her family, know the details of the trials that have made up her life. But she rose above them. Remember her happily, not sadly – she had a tremendous life and a satisfying one in her great gift of 'giving of herself to others'. She was my friend, I loved her dearly..."

I have another testimonial from a colleague of Mother's, today eminent in her field, Helen Griffith McArthur. She sent Mother a photocopy of the certificate of an Honorary Doctorate conferred on her by the University of Alberta, with the following inscription on the reverse side: "Olga Friefeld: To one who gave me early inspiration to attain professional nurse development culminating in this honour." (signed) Helen McArthur

**Become a
Member of Our Society
& help Our Effort to
Preserve Our Past
for the Future!**

*Use the handy reply envelope!

THANK YOU

Membership donations are now the only source of revenue for the operating costs for the Society which is a self-sustaining organization. Membership fees include spouses except for individual memberships. Members are eligible to vote at the annual and general special meetings of the Society.

We thank the following for their support received by the publication date.

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Thanks to William & Linda Workman for helping to sponsor this publication given in honour of Ed Mickelson's 70th birthday.

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Thanks to William & Linda Workman for helping to sponsor this publication given in honour of Ed Mickelson's 70th birthday.

To celebrate the third publication year of our Journal, Heritage-Yersusha we're pleased to publish the next four pages for your enjoyment and reminiscences of times past.

Our Journal, the first ever such publication in our communal history, began with our first faltering steps and under the editorship of Dr. Joy-Ruth and Ed Mickelson, assisted by Dan and Esther Kauffman, our first issue appeared in the Winter of 1996.

These photographs and documents reflect some of the diversity of our Jewish communal life and are, for the most part, included in a collection housed in the Provincial Archives of Alberta in addition to many Oral History taped interviews with past elders of the community.

We note with sadness, regret and indeed some anger, that while most of this collection was acquired by the Historical & Archives Committee of the Jewish Community Council from 1973 - 1978, when those dedicated to this important undertaking moved away, no individual or organization was prepared to take over this task.

And during this 18 year hiatus, until our present Society was formed, hundreds of valuable photographs, documents as well as opportunities for Oral History interviews of our elders, were lost, destroyed or perhaps some material still sits in boxes in basements, yellowing with age, looked at and possibly thrown out when their owners pass away or move away.

Our Society believes that this material represents an important part of the heritage, the yersusha of future generations. We seek your help in our mission to preserve our past through your membership and through the material you donate for preservation.

Uri Rosenzweig
President.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 10, No. 2

Edmonton, Alberta, November, 1966

Authorized as second class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in U.S.

Samuel Lieberman Appointed First Alberta Jewish Judge

A past president of B'nai B'rith Lodge 732 and a prominent Edmonton lawyer, Samuel S. Lieberman, 41, has been appointed as Alberta's first Jewish Judge. He will be sworn in on November 21st as the eighth judge of the District Court of the District of Northern Alberta and will be the youngest Judge ever appointed to a Superior Court in Alberta.

Judge Lieberman, a native of Edmonton since his admission to the Alberta Bar in 1946 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1962. He has been a member of the firm of Friedman, Lieberman, Newton, Lieberman, Ojima & Co. (F.L.N.L.) active in both the Jewish and non-Jewish community. He is also well known in legal circles in Alberta. In addition to his work with B'nai B'rith, Judge Lieberman was a member of the Board of Trustees of Beth Shalom Congregation and the Board of the Edmonton Jewish Community Council. He also served as a member of the United Jewish Appeal Committee.



Judge Lieberman

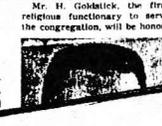
BETH ISRAEL OBSERVES SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDMONTON HEBREW ASSOCIATION STARTED 1906

A scientist who has been active in the United States effort to search for life on Mars will be the principal speaker at Congregation Beth Israel's annual banquet at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, November 20, which this year is dedicated to the sixtieth anniversary of the Edmonton Hebrew Association.

Dr. Yelvi W. Greene, associate professor of Public Health at the University of Minnesota, will speak on "Torah in the Space Age". The Edmonton Hebrew Association, established in August 1906, is the parent body of Congregation Beth Israel and other Jewish organizations in this city.

Survey Is Complete

The Edmonton Jewish Community's Survey has been completed. Answers were obtained from 82% of the households.



Mr. H. Goldstick, the first religious functionary to serve the congregation, will be honored at the dinner event. Itzhak Lewis N. Citaburg and Dr. Joseph Dugan, synagogue president, are chairmen for the event. Planning for the fête is being handled by a joint committee consisting of members of the congregation and Beth Shalom.

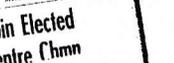
OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

IT'S NEXT WEDNESDAY! THE HADASSAH BAZAAR!

Hadassah-Women's Organization of Edmonton stages its annual, step-by-step Hadassah Bazaar and Dinner on Wednesday, October 27, from 11:00 a.m. to midnight. The bazaar will be held at the Sheraton Hotel. The menu will include a variety of dishes. The bazaar is a fund-raising event for Hadassah's work in Israel. The bazaar is open to all. The bazaar is a great opportunity to support Hadassah's work in Israel. The bazaar is a great opportunity to support Hadassah's work in Israel.

Mickey Dlin Re-elected President Edmonton Jewish Community

Mickey Dlin was elected to a second term as president of the Edmonton Jewish Community Council at a general assembly held on September 22, following the annual meeting on September 20. Dlin's term of office is for one year. He was re-elected by a large majority. The assembly was held at the Sheraton Hotel. The assembly was a success. The assembly was a success.



MICKEY DLIN

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Talmud Torah Reports Big Year

The Edmonton Talmud Torah has reported a record year for its fiscal year ending August 31, 1966. The school year was the most successful in its history. The school year was the most successful in its history. The school year was the most successful in its history.



Enrollment shows a deficit reduced; Statement Shows Deficit Reduced; Enrollment Reaches All-Time High. The Edmonton Talmud Torah has reported a record year for its fiscal year ending August 31, 1966. The school year was the most successful in its history. The school year was the most successful in its history. The school year was the most successful in its history.

HISTADRUT HONOURS OLYAN AT ANNUAL FEBRUARY FETE

Ninetieth Birth Anniversary. The Histadrut of Edmonton is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The Histadrut of Edmonton is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The Histadrut of Edmonton is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

LEVINE HEADS 1965 UJA

PIONEER WOMEN CHILD RESCUE OPENS WITH DINNER APRIL 5. The Pioneer Women's Child Rescue Committee is holding its annual dinner on April 5. The Pioneer Women's Child Rescue Committee is holding its annual dinner on April 5. The Pioneer Women's Child Rescue Committee is holding its annual dinner on April 5.

SURVEY STARTS THIS MONTH. The Edmonton Jewish Community Council is starting a survey this month. The Edmonton Jewish Community Council is starting a survey this month. The Edmonton Jewish Community Council is starting a survey this month.

\$165,000 Needed To Meet Rising Overseas And Local Requirements

George Levine has been named to head the Edmonton Jewish Community's 1965 United Jewish Appeal Campaign. George Levine has been named to head the Edmonton Jewish Community's 1965 United Jewish Appeal Campaign. George Levine has been named to head the Edmonton Jewish Community's 1965 United Jewish Appeal Campaign.



The goal was to raise \$165,000 for the year. The goal was to raise \$165,000 for the year. The goal was to raise \$165,000 for the year.

Community Papers Contain Important Historic Records

In the 1960's and 70's the Jewish Community Council of Edmonton and the United Jewish Appeal (now united and known as the Jewish Federation) jointly published a community newspaper, known as "Our Community News" and subsequently "Your Community News".

The newspaper was published on a regular monthly basis, without any advertising and concentrated on the activities of these two sponsoring organizations while also carrying material and announcements submitted by other organizations. This newspaper was the major communications medium between the organized Jewish community and the Jewish community at large.

In the late 1970s this publication ceased to exist and for several years there was no community newspaper until the Calgary Jewish Star began to publish an Edmonton edition, followed by the Jewish Times and Record and our current two community newspapers, Edmonton Jewish Life and Edmonton Jewish News, both independent, commercial ventures.

All these community newspapers, former as well as current, represent an important historical resource. Unfortunately, many back issues of "Our Community News" and "Your Community News" are missing from the Archives files, representing a great loss of our historic records. If you have such back copies that you would like to donate, please call Uri Rosenzweig at 481-1997.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I draw your attention to the bottom issue of this montage which was completed in early August. I was faced with a decision either to replace it in deference to the family of George Levine, of blessed memory, who passed away last month, or retain it as a modest tribute to the leadership he provided the community over many years. U.R.

The Story of Small Town Alberta Jewry

Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta
Access #75.266 David Wolochow

The story of Northern Alberta Jewry is not only about Edmonton, but of many small towns. Above (at end of sled) is Dr. Paul Wolochow shown in front of the drugstore he operated in Mayerthorpe, Circa 1925. His medical office was in the rear of the store and the Masonic Hall upstairs with a separate entrance.



Vegreville Jewish Community Was Vibrant

The history of the small but vibrant Jewish community of Vegreville will be part of the planned JAHSENA history book. Not only were the Jewish residents faithful to their own religion and culture but took a proud and active role in the life of the broader community.

Dr. S.H. Hardin, was the chronicler of the history of Vegreville Jewry and thanks to his efforts, this history has been documented for future generations. By 1973, the community had shrunk considerably and an emotional, final ceremony and service was held June 10,

1973 in the synagogue that had served the community so well.

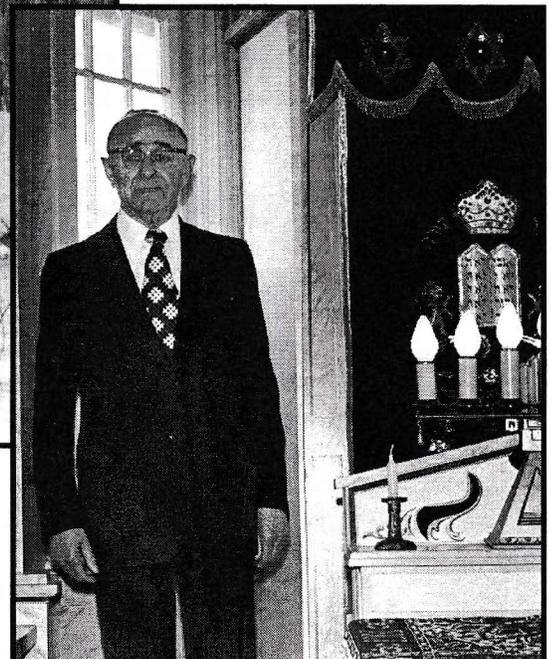
Many of the artifacts of the congregation are housed in the Provincial Museum of Alberta.

Below is Dr. Hardin at the final ceremonies in front of the Ark □



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #76.284 Mrs. Jack Smolenski

Philip Seigler was the first Jewish settler in the town of Vegreville, arriving in 1906. He was the proprietor of a livery stable and delivered mail from Vegreville to St. Paul de Metis. Accomplished under most precarious conditions, the trip took 3 days each way.



Dr. S.H. Hardin (right)



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #75.38/7 Mrs. E. Wershof

Celebrating Israel's Declaration of Independence, May 14, 1948.

Dr. Eli Wershof, President of the Edmonton Zionist Council is shown addressing a community gathering.

Seated on the platform: Mrs. H. Bloomfield, Mrs. Eli Wershof, Louis Rudolph, Mrs. M. Meyers, Mrs. S. Pakes, Saul Laub, Rabbi Postone, John Dower, O.B.E., Rabbi Hurwitz, Dr. Max Weinlos, S. Shragge, M. Stochinsky, A. Wyman.

Northern Alberta Jewry Adopted Zionist Idea

Before the rebirth of Israel, before UJA, Zionists and Zionist organizations in Edmonton, both men's women's and youth, served as a major force within the Jewish community and in the long struggle to establish a Jewish state in Palestine. The first Jews to settle in Edmonton, Abraham Cristall and his wife Rebecca, arrived in the fall of 1893, four years before the first Zionist Congress in Basle. Herzl's sent world Jewry a ringing message, "If you will it, it is no dream." Those who followed Abe Cristall from Eastern Europe to this "Golden Land" had their own dreams. But even so, the ancient yearning for a return to Zion was always with them in their hearts and minds and their prayers for the "next year in Jerusalem." Isolated from the mainstream of Canadian Jewry, our immigrant ancestors, fleeing from oppression and pogroms in Eastern Europe, and finding freedom and opportunity in their own free land, took up the Zionist challenge as their own, and our history will reflect their proud record to the Zionist cause and that many of their descendants eventually made aliyah □



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #75.38/6 Mrs. E. Wershof

Above: Israel's first Ambassador to Canada visited Edmonton April 3, 1954.

Greeting him at a reception (L-R): Dr. Eli Wershof, President of the Edmonton Zionist Council, J.J. Bowlen, Lt. Governor of Alberta, Ambassador Michael Comay, Mayor Wm. Hawrelak of Edmonton, Rabbi Lavy Becker, Montreal, John Dower, O.B.E., and Wolfe Margolus, Vice President of the Edmonton Zionist Council.



Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta Access #76.430 Mrs. M. Margolis
Young Judaeon baseball team, Circa 1923.

Front row (L-R): Jack Ostry, Robert Pinsky (Powell), David Griesdorf.
Back row (L-R): Sam Satinove, Charlie Nelson, Max Garfin.



Photo donated by Nathan Starr, San Mateo, California

House of Israel Junior Choir "Picnic" on Saskatchewan River Spring 1933

L-R: Nat Starr, Harold Kline, Hyman Bolocan, Malcolm Wasserman
 Back row: Helen Cohen, Reta Pechet, (?), Dinah Shecter, (?), Queena Wershof, Sarah Shecter, Millie Podursky.

Some of "Our Kids"

Courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta
 Access #76.56/4 Mrs. C. Berner
 The Bathing Beauties, circa 1910
 Mary, Rose and Fanny Bercov



Courtesy Historical Society of Southern Alberta Photo, Oscar Kirschner, Martha Cohen

December 1948: Calgary's Jewish war orphans and their adoptive parents are feted at a banquet, held in the Peretz School auditorium. This photo shows many of the Calgary Orphans, as well as several Edmonton orphans and some friends.

L-R Standing: (?), Saul Glin, Fred Manus, Robby Waisman, Esther ?, Yale Katz, Ebie ?, Mike Garbusz, Moishe ?, (?), Mark Janasz, Molly Hollander, Oscar Kirschner, Ben Katz.
 L-R Seated: (?), Elyse Schwartzpele, Elliott Zuckier, Abe Goldstein, Helen (Macklin), Clara Candle, Saul Blayways, (?), (?), Rochelle Schwartzpele, (?), Izzy Averbach, Klara Kagen, Paul Kagen. (Please help us add or correct names)