

# Heritage



# ירשה

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

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## JAHSENA Book Encourages Search for Family Roots

The forthcoming pictorial history book being published by JAHSENA as a project for the new millennium has encouraged many families within the Jewish community to search for or rediscover their family roots.

Dozens of families and individuals have been busy during the summer going through boxes untouched for years, culling out suitable material for the JAHSENA archival collection including photographs, newspaper clippings, etc. and writing family histories that will be published in a special chapter of the book.

Funds raised from the sale of the book will be used to further the work of the society. In order to cover costs of the publication, twenty-four chapter sponsors are required. Helen Paull, chair of the chapter sponsors efforts reports that half of the book's chapters have already been underwritten. Those interested in chapter sponsorships should contact her.

Those who are interested in submitting material for the archives, should contact Cory Friedman, Acquisitions chair, or Anita Sky, researcher.

(Continued on Page 4)

**Renew your  
JAHSENA  
membership  
or join the  
society.**

**See the centrefold  
for dues and a  
return envelope.**

*JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by  
Dr. Tom Hardin*

*Hardin Family,  
circa 1920's*



Kalman and Hodle Hardin and children, Issy Hardin, Sarah Hardin (Spivak) and Susky Hardin. The family is part of the H.R.S. club, (Hardin, Rodnunsky, Satanove,) which is a registered Alberta society established to bring over relatives from eastern Europe.

## Second Annual Meeting of Society Alex Mair Guest Speaker

The second annual meeting of the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta (JAHSENA) will be held Wednesday, October 27, 1999 at the Jewish Community Centre, at 7:30 p.m. sharp.

The guest speaker will be Alex Mair, well-known and popular historian, author, educator and humourist. Mr. Mair is a regular commentator on the CBC.

The meeting is open to the public but only members of the society are eligible to vote on business matters. Any member

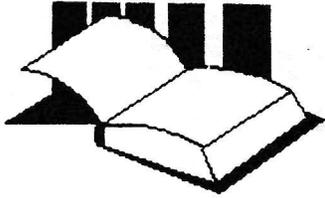
of the society interested in serving on the board should contact Uri Rosenzweig, president.

Since its inception in 1996, the society has continuously grown and at press time had 210 members. Spouses in all membership categories except individual memberships are automatically members. Members are entitled to serve on the board and participate in general and special meetings of the society. The society is a registered charitable organization. □

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## Chapter 4: The Military



Provincial Archives  
of Alberta, 77.141/1

Donated by:  
Peter Owen

1943  
Sigma Alpha Mu  
Fraternity



While Jewish men and women from Northern Alberta and elsewhere joined with their fellow Canadians overseas in fighting the Nazis, not only for democracy, but for the survival of Jews still in the death camps of Europe, here at home, the C.O.T.C. was training young men in universities for the battles still ahead. This 1943 photo of the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity at the University of Alberta shows many of its members in the uniform of the C.O.T.C. □

**Top Row, L-R,** Arthur Horadetsky, Jack Switzer, Herbert ....., Matt Bernstein, Leo Lyman, David Gold, Sam Lazlak, Joe Busheiken. **Second Row,** David Wolochow, Peter Owen, Benjamin Gurevitch, Victor Samuels, Llotd Mallen, Sam Belzberg, Harold Samuels, Mandle Nozick. **Front Row,** Sam Viner, ....., Murray Krasnoff, Michael Wolochow, Harold Krivel, Max Lipkin, Hyman Bolocan.

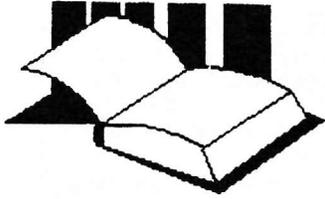


JAHSENA Archives: Donated by Leon Kagna

Among Jewish men from Northern Alberta who fought in World War II, eleven made the supreme sacrifice. There were also those who received decorations for their bravery. And among those was Flight-Lieutenant Leon Irving Kagna, D.F.C., Distinguished Flying Cross, shown at left at his investiture with Lt. Governor The Honourable John C. Bowen in 1945.

Flt.-Lt. Kagna enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in 1941 and graduated as a pilot. He received his commission in 1943 and served overseas with the 428th (Ghost) Squadron of Bomber Command, completing one tour of operations and one of instruction.

His citation read, "This officer has completed numerous operations against the enemy in the course of which he has invariably displayed the utmost fortitude, courage and devotion to duty." □

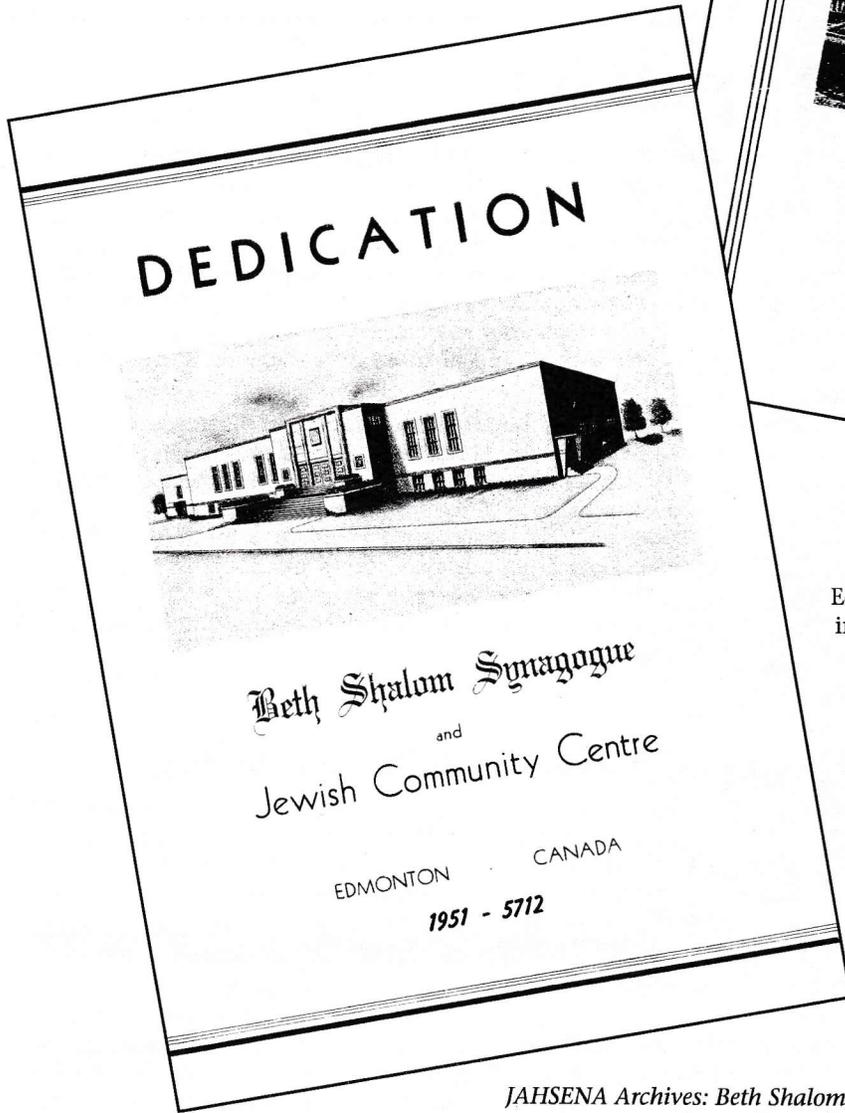
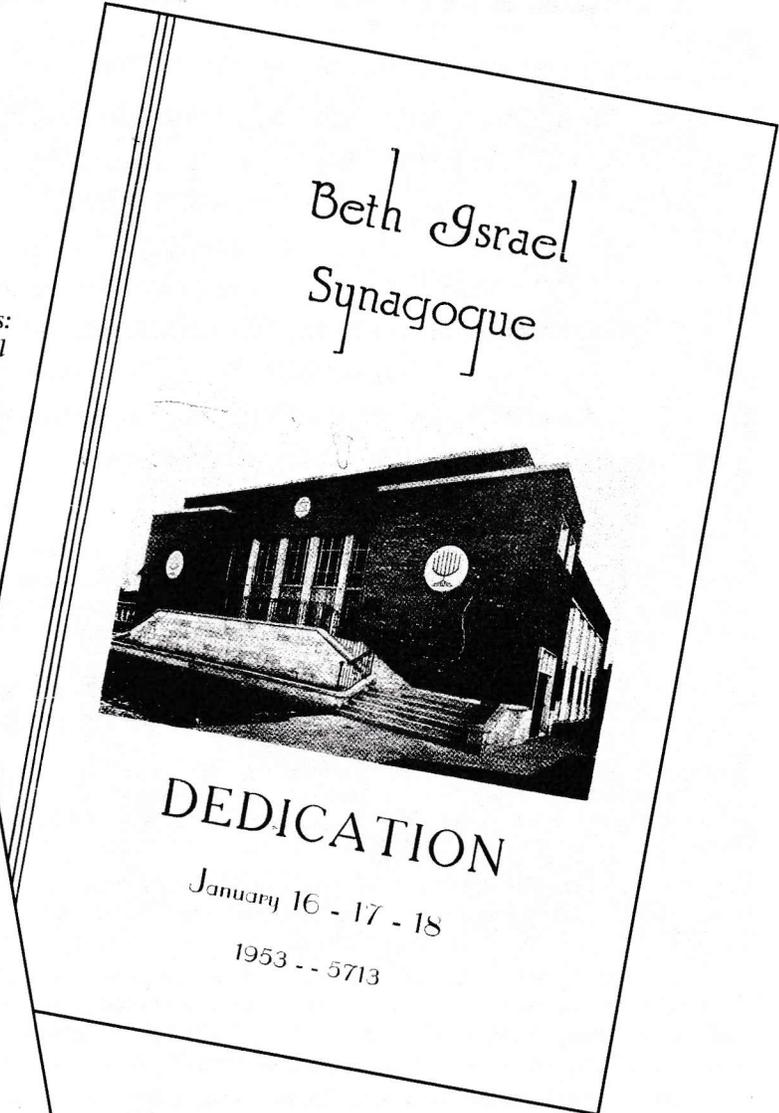


# Chapter 5: The Boom Years

JAHSENA Archives:  
Beth Israel

Beth Israel Dedication Booklet,  
January 1953  
Second Synagogue building

A new Beth Israel Synagogue will be built in Edmonton's Westend at the corner site of Wolf Willow Road and Wanyandi Road.



On February 13, 1947, less than 20 miles south-west of Edmonton, Leduc Oil Well #1 gushed into history and impacted on Alberta's economy to this day.

In 1951 metro Edmonton's population was 176,782 and increased to 495,915 by 1971. During the same period, Edmonton's Jewish population increased from 1,748 to 2,910.

The boom years in the Jewish community saw the arrival of Holocaust survivors, the building of the first Beth Shalom in 1951, a new Beth Israel Synagogue in 1953, a new Talmud Torah wing and gym in 1963.

But the burgeoning community had growing pains and in 1954 the Edmonton Jewish Community Council was formed to address those problems. □

JAHSENA Archives: Beth Shalom  
Beth Shalom Dedication Booklet, November 1951  
First Synagogue building

# Heritage ירשה

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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.

## The Appetizer

The pages in this issue of Yerusha/Heritage are designed to give our readers a quick glimpse, a flashing idea, a delicious taste of what our forthcoming pictorial history book will be about, in part.

It's designed as an appetizer for the main course which will contain over 300 pages in a walk down "memory lane" describing the first century of Jewish life in Edmonton and northern Alberta.

As stated in previous articles, this book will merely present a post-card view of Jewish life in our region. It is not intended as a definitive history because that sort of effort would take much more talent, time and treasure than is available to our small group.

The sum total of our history includes more than the histories of our organizations and institutions and the people who built them. It also includes the stories of individuals and families, of people and places from near and afar; the stories of ancestors who came to this land and how and why; the stories of the early farmers, settlers, pedlars and their children; the second generation of Albertans; stories of the survivors of the Holocaust, of Jews who emigrated from the former Soviet Union, Israel, South Africa

and from other lands as well as Jews from other places in Canada.

Hidden among the material we've gathered in such a short time, the material located in the Provincial Archives of Alberta, and old photos and fading news clippings still in dusty boxes in attics and basements of people who have not come forward to provide us with archival material, are hundreds, if not thousands of fascinating stories of men and women who lived here and are no longer with us and of those who continue to live in these parts.

Thus, even though our book will be the most comprehensive record of Jewish life in northern Alberta ever published, it too, will constitute another appetizer for an even more sumptuous banquet of many of these stories in greater depth. I trust that someone else will undertake that task at a future time and in another book. Until that time comes, our book has just planted the seeds of an idea whose time has come. Hopefully, others will reap the benefits of this small harvest and continue our efforts to preserve our past. □

*Uri Rosenzweig, Editor-in-chief*

**JOIN OUR  
SOCIETY**  
*or renew your  
membership*

Use the convenient reply  
envelope and mail your fee  
in time for our annual  
meeting, October 27th

## Family Roots...Continued from Page 1

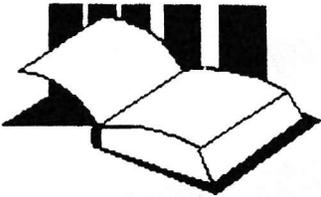
The book, titled "The First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta - 1893-1993: The First and Second Generations," will be a pictorial history with hundreds of photographs in the most comprehensive record ever published of Jews in the region.

In addition to family histories written primarily by descendants of pioneers, and early families, the book will also contain the histories of over twenty-five organizations and institutions, past and present, the most comprehensive record

of Jewish men and women who served in World War II, chapters on the beginning, the early years, the war years, the boom years, Vegreville, small town Jewish life, early businesses, weddings, celebrations and academia.

The book is scheduled to be printed in the late summer or fall of the year 2000. It will not be a definitive history of the community but rather a post card view, mirroring the life of one ethnic group that has been and still is a vital, vibrant part of our province's rich ethno-cultural fabric. □

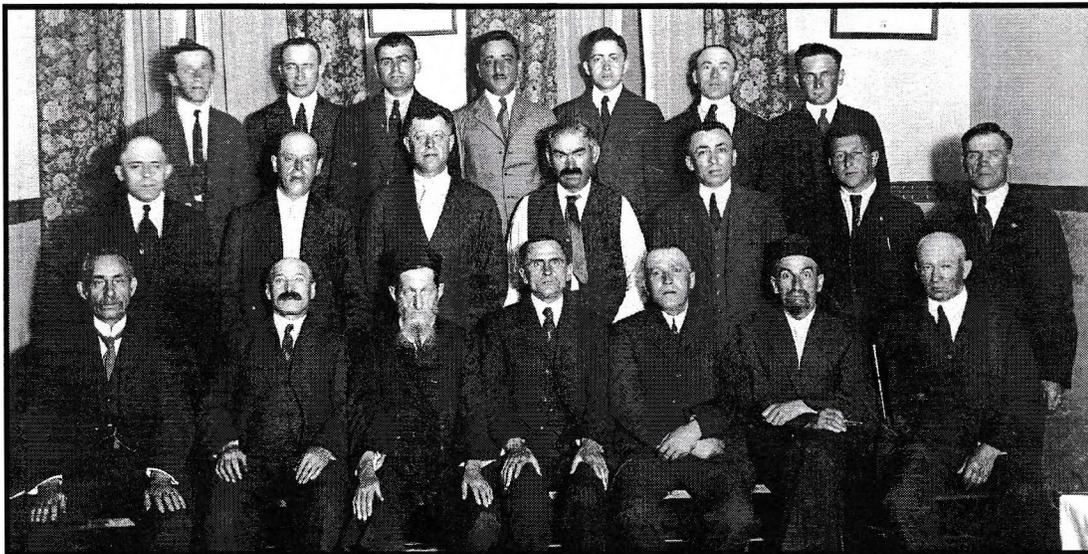
## Chapter 17: Jewish Organizations



JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by Shim Laskin

Menorah Curling Club

Shown above in a 1949 bonspiel, L-R, Shimon Laskin, a long-time President of Menorah, Dave Bornstein, Barney Dachis and Dr. Mervin Laskin.



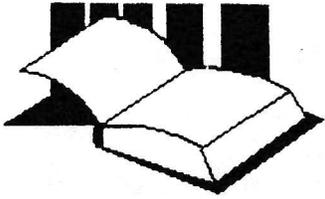
JAHSENA Archives: Donated by Hy Baltzan - McDermid Studios

Above is believed to be the oldest photo of a meeting in Edmonton, held in the Zionist Club which was located in the upstairs of "Boss" Diamond's store, circa 1920. □

**Front Row, L-R,** Wm. "Boss" Diamond, A. Griesdorf, Chaim Lurie, J. Brodie, L. Goldsmith, A. Wershof, D. Boyaner. **Middle Row,** J. Taradash, Max Lurie, H. Weiss, ..., S. Israel, P. Glassman, J. Meyer. **Back Row,** ..., A. Fratkin, Ben Leibovitz, Sam Woall, C. Davis, J. Samuels, Max Shubin.

In addition to Jewish Institutional life, such as congregations and schools, and Jewish agencies, Jews in Northern Alberta have had and continue to have a broad array of Jewish organizations for social, cultural and fund-raising activities. Some of these are defunct, such as the Menorah Curling Club which started in 1947 with the amalgamation of two sports committees of two B'nai Brith Lodges in Edmonton. At the height of its existence it had close to 200 members and 50 rinks. But with waning interest it sold its facility in 1969.

This chapter of our book will contain the histories of about twenty Jewish community organizations. □



## Chapter 18: Weddings

*JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by Millie Singer  
At right, Louis Podersky and  
Anna Pollack - 1914*



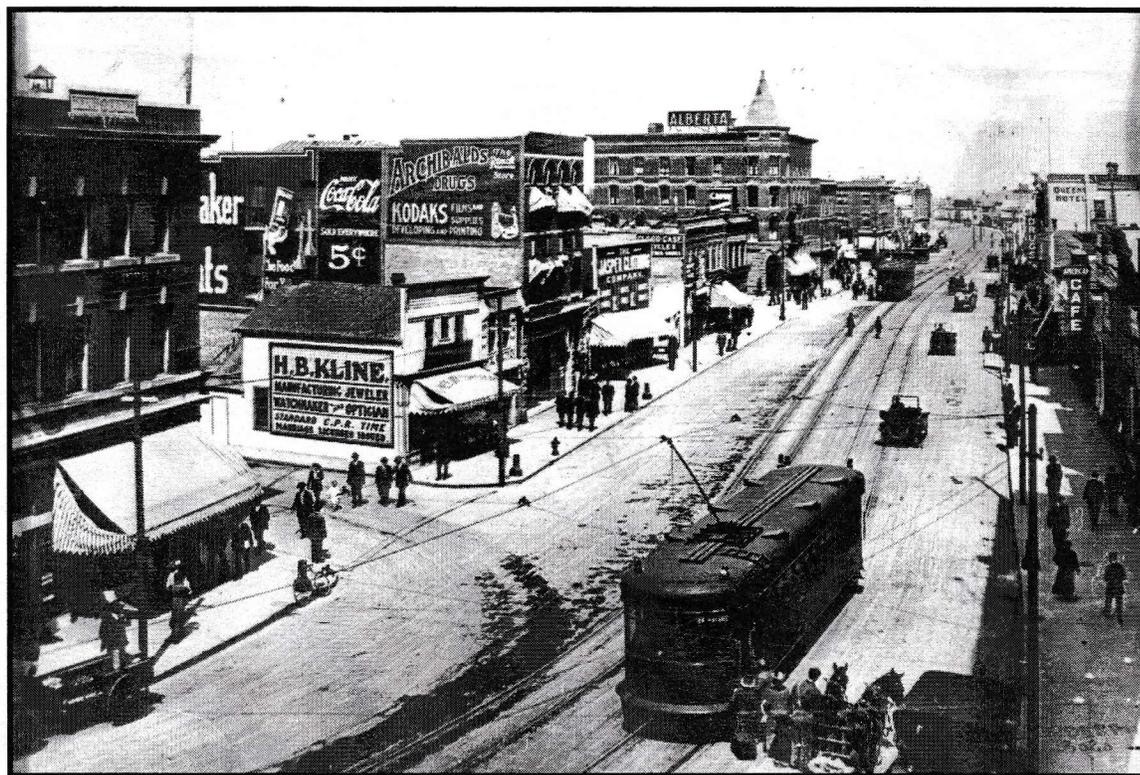
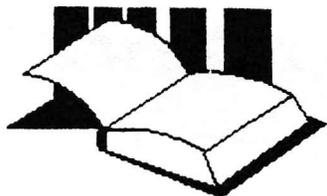
The bible tells us, "It is not good for man (or woman) to live alone," suggesting that the marital status is an ideal condition.

There are some distinguishing features of the Jewish wedding compared to other faiths. Some of these are the CHUPAH (the wedding canopy) the KETUBA (the marriage contract pledging the husband's obligation to his wife) and the BREAKING OF THE GLASS by the groom as a remembrance of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in ancient times.

This chapter takes us down the highway of love, filled with beautiful memories that will evoke a hearty MAHZEL TOV. □

*JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by Violet Owen  
Above, Morris Rose and Bella Nelson - 1927*

## Chapter 20: Early Businesses



Provincial Archives of  
Alberta #A2423:  
Donated by Miriam Lutsky

H.B. Kline Jewellery Store,  
circa 1910

Above is one of the earliest Jewish businesses in Edmonton, the H.B. Kline Jewellery store located at 10069 Jasper Avenue. It was Mr. Kline's first store after moving to Edmonton from Montreal in 1904, the year Edmonton was incorporated as a city. One of the earliest Jewish families to arrive here, Mr. Kline was one of the founders of the Edmonton Talmud Torah in 1912.

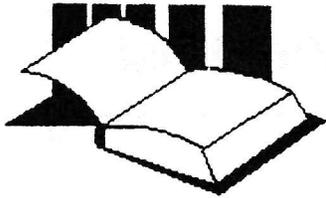
Only seventeen Jews lived in Edmonton in 1901 and ten years later the community had grown to 171 men, women and children. □



Provincial Archives of  
Alberta, #A4652:  
Donated by  
Mrs. Israel Garfin  
Garfin Department Store,  
circa 1925

Born in Poland in 1897, Israel Garfin joined relatives already living in Edmonton in 1921. The store at left was located at 101 Street and 103 Avenue and the general area was the hub of Jewish businesses in the 1920's and 30's.

Israel Garfin was active in the Jewish community and was the treasurer of the Talmud Torah for many years. □



## Chapter 23: Small Town Alberta



*JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by Martha Kushner  
Fort McMurray*

Above, Fort McMurray's Board of Trade, circa 1915 Sam Kushner is in the second row, third from right. Samuel Kushner was a pioneer businessman and fur trader in Fort McMurray opening up his store on Main Street in 1914. The business was sold in 1942.

Aside from the grain elevators, general stores owned by Jews was another of the hallmarks of small town Alberta. This chapter of Jewish life, both in our book and in the memories of those who lived there, will offer readers a nostalgic look at small town Alberta.

*JAHSENA Archives:  
Donated by Ruth Nolan*

Israel Miller was born in Kapulia, Belorus, in 1892, and emigrated to the United States as a young boy, joining family there. He later moved to Canada to farm near the future town site of Alliance, Alberta in 1914. When crops failed in 1923 he moved to Edson with his family but moved back to Alliance in 1925 to open a general store as well as to farm.

The newspaper ad at right appeared in the Alliance Times in 1926. Oh those prices! Oh the good old days! □

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