

ירשה

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HERITAGE

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



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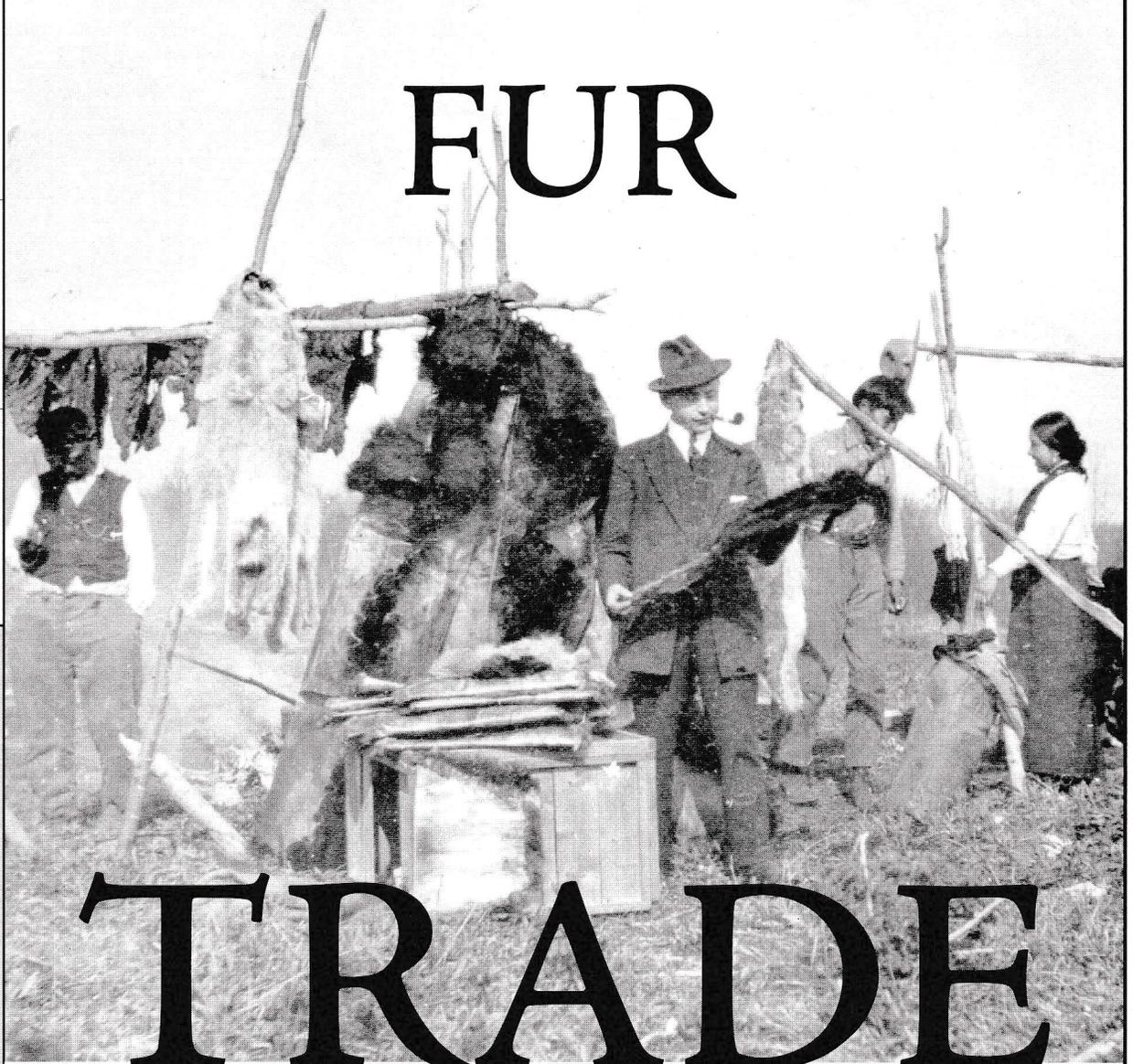
Stay Tuned...

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On the Web...

Our archives is now a full-fledged member of the Archives Network of Alberta. If you visit the Archives Society of Alberta website at www.archivesalberta.org, you will find the holdings of JAHSENA listed on their database. We currently have over 165 fonds-level descriptions listed on their searchable database. While you're on the web, check out our own site at www.jahsena.org. And please note that our email address has changed to jahsena@shaw.ca.

FUR



TRADE

Abe Aaron was born in Lithuania and arrived in Canada in 1904. He came to Edmonton in 1910 and became a fur buyer and trader. Abe Aaron was one of a number of Jewish fur buyers and traders who became involved in the early business life of the community. Their involvement in the business, religious and educational life of the Jewish community is being documented in JAHSENA's upcoming video production on the early history of the Edmonton Jewish community.

Photo courtesy of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, #75.404/2.

VISITING ARCHIVIST PROGRAM

A first for Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives

Montreal, May 9, 2003 - CJC National Archives in Montreal hosted Debby Shoctor, the archivist of JAHSENA (Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta) as their first "visiting archivist" from May 5-8, a project inspired by the CJC National Archives Committee's commitment to outreach towards other Jewish community repositories.

The project was made possible through co-sponsorship by CJC and the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. The Concordia Institute also partnered with the Montreal Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries in hosting a dinner program open to students, librarians and the general public, featuring Ms. Shoctor as speaker. Her topic, illustrated with photos, was "Starting a Jewish Archives from scratch in a small community."

During her stay Ms. Shoctor and Archives Director Janice Rosen concentrated on planning for a future workshop conference geared specifically to the needs of Canadian Jewish archivists. This will be the first time such a program is offered, and



JAHSENA Archivist Debby Shoctor talks to the Montreal Chapter of the Association of Jewish Libraries

preliminary responses from other Jewish archivists and museum curators indicate considerable interest from all parts of the country. The two Edmonton and Montreal archivists also appreciated the opportunity to compare notes about the running of their respective archives, and to contrast the differences between large and small Jewish community settings. Debby Shoctor was interviewed by Leslie Lutsky for his radio show Jewish Digest (on 102.3 FM), and, as a newcomer to the city, in her leisure hours she enjoyed an informal tour of Jewish Montreal: the old neighborhoods, the earliest synagogues, the Jewish Public Library and the Snowdon

delicatessen. She was also able to supplement JAHSENA's developing collection with CJCNA file lists and photocopied items about Jews in Northern Alberta.

A resolution to increase interactions and exchanges of information with Jewish Archives across Canada was passed at the CJC Plenary Assembly of 2001. Since that time, in addition to the visiting archivist initiative, Archives Chair Dr. Norma Joseph and Archives Director Janice Rosen have between them visited Jewish archives in Vancouver and Toronto, and have provided tours of CJCNA to the Jewish archivists of Ottawa and Calgary.

ירשה HERITAGE

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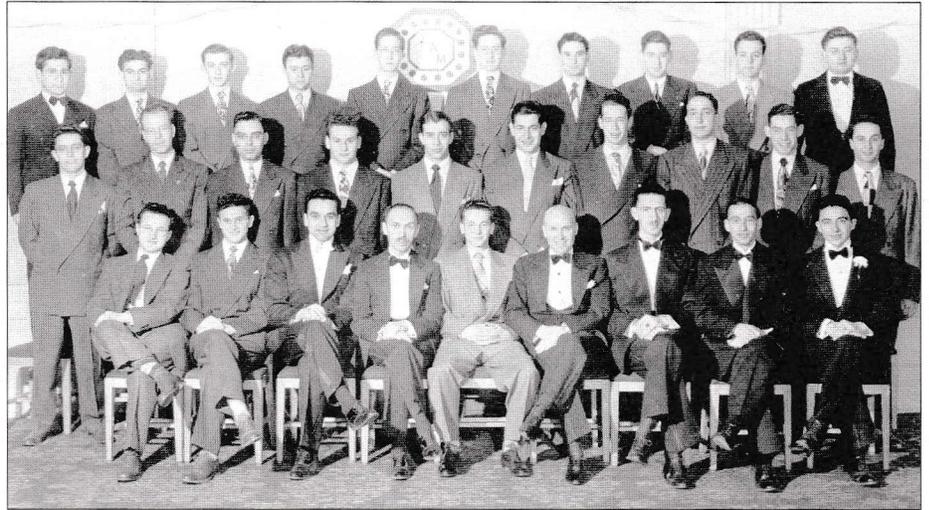
Website www.jahsena.org

At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of one of our Jewish institutions, the B'nai Brith Menorah Curling Club. Photos, trophies and other artifacts from this Edmonton Institution, whose heyday was from 1947-1969 are on display in the case outside the office. If anyone else has items related to the Menorah Curling Club they would like to donate, please contact the office at 489-2809.

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

The following petition was found in the collection of Zeta Alpha Upsilon/Sigma Alpha Mu, recently donated to the Jewish Archives by their last president, Joe Miller. The Fraternities existed at the University of Alberta from 1935-40 and 1941-1972, respectively.



Sigma Alpha Mu Banquet March 1, 1947. BACK ROW, Left to Right: A. Estrin, S. Maerov, H. Klein, M. Klimove, J. Tucker, W. Barron, L. Soloway, L. Levine, R. Bricker, B. Margolus. MIDDLE ROW: G. Fasman, S. Macklin, H. Samuels, H. Brezer, I. Young, A. Rudin, A. Ginsberg, J. Shumiatcher, A. Lesk, D. Pearlman. FRONT ROW: S. Huberman, J. Ryer, V. Samuels, Dr. M.M. Cantor, L. Faibish, Dr. M. Weinlos, L. Lyman, A. Horodezky, S. Sigal.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNITIES, University of Alberta 1935

Honored Sirs:

The undersigned respectfully petition for permission to establish a Jewish Fraternity on the campus of the University of Alberta. We sincerely believe that such a fraternity will prove beneficial to the student body of the University as a whole, and to the Jewish students in particular and submit the following arguments in support of our proposal.

(1) The establishment of a Jewish Fraternity would meet the requirements of the many men who, coming to this campus as strangers from distant points, face the problems of adjusting themselves to a new environment and of forming new friendships and associations. No organization with this intention exists on the campus today.

(2) There is a sufficiently large body of Jewish men on the campus to [warrant] the creation of a fraternity.

(a) Available statistics covering the past six years (1929-1935) denote a marked increase in the total Jewish enrollment.

Session	Total No. Attending
1929-1930	8
1930-1931	12
1931-1932	49
1932-1933	58
1933-1934	61
1934-1935	50

Of the total enrollment this session (1934-1935), there are 50 male students, a sufficiently large number to justify the organization of a fraternal group.

In addition these figures give assurance of an annual increase which will ensure the stability and endurance of such a fraternity.

(b) Of the 50 men in attendance, 22, or 44% are not permanent residents of Edmonton. Of these only 8 reside on the campus, the rest boarding elsewhere throughout the city in Jewish homes.

The establishment of a Fraternity house will permit these men to move back to the campus and allow them to take a larger share in University activities than has hitherto been possible.

(3) The University of Alberta offers no fraternal life to its Jewish students.

(a) Among all the Canadian Universities which recognize fraternities the University of Alberta remains unique as the only one at which there is no established Jewish fraternal organization.

(b) As a general rule, Jewish students are not accepted as members of non-Jewish Fraternities.

It is our earnest opinion that the members of such a fraternity would not only be able to materially assist the Jewish student body as a whole but would further their present amicable relations with the student body in general.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Name	Faculty	Year
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General Two-Gun Cohen



FROM THE BOOK SHELF

Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen came to Canada from England at the age of sixteen, ready for adventure. He eventually arrived in Edmonton, where he met Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Chinese Revolutionary, and became his personal bodyguard for the next 15 years. He went on to work for Sun Fo, Chiang Kai-Shek, and Li Chai-sum, among others. The following is an excerpt from: "The Life and Times of General Two-Gun Cohen," by Charles Drage pg. 34-40, published by Funk and Wagnalls, New York, in 1954. It is available for reading in the Archives.

"I'd begun to think that there were better ways of earning one's coffee and doughnuts than sitting over a pile of poker chips. It struck me too that I might do better in a bigger town, and I'd heard that things were pretty good around Edmonton, a place away west in Alberta that, not long before, had been proclaimed the provincial capital.

"It had already touched the 20,000 mark, and people were flocking there from all over the place, Blue-noses from the Maritime provinces in the East, and Yanks from the two Dakotas south across the border, even British Columbians from the far side of the Rockies. Oil-prospecting had started up in the Peace-River Country; it was on the main line of the Canadian Northern Railway and the terminus of

a branch of the CPR, and the Grand Trunk Pacific was said to be coming that way as well.

"In fact, the place was just ripe for a real estate boom. I had a few hundred dollars, so I packed my valise, and took them there to try my luck. And my luck was in.

"When I was on the road with my supers, I met a CPR dining car attendant called Bert Finch and had ridden with him maybe half a dozen trips. He was around about 35 and obviously a go-getter who meant to end up somewhere. I'd heard that he left the railway and gone into real estate, but I hadn't heard how far he'd gone. When I got to Edmonton and looked him up, there he was sitting in his own posh office with his name on the door as manager of the local

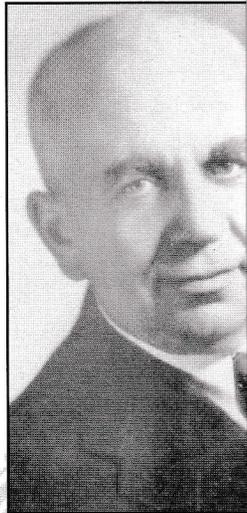
branch of the National Land Company. He gave me a big hand and before I walked out again I was hired as a salesman.

"All you gotta do,' he said, 'is find a prospect, bring him in, and let me talk to him.'

"I reckoned I was a pretty fast talker myself, and so, when I brought my prospect in, I listened carefully to what Bert had to say, and soon learned his line of spiel.

"There was good money to be made in city building lots at two hundred and fifty dollars a time. I often sold four lots in a day and once or twice I handled as many as twenty in a week; at ten per cent commission that made five hundred smackers for Morris. I got Bert to agree to my selling on time, say a hundred dollars down for two lots. I had to see that the sucker - I mean buyer - paid the rest when he said he would and 'til he ante'd up I only drew half my commission. But it worked well and I averaged three hundred dollars a week all the time.

"After about three months Stan Shepherd, the president of the company, came up from the head office in Calgary. He saw my results and after talking with Bert made me a proposition. I could open my own office in any city I liked to name, recruit my own salesmen, and be manager myself. He'd give me two



hundred a month as salary and a half percent commission on the business. Of this, the prospect was to have their usual share and there was two and a half for myself.

"I'm on,' I said, 'but I'd like to stay right here for another office in Edmonton.'

"Okay,' said Sam.

"Bert thought a minute and said 'Okay' too.

"I rented an office on the main street and put in a big, solid safe to hold my cash, and I recruited ten salesmen. They were all sorts, shapes and sizes, but the youngest of them was more than twice my age. (I was

contin



(left) Morris Abraham "Two-Gun" Cohen. 1951. From: The Life and Times of General Two-Gun Cohen, by Charles Drage

Gen. "Morris Abraham" COHEN



DURING WORLD WAR I, HE SERVED ON VARIOUS SECTORS AND LATER WAS IN CHARGE OF A CHINESE LABOUR GANG NEAR THE FRONT.



MORRICE COHEN WAS BORN ON COMMERCIAL ROAD, IN LONDON, ENG. IN 1887.

AT 16 HE CAME TO CANADA TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE.

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS AS CLERK, FARM HAND AND REAL ESTATE SPECULATOR, HE CAME TO CALGARY WHERE HE MET DR. SUN YAT SEN.

COHEN AND DR. SUN BECAME FAST FRIENDS AND COHEN BECAME FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE KUOMINTANG IN WESTERN CANADA.

HE SERVED AT THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF WAR AND WAS ENTRUSTED WITH SEVERAL SECRET MISSIONS BY CHIANG KAI-SHEK WHO SUCCEEDED DR. SUN ON THE LATTER'S DEATH.

IN 1922 COHEN WENT TO CHINA WHERE HE BECAME AIDE-DE-CAMP TO DR. SUN AND SOON BECAME A POWER IN ORIENTAL POLITICS. HE HELPED TO ORGANIZE AND TRAIN DR. SUN'S ARMY.



WHEN HONG KONG FELL, COHEN WAS CAPTURED. HE REFUSED TO ESCAPE BY PLANE



HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN REPATRIATED TO CANADA AND WILL SOON BE RETURNING TO CHINA -

From: "Jewish War Heroes", Published by the Canadian Jewish Congress, February, 1944.

President's Report

STAY TUNED...

by DAN KAUFFMAN

We recently concluded our casino for 2003 with the help of a number of members of our Society and the community and I would like to thank them all for their help. As usual, it was a major challenge to organize, but the funds are vital

to the ongoing work of JAHSENA. In this newsletter you will find an update on what our Archivist Debby Shoctor has been doing on the archival scene and we are delighted to see the progress we are making and the impact we are having in the

national archival community.

Our documentary, tentatively titled "A Legacy Remembered" is progressing. The script for the half hour production is completed and we are presently going through several hundred old black and white images to select the best ones for inclusion. We still hope to be editing this Fall and have it completed by December.

Our AGM will take place in early November and we hope to have an interesting speaker with us following the meeting.

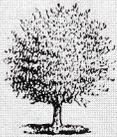
Once again we are asking for volunteers to help out in the office. If you can spare a few hours a week, please call Debby

and she can certainly use your help! Volunteer Barb Bulat, a retired librarian, has been helping Debby with the RAD cataloguing this summer, and together they have completed all of our backlogged cataloguing for the ANA database. We now have about 165 entries on the database, which can be found at: www.archivesalberta.org.

Finally, we are still looking for those old family photos in the trunk, or in the attic or basement. Let us help you sort through all that and make sure we preserve your history for future generations. That's what we are all about.

Dan Kauffman

HELP US PRESERVE OUR PAST



"Of all national assets, Archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another, and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

Sir A. Doughty, Dominion Archivist, 1904-1935

Your membership helps to support the following activities of JAHSENA:

JAHSENA ARCHIVES

Our Acquisitions committee continues to collect a variety of material, both personal and organizational, produced by the Jewish communities of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. This includes the following: newspapers, minutes of meetings, flyers and newsletters, invitations to events, photographs, audio and video tapes. This material is appropriately stored and preserved in the archives.

PUBLICATIONS

JAHSENA published our newsletter, *Heritage/Yerusha*, four times annually to our membership. Our founding publication, "The

First Century of Jewish Life in Edmonton and Northern Alberta, 1893-1993", by Uri Rosenzweig, was published in 2000 with a print run of 750 copies. There are just over 50 copies remaining. A new documentary film on the history of the early Edmonton Jewish business community is in production and scheduled for release in the Fall of 2003.

AFFILIATIONS

JAHSENA is an institutional member of the Archives Society of Alberta. This association has provided educational opportunities for our Archivist, and grants for Preservation assessment of our archives, and for hardware and a high-speed internet connection; as well as assistance with cataloguing

our collection. Our complete fonds-level descriptions have begun to be uploaded to the Archives Network of Alberta database on the ASA web site, www.archivesalberta.org, and we will shortly begin the uploading of our vast photo collection to the Alberta Images database, also available on the ASA web site at www.archivesalberta.org. Our own web site is available at www.jahsena.org.

THE JAHSENA AND JCC LIBRARIES

The archives contains its own small research library of volumes on local, regional and national Jewish history of about 100 volumes. In addition, we are situated right next door to the Jewish Community Centre Library, of which we have custodianship, which contains over 2000 volumes on all subjects relating to Jewish life in Canada and around the world.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Our oral history committee is very proud of our collection of over 180 oral history tapes. In addition, there are many more names on our "to do" list. If you are interested in being interviewed, or in doing the

interviewing, please let us know. We also need volunteers to do transcriptions and summaries of the interviews.

PHOTO COLLECTION

Our Archives contains a large collection of black and white and colour photos, slides and negatives. There are many which still need to be identified. If you and your friends would like to spend a pleasant afternoon reminiscing while helping us catalogue this important collection.

ROTATING EXHIBITS

Our display case in the Jewish Community Centre is the site of rotating exhibits from our archival, artifact and photo collections. Currently on display is the collection of the Menorah Curling Club. Previous exhibits have included the collection of Edmonton Eskimos founder Moses Lieberman, and a display of Edmonton's Jewish newspapers.

We have also participated in a virtual exhibit on the ASA web site entitled "Feast: a history of food in archives." This exhibit can be explored at www.archivesalberta.org.

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JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Records of the National Council of Jewish Women, Edmonton Section; donated by Gloria Aaron, Past President. Records consist of 118 photographs and 4 cm. Text, mostly relating to their exhibit and 100th anniversary celebrations in 1998.

"The Long Way Home", by Abraham Goldberg. Autobiography of Abraham Goldberg, local survivor.

"Jewish War Heroes", published by Canadian Jewish Congress, February, 1944. Contains cartoon of Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen.

"Through the Eyes of the Eagle: The Early Montreal Yiddish Press, 1907-1916", Translated by David Rome, edited with an introduction by Pierre Anctil, Vehicule Press, Montreal: 2001.

"The Jew in Canada" by A. Hart.

"The Jew in Canada: 1760-1960. A Comprehensive Study", by Shulamis Yellin.

"The Life and Times of General Two-Gun Cohen" by Charles Drage.

Personal Collection of Herb Leon, including trophies from the B'nai Brith Menorah Curling Club, and various B'nai Brith and BBYO plaques and souvenirs.

"Talmud Torah 75th Anniversary" Videotape donated by Cory Felber.

Personal Collection of Howard Sniderman, including records relating to the Jewish Federation of Edmonton, Edmonton United Jewish Appeal and UIA Canada.

Sigma Alpha Mu fonds, donated by Joe Miller. Includes plaques, trophies, graduation pictures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia of the Jewish Fraternity which existed at the University of Alberta from 1941- c. 1968.

Zeta Alpha Upsilon fonds, donated by Joe Miller. Includes scrapbook of the Jewish Fraternity, which existed at the University of Alberta from 1935 until c. 1940.

Personal Collection of Dr. Harold and Becky Fayerman, focussing on Dr. Fayerman's time as President of the Edmonton Jewish Community Council in the early 1970s.

Collection of Eulogies from the Beth Shalom Synagogue. Includes 82 Eulogies prepared for members of the Beth Shalom Synagogue from 1960-2003.

Oral Histories: Queena Wershof Kline; Sam Lucky; Harry Goldberg; Herschal Bookhalter; Paul and Clara Kagan.

The Jewish Archives & Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is always looking for new donations. If you have any personal papers, photographs, negatives, books, audio-visual recordings or other items relating to the history of the Jewish community of Edmonton and Northern Alberta that you would like preserved for generations to come, please contact our office at (780) 489-2809.

General Two-Gun Cohen

Continued from page 5

twenty, remember.) Some of them I'd known as rounders and I was scared they might try to dodge vagrancy charges by working for me as an alibi and go back to their old games again. The day we opened I had them all in together and gave my first pep-talk:

"Now, boys, if you wanna work here, you gotta show results. I don't want any of you lads using this office as a cover for a poker school and me finding the cops in here asking about some producer you've trimmed. If you can't sell a couple lots a day, I just don't want you around. Now get cracking."

"...I went our selling myself too. 'High, dry, level and a good building lot', was my motto. At first I sold nothing that was more than a mile from the centre of the town. Later on we started buying land from the nearest farmers, subdividing it, putting in roads, and selling that too. Sometimes I made a thousand a week.

"Usually, I spent my cash about as fast as I made it - they say that money talks, but all it ever said to

me was, 'goodbye' - but just in this part of my life I didn't seem to be able to do that. My bank-roll seemed to pile up and in what seemed to be no time at all, I found myself with a wad of twenty thousand dollars and a four-carat diamond ring (a real one) as well.

"I didn't forget my Chinese friends, or rather they didn't let me forget them. If any Chinese in the West thought of a deal in real estate, he'd come and consult me about it. That meant more business and good business too. I went on attending their lodge meetings as regularly as I could manage and presently I found myself giving sizeable sums, say fifty or a hundred dollars, to various revolutionary funds. I began asking other people for contributions, and that in turn started me speaking at their lodge meetings. I'd always had a pretty good line of sales talk, but to stand up and address a regular seated audience was something that I'd never tried before. Presently I got good at that too. I even started to learn one of the many local Cantonese dialects, but I must admit that I never got very far with that. Another thing I

did at this time was to try my hand at recruiting and training a few amateur soldiers, again with the forthcoming Chinese Revolution always in mind. Here I found my military training at Hayes elementary though it may have been, came in handy. I might not know much about soldiering, but I knew more than any other guy on the ground.

That was a good time for me - lots of work, lots of fun, not too much worry or responsibility, and making money hand over fist. And it went on for a couple of years. Then one day there was a rumour that Dr. Sun had arrived in Canada. He was said to have landed at Vancouver and to be coming our way. The next thing I knew he was in Edmonton - and the really important part of my life had begun. I was introduced to him at a big lodge meeting. It was all quite ordinary and commonplace.

"This is Morris Cohen," said Mah Sam, 'a great friend of our revolutionary party.'

"Pleased to meet you," said Dr. Sun. That was all.

"It is tempting for me to start in now and tell you all that I was to

learn about him in the next fifteen years. - his statesmanship, his patriotism, his idealism, and all the rest of it. But to do that wouldn't give you the right picture at all. You must remember that I was still only a boy, and a good deal of a roughneck at that. I'd met plenty of people of all kinds and I'd learned to look after myself, but at that time I'd never met any great men and I'd no means of judging one - that is, except for my instinct for anything that's good quality.

"I saw a fine-looking, straight-standing man dressed in a formal European-style frock coat. I noticed at once that he had cut off his pigtail, which of course stamped him as an open revolutionary. He wore a close-cut, rather military sort of moustache. He might easily have been the kind of distinguished soldier-retired-and-turned-politician that appears in the public life of Canada and of the Old Country too.

He spoke beautiful English, better English than I've been able to learn in the whole of my life.

"But that was all beside the point. As soon as I saw him I just knew that he was a really great man - a man that I'd be ready to follow."

JAHSENA Membership 2002-2003

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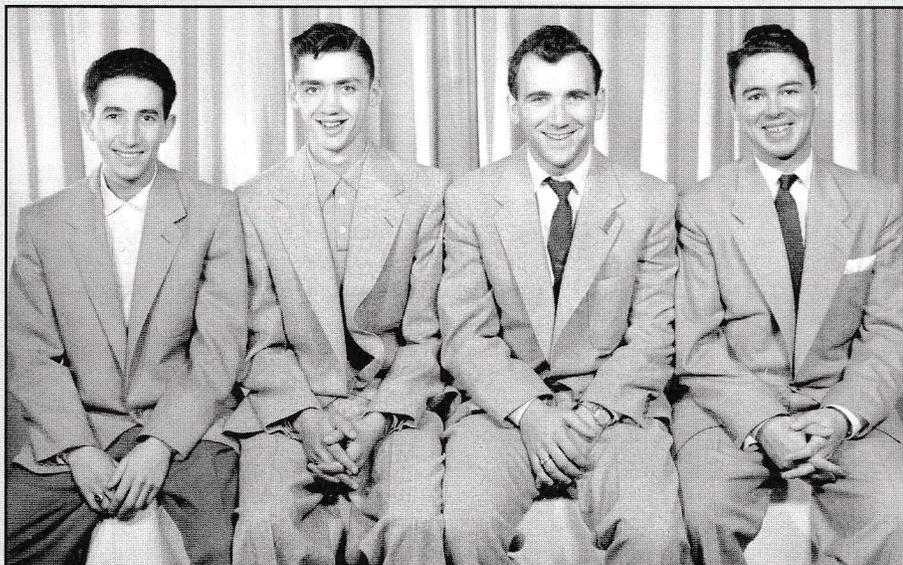
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Virginia Vogel

Membership donations are used for the operating costs of the Society which is a self-sustaining organization. Membership fees include spouses except for individual membership. Members are eligible to vote at the annual general meetings of the society. Fees cover uniform membership year from September 1st to August 31st. Donations are tax deductible.

We thank the above listed people for their support in the past year.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PHOTO?



What is the setting, the year, and the event? Who are the people in it? If you would like to try your luck, there are many more like this one in the office waiting for you to identify! Please call 489-2809. *Second from left Bucky Stochinsky*

Help us preserve our past

Continued from page 6

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

Our Archives contains the largest and most extensive collection of Edmonton Jewish newspapers in existence. The collection includes The Western Jewish News, Our/Your Community News, The Alberta Jewish Chronicle, The Edmonton Jewish Star, The Edmonton Jewish Times & Record, The Edmonton Jewish News and Edmonton Jewish Life.

JEWISH CEMETERY LISTINGS

Board Member Cory Felber has recently completed compilation of a photographic catalog of all the stones in the Jewish Cemetery, as well as a complete listing of all the names and dates of the graves. In addition, we collect obituaries and eulogies on an ongoing basis. Sometime next year, we hope to form a genealogy subcommittee of JAHSENA.