

# JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

VOLUME 10, No. 2

*Celebrating Our Tenth Historical Year*

SPRING 2000

## City Hall Market Home to Many Jewish Vendors

By Harry Sanders

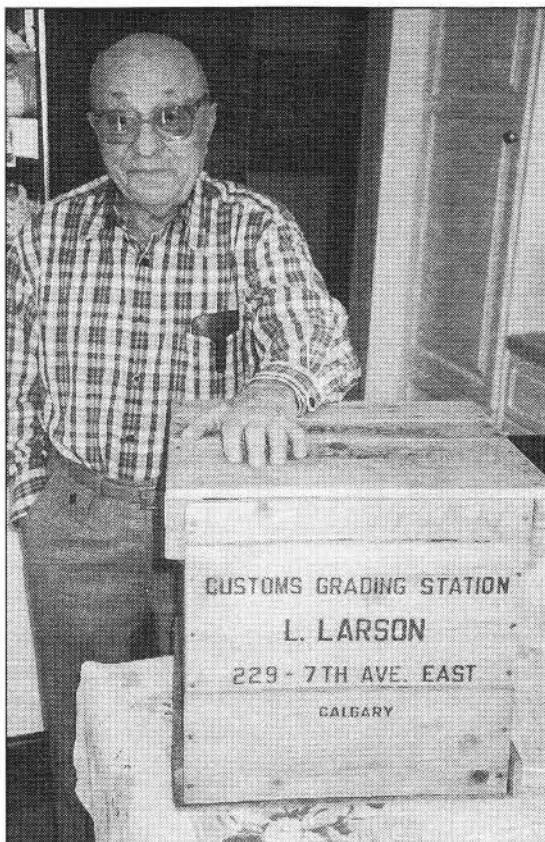
One of Calgary's best-known landmarks is Olympic Plaza, the public square opposite City Hall that was developed in advance of the XV Olympic Winter Games in 1988. Few people, however, would use the word "landmark" to describe the plain, one-storey structure that stood on the corner from 1912 to 1985.

But it was a landmark to the shoppers and merchants—many of whom were Jewish—who from 1919 to 1951 knew it as the City Hall Market.

Despite its longevity, the building was originally planned as a temporary structure. At the height of the pre-war Calgary construction boom in 1912, the Dominion government determined that the Calgary post office and federal building at the southeast corner of 8th Avenue and 1st Street S.E. was too small. The old sandstone post office, built in 1894, was demolished in 1913. Ottawa planned to replace it immediately with a substantial new edifice. Meanwhile, a temporary post office was constructed a block away, at the southwest corner of 7th Avenue and 2nd Street S.E.

By the end of 1913, however, the economy came to a halt and Calgary's boom went bust. Meanwhile, the "temporary" post office served until 1919, when it was moved to the Lancaster Building. (It took until 1931 before the new post office, the Calgary Public Building—now the foyer of the Jack Singer Concert Hall—was built.)

The "temporary" post office building was sold to Theodore J. Klossoski



Saul Rosenbaum, a former merchant at the City Hall Market, poses with a 60-year old egg crate from the market's egg-grading station. Rosenbaum, now 90, had a long career as a Calgary grocer. Photo - Jack Switzer.

and began operations in 1919 as City Hall Market, a retail complex with over 40 stalls, including bakers, confectioners, fishmongers, meat merchants, and grocers.

Some of the Jewish occupants included: Abraham Belzberg, Morris Baren, Leo Blitt, Norman Gould, Benjamin Hashman, Fanny and Leo Kay, Meir Nagler, Leo Perlmutter, David and Harry Schechter, Ben and Harry Sheftel, and Max and Rosie Shlafmitz.

Norman Gould may have been the most durable Jewish tenant. His meat market operated at the market for at least 30 years.

In January, 1953 the City of Calgary took over the City Hall Market building and turned it into offices for the City engineering department. It later became a Bank of Montreal branch.

Then the former City Hall Market was demolished in 1985 to make way for Olympic Plaza development.

The following is a partial list of City Hall Market Jewish tenants, taken from the Henderson's Directory; the market held about 40 retailers. Occupancy dates, where available, are included. We apologize for errors and omissions; please notify us with correct data.

Henry Belkin & Joe Lukatsky, Union Packing, meats, 1922-31  
Norman Gould, meats, 1923-53  
Frico Stores, P. Waterman family, 1931-  
Rachel & Lou Rosenbaum, fruit & vegetables, 1937-41  
Saul Rosenbaum, groceries, 1938  
Saul Strinsky, fruit & vegetables, 1922-23  
W. Pearlmutter, 1926  
Zysman Groner, Market Clothing, 1950-51

Benjamin Hashman, fruit & vegetables, 1921-39

Ben Sheftel, groceries, 1924-34

M.F. Manolson, fruit & vegetables, 1921

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# Southern Alberta Jewish Time Lines

## *From the JHSSA Archives - highlights of local Jewish history:*

**1875:** NWMP build Fort Calgary; preceded by passage of occasional Jewish fur-trader from Montana.

**1882:** large group of Russian Jewish refugees reach Winnipeg; some work on CPR track-laying gangs in Alberta. Jewish farm colony set up at near Wapella, Saskatchewan.

**1883:** Canadian Pacific Railway reaches Calgary. Repstein brothers from Winnipeg set up tent store in Calgary—"Cheap Cash Store." Other transient Jewish merchants come and go over next few years. Calgary's population reaches 500 in 1884.

**1889:** Jacob and Rachel Diamond first permanent Jewish settlers in Calgary. William Diamond (Edmonton) and Philip Diamond (Canmore) soon follow. Other Jews trickle into area.

**1892:** Calgary to Edmonton railway completed; 1893—railway to Lethbridge and USA; influx of homesteaders, more East-European immigrants.

**1893-1895:** Jewish farm colonies (Jewish Colonization Association) near Fort Macleod, Pine Lake set up and quickly fail; some ex-farmers stay in area.

**1894:** Diamond brothers rent Calgary Masonic hall for first high holiday services. *Minyan* includes local Jewish men, a Lacombe farmer, and travelling salesmen.

**1904:** infant Goldie Bell dies; father Nathan Bell and Jacob Diamond buy Erlton cemetery land from City, hold Calgary's first Jewish funeral, form Chevra Kadisha, city's first Jewish communal organization.

**1905:** Harris Goodman family first permanent Jewish settlers in Lethbridge.

**1905:** Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan formed out of former Northwest Territories. Calgary Jewish community growing and active, unite for Russian relief efforts.

**1906:** Calgary and Edmonton Jews share services of province's first rabbi, Hyman Goldstick.

**1906:** Jewish homesteaders form farm colonies near Trochu and Rumsey; 20 Rumsey farm families grew to 70 families by 1920, when it was third largest Jewish community in Alberta.

**1907:** House of Jacob Congregation incorporated in Calgary. Services continue to be held in rented facilities. Zionist organization formed. Jews number about 400.

**1909:** House of Jacob buys land at 325 - 5th Avenue SE; builds small *cheder* building at back of property for religious and Hebrew school use. Lethbridge Jews begin religious services, buy *Sefer Torah*.

**1910:** Montefiore Jewish farm colony started near Sibbald.

**1911:** House of Jacob synagogue building completed. Jewish population 600.

**1912:** Medicine Hat Jews form Sons of Abraham congregation. First Calgary Stampede.

**1913:** Calgary Hebrew School (Talmud Torah) separates from House of Jacob; rents space nearby, operates afternoon classes.

**1916:** Calgary Jews hold high-holiday services at four locations—House of Jacob and three rented halls. Sam Hackman first local Jew killed in Great War.

**1917:** B'Nai Brith lodge formed in Calgary. Rabbi Simon Smolensky comes to Calgary, provides strong religious leadership for over 20 years. Balfour declaration motivates growth of local Zionist groups. Yiddishists form Jewish literary society, sponsor library, drama and music programs.

**1918:** Calgary Ladies' Aid Society—Jewish benevolent Society—begins local Jewish charity work.

**1920:** Talmud Torah buys school building at 210 - 6th Avenue SE. Calgary section of national Council of Jewish Women formed.

**1921:** First Calgary Hadassah group formed, Daughters of Zion chapter.

**1926:** Fund-raising begins for Jewish Community Building; first AZA chapter, International #31, starts; first AZA group outside USA.

**1927:** I.L. Peretz school formed, runs Yiddish classes in rented space. Junior Hadassah chapter—Tel Chai—started.

**1929:** Peretz School building opens at Centre Street and 13th Avenue S.; operates as city's first Jewish day school. Zionist Youth group, Young Judeans, formed.

*Continued on Page 3*

## City Hall Market

*Continued from Page 1*

Harry Sheftel, groceries, 1936-41  
Leo Pearlmuter, fruit & vegetables, 1934-51  
Abraham Belzberg, 1922  
Freda Sheinin, 1926  
Mark Patchik, fruit & vegetables, 1923-32  
Sam Martin, fruit & vegetables, 1924  
Rosie & Max Shlafmitz, dairy

products, 1926-42  
Gorasht, Anne, 1946  
Morris Baren, fruit & vegetables, 1926-51  
Fanny & Louis Kay, fruit & vegetables, 1924-51  
Harry & David Schecter, fruit & vegetables, 1924-26  
Meier & Herman Nagler, groceries,

1921-34  
Sheftel family, Empress Grocery, 1936-51  
Hymie Steinberg, Farmer's Trading, groceries, 1937-43  
Morris Sigal, groceries, 1936-43  
Leo Blitt, fruit & vegetables, 1950-51  
Fievel Rosenthal, City Bakery, 1940-?

## Time Lines

*Continued from Page 2*

**1930:** Lower floor of Community Building (House of Israel) completed, at Centre Street and 18th Avenue S.; lack of funds stops construction. Talmud Torah moves into building; other wings get communal, social use.

**1931:** Alberta Jewish population 3722, only 8% rural. Depression underway; immigration almost stopped. Polish Jewish Family Loan Association formed.

**1931:** Census counts 140 Jews in 25 Southern Alberta towns; largest is Drumheller, 44 Jews; most have one or two Jewish families. Lethbridge has 111 Jews, Medicine Hat 104. (Edmonton 1,057, Vegreville 82.)

**1935:** Lethbridge Jews buy church building; dedicate Beth Israel Synagogue. Community then has 40 Jewish families, B'Nai Brith, Hadassah, Ladies' Aid.

**1935:** Beth Israel Congregation begins services in House of Israel Building; hires Rabbi M.C. Katz; modern Orthodox orientation. Pioneer Women Zionist group starts.

**1938:** Medicine Hat synagogue building opened; active Jewish community of over 100.

**1939:** Canadian Jewish Congress (Western) conference in Calgary; visit by CJC president Charles Bronfman. War starts; many Jewish men enlist.

**1939-1945:** Strong local war effort; 250 local Jews join Canadian armed forces.

**1941:** Young Judeans start annual summer camp sessions at Sylvan Lake.

**1942:** The Jewish section at Queens Park cemetery established; Abraham Singer first burial.

**1946-1950:** Holocaust survivors, refugees join community. Zionist activity peaks with Israel independence, 1948.

**1947:** Talmud Torah begins full day-school program.

**1947:** Jewish Family Service begins full-time operations, Martha Cohen founder and sole social worker.

**1949:** House of Israel community building finally completed; housed Talmud Torah, Beth Israel (Conservative after 1951), B'Nai Brith lodge room, community offices, social facilities, family services office.

**1955:** Medicine Hat—Sons of Abraham synagogue rebuilt, re-dedicated. Harry Veiner serves as Medicine Hat mayor 1952-1966 and 1968-1974.

**1956:** Camp B'Nai Brith opens on Pine Lake.

**1959:** Both Calgary Jewish schools open new facilities. Peretz School moves to 36 Avenue & 18 Street SW. Talmud Torah moves to Glenmore Trail near 14 Street SW; builds several additions in 60's.

**1960:** Beth Israel opens new synagogue, next to Talmud

## CALGARY JEWISH POPULATION DATA

Year	Calgary Population	% Change from Prev. Census	Jewish Population	% Change from Prev. Census	% of City Population
1901	21,091		100		
1911	43,704	107%	641	91%	0.80%
1921	63,305	45%	1,263	97%	2.00%
1931	83,761	32%	1,604	27%	2.00%
1941	88,904	6%	1,760	10%	1.90%
1951	129,060	45%	2,094	19%	1.60%
1961	249,641	93%	2,866	37%	1.10%
1971	403,319	62%	3,275	14%	0.80%
1981	580,585	44%	6,065	85%	1.00%
1991	748,210	29%	7,155	18%	0.96%

Torah on Glenmore Trail SW. Jewish population shift south of Elbow River well under way.

**1960:** Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue (modern Orthodox) opens, 17 Avenue & Centre St. SE, next to House of Israel community building.

**1961:** Chevra Kadisha opens funeral chapel, 1702 - 17 Avenue SW. Expansion of Erlton cemetery continues.

**1962:** Lethbridge—Beth Israel Congregation moves into new synagogue, community building.

**1968:** House of Jacob synagogue expropriated by City and demolished; congregation moves to former Eagle Hall, 13 Avenue & 12 Street SW.

**1973:** Beth Israel cemetery opens near Macleod Trail, 156 Avenue SW.

**1970's:** Calgary Jewish population nearly doubles in decade; births, emigration from Montreal, Toronto increase numbers to 6,000 by 1980.

**1979:** Calgary Jewish Centre, 90 Avenue & 16 St. SW opened. Temple B'Nai Tikvah (Reform) formed.

**1980:** Akiva Academy, Orthodox day school, begins classes.

**1982:** Congregation House of Jacob—Mikveh Israel (Orthodox) opens new synagogue building, 92 Avenue and 16 Street SW.

**1984:** Beth Israel and Shaarey Tzedec merge to form Beth Tzedec Congregation.

**1986:** Former Beth Israel synagogue rebuilt, enlarged, re-dedicated as Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

**1987:** Calgary Hebrew School and Peretz School merge to form Calgary Jewish Academy.

**1988:** Chabad Lubovich comes to Calgary; opens Chabad House, 19 Street & Woodpark Dr. SW.

**1989:** Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta formed.

**1994:** 100 years of Jewish communal life in Calgary.



## New Photos from Our Archives



City Hall Market adorned in bunting for the Royal Visit of May, 1939. Photo credit – R. Cunniffe. This photo appeared in *Scarlet, Rifle-green and Khaki: the military in Calgary*. (Century Calgary Publications, 1975)



Medicine Hat Hebrew School, c. 1950. Front row: (L to R) Avie Raber, Harriet Lewis, Allan Belzberg, Sara Raber, Brenda Shindleman, Mark Green, Zelda Lupa, Esther Prasow, Gerald Freedman, Philip Stone. 2nd row: Ralph Levinson, Sylvia Levinson, Carolyn Lupa, Leslie Davids, Marnie Bellas, Karen Krasnoff, Elexis Conn, Janet Spivak; 3rd row: Ben Levinson, Michael Raber, Linda Lewis, Allan Gibbs, Gary Kohn; 4th row: Rosalyn Gibbs, Leala Gibbs, Sondra Bellas, Rhonda Stone, Shelley Lupa, Gail Lupa, Russell Stone, Sidney Conn; 5th row: Miriam Raber, Marian Levinson, David Lesk, Paula Spivak, Cary Davids, Arnold Conn, Lionel Conn; Back row: Morris Lupa, Sam Krasnoff, Rabbi Louis Gold, Alex Spivak. Photo source – Bee Lewis

# Medicine Hat Moments

## *From an oral history interview with Dr. Leo Lewis*

Faced with a declining population, the Medicine Hat Jewish community recently closed the Sons of Abraham synagogue. The community's once-thriving religious and social life is recalled in these excerpts from a 1989 interview with Medicine Hat pioneer Dr. Leo Lewis.

Leo Lewis emigrated from England to Medicine Hat as a child in 1912. He became a physician in the late 1930's, and served in the Canadian army medical corps in Europe during World War II. He practiced medicine in "the Hat" until his retirement in 1976, when he and wife Bee (Raber) Lewis moved to Calgary. Leo Lewis passed away in 1994.

### **Feldman Lake - 1882**

"This old rancher ... told me about a place called Feldman Lake, named after the first Jewish people that lived in this area. It was a big slough, about halfway between the Cyprus Hills and the railway line at Dunmore.

What happened he said, is that in 1882 a fellow by the name of Louis Sands, who had the Louis Sands Salt and Lumber Company, got a contract from the CPR to supply railway ties. He got the license to cut timber in the Cyprus Hills. There were a lot more trees then than there are now.

Half way to the railway line there was a lake where they built a storage yard. A Jewish family by the name of Feldman ran the place, so they called it Feldman Lake.

When the railway reached the mountains after a couple of years, they moved the lumber business west. He remembered the Feldman children going to school with him in Dunmore, but he couldn't remember their names.

### **Inky Finklestein, 1886 - 1895**

The rancher told me that beginning in 1886 there was a Jewish cattle dealer in the Medicine Hat area by the name of Inky Finklestein. He lived there up to 1895, buying and selling cattle. He had a contract with the fed-

eral government to supply the Indians with beef, because the buffalo were all gone.

### **Finn's Lake Jewish Cemetery - 1914**

The first Medicine Hat Jewish cemetery was probably established in 1914 or 1915 and it was out in the country, near my father's farm at Finn's Lake. The first Jew to be buried there was a man by the name of Tucker. It was during the flu epidemic of 1917. Fortunately, he was the only one that died. I remember that situation because we didn't have a Rabbi at that time, and everyone had to do the funeral.

(Other records say the first Jewish burial was that of a 12-year old girl from nearby Swift Current, Saskatchewan, in 1916. The Finn's Lake graves were later moved to the new Jewish section of the Hillside Cemetery.)

### **Rabbis and Cantors - 1914-1930**

"In the old days our Rabbis called themselves 'reverends.' They did the kosher slaughter. There were no kosher meat markets; some of the local butcher shops sold the kosher meat for the Jews. There was no problem for those who kept kosher, and most of them did. When kosher meat wasn't available locally, it was brought in from Calgary.

The reverend conducted a 'cheder'. We had to go after school at four o'clock every day. We may not have liked it, but we went. We didn't learn too much because most of these reverends were very unworldly. In their minds they were back in Europe, in the 'shtetl'. But they were the people who were learned in Hebraic ways and they tried to pass them on to us.

Whenever they had a celebration or Jewish holiday they rented one of the lodge halls. Frequently we had the Sons of England Hall, or the Orange Hall.

They rented a small house for the rabbi to live in, and used that as headquarters. Sometimes they didn't have a rabbi and the Torah had to be stored in somebody's house. It was

even in our house. The original Torah was bought by a group of people, including my grandfather.

My bar mitzvah took place in 1922. At that time, we had a 'reverend' by the name of Kopelovitz. His wife wouldn't move to Medicine Hat with him; she lived in Winnipeg. He came about 1920 and he was there for perhaps seven or eight years. He put us all through our bar mitzvahs. He really did things that were meaningful for us, in our Jewish life.

I'm not sure which year, perhaps about 1926, he decided to go to California. I think he became chief chicken-killer of Los Angeles.

Our rabbis didn't always conduct the High Holiday services, because they couldn't do the cantorial part of it. The cantor had to be imported, either from Winnipeg or from Calgary. But there was one gentleman from the country, from Maple Creek (in Saskatchewan) who was very adept at that, and he sometimes volunteered to act as cantor, or helped the other fellow out. His name was Grand, Ben Grand.

### **Building a Synagogue**

Our congregation was called the Sons of Abraham. We really didn't have a permanent home until some time in the thirties. The leaders found an abandoned building that was originally a garage, but it was in good shape, so they bought the building and fixed it up. That acted as the synagogue.

And after the war, when they had become more affluent, they built the new synagogue, in 1955.

### **Jews in the Community**

There was a totally different climate for the Jewish people in Medicine Hat after World War II, because so many of them had been in the service. Instead of being relatively isolated, like the Jews before the war, most of them got integrated into the community. There seemed to be someone from the community on every Board and Council for a long time.

I became a member of the Rotary Club and everything else, ball clubs and everything else. My wife Bee

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# Eleanor Roosevelt Guest of Calgary B'Nai Brith – 1949

by Donald Smith

Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of American president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, visited Calgary in early March 1949 as the guest of the local B'Nai Brith lodge. Mrs. Roosevelt had visited Eastern Canada many times, as the family's summer cottage was on Campobello Island, New Brunswick. Apart, however, from a trip with her husband in a destroyer to Victoria, B.C. during the war, she had never visited Western Canada.

Mrs. Roosevelt served in 1949 as the U.S. delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, and was chair of the United Nations commission on human rights. On Thursday March 3, she attended a Calgary civic luncheon, and then visited the Colonel Belcher and Junior Red Cross Hospitals.

The executive of the B'Nai Brith, which sponsored her visit, hosted a dinner in her honor before her talk at the Victoria Arena. At the civic luncheon she told those present of the excitement she felt, "in this growing country of yours where everything is opening up and you need not fear the future."

That evening nearly 5,000 persons heard her speak on the "Declaration of Human Rights", adopted by the United Nations just three months earlier on December 10, 1948. This was an extraordinarily large audience—in effect, one out of twenty people in Calgary attended, as the city then had a population of about 100,000.

Those present heard Mrs. Roosevelt urge all to read the document, and to try to attain its ideals in their lives. Individual countries such as England in the Magna Carta, and the United States in its Bill of Rights, had in the past made great declarations for their citizens; but never before had such a statement been written for all nations of the world.

William Guss, president of B'Nai Brith Lodge no. 816, chaired the meeting. Mrs. Roosevelt had previ-

ously spoken in Edmonton, also with the sponsorship of B'Nai Brith.

Editor's note: Eleanor Roosevelt was immensely popular among Canadian and American Jews, as is shown by the naming of a Calgary Hadassah chapter in her honor in the early 1960's.

As a young woman, Eleanor Roosevelt worked for several years with Jewish immigrants (and others) in lower-east-side New York "settlement houses". After the death of her husband Franklin Delano Roosevelt (U.S. president from 1933 to 1945) she served for many years as an international diplomat, most notably as chairman of the United Nations Commission of Human Rights.

She was a vocal supporter of a Jewish state, and urged the U.S. government to support Israel both with arms and diplomatically. Roosevelt was a patron of Youth Aliyah, the Hadassah-funded youth settlement branch of the Jewish Agency.

## History Professor Lauds JHSSA Work

Dr. Donald Smith, Professor of History at the University of Calgary, found out about the B'Nai Brith-sponsored Eleanor Roosevelt visit while he was researching the history of the Grand

Theater. He added the following notes about our publications:

"As a hobby for many years I have researched aspects of the history of Calgary. You can imagine my surprise and delight when I saw the beautifully illustrated *Land of Promise, the Jewish Experience in Southern Alberta*, and the collected back issues of *Discovery*. The Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta is to be congratulated for making the history of the Jewish community known to all. What a fascinating story. I spent a delightful afternoon going through *Land of Promise* and the back issues of *Discovery*."

**CALGARY  
B'NAI B'RITH LODGE  
No. 816**

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**CALGARY ARENA**

**Thursday, March 3rd, 1949**

Eleanor Roosevelt autographed this program for Ida Horwitz. Her husband, Cecil Horwitz, then president of District 6 of B'Nai Brith, organized the Roosevelt visit. Their daughter Frances, then five, presented Mrs. Roosevelt with flowers.



# 1918 Ketubah a Long-Term Contract

Abraham (Avrum) Belzberg and Hinda Fishman were married in Radom, Poland, in 1918. Avrum came to Calgary in 1919, Hinda and baby Fanny a year later. Lil Faider, their daughter, gave the JHSSA her parents' ketubah—marriage contract—some time ago. The ketubah was translated from the Hebrew by Eliezer Segal. Some handwritten segments could not be deciphered. We hope you find it interesting.

To these stipulations and agreements which were discussed and stipulated between these two parties, namely: the honourable distinguished master Eleazar (let his light flourish) Belzberg, who represents his son, the distinguished groom, the honourable Abraham (let his light flourish).

And on the other side, the honourable distinguished lord, master Asher Anshel (let his light flourish), representing his daughter, the virgin bride Miss Hinda, (May she live).

And upon being asked, she consented.

Whereas the aforementioned groom Mr. Abraham shall take in marriage and in good fortune and for an opportune occasion, the aforementioned distinguished bride Miss Hinda ... by means of the canopy and betrothal in accordance with the laws of Moses and Israel;

And they shall not withhold or conceal from one another any manner of concealed sum. Rather, they shall have equal possession over their property, and they shall dwell in love and affection in the manner of all the earth.

And whereas the aforementioned distinguished prince, our master R' Eleazar, representing his son the groom, the honourable Abraham ... took upon himself the obligation to pay a dowry and gifts to the bride, as agreed.

He has also consented to provide clothing and shoes for the bridegroom prior to the wedding, garments for weekdays and for the Sabbath, as is customary, pillows and bedding as is customary.

Whereas the aforementioned R' Asher Anshel ... /, representing his daughter Miss Hinda ... has taken upon

himself to offer, Godwilling, a generous dowry, to the sum of thirty thousand crowns, as well as gifts to the groom, a fine watch and a ...

He also consented to provide the aforementioned bride with clothing and shoes before the wedding, weekday garments and Sabbath garments, pillows and bedding ... kerchiefs and curtains, all in accordance with the custom.

The wedding will take place, for good fortune and at a favourable hour, Godwilling on the Sabbath following Shavu'ot in the year 5679 (may it arrive for good).

The costs will be borne by the father of the bride and within whichever designated time the parties agree ??? ... in equal portions.

A penalty to be paid by whichever party violates the agreement to the party that upholds it in the amount of half the dowry, and the penalty does not exempt, etc.

In the case of any disagreement or quarrel, God forbid, they shall act in accordance with the enactment of Speyer, Worms and Mainz.

The responsible guarantor on behalf of the groom is R' Zechariah Bleviss. The responsible guarantor on behalf of the bride is R' Zvi Dov Spielfoygel.

The parties are obligated to compensate the responsible guarantors such that they shall not suffer any direct or indirect loss, God forbid, on account of the aforementioned guarantee.

And we make a formal act of acceptance on behalf of the parties, from the groom and from the bride and from the aforementioned responsible guarantors regarding what is written and stipulated above, using an item that is fitting to effect a purchase.

On Saturday night, the twenty-sixth day of the month of Menachem Av in



the year 5678 in accordance with the convention here in Radom.

And all is valid and binding.

The declaration of R' Eleazar Belzberg ?? and the declaration of the father-in-law R' Asher Anshel Fishman ???.

And in order to lend it strength and authority, the parties and the groom and bride have themselves signed on the aforementioned date of the aforementioned year.

The declaration of Zechariah Bleviss, and the declaration of the groom Abraham Belzberg.

The declaration of R' Zvi Dov Spielfoygel ??? and the declaration of the bride Hinda Fishman.

The declaration of witness Jacob Joseph Pershel ? and the declaration of Isaac ...??.

Avrum Belzberg died in 1976, Hinda Belzberg in 1999. They had five children; Fanny Ryder, Lil Faider, and sons Hyman, Sam, and William. Eldest daughter Fanny Ryder passed away a few months ago. Avrum's parents Rifka (Switzer) and Luzer Belzberg also came to Calgary from Radom.

## Medicine Hat Moments

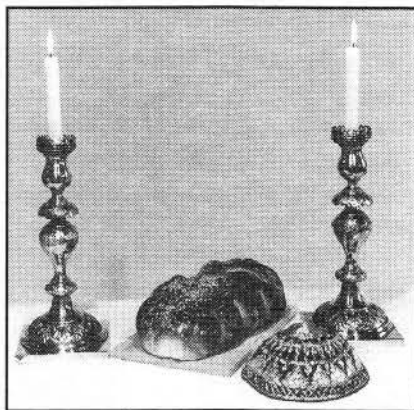
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was chairman of the Library Board. Alex Spivak became a magistrate and eventually Provincial Court Judge.

Bee and I and my aunt, Sophie Lesk, were instrumental in establishing the Victorian Order of Nurses in Medicine Hat, and served on the Board. During the war Sophie Lesk was on the Wartime Prices Control Board.

Harry Veiner entered politics after the war. He ran for parliament as a liberal but he couldn't beat the Social Creditors. But then he was elected mayor and he was mayor off and on for a considerable length of time (1952-66, 1968-74). "

## Sisters Share Priceless Legacy



*Ann Goresht provided the JHSSA with this history of her great-grandmother's Sabbath candlesticks.*

"These candlesticks came all the way from Bialistock (on the border of Russia and Poland). Our great grand-

mother owned them. She brought them with her to Canada. When she passed on they were given to my mother, Sadie Hanen. When she passed, my sister Sylvia Mandel, being the eldest daughter took them with her to Toronto, where she lives.

"Twenty years ago, on one of my visits to Toronto, my sister gave me the candlesticks to bring back to Calgary. She made me promise to return them personally in a year's time. Then she had them for the next year. This way we share the legacy.

"The candlesticks have a place of honor in both our homes, to be enjoyed by both our families.

"They "bashein" (brighten) Shabbat and Yom Tov for our families."

**Photo - Deryk Bodington**

## Ben Sheftel Also Remembered as 9th Avenue Merchant

Our article about the 9th Avenue East Jewish business section in the last Discovery neglected to mention the role of Ben Sheftel as one of those active in "Sheftel Brothers Grocery", later named Empress Stores. We apologize for this oversight.

Allan Sheftel of Vancouver, son of Bella and Ben Sheftel, wrote about his father:

"Ben Sheftel, along with his brothers Leo and Harry, was integral in the establishment, management and success of "The Empress" on 9th Avenue East throughout the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's.

"I spent much of my youth and adolescence in the "Empress" learning from my father how to serve customers, stock shelves, accompany the home delivery truck drivers, and other tasks.

"I'll always remember my father going to the wholesalers at 5:00 a.m. to choose quality produce for the store six days a week. I have a vivid memory of my father standing for many hours a day at his cash register accepting sales and hand writing his credit accounts for the majority of

the "Empress" customers, whom he knew intimately.

"Ben Sheftel was loved and respected by the Empress' long-time and devoted employees and customers. He deserves to be included in a historical review of Jewish retail businesses on Calgary's 9th Avenue East."

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Editors: **Jack Switzer, Jay Joffe**

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