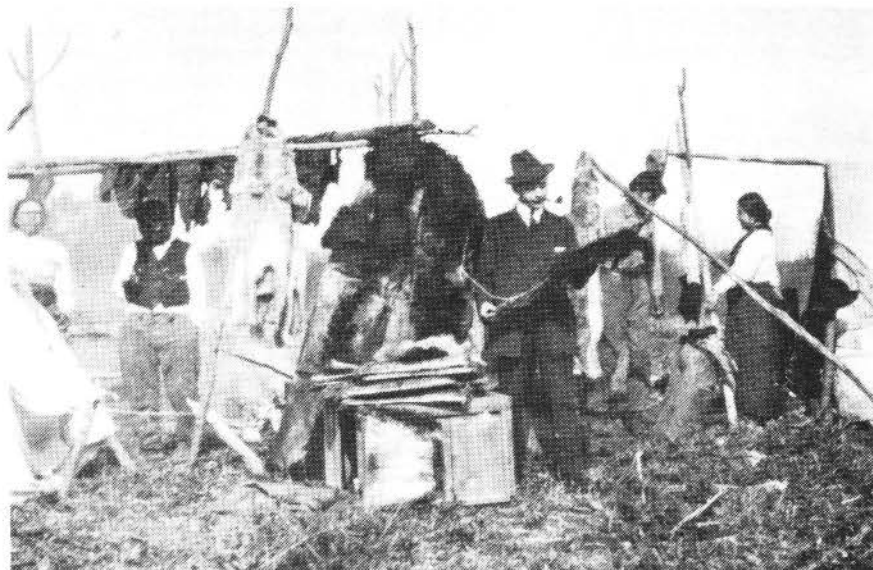


JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Southern Alberta

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Abe Aron trading with Indians. Undated. Found in "Alberta" file in archives of Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada. No other data available.

A Tribute to Our Small Town Jewish Families

Philip Diamond, who went to Canmore in 1905, may have been Alberta's first small-town Jew. Joseph Lipkind worked in his store, but soon left to take over a men's wear store in Daysland.

Their choice of town life was made by many other pioneer Jews and their families.

Prior to 1940 about 500 Jews - one in eight of Alberta's Jews - lived in a small town. Their presence in nearly 100 rural communities has been largely unrecorded.

Most of Alberta's small-town Jewish population in 1931 is listed in a table in this issue. The data is the work of Regina historian Louis Rosenberg, who analyzed the 1931 federal census and published his work in 1939 as *Canada's Jews*.

Like Philip Diamond, proprietor of the Canmore Supply Company, most small town Jews were merchants, operating general stores, and later more specialized businesses, such as groceries, hardware stores, or hotels.

But there were also Jewish doctors and lawyers, and in some towns, Jewish school teachers.

A few Jews came to rural Alberta from nearby farms, preferring the relative comfort of town life to the hardships of their homesteads. A few came from the bigger centres, some directly from Montreal or Winnipeg, but most moved to the towns after stops in Calgary or Edmonton.

Alberta's population was mainly rural - living in towns villages, and on farms, until the 1940's. In 1931 there were 18 towns with over 1,000 residents, and another 50 or so with between 500 and a thousand residents. The towns offered opportunity - farming was Alberta's biggest industry and its rural communities grew to serve the agricultural markets. In some cases there was less competition than in the big cities. A younger merchant or newly-graduated doctor might find it easier to become established in a rural setting than in the cities.

con't. on page 2

JHSSA News

JHSSA Annual General Meeting - Everyone Welcome
October 21, 7:30 PM
Community Center

Photo Book *Land of Promise* to be Launched at JHS Annual Meeting
October 21

The 1996 annual general meeting of the JHSSA will feature the "grand opening" of our new book **Land of Promise**, a pictorial history of the Jewish experience in Southern Alberta.

A special program will highlight the book launch. Heritage certificates will be presented to Jewish pioneers, and Society directors will report on our last year's activities.

Refreshments will be served. Please join us at the Calgary Jewish Community Center, October 21, at 7:30 pm.

New Display Case Highlights JHS Artifacts, Photos, Texts

A large new display case has been built to better present examples of the Society's holdings and on-going work. The case is situated on the upper floor of the Jewish Community Centre, next to our office.

The new case was designed and built by Arnold Cohen. Many thanks to Arnold for his fine workmanship and for his major contribution to saving and displaying our Jewish heritage.

con't. on page 2

In this issue:

- * Jews in small-town Alberta
- ten small-town stories
- * JHSSA news
- * Land of Promise now here
- * New photos

*JHSSA News ... con't. from page 1***Cards, Book Dedications Available to Honor Special Events**

Our members and friends are reminded of the continued availability of historic photo cards which can be sent in your name to honor any special occasions. Minimum (tax-deductible) donation to have a card sent out is \$5. Please call Tiby Presma at 281-3910.

A Tribute... con't. from page 1

Jewish families moved to Manitoba and Saskatchewan towns as early as the 1890's, following the new railway lines radiating out from Winnipeg. Saskatchewan had by far the most farming towns, and the most small-town Jews. Louis Rosenberg said about the early prairie Jewish merchants and their relationships with their immigrant neighbors:

"The Jewish country storekeeper in those newly settled areas, himself an immigrant from Russia, Poland, Austria, or Rumania, was no stranger to the needs, language and customs of most of those settlers who had come to make their home in Canada. He soon acquired a knowledge of English and could make himself understood in German, Russian, Ukrainian and Polish. He often opened his little store before the railroad actually reached the community, and freighted his supplies by wagon team from the nearest railroad.

"His store was the community meeting place in the early days of settlement. He sold groceries shoes, clothing, yard goods, household remedies, harness and hardware. He bought butter and eggs, hides and raw furs from the farmers and knew the name of each article in several languages. He was not merely the local friendly merchant, but often also the letter writer, translator, adviser and friend of his customers, before the rise of a new generation, the construction of paved highways, and the coming of the automobiles and the chain store eliminated the need for this services."

It was spiritual, rather than economic pressures that influenced many rural Jews to return to the big cities. In brief, it was difficult to maintain one's Jewishness in a small-town setting, particularly one in which only one or two Jewish families resided. Even though trains could take a

New books in the Harry B. Cohen Genealogical Library can also be inscribed to honor your friends and family. A donation of \$36 or more will allow us to add new books and dedicate them according to your wishes. Cards noting the gift are, of course, sent out. Again, call Tiby Presma, at 281 - 3910 for details.

Jewish family to visit city relatives for High Holy Days or Passover and could transport kosher meat back in the express cars, there could not exist enough of a Jewish milieu to satisfy many.

It was difficult to provide Jewish education to children in the rural areas (the same applied to Jewish farmers) and even more difficult to find suitable marriage partners. Some prairie families sent children - notably teens - to live with city relatives, and a few even boarded at the Jewish Children's Home (the orphanage) in Winnipeg. The solution for many families was, inevitably, to leave the towns and villages for the city and its synagogues, Jewish schools, and communal services.

(The Jews of one notable Alberta town, Vegreville, built a synagogue and established an active Jewish community by incorporating the Jewish resources from a cluster of surrounding towns, such as Innisfree, Ranfurly, Lavoy, and Mundare. The Vegreville synagogue did not close until 1973.)

Many non-Jews also left the land and left the towns, part of general post-war urbanization. Non-Jewish merchants and professionals also felt the decline of rural life and were equally aware of the economic, cultural, educational, and social attractions offered by the booming cities. For Jews these attractions included a vibrant Jewish environment.

While they lived in the towns and villages, Jews were active citizens, participating in all aspects of their communities. There were a few incidents of anti-Semitism, but there was mainly friendship, co-operation, and compassion for neighbors in need.

Articles in this issue of *Discovery* feature scenes and stories of Jewish life in small-town Alberta. If you can add your memories, please call us.

- by Jack Switzer

Alberta's Towns And Their Jews - 1931

From: Louis Rosenberg, *Canada's Jews, Canadian Jewish Congress, 1939.*

	1931 Total Population	1931 Jewish Population
Calgary	83,761	1,622
Edmonton	79,197	1,057
Medicine Hat	10,300	104
Lethbridge	13,489	111
Vegreville	1,659	82
Drumheller	2,987	44
Bruderheim	280	26
Edson	1,547	20
Leduc	900	19
Mundare	832	19
Myrnam	131	13
St. Paul	938	13
Beiseker	230	12
Lamont	507	12
Ponoka	836	10
Rumsey	83	10
Vermillion	1,270	10
Granum	329	8
McLeod	1,447	8
Munson	164	8
Onaway	149	8
Stoney Plain	497	8
Camrose	2,258	7
Chipman	284	7
Holden	230	7
Innisfree	227	7
Irricana	161	7
Newcastle	304	7
Rockyford	194	7
Gleichen	514	6
Mayerthorpe	159	6
Monitor	137	6
Trochu	506	6
Warner	342	6
Andrew	115	5
Black Diamond	683	5
Coronation	738	5
Lacombe	1,259	5
Magrath	1,224	5
Pincher Creek	1,024	5
Barons	760	4
Blackie	261	4
Craigmyle	236	4
Czar	140	4
Forestburg	291	4
Manville	307	4
Millet	300	4
Okotoks	760	4
Olds	1,056	4
Ranfurly	122	4
Bassano	615	3
Bashaw	385	3
Bellis	117	3
Oyen	401	3
Strathmore	523	3
Veteran	180	3
Barrhead	222	2
Irma	196	2
Lougheed	218	2
Peace River	864	2
Red Deer	2,344	2
Wetaskiwin	2,125	2



Abe and Rose Satinovsky and daughters (l. to r.) Nettie, Josephine, and Thelma, Olds, c. 1935; JHSSA Archives

Olds - "Honest Abe" Satinovsky

Abe Satinovsky was another Olds merchant of the period. His career was the success story of an industrious European immigrant. Abraham Satinovsky, who was born in 1890 in the Russian Ukraine, was conscripted into the Czar's army, a situation which he did not enjoy. From his pay he managed to save enough money for a ticket to Winnipeg, where he had a distant relative.

In Canada he set about learning English and saving to buy a business. Eventually he reached Olds and opened the Olds Mercantile, only to be burned out in the 1922 Main street fire. The store was re-located in the old Opera House until Abe was able to build new premises, around 1928.

In 1940 poor health forced him to sell the Olds Mercantile and move to Calgary, where he died the same year. While he was in business "honest Abe," as he was known, enjoyed the friendship of the people of Olds and was happy to be able to give a helping hand to some of the old-timers during the depression.

He did more than that. In those days, newspaper advertisements were somewhat subdued. But not Abe's. When he put on a sale at "the Merc," not only were the prices right, but his flamboyant double-page spreads in

the Olds Gazette provided a bit of entertainment as well.

"Smiling Abe gives folks in the Olds District, saints and sinners alike, Bargains, Big, Abundant, Rich and Rare." "Abe's Sale is Larger than the Great Pyramids of Egypt. Egad."

Abe Satinovsky married Rose Block in 1930. Their three daughters were born in Olds - Thelma Belzberg, Josephine Sunderland and Nettie Baker. His nephew Bob Sattin lived with the family for several years.

From: *A History of Olds and Area*, 1980, page 118.

Ben Cohen - Mayor of Czar

Ben Cohen came to Canada in 1907 from Lithuania at the age of 16. He lived in Oak Point, Manitoba, with an aunt and uncle for whom he worked while learning to speak English. In 1912, he moved to Czar where he had found a job at the Heflin Bros. General Store. He became a partner in the business and eventually the sole owner, naming it the Czar Mercantile Company. (Czar is about 170 miles north-east of

Calgary., and just south of Wainwright.) He was elected the first mayor of Czar, and later became an active member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows and the Masonic Lodge.

When he was financially able, he brought his brothers - Louis, Jack, Saul, and a sister, Anna - from Lithuania to Czar. Each one lived with him and worked in the store before becoming independent and moving to Eastern Canada.

In June, 1926, Ben married Dora Ginsberg, of Montreal. They had met in Edmonton, where she had completed her schooling. She became active in the business and was a charter member of the Czar Rebecca Lodge and the Czar Women's Institute.

Dora and Ben had two children, Goldie and Manly.

The depression of the 1930's was a crucial period in Ben's life. He could see the extreme need to extend credit to his many loyal customers who were suffering from crop failure and other adversities. Many were never able to repay him and as a result, his business almost went into bankruptcy. Some of his customers made attempts to repay him in grain, farm, and dairy products, which he was unable to convert into payments to his creditors.

Although his losses were heavy, he was able to meet his creditors' demands, and the business survived.

Later, Ben acquired two farms, one in the Neutral Hills area and the other in the Teat Hills area, which he arranged to have farmed for him on a share basis for many years.

In 1940, the Cohens sold the Czar Mercantile Co. and moved to Timmins, Ontario, where they purchased another grocery store. This venture, however, proved unsuccessful, and they returned to Czar the following year and purchased the Red & White Store, thus re-establishing the Czar Mercantile Red & White Store.

In 1949 the Cohens sold the business and moved to Vancouver, where Ben retired. In 1957 he died from a heart condition. (Dora Cohen died in Seattle in 1990, at the age of 93.)

By Goldie Cohen Tobin, From: *Echoes Along the Ribstone, a History of Czar and District*, 1977



Bob Sattin, boxer, Olds, 1927;
source: Allan Sattin

Olds - Bob Sattin, Entertainer and Athlete

Another musician and outstanding personality of the time was Robert Satinovsky (changed to Sattin.) Storekeeper Abe had brought his 18 year old nephew from the Russian Ukraine to Olds in 1915. For a couple of years Bob worked for his uncle in the Olds Mercantile and dreamed of becoming an actor.

In 1934 he left to work his passage on a freighter to England. Bob allowed himself two years to pursue his passion but, although he did manage to obtain some work in the film industry in London, he was not financially successful.

At the end of 1935 he returned to Olds to work another three years in the store, before moving to Calgary.

During his years in Olds his activities encompassed a wide range. He managed and played on the Olds Soccer Team, was hockey trainer for

the Olds Elks Hockey Club and was also coach of the Olds Junior Hockey team.

For a number of years, Bob organized Bazooka Clown Bands, which were a popular feature of the May 24 parades. He played drums with Dick Holeton's dance band (Dick and the Dickey Birds,) and later organized a group of his own, Satinov and His Band, which played engagements from Edmonton to Calgary.

Under the auspices of St. Stephen's Church, Bob produced and acted in a one-act drama written by himself and another man. He was also a teacher of ballroom dancing. At the Curler's Annual New Year's Eve Dance in 1937, with a group of young people he had trained, he made a big hit with a demonstration of the latest dance craze, The Big Apple.

Olds lost a dynamic and entertaining citizen when Bob Satinov departed.

Bob Sattin joined the Canadian Army in 1939 and served overseas, marrying Esther Levene in England in 1941. He became a Calgary Jewish Community leader. He was an ardent Zionist, a Negev Dinner Honoree, and led the Calgary post of the Jewish War Veterans. He died in 1995.

From: *A History of Olds and Area*, 1980, page 123.

Phylis Wolochow - Growing Up in Trochu

I remember when we came to Trochu in 1922 - I thought it was a big town. I was all of six, my brother Hy was 5 and David was a baby of 2. Our sister Naomi was born in the Trochu hospital in 1930.

Daddy and Mom were both born in the Ukraine, and came to Saskatchewan, where their parents homesteaded near Lipton. Daddy also homesteaded as soon as he was old enough to qualify.

Dad and Mom started out their married life (in 1916) in a "house"

over a little store in Richdale (Alberta.) Before their marriage Mom had worked in a clothing factory in Edmonton. When we came to Trochu Dad bought the only house in town for sale - the one that is now the Trochu barbershop.

At that time, the streets were mud, dirt or snow and ice - depending on the weather, and the sidewalks were of boards. After school and after supper children just played and no one worried. Each night the curfew bell was rung at nine and everyone under 16 had to be home.

Many a pail of water was lugged home from the town pump near the fire station. It was years before we had electricity, so girls my age learned to iron with flatirons heated on top of the coal and wood stove, and to sew with a treadle sewing machine.

Once a week the "movie man" came to town and movies were shown in Strohmaier's hall. We were all disappointed if it rained hard and the man got stuck in the mud and didn't make it.

The Wolochow General Store sold just about everything except meat. I helped on Saturdays - mostly by taking eggs out of oats and putting them into crates, or helping to fill orders. Those were hard years for the farmers and Dad told me in later years that he helped many a family over the lean spots, as I am sure Mr. Steinbach and Mr. Roach (competitors) did as well.

In 1932 the folks rented a house in Calgary, so that we children could go to school there, and Dad came in to Calgary on week-ends. In 1933, Dad and Mr. Lipkind traded property. Mr. Lipkind had sold his Three Hills store and bought an apartment building in Calgary, but wished he had a business again. So his daughter Blanche and her husband Max Bercovich moved into our old house and Max managed the store.

Mom and Dad left Calgary in 1950 and moved to Vancouver where they had a wide circle of friends and family. In 1971 Dad died and early in 1972 Mom did, too.

By Phylis Wolochow Belmont, from: *Remember When - the History of Trochu and District*, 1975, page 406.



Jack Hackman and friend John Grodland at Buffalo Lake, 1927; JHSSA Archives

On the Road - Jack Hackman Sees Small-Town Alberta

Jack Hackman came to Alberta in 1906, homesteading near Stettler - with occasional sabbaticals from farming - until 1926, when he gave up farm life for the comforts of town living by opening a store in Rumsey.

In *The Hackman Journal*, translated from Yiddish he relates his first, negative, impression of Alberta's small towns, during a brief foray off the farm in the early 20's:

I am roaming the streets looking for work on buildings, in junk shops, anywhere I meet people known to me I enquire. Finally I persuade a young man, a peddler in hides, horse hair, fur, to take me along as helper on the road.

We leave Calgary. I kiss Lena and the children goodbye. My heart is heavy. We travel in an old Model-T Ford. Our destination is as far away from the city as possible where competition is not so bad. You go from farm to farm, inquire who has furs, who has hides and what-have-you.

You stop in small settlements and pick up a coyote skin or two, a few muskrat furs. It's cold driving. The wind blows through the loose curtains. We stop for lunch at a cafe to warm up. Overnight stop-over generally at a combination restaurant and 4-bed hotel run by a Chinaman.

No town in this new developing section of the country had an expression of its own. They had no individual character. Nearly all of them had the same identical start and finished up identically. They grew to a certain size and then ceased to grow.

All the buildings were unpainted. A general store, a restaurant-hotel, a blacksmith (this was most important), a post office, a livery barn. These few enterprises could accommodate any kind of traveler and satisfy the needs of the farmer.

We have been on the road a week and we are now back home. We invited Louis and Hilda Jacobson for the Seder. I had earned a few dollars and therefore was happy for holidays.

In the spring we are back to the land.

Jack Hackman ends his journal with his decision to move to town:

Next year we had a crop failure. We are getting discouraged. We are entertaining the thought of abandoning the farming business, to rent it out on a share basis.

Ran an ad in the Calgary Herald stating 'will trade farm for general store somewhere.' Had offers. Went to Calgary and a town east but the deal did not materialize. Finally made a deal with a man north of us, about 100 miles, who has been in the business for a long time, got tired, disgusted and was willing to get out the best he could.

We made a deal. Traded a quarter of land, moved the stock to Rumsey, opened a store. We are through with farming.

From: Jacob Hackman, *The Hackman Journal*, JHSSA Archives, pages 75-77, 80-81.

Rumsey - Anne Hackman, Mrs. Santa Claus

Anne Hackman Passavoy continues the Jack Hackman family story where her father left it off, with the family moving to Rumsey in 1926.

We left the farm (in 1926) and moved into the town of Rumsey, where daddy opened a general store. We lived in rooms directly behind the store. We used an out house and we must have had a water pump. We used coal oil lamps. We bathed in round galvanized wash tubs. Water was heated on the stove.

Daddy used to read to us. What I recall was Sholem Aleichem.

The store itself had groceries on one side and dry goods on the other. There was a large wheel of yellow cheese on the counter, there was a red coffee grinder, a scale, and a cash register and somewhere in the center was a heater.

Rumsey had another store. The people who had that was the Barons. There was a 'Chinaman,' a place to eat and when we had the money we could buy an ice cream cone there. Somewhere there was a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, a lumber yard, a hotel that had a saloon, a post office, three grain elevators, a train station, a bank, a pool hall, a school, a baseball field. There was a doctor. Must have been a church.

At times the Chataqua came to Rumsey. The school had Christmas programs. I played Mrs. Santa Claus. We also learned folk dances, the Highland fling, the Irish jig and probably others.

At school we always said The Lord's Prayer in the morning. We sang O Canada, God Save the King, and The Maple Leaf Forever.

Gypsies must have come through occasionally, because I recall being afraid of them.

A cyclone hit Rumsey and took the roof off the building next to the store.

One night we were awakened because our house and store was on fire. We all went outside and just watched it burn. It was the most devastating experience I have ever had, and the feeling of total helplessness has never left me.

That was the end of our stay in Rumsey. It must have been 1928. We all went to Calgary.

From: Anne Hackman Passavoy, *Memories from Annie*, JHSSA Archives, pages 8-10.



Small-town doctor Paul Wolochow (centre, with glasses) and two friends try to extricate car from mud near Mayerthorpe, Alberta, 1932. At left is son Michael Wolochow. Source - Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada.

Pat Bercuson Hector - Teaching at Turner Valley

Pat (Passie) Hector was born Pat Bercuson in Calgary in 1909. Her parents were Jacob Bercuson and Sarah Hart Bercuson, who married in Romania. Jacob Bercuson came to Calgary in 1904. This is brief excerpt from an interview done in 1989 for the Oral History project of the JHSSA.

After grade eleven, I decided to go to Normal School (for a one-year teacher training program.) There was no money for me to go to university.

Teaching was just there. It was a case of that or be a sales lady. Very few Jewish girls went into nursing. There was a lot of discrimination in Calgary when it came to the school board letting in Jewish girls to teach. I taught school in the country for three years. I taught the first year in Turner Valley, then Beiseker, in a rural school, and then Beiseker, in the town. (Late 1920's)

One family in the Turner Valley area took their children out of school because I was Jewish, and they told the district they would not tolerate having a Jewish teacher. They said 'the next thing you know were going to have niggers and chinks.' The inspector came out, gave me a good report, and the family was forced to back down.

The countryside was beautiful around Turner Valley, and I wanted to

stay, but the situation with that (anti-Semitic) family bothered me.

It was while I was teaching there that I started going out with my future husband, Sam Hector. I wanted to go into Calgary for my brother's birthday. It was in January, and that weekend there was a tremendous snowstorm. It was 50 below in Turner Valley.

Sam drove me back to Turner Valley as a courtesy, because he was going back, and so was I. (*The Hectors ran a machine shop and supply service in the oil-producing area.*) He took me back to the school. It was 26 below, in the school, so he chopped some wood for me and got the fire started, and then left.

No kids showed up that day, so I had to walk home, in that bitter, bitter cold. The cold lasted for thirty days, which usually doesn't happen. There were no chinooks. Every day I had to start a fire, and tried to bank a fire that would last all night, but it never happened.

Pat Bercuson soon left Turner Valley but returned after her marriage to Sam Hector in 1937. They moved back to Calgary in 1942. Sam died in Calgary in 1981; Pat now lives in Vancouver. Their daughters are Judy Parker, Ellen Dietz, and Jacqueline Braverman.

Beiseker - Eisadore Aisenstat - "Easy Credit and a Good Heart"

Eisadore (Isadore) Aisenstat, who operated a general store in the early 1920's, was better known as "Easy" because of his easy credit policy and good heart. He came to Beiseker with his wife and two daughters, Ida and Fanny, in about 1922 and had a store where the present Barn Owl is located. His store burned down in about 1926.

The Aisenstats were a popular family during their short stay in Beiseker and many old timer have fond memories of them. Mrs. Aisenstat served as president of the Ladies Aid Society and Mr. Aisenstat helped organize a baseball team.

After leaving Beiseker, Mr. Aisenstat owned the Irricana Hotel before moving to Calgary where he became a cattle buyer. Mrs. Aisenstat passed away in 1944 to be followed by Mr. Aisenstat in 1947.

By James Schleppe, from: *Beiseker's Golden Heritage*, 1977, page 127.

Community histories cited in these "small-town" stories are from the library of the Glenbow Alberta Museum.

Percy Fishman, Trading Furs Among the Oil Wells at Little Chicago

My father, Percy Fishman, came to Calgary from Poland in 1924. My mother, Sophie Rosenthal, arrived here with her family from Russia in 1926. They met and married in 1930. At that time my father had a second-hand store on 8th Avenue S.E.

On June 13, 1936, Turner Valley Royalty # 1 well struck oil, producing 800 barrels daily. Intensive development followed. The towns of Turner Valley and Black Diamond expanded, and several new towns sprang up, including Little Chicago, Little New York, Mercury, and Hartell. Boom times had arrived.

The oil-field activity attracted my father. In the fall of 1936 he drove to Little Chicago (*south of Black Diamond, and not found on modern maps*). Store fronts were in the process of construction. Excitement and promise filled the air. At that moment Dad decided he too would move his family to this tiny town.

He would establish a used furniture and hardware store in the town, which before long had a population of 3000. While Dad closed the Calgary shop, my mother's brother Dave Rosenthal managed the store in Little Chicago.

In the summer of 1937 my mother, with tearful eyes, waved farewell to her family. I was six; my sister Molly was two.

Little Chicago: mingled with wooden business buildings were dozens of small tar-papered shacks

with stove pipes jutting through the roofs. Behind each building we noticed paths approaching tiny buildings. My mother asked what they were. Her face dropped - an outdoor toilet. Even in Russia they had indoor plumbing.

Facing us stood a large building; in large letters was a sign 'Variety Furniture Exchange - We Buy and Sell. We were home.

We lived in two rooms attached to the rear of the store. Next to our store stood Joe's Cafe. Behind that was Hector's machine Shop. Hector's managers were Jewish, but my sister and I were the only Jewish children living in town.

The years progressed. My father was chosen captain of the curling team, and both my parents became respected members of the community. We grew fond of country living and enjoyed the time spent together as a family.

Summer recreation included baseball games among rival teams from the different oil companies, towns, and schools. Friends would hop on the back of my dad's truck to travel to neighboring towns to cheer for our team.

I remember summer evenings when the family walked down the highway to Little New York to see a movie. We enjoyed the foothills scenery on the way there, and returned home to the brightness of burning gas flares.

My father had a license to buy pelts. Twice a year in the spring and fall Native families from nearby reservations pitched their tents on the vacant lot behind the store. The buying and selling procedure took several days.

Sincere friendships developed with the Native people. I remember the chicken dances we attended, and how we enjoyed visiting our friends on the reservation.

Wednesday afternoons all businesses closed. Mom would join her friends at the Women's Institute for a game of whist.

Relatives and friends would often visit us on their Sunday drives. My father set up a tent behind the store, where he had Sunday meals with our visitors.

The war years were busy ones in the oil fields. Our little community rallied to support those fighting overseas. The women's Institute prepared bandages, knit thousands of scarves and socks. At school we collected pennies towards the purchase of war bonds. My father received militia training for home defense duties.

Little Chicago's name was changed to Royalties. Little New York became Longview.

My father decided it was time to build a house. We had a chicken coop and a garden, with caragana bushes planted between our lawn and the highway.

Our baby brother, Mel, was born in the Turner Valley hospital on March 24, 1945. We were delighted. The Rabbi from Calgary chanted special prayers as Dr. Harry Lander, our wonderful doctor and friend, performed the circumcision.

My mother told us one evening she missed her family in Calgary, and that we would be moving back as soon as Dad sold the business.

During the Easter holidays in 1946, our house was taken off its foundation and moved by truck to Calgary, to a lot at 320 - 12th Avenue North East, where we were to live for 30 years.

The house is still there, but Royalties is gone. When the oil boom shifted to Leduc and the Turner Valley production declined, people moved away. All the buildings, derricks, and refineries have been removed; only wheat fields, and a row of caragana bushes, remain.

From: Helen Goldenberg, *Memories*, 1996, JHSSA Archives.

DISCOVERY

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The Editors welcome submissions for publication relating to areas of Calgary and Southern Alberta Jewish History. All articles should be typed, documented and sent for consideration.

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Philip Diamond, early 1900's,
JHSSA archives

Philip Diamond - Concerts in the Canmore Supply Store

Philip Diamond (1867-1943) opened the Canmore Supply Co. in 1905, when that town was a busy coal-mining center. A Canmore historian describes the store:

"The policy for the Diamond store was to be 'stocked to serve all requests.' Actually the policy was 'if it isn't in stock it will be along with the next freight from our Calgary wholesalers.'

"Phone calls to the wholesalers meant delivery by CPR freight trains within 24 hours.

"A player piano stationed the center of Diamond's store was a supreme attraction for community members, especially for the teenagers. After a concert of piano music, Miss Diamond (*assumed to be Rebecca*) would call a halt to the music and send the young people home."

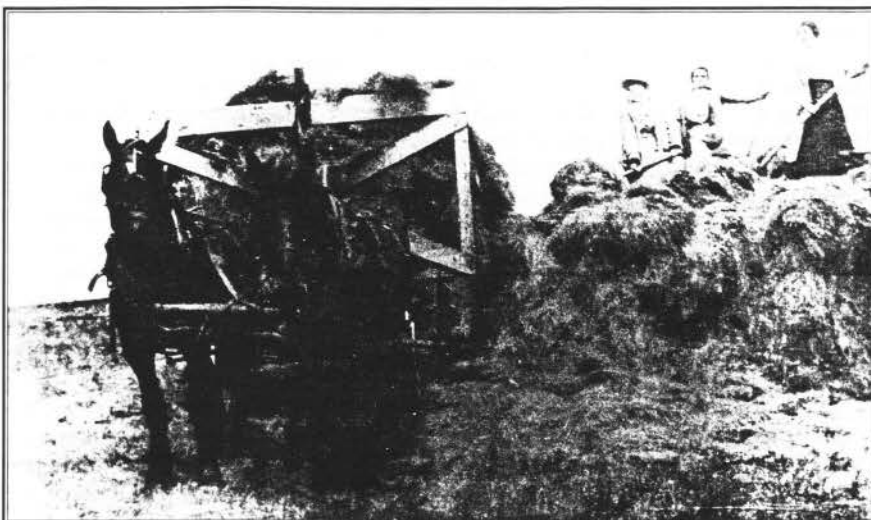
Philip Diamond came to Canmore with his three older children, Rebecca (Block), Joseph, and Sam. He later returned to Russia and brought sons Louis and Jacob. His pregnant wife, Ruchel, remained in Russia, and died before emigrating. Harry and Fanny (Gallay,) the remaining children, were brought to Canmore.

The Diamonds later renovated the Canmore Opera House to show motion pictures.

From: H. Clarke, 'The Old Days, *Canmore Leader*, April 16, 1991; *The Diamond Family Centennial Calendar*, JHSSA Archives.

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