

ירשה

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HERITAGE

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



Memories of
Round Hill

page 8



Moe
Lieberman's
Legacy

page 4



Henry Kreisel:
Our Own
Literary Icon

page 6

JAHSENA AGM

Thursday,
November 17, 7:30 p.m.
at the JCC. Guest
speaker: Architect
David Murray,
specialist in historic
restoration.

David will talk about
buildings he has
restored across the
province and his plans
for the Old Beth Israel
Synagogue.

Refreshments will be served.

EDMONTON Yiddish Dramatic Society

P R E S E N T S : "The Dybbuk", circa 1935



Photo: JAHSENA Archives, donated by Anita Satanove.

The Edmonton Yiddish Dramatic Society of the Peretz School production of : "The Dybbuk", circa 1935. Back row, left to right: Shaindel Satanove, Leigh Lasawsky, Mr. Dolgoy, Mr. Motkovitch Jr., Miss Dolgoy. Second row: Mrs. Ostrofsky, Miss Goorevitch, Mr. Louis Rudolph, unknown, Mr. Bloshtein, Mr. R.M. Bernsitein, Phillip Lieberman, unknown, Harry and Rose Hiller, Mr. Hardin, Mr. Motkovitch, Mr. Bushewsky, Unknown, Mr. Heckelman, Miss Satanove. First row: Mr. and Mrs. Levine, Ben Bernstein, Henka Bernstein, Mr. Feldman, R.M. Bernstein, Mr. Weitz, Mrs. Rudolph. If you can help fill in any of the blanks, please call the office at: 489-2809.



From the Archivist's Desk...

by DEBBY SHOCTOR

September, 2005

Well, it's been a busy summer at the Archives. I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Archives Society of Alberta in Calgary in June, where I was formally elected to the Board as Institutional Member-at-Large. I will continue to chair the Grants Committee for the next two years.

Speaking of grants, we had a contract worker in the office for most of June, Karen Langley, who helped with the completion of our grant from the ASA from last year. She completed the remaining fonds-level descriptions in our collection and uploaded them onto the *Archives Network of Alberta Database*, so now all of our fonds (collections) are described at the first level, and available for researchers on the ASA website at www.archivesalberta.org. In addition, she uploaded the remaining photos from the *First Century of Jewish Life* and the *Farm Colony* photos onto the *Alberta in Sight* database, so now we have almost 1000 photos on this database.

As an adjunct to this, Janet McMaster, the webmaster, created a portal for us to be used from our own website, www.jahsena.ca, which will take the user to a specialized view of the ASA databases which includes only our own holdings.

We have just received word from the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation that our grant application for the completion of a feasibility study into

the restoration of the old Beth Israel Synagogue was successful. With the additional funds we obtained earlier from the Community Initiatives program of the AGLC, this means that we now have all the money we need to complete the study, which is the first step in possibly securing Provincial Historical Designation for the building, and possibly in its ultimate future restoration. We have engaged the services of local architect David Murray and he and Committee Chair Barry Zalmanowitz are hard at work on negotiations with the Parish Council and Archdiocese to complete the work necessary for the study.

I wanted to thank a couple of volunteers who have recently been into the office, Jim Heilik, who is completing work on the Cemetery Listings compiled by Cory Felber in order to prepare them for inclusion in the Jewish Online World Burial Registry (JOWBR). Once this work is completed, researchers will be able to search this data from our cemetery, including photographs of grave stones, on the world-wide-web through Jewish Gen:

www.jewishgen.org, the main Jewish genealogical website. This is Jim's second project for us – he recently completed the creation of a set of reference copies of all of our local newspapers so that researchers could use them.

Caroline Ullman has been in quite a bit researching the Ullman family roots on the former farm colonies in Central Alberta near Rumsey and

Trochu. She is compiling all the information she has come across into a comprehensive article for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Thank you also to Board Member Mandle Nozick, who donated five copies of our film, *"From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered,"* to the Edmonton Public Library for inclusion in their collections, so that the general public can view this excellent documentary film.

Some of you may have seen an article on Abraham Shnitka in the Vancouver-based Jewish Studies magazine, "Outlook" written by Montreal Jewish Community Archivist Eiran Harris, in which JAHSENA is credited for securing this important collection. Look for a new virtual exhibit featuring our photos on the ASA website entitled: *"What makes us Canadian? – Reflections on Alberta's 100 years in Canada."* In addition, photos from our collection will be featured in the upcoming documentary film from King Motion Pictures, celebrating Alberta's 100th Anniversary, on Global TV to be shown this fall.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming Casino on September 26th and 27th at the Palace Casino at West Edmonton Mall. Remember these Casinos make it possible for our organisation to function. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office.

L'Shana Tovah Tikateyvu!
Debby Shoctor

ירשה HERITAGE

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Casino Dates...

Our next Casino will be held on September 26 and 27, 2005 at the Palace Casino West Edmonton Mall. If you can help by volunteering, please contact the office at: 489-2809. The Casino is JAHSENA's major source of revenue, so if you can help out, please do!

President's Report:

TAKING OWNERSHIP

"The archives does not really relate to us. After all, we have only recently arrived in this community – not like people who have been here all their lives."

"We have only been here since the 1970s."

I cannot count the number of times I have heard these messages from friends and acquaintances over the nine years I have been involved in our Society. And, this presents us with one of our biggest challenges: How to make our Society and its work more relevant to everyone in our community. How to remind our "newcomers" that all their letters, papers, photos and documents are important to us and must be protected and preserved. Everything that has happened to you and me up to this moment is of archival importance. We all need to make this a priority and become advocates for preserving our history, whether you and your family's roots date back to the early 1900s or your arrival here in the past few years.

Archivists have a saying: *"We are what we keep."* What we do not keep now is likely to

be lost forever. As the well-known Canadian writer Guy Vanderhaeghe observed in a recent column, *"Our sense of ourselves, our hopes for the future rely on an informed engagement with the past. The ultimate source of the stories we have told about ourselves, the fashion in which we revise and amend them in the future, rest on accurate archival resources."*

As I approach the end of my tenure as president of JAHSENA, I plan to continue being an advocate for our Society and its work. We have much still to do and I hope that we all become more aware of our mission and remind everyone we meet that we all have a stake in the preservation of our history. We owe it to our parents and grandparents and above all, to our children and grandchildren.

Dan Kauffman

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time recently to help JAHSENA: Jim Heilik for helping in the office, and to Caroline Ullman for researching the Farm Colonies. Also thank-you to Karen Langley for working on our contract for the ASA.

Also thank you to Mandle Nozick for donating five copies of : *"From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered"* to the Edmonton Public Library.

MAZEL TOV

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend a hearty Mazel Tov to:

Ed & Joy-Ruth Mickelson and Tom and Rachel Starko on the birth of their granddaughter/daughter Sarah.

Dr. Manuel and Rhoda Friedman on the marriage of their daughter, Jennie to Jamie Leiter.

Dr. Bernie and Miriam Adler on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Dr. Leslie and Lillian Green on their 60th Anniversary.

NEW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to welcome the following new members: Arthur Hiller, John Van Weerden, Marty Blatt, Barry and Maureen Schloss, Lynn Pechet-Bruser, Marc de La Bruyère.

At the JCC...

Currently on display at the JCC you will find an exhibit of items pertaining to the *Maccabiah Canada Edmonton Section* from our collection. They recently held their annual Golf Tournament at the Coloniale in Beaumont to raise funds to send local athletes to the Maccabiah Games. This year's games were held in St. Paul, Minnesota, and next year they will be held in Canada. If you would like to donate a book, document or a piece of memorabilia to add to our collection, call 489-2809. Please stop by the JCC and view these items on display opposite the office in the glass display case.

Moe Lieberman

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN



Jahsena Archives, donated by Sam Lieberman

When the late Moe Lieberman's name is mentioned, words such as "respect," "dedication," and "football" come to mind.

Moses Isaac "Moe" Lieberman was born in Toronto on June 16, 1891, one of five children born to Abraham and Sarah Lieberman. He spent his early years in Kingston, Ontario where his family moved, receiving his early education. In 1911 he earned his bachelor's degree in Mining Engineering, and received his master's in the same field of study the following year.

He began his career as a land surveyor. He worked for a while in Northern Ontario, and then came west in 1912. His first stop was Saskatchewan, where the government at that time wanted to dam up the Saskatchewan River at Elbow, and bring water to Moose Jaw and Regina. He also made frequent trips to Calgary, where he met his future wife Emily Sereth.

Apparently, Lieberman was so enamored with Western Canada, that he wrote a letter to his boyhood friend Harry A. Friedman to tell him about it. Friedman had graduated from law school at Osgoode Hall and was a

practicing lawyer in Toronto. When Harry wrote back, he said that he would move west if Moe would give up engineering and join him in his law practice. Lieberman agreed. In 1914, Lieberman began his study of law in Alberta. Since there was no law school in the province at that time, Lieberman articulated

under Friedman in order to get his credentials as a lawyer. He was called to the bar in 1917 and began his law career in the firm Friedman and Lieberman.

He married Emily in 1918 and the couple had two children, Ethel and Sam. Ethel Fried went on to have a career in medicine. His son, Samuel Lieberman has had a very distinguished law career himself, as an Appeal Court Justice.

"He lived his life in a manner that would engender tolerance in that he strove throughout his life to become a member of the general community, while at the same time observing and being part of his Jewish heritage," says Sam Lieberman. "He was a very macho kind of guy and he lived for the game of football. At the same time he was president of the Edmonton Little Theatre. He was a man for all seasons."

As his son pointed out, sport was a big part of Moe Lieberman's life and he had a lasting legacy on the local sports scene in Edmonton. Although he never attended the University of Alberta, Lieberman played quarterback for the U of A Golden Bears. From 1919 to 1921 he played with the Eskimos, becoming the team's manager in 1922. He was also a referee, became president of the Western Canadian Football League, then president of the Edmonton Eskimos. While he was president, the team won two Grey Cups, in 1955 and 1956.

Lieberman received many honours for his involvement in football. He was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame on September 14, 1973. He was named a member of the Alberta and Edmonton Sports Halls of Fame in 1974. The Eskimos created



Julius Erlanger and Moe Lieberman in Edmonton, circa 1925. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta.



Johnny Bright, Moe Lieberman, Normie Kwong and Jackie Parker celebrate the Edmonton Eskimo's Grey Cup Victory in Toronto in 1954. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives of Alberta.

a scholarship in his name, to be given to a high school student entering university who demonstrates academic and football talent.

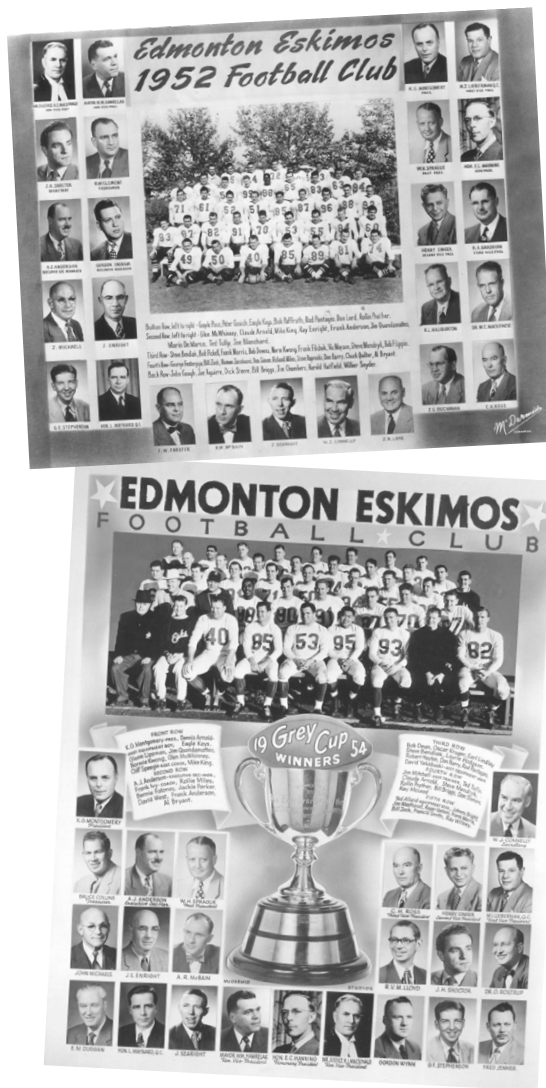
"As a young man, he grew up in Kingston. At Kingston High School he excelled academically and also in hockey, baseball, and football," Sam Lieberman explains. "I think his biggest disappointment in his son was that I was not big enough to play football. Other than that I think I satisfied him," he quips.

Lieberman was involved in a variety of causes and organizations, both in and outside of the Jewish community. He served as president of the Edmonton Little Theatre and was on the board of the Royal Alexandra Hospital. He was named King's Counsel in 1935 and received a Human Relations award from the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews.

In the Jewish community, he held executive positions at Beth Shalom Synagogue and Talmud Torah. He was also very involved with B'nai Brith, and received the "Gold Menorah Award" for 50 years of service to the community in 1964. The firm of Friedman and Lieberman served as legal counsel for many of Edmonton's Jewish groups.

His recognition in the Jewish and non-Jewish communities helped foster understanding and relationships between the two groups. "He lived a life dedicated to having the non-Jewish community recognize the Jewish community in an advantageous light," says Sam Lieberman.

Moe Lieberman died in 1985 but his legacy continues to live on in Edmonton's Jewish community and beyond.



Edmonton Eskimos 1952 and winning 1954 Grey Cup team, and Eskimos management, featuring Moe Lieberman, Henry Singer and Joe Shoctor. JAHSENA Archives, donated by Kayla Shoctor.



Moe Lieberman and Edmonton's Little Theatre, circa 1932. Photo courtesy City of Edmonton Archives.

ON THE WEB...

Our Archives is now a full-fledged member of the Archives Network of Alberta Database. 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 228 fonds-level descriptions listed on their searchable fonds-level database. In Alberta In Sight, the photo database, we have over 900 photos digitized. In Alberta in Word, there are over 400 digitized documents. We are also participating in a virtual exhibit in honour of Archives Week entitled: "What Makes Us Canadian? Reflections on Alberta's 100 Years in Canada." In addition, we have participated in two web-based multi-media projects through the Archives Society of Alberta, "Archives in the Classroom" and "Prairie Populism", both available through links on the ASA website. While you're on the web, check out our own site at www.jahsena.ca. And please note that our email address is: jahsena@shaw.ca Also, go to www.edmontonhistory.ca to see the new website launched by the City of Edmonton in honour of its 100th anniversary. Both the books and the website feature stories and pictures of our Jewish community history.

A WRITER COMES OF AGE: Henry Kreisel's Wartime Writings

BY NORMAN RAVVIN



Dr. Henry Kreisel. Photo courtesy University of Alberta Archives.

The prestigious American literary magazine *PMLA* publishes what it calls “Little-Known Documents” – discoveries from library and private archives whose contents vary from

forced to flee Austria, he viewed his camp experience as “central to [his] own development” as a writer. Among his fellow internees were numerous Jewish academics, writers and musicians, including Emil Fackenheim, Peter Oberlander, and Max Stern, whose contributions after the War in the areas of philosophy, visual arts and city planning would prove influential. Among such impressive compatriots, Kreisel wrote of receiving “a liberal education in many ways more remarkable than the article available in universities.”

Kreisel's *Diary of an Internment* is an excellent historical source for a strange and uniquely Canadian chapter of World War Two. In his view, the internees were treated reasonably, and when they did work, the Canadian landscape presented them with respite. In a diary entry from June, 1941, Kreisel wrote: “A very beautiful day. We worked directly at the little brook still farther away from the camp. When we entered the camp it reminded me of animals being let into a big cage.” He embarks on a Kafkaesque struggle to receive permission from the camp commander to send his early efforts at fiction out for consideration: “To think that I need the consent of such a fellow, who has, I am sure, not read twenty books in his whole life.” And the young internee even finds sympathy for a Fredericton

rabbi who arrives to give a speech that tells the camp inmates not to “grumble at being interned.” “I don’t blame him,” Kreisel writes, “he had to do it.” Cutting wood in the camp’s surrounding forest, Kreisel’s literary ambitions are fuelled by discussions with his compatriots: “I felled one tree only, the other time I spend discussing with my friend H.A. Lissauer about writing. I think of writing a new short novel...”

In the immediate postwar years Kreisel studied English at the University of Toronto and began, in 1944, at the age of 23, to sketch the material that would take shape as his first novel, *The Rich Man*. Published in 1948 by McClelland & Stewart, it is among the first major works on Jewish themes by a Jewish writer published in Canada by a mainstream publisher. Kreisel did not exaggerate when, late in his career, he told an interviewer that he saw himself as “one of the first people to bring modern Canadian literature the experience of the immigrant.”

The Rich Man’s action begins in the College and Spadina neighbourhood where Kreisel lived upon settling in Toronto.

It portrays Spadina-area streetscapes, sweatshop work, and paints a rather downbeat portrait of the Jewish immigrant experience. The novel’s startling narrative leap takes shape as the novel’s main character – an immigrant from Vienna who works in a local factory – decides to make a return trip, at great cost, to see his family. The bulk of the novel then, captures the creeping state of dread and helplessness experienced by Viennese Jews shortly before the War. The returnee from the goldene medine is mistaken for a rich man, and awkwardly allows his European relatives to believe he has made a great success of himself in Canada.

Kreisel did not publish another novel until the 1964 appearance of *The Betrayal*, which again takes up themes of doubled lives created by the challenge of immigration and exile. He devoted much of his energy to a long and productive scholarly and administrative career at the University of Alberta. As an Edmontonian, his writing embraced the particularity of the prairie landscape, though prewar Europe and the Holocaust continued to haunt his fiction and memoiristic writing. His *Diary of an Internment* has never had a wide readership. It appeared first, in 1974, in a small Edmonton-based journal, and was reprinted a decade later in a volume entitled *Another Country: Henry Kreisel*. In the diary’s crisp, stoical prose we see a young man’s artistic consciousness taking shape under the shadow of exile. At the same time, the diary provides us with a prelude to the appearance of one of the first Jewish voices in mainstream Canadian fiction.

Norman Ravvin’s recent novel is Lola by Night. He is co-editor of The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader and Chair of the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. This article has been reprinted with permission of the author.



Dr. Norman Ravvin.
Photo courtesy
Dr. Norman Ravvin.

Gertrude Stein’s table talk to the early drafts of Soviet literary revolutionaries. Among the little known documents of Canadian Jewish literature that deserve a wider readership is a remarkable diary written by Henry Kreisel, when he and his father were interned in a New Brunswick “enemy alien” camp. Kreisel and his parents escaped from Nazi Vienna to England shortly before the onset of World War Two. In the spring of 1940, with the young Kreisel working in a London garment factory, the two men were caught up in what Kreisel recalled as an effort by the British government “to reassure its own population that it was on guard, alert to the dangers posed by potential fifth colonists.” In a deal struck with the Canadian government, hundreds of these imaginary enemies, along with actual Nazi prisoners-of-war, were transported across the sea to the woods near Fredericton. At Camp B, as it was called, Kreisel spent a year and a half.

Though Kreisel made youthful efforts at writing before being

Dr. Henry Kreisel – The Ideal Mentor

By DR. ERIC SCHLOSS

"Ever since the cataclysmic events of the 1930s and 1940s, which scattered the world I knew, I have accepted the strange and often incomprehensible ways in which destiny deals with us. At the same time, I have also believed that we can ourselves shape something of that destiny. We are not pre-destined puppets."



Dr. Eric Schloss.
JAHSENA Archives.

This is Dr. Henry Kreisel speaking to the University of Manitoba November 16th, 1989 on the occasion of the presentation of his manuscripts and papers to the Department of Archives and Special Collections. The draft of his speech was given to me by his wife Esther, an archivist by profession, shortly after Henry passed away in 1991. He had stated that, "Archives are our collective memory, and memory however painful is what makes us truly human."

Henry had commented on the influence of his grandfather Solomon Schreier, a pious orthodox Jew, who is represented in his first novel, *The Rich Man*, and in a later story "Chassidic Songs." He speculated what his grandfather would have thought of a grandson becoming a Professor of English Literature in a country he was unlikely to have even heard of. Jewish themes are prominent in Henry's writings and his second novel, *The Betrayal*, has a Holocaust theme and takes place in Edmonton. Many people have always felt it should be adapted to the stage, as Henry had a great interest in drama, and *The Rich Man* was performed at the Kaasa Theatre.

We remember Henry as a remarkable humanist, scholar, teacher, author, administrator, adviser and counsellor, and warm friend. If there is a model for a perfect professor, Henry Kreisel was the template.

Henry's 40-year career at the University of Alberta was legendary, filled with major achievements, and he had a great positive influence on his students and colleagues. His courses in English Literature were a priority for honours English students and in great demand. In 1957, I managed to register in his popular undergraduate course choosing it as an option for my then Arts (pre-law) program. Henry was a stimulating lecturer and everyone enjoyed the experience reading Ibsen, Bernard Shaw, O'Casey, Synge, T.S.Eliot, Galsworthy, Joseph Conrad, D. H. Lawrence, James Joyce and E.M. Forster. One felt somewhat intimidated, however, when the honours English students read their essays in class. Dr. Kreisel, however

had a genuine interest in helping and advising all students and one day he called me in after reading one of my essays. In his typical gentle and kind manner, he said that he noticed the way I expressed myself and asked, "Have you ever considered the sciences?" This of course changed my entire career path and I am indebted to him for my switch to Medicine.

Henry had a great sensitivity to antisemitism, both overt and potential, and was very distraught over the Keegstra affair. He told me proudly that he was the first Jewish head of a University Department in Canada. An excellent administrator, he served as Chairman of the Department of English, Associate Dean, and Vice-President (academic) at the University of Alberta. He also was responsible for starting the Department of Comparative Literature and additionally held a joint appointment with the Department of Drama, reflecting his wider interests. His annual reading of *The Wasteland* by T.S. Eliot was a notable campus event.

He commented on his own writings: "In the end I thought that I would perhaps use a double perspective that allowed one to see European experience through Canadian eyes, and Canadian experience through European eyes and to say something that however modest might have some value." Those values are of course our lasting benefit. Subsequent generations will gain great insight into a wonderful man through his writings.

Henry reflected the higher tastes and refinement of the finer European intellectual and scholar but was also thoroughly Canadian and modern and adapted readily to the computer and all new advances with keen interest and ability.

I feel privileged to have been both his student and later friend and his memory and legacy will always be a great and positive influence on all who had the good fortune to know him.

Dr. Eric Schloss is a member of the Board of Jahsena, an avid book collector, a frequent contributor to Heritage/Yerusha, and a former student of Dr. Henry Kreisel.

CONDOLENCES

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend their condolences to Ed and Suzette Marxheimer on the passing of Suzette's mother, Nelly Norland, z'l.

The Board of Directors of JAHSENA would like to extend their condolences to Eric and Elexis Schloss on the passing of Elexis' mother, Toby Conn, z'l.

DONATION CARDS

JAHSENA now has donation cards with historic pictures on them available for purchase. Mark your special simchas by sending a donation to JAHSENA. Contact the office for more details at: 489-2809. We have received the following donations:

- To: The Pearlman/Zalmanowitz Family from Marshall and Debby Shoctor, in remembrance of Paul Pearlman, z'l.
- To: Stephen Mandel from Marshall and Debby Shoctor, Mazel Tov on your special birthday.
- To: Eric & Elexis Schloss from Marshall and Debby Shoctor, in remembrance of Toby Conn, z'l.

Tiny Town's HOMECOMING shows it still has *life*



BY PAULA SIMONS



Norman, Hal, Noots the dog, Sidney and father Sam Simovitch outside the Round Hill Trading Company circa 1941. The Simovitch name was later shortened to Simons. Photo courtesy Paula Simons.

Round Hill – population about 100 – sits about an hour southeast of Edmonton, halfway between Tofield and Camrose, a tiny living symbol of Alberta's pioneer past.

Once it was a thriving agricultural community, home to several coal mines, a flour mill and a successful cheese factory. In its earliest days, before the coming of the railway, it was a key trading centre on the Battleford Trail, one of the major overland routes connecting Fort Gary/Winnipeg to Fort Edmonton.

But most of the mines closed in the 1940s. The cheese factory, a white wooden building which sits abandoned near the centre of town, closed in 1962. The railway tracks have been torn up, and the grain elevators are gone.

These days, the little village has no gas station, only a boarded-up building with a blue and orange Gulf sign out front. There are no stores either.

Instead, people drive 25 minutes south to Camrose, to shop at Wal-Mart and Superstore and Canadian Tire. About the only business is the hotel and beer parlour.

But Round Hill hasn't given up yet.

"We're very alive for a dying community," Terry Banack, 43, the village music teacher, says with a laugh. "We have a wonderful community spirit here. We have the Elks, the Agricultural Society, the Women's Institute."

Last weekend, Round Hill boomed again, as some 700 to 800 people came "home" to celebrate Round Hill's centennial and that of the province. They filled the community hall, the ball diamond, the playgrounds, swapping stories, showing off grandchildren, eating rhubarb and raisin and Saskatoon pie. They came to remember. To respect. To honour the pioneers who first struggled to tame this wild rolling land.

Round Hill may be a speck on the map, but in my childhood imagination, it loomed as large and exotic as London, Paris or Timbuktu.

My paternal grandparents lived there from 1921 to 1942, running the Round Hill Trading Company, a general store and gas station.

They raised six children in a tiny white house south of the railway tracks, rented for \$12 a month.

They had no running water, no electricity. But they did have a piano.

I grew up on Round Hill mythology.

To hear my father tell it, he and his brothers enjoyed an archetypal prairie boyhood, the kind right out of a novel by W.O. Mitchell or Wallace Stegner, or a painting by William Kurelek.

It had everything a boy could want – tall grass to run through, gophers to chase, a slough to splash in, woods to explore.

Culturally, it was a microcosm of Alberta.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PHOTO?

Edmonton Histadrut
Women's Section, ca. 1940s.

Jahsena archives donated by Leo Goelman.

If you can identify any of the
people in this photo, please
phone the office at: 489-2809.



The earliest settlers were Cree, Metis, French-Canadian, Scottish, English, then Polish, Ukrainian, Norwegian. There were Amish Mennonites, Italian coal miners. And like many a prairie town, Round Hill had a Chinese-run cafe and a Jewish-run dry goods store.

All my life, I've thought of Round Hill as a place people came from. Not until this weekend did I start to think about it as a living community.

Karen Sterling, 32, moved to Round Hill from Westlock two years ago, with her children, Martika, 15, Angel, 13, Madison, 8, and Wade, 6.

"I met a gentleman from this area and I'd never met a kinder soul in all my life," she says. "When I moved here, I realized the whole community was that way."

Now, Sterling runs the local 4-H Club.

"I'm very community-oriented," she says. "For me, there's no better place to be than Round Hill. Everybody looks out for everybody."

The Sterling kids all attend Round Hill school, a kindergarten to Grade 9 campus with about 108 students. Angel likes to ride to class on her horse.

"I love this school so much better," she says. "It's smaller and you get to know people so much faster."

Willie Banack, 69, was born and raised near Round Hill, the youngest of 17 children.

His grandparents, Stanislaus Banack and Maria Smegiel, who were among Alberta's first Polish settlers, homesteaded just outside Round Hill in 1906. Banack's



Mr. and Mrs. Simovitch, Round Hill, circa 1950.
Photo courtesy Paula Simons.

eldest son, Humphrey – husband of Terry the music teacher – still farms the original homestead.

"Round Hill is a League of Nations, all nationalities," Banack, the former reeve of Camrose County, says proudly.

"That's what you see here today, people getting together and doing things. At one time, there was a little edginess here. But that's all gone."

Banack has watched as more and more people have moved away or taken their business to Camrose or Tofield.

"We've been downgraded in rural Alberta. They want everybody to move to town. And what would that really do? I don't know."

While Round Hill has been all but erased by the forces of urbanization, suburban sprawl could hold the answer to Round Hill's future.

In my father's day, the trek to Edmonton, on gravel roads, took hours.

Now, it's an easy drive down Highway 14 and closer yet to Sherwood Park or Camrose.

Already, many Round Hill residents commute to work or study elsewhere.

"Does Round Hill have the chance to grow? I think eventually it will," Banack says.

"There are lots of jobs in Alberta. They just aren't here."

Physically, the busy little town my grandparents helped pioneer is all but gone. The spirit though, of a place where everyone, regardless of language, religion, or background pulled together to build a community remains.

A worthy legacy and, perhaps, just perhaps, the foundation for a new future.

Paula Simons, the Edmonton Journal's City Columnist, has been infuriating and engaging Journal readers from her B1 perch since September 2001.

Her feature writing and investigative work also appear in the Journal's Sunday Reader section. In 2002, she was part of the Journal team that won a Michener Award Citation of Merit for its investigation into the death of seven aboriginal foster children from the Hobbema First Nation.

A born-and-raised Edmontonian, Simons is a graduate of the University of Alberta and Stanford University. In 1987, she won a post-graduate fellowship to the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. In 1992, she received a Maclean-Hunter Fellowship in arts journalism at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

Simons joined the staff of The Edmonton Journal in 1995. From 1998-2001, she served as a member of The Journal's editorial board, where she won a National Newspaper Award Citation of Merit for her editorial writing.

Before joining The Journal, Simons spent seven years as a producer and broadcaster with CBC Radio, working on programs such as Edmonton AM, The Arts Tonight, and Ideas. Her commentary can still be heard, from time to time, on CBC radio and television.

Her writing has also appeared in a wide variety of Canadian magazines, including Today's Parent, Western Living, Saturday Night and Alberta Report.

*psimons@thejournal.canwest.com
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JAHSENA Recent Acquisitions

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

Edmonton ORT – six banker's boxes with text and photos, two VHS videocassettes, one audiocassette, miscellaneous artifacts and textiles. Donated by Sondra Grosh of Edmonton ORT.

Oral History interviews with: Justice Samuel Lieberman, Bessie Goldstick and Dr. Ted Shnitka, conducted and donated by Paula Kirman.

Books written and donated by Miles Goldstick: "La Hvalene Leve," Norway: 1984 (in Norwegian); "Voices from Wollaston Lake: Resistance against Uranium mining and genocide in Northern Saskatchewan," Vancouver: 1987; "The Hex Connection: Some problems and hazards associated with the transportation of Uranium Hexafluoride," Uppsala: 1991.

Three photographs, one of Israel Bonds, two of Peretz Shul Theatre productions, donated by Anita Satanove via Anita Sky.

38 ¾ inch videotapes of Jewish interest, including "The Jewish Hour," donated by Cory Felber, one reel-to-reel audiotape of the Hadassah Bazaar, and a ¾ inch Sony videocassette player.

Syllabus and Yearbook of the 25th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy, JULY 10-15, 2005. Donated by Sam Agronin.

Alberta Venture: "The Century: 100 Entrepreneurs Who Built the Province," Edmonton: Venture Publishing, August, 2005. Contains profiles of Henry Singer, Mel Hurtig, the Ghermezians, and Abraham Belzberg.

"An Edmonton Album: Glimpses of the Way We Were," by Jo-Anne Christensen and Dennis Shapka. Toronto: Hounslaw Press, 1999.

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.

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, personal papers and correspondence, photographs, audio and video tapes. This material is appropriately stored and preserved in the archives.

PUBLICATIONS

JAHSENA publishes our newsletter, *Heritage/Yerusha*, three 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 20 copies remaining. A new documentary film on the history of the early Edmonton Jewish business community was finished and premiered in August of 2004, and we are currently planning a sequel.

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 grants for the cataloguing of our collection. Our complete fonds-level descriptions have been uploaded to the Archives Network of Alberta database on the ASA web site, www.archivesalberta.org, and we have uploaded almost 1000 items from our photo collection to the Alberta Images database, also available on the ASA web site at www.archivesalberta.org. Over 400 documents can be viewed on Alberta in Word, at the same address. 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 3000 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 over 5000 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, please call the office.

ROTATING EXHIBITS

Our display case in the Jewish Community Centre is the site of rotating exhibits from our archival, artifact and photo collections. Previous exhibits have included the collection of Edmonton Eskimos founder Moses Lieberman, a display featuring local sports legend Cecil "Tiger" Goldstick, items from the Menorah Curling Club, and a display of Edmonton's Jewish newspapers. We have also participated in virtual exhibits on the ASA web site entitled "Feast: a history of food in archives," and

"Women who made a Difference", as well as "Archives in the Classroom," an interactive archives tutorial. These exhibits can be explored at www.archivesalberta.org.

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. This data will soon become part of the Jewish Online World Burial Registry, and will be available for searching online via www.jewishgen.org, the web's largest Jewish Genealogy website. In addition, we collect obituaries and eulogies on an ongoing basis. We hope to soon form a genealogy subcommittee of JAHSENA.

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

JAHSENA is in the process of completing a feasibility study into the possible restoration of the original Beth Israel Synagogue on 95th St. This is the oldest brick synagogue building still standing on the prairies west of Winnipeg. Currently, the building is a Catholic Church. The study will determine whether the building is restorable, and will therefore help to enable us to obtain designation for it as a historic site. Grants for this project have been obtained from the Community Initiatives Program of the AGLC, and from the Edmonton Jewish Community Charitable Foundation. We also have been able to salvage several pieces of Edmonton's Jewish Architectural heritage including wooden marquetry panels from the second Beth Israel Synagogue, the original Ark from the original Talmud Torah School, and we are in the process of procuring the inscribed cornerstones from the second Talmud Torah School. In addition, we have worked with a researcher from Montreal to catalogue and photograph all of the unique Judaica and works of art found in our city's synagogues and institutions.

JAHSENA Membership

2004-2005

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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.

"FROM PEDLARS TO PATRIARCHS: A LEGACY REMEMBERED"

The Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta is taking orders for copies of "From Pedlars to Patriarchs: A Legacy Remembered," its documentary film about the history of the Edmonton Jewish Community. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this film, it is available on VHS for \$12 or on DVD for \$18. Please contact the Archives office at 489-2809.



**TO ORDER CALL
489-2809**



JAHSENA AGM

Thursday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. at the JCC.

Guest speaker: Architect David Murray, specialist in historic restoration.

David will talk about buildings he has restored across the province and his plans for the Old Beth Israel Synagogue.

Refreshments will be served.



Help Us Preserve Our Past for the Future!

I (we) would like to become part of the continuing quest into our historical past by joining the Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta in the category marked. A charitable receipt will be issued. Membership for other than individuals includes spouses. Membership includes an annual subscription to *Heritage/Yerusha*, the Society's newsletter, published 3-4 times a year.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____
Payable to the Jewish Archives and
Historical Society of Edmonton and
Northern Alberta (JAHSENA).

- ☐ Patron \$100
 - ☐ Benefactor \$50
 - ☐ Donor \$36
 - ☐ Individual \$18
 - ☐ I am interested in serving as a volunteer.
 - ☐ I have historical material that I would like to donate.
- Please call me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Visa Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Please clip out and return to:

JAHSENA 7200-156 St. Edmonton, Alberta T5R 1X3