

August 11, 2011

Hi, Allan,

At the request of the Duluth Art Institute, in conjunction with a display of photos by a rather famous, deceased Jewish photographer named Esther Bubley from Superior environs, I agreed to make a few comments about local Jewish immigrants. Turned out that they wanted a full program. The presentation was well attended, SRO with about 65 people. It was very well received, making me feel good because it took this amateur historian about 100 hours to prepare.

I felt that you would approve of my using some of your material, and I did note that with an accreditation. It was such a sweat to get this stuff ready that time constraints (such as hemodialysis three mornings a week) kept me from contacting you. If necessary, please forgive.....

Although the Art Institute did not have a video camera, daughter Melanie held an I-Phone steady on top of my cane and got almost all of the eighty minute lecture on high-def video! ~~I had DVD's made and am sending you one to keep~~ *you have the website.*

Enclosed ~~also~~ is a hard copy of my outline-cum-"script" which should be helpful and interesting for the following reasons:

The loudspeaker may have distorted some of my words.

The material projected on the screen is clearer on the paper outline, at least regarding details.

Pictures that were intended to be projected via an Elmo projector had to be passed around because their Elmo didn't work, so I have intercalated those pictures into the enclosed papers. Note that the material is printed on both sides of the paper.

Best wishes, and again, many thanks.



[delisted/y]



STORIES AND LEGACIES OF SOME JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO THE TWIN PORTS

In the summer of 2011 the Duluth Art Institute hosted a retrospective of Esther Bubley, a world renowned photographer. Bubley was the daughter of Jewish immigrants and grew up in Superior Wisconsin

In conjunction with this exhibit, I was asked (as a community elder) to give a presentation regarding Jewish immigration to the Twin Ports. This is how the following came about.

- Bob Goldish

STORIES AND LEGACIES OF SOME JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO THE TWIN PORTS

(from personal reflections, and some from amateur research)

By Bob Goldish

July 7, 2011

(with special thanks to Allan Garon for material copied herein)
(and to grandson Travis Yon for helping me with this confused computer)

I hope to transmit a flavor of what caused and what resulted from the local immigrations that I have selected as brief examples.

This vast, fascinating material could truly fill a humongous encyclopedia. Because of time and energy restraints, and because of the stunningly large number of notable Twin Ports Jews, I could only cover a truly small percentage. And I ask understanding and forgiveness for the likelihood of errors of omission as well as commission here.

Selection: -- familiar names and or works that are probably the most well known around here.

What they and some descendants did for our city and country, and even the world.

I will devote some extra time to a few families who became successful and prominent in leadership, philanthropy and notable accomplishments.

Actually, almost all of the immigrants were philanthropic as best as they could be -- usually the more successful, the more philanthropic. I'll end with families with whom I am personally most familiar.

I'll fit in more details about a few of the families who added more extensively to local immigration and Duluth's progress and legacy, and also of those pioneers whose experiences were especially dramatic.

(I concluded preparing this "outline" and speech with a sense of awe at how startlingly much valuable legacy these relatively few immigrants added to our community, and even to the world, through their progeny.)

Duluth Total Population

Was 3,130 in 1870Rose to ~ 110,000 at peak.

Duluth **Jewish** Population began in 1871.

Grew to 1,500 in 1900, and at peak was ~ 4,000.

Now it is 1,000, more or less.

Most of the immigration: between 1870 and about 1917.

Ashkenazi Jewish Immigrants

came mostly from Germany -- speaking mostly German,
and Eastern European *shtetls* -- speaking mostly Yiddish --
(plural: *shtetelach*)

and some from larger cities



A Jewish family outside their home in rural Ukraine (Source: Yivo Institute, Avotaynu)

A Jewish home in rural Ukraine

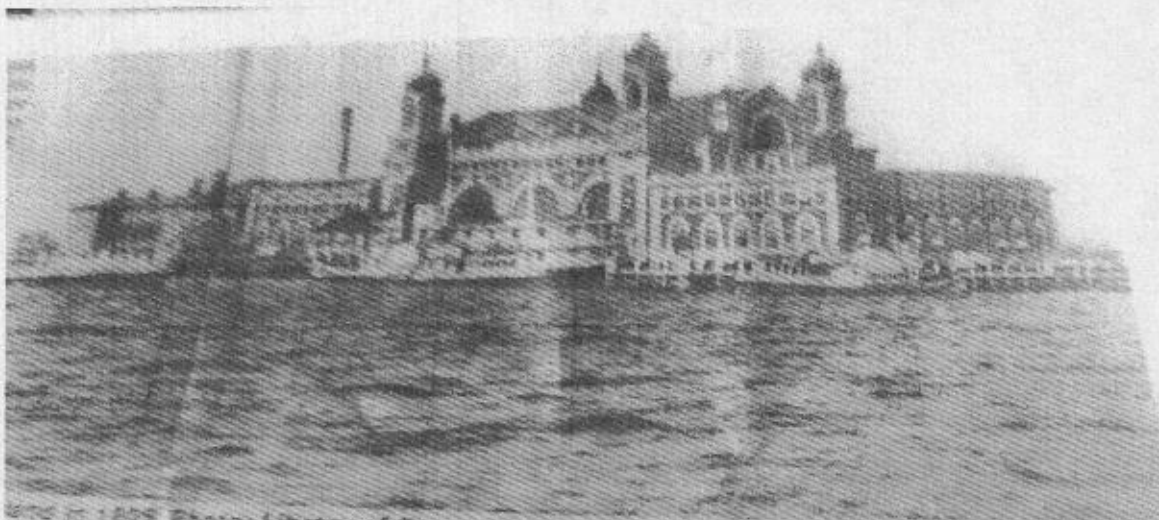
Russian and Lithuanian Jews' Hardships

pogroms, poverty, selective Russian army conscription,
Anti-Semitic discrimination,

Travel hardships: Cossacks, highwaymen robbers, pirates,
slavers, steerage, crowding, & long, rough ocean crossings.

Russian boys were conscripted into the army starting at age 14 for a 15 year stint. Jewish boys there were conscripted (maybe even younger) for 25 years, and most were never seen again. Escaping conscription will be noted in some stories that will follow.

Ellis Island Concerns -- Will I be refused?



Ellis Island in 1905. Photo: Library of Congress.

...about 25 years. My
sons and brother-in-law
so we could come to
Molly explained. "We
sick on ship it was im-
at. I remember being
by the ocean, the
and the horrid stench.
o-docked near Ellis
is a loud Horrah."

about my eyes. When the doctors
gave me clearance to leave, having
no money, I traveled steerage class.
This was in the basement area on
the ship Lapland."

"There were lots of rats," Leon
continued. "The bunk beds were
in tiers of three. I took the top bed
and stayed there most of the time
until the ship left."

detained Lena saying she had
eye problem. She recalled
hollering at her, "You can't get
them." There were tears
pleading but the family was
to leave her behind with
uncle and grandfather.

When she was given clearance
leave for America a grand

Forerunners worked and saved, then sent for relatives

Hardships after Immigration:

Language

Cruel tricks, such as: (Goldish -- initially spelled
Goldass by an immigration official.....

Discrimination -- which persisted for about a century
(Northland Country Club until about the 1972)
(Kitchi Gammi Club until about then, maybe 1969)
(Duluth Auto Club until after that) [*NOT national AAA*]

(Duluth Clinic - first Jewish doctor accepted in 1973)
(and some biased neighborhood agreements)

Name changes -----

like with such non-Duluthians as

Dov David Kaminsky, Betty Joan Perske, Benjamin Kobelski,
famous Jewish entertainers who changed their names to...

Danny Kaye, Lauren Bacall, Jack Benny

A few out of many local examples:

(Cohen>Cowl or Cowan), (Oreckovsky to Oreck),
(Solemovich>Solon)

Why Duluth? (Work, kosher fish)

And when possible, ASAP, to become one's own boss.

Peddlers, farmers, merchants, grocers, fish sellers, meat markets, educators,
farmers, tailors, barbers, furniture dealers, restaurateurs, judges, lawyers,
nurses, rabbis, artists, musicians, college professors, advertisers, promoters,
doctors, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, accountants, stockbrokers,
retailers, clothiers, wholesalers, constructors, contractors, manufacturers, law
enforcers, military, managers, salesmen and women, journalists, realtors,
postal workers, laborers, counselors, businessmen and businesswomen,
hoteliers, civic workers, social workers, psychologists, volunteers, radio and
TV personalities, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, executives,
athletes (esp. Superiorite Morrie Arnovich, major league all star) politicians,
bookies, prizefighters, nightclub owners, government officials.

The most financially successful ones apparently were the
merchants -- and they became the biggest philanthropists.

Regarding WW-I, WW-II, Korean War and Vietnam, the
records include over 400 Jewish Duluth and Superior
soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen, a few

military nurses, and -- sadly -- several Duluth Jewish soldiers were killed in action among the many others. First Jewish immigrant couple to Duluth was

Bernard and Nettie Silberstein

Arrived on honeymoon in 1871 (140 years ago)

Bernard was born in Budapest, Hungary

Silberstein and Bondy Company

City Commissioner of Public Safety 1915-1919

City Park Board, 20 years

Elmo

Subj: Bernard Silberstein in 1915
 Date: 7/5/2011 3:26:28 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: bigoldish@aol.com
 To: bigoldish@aol.com
 He and Nettie were Duluth's first Jewish inhabitants. (arrived in 1870)

THE EARLY HISTORY OF DULUTH'S JEWISH COMMUNITY



1915

the hills on foot to Th
 sixteen but four reach
 ... the day was hot, a

Sent from my iPhone

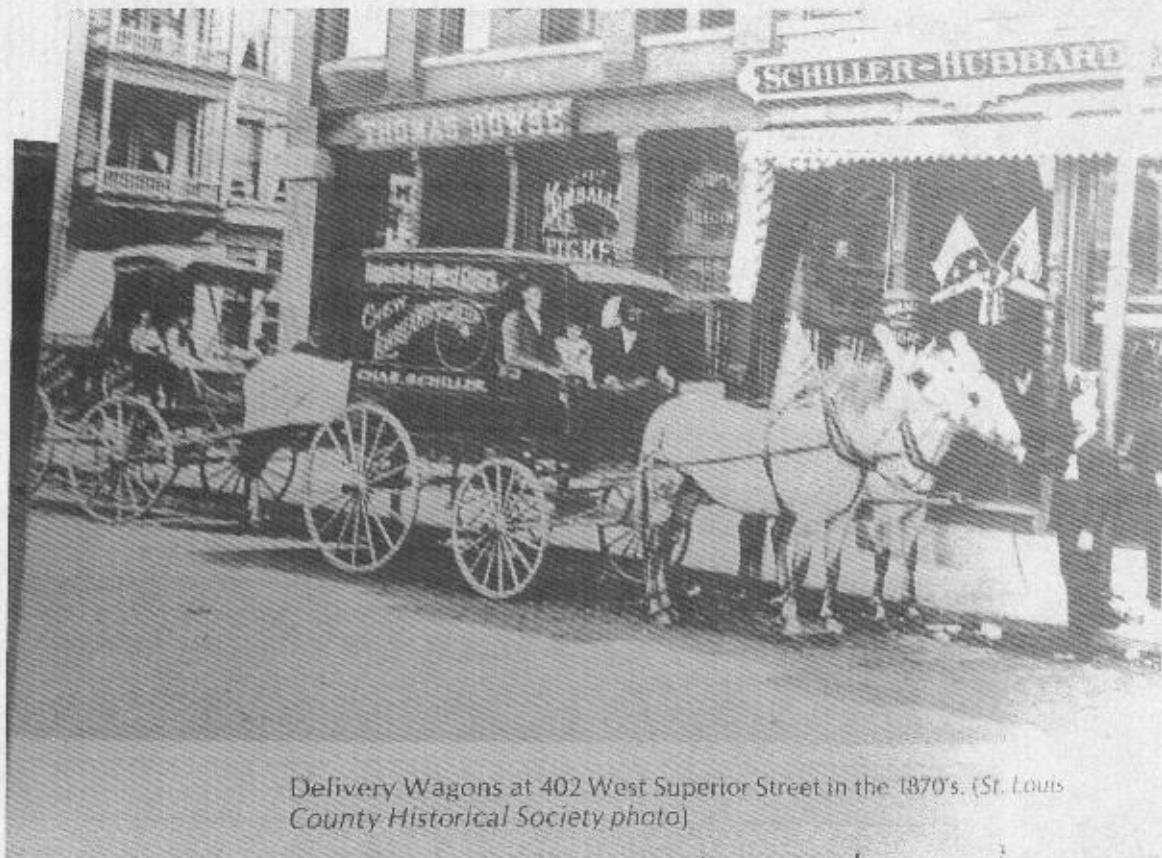
8



This is Duluth with typical houses of regular working folks in 1884, the year our ancestors Israel and Joseph first arrived.
(Source: Northeast Minnesota Historical Center)

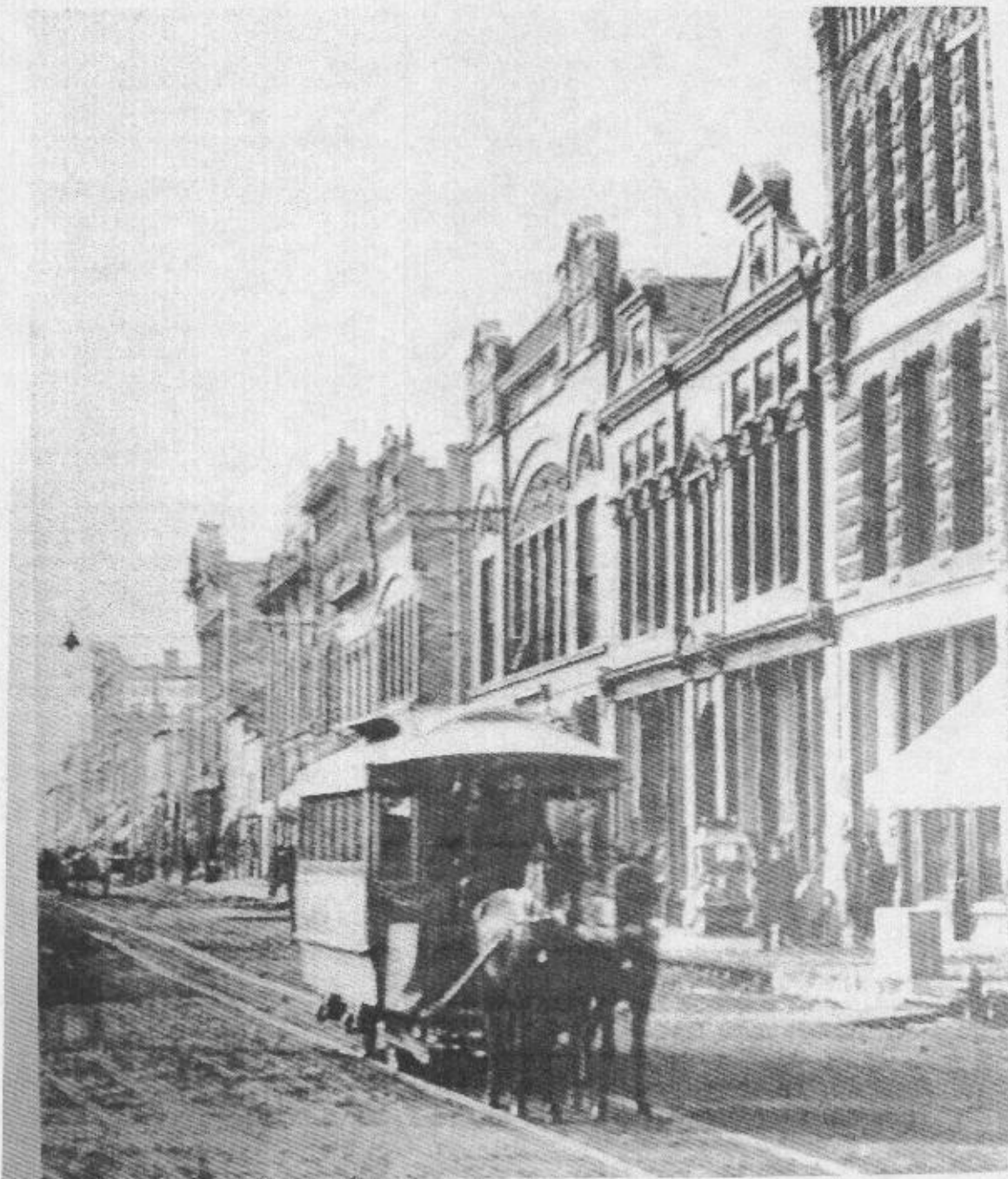


OLD DULUTH View in 1884
Snow on old Superior St.



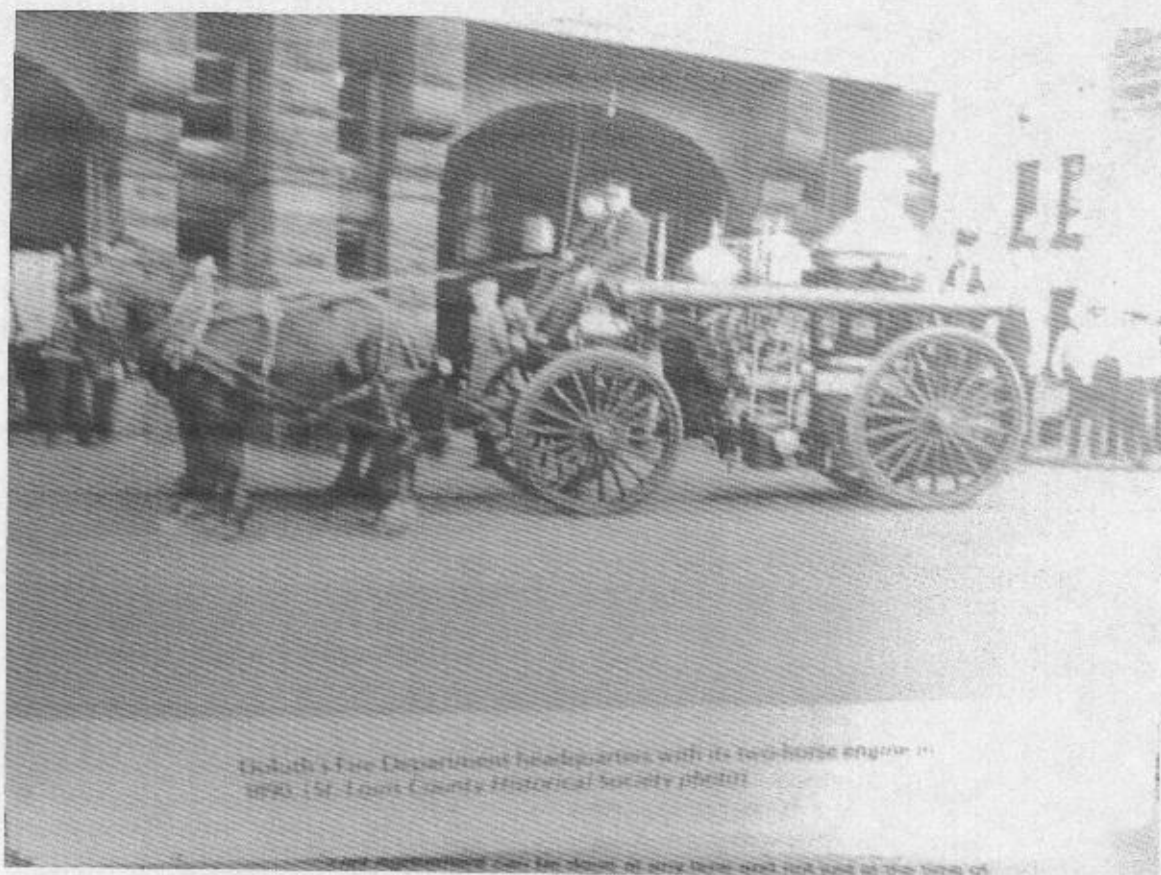
Delivery Wagons at 402 West Superior Street in the 1870's. (St. Louis County Historical Society photo)

1870's



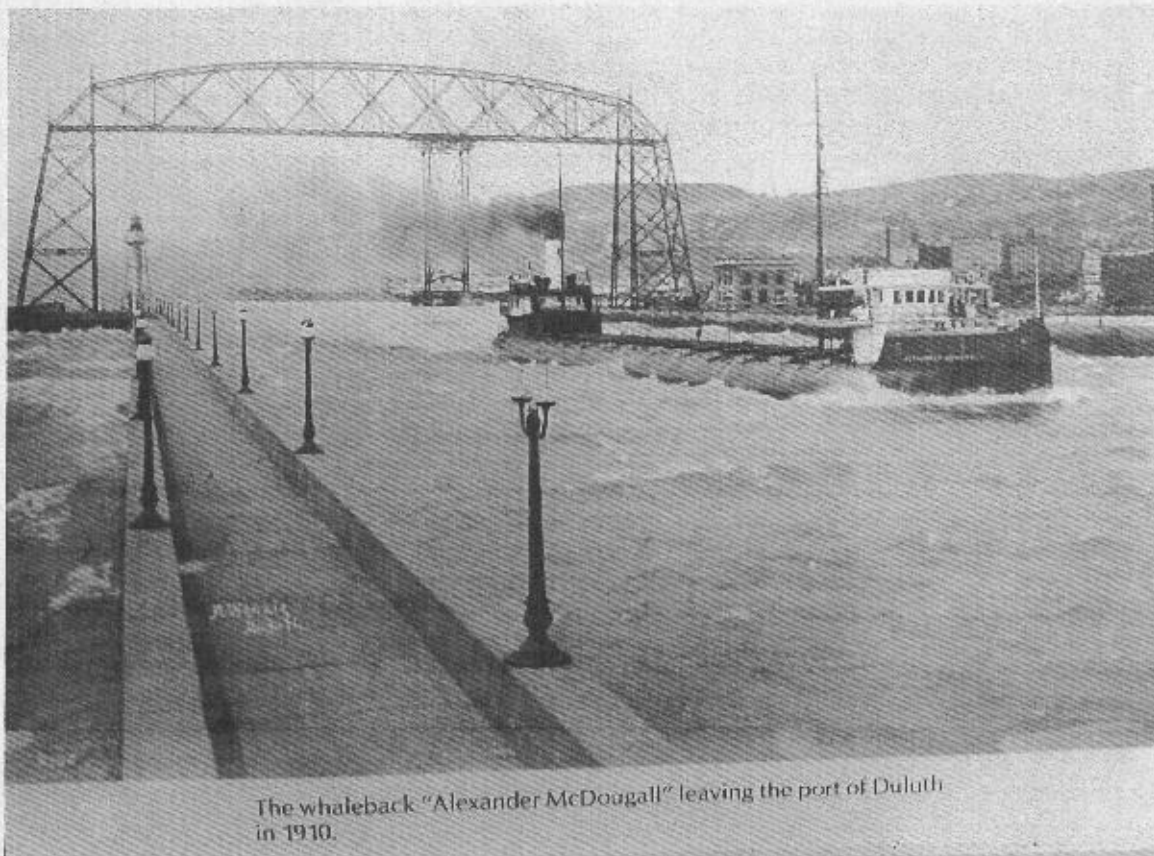
Horse drawn street cars on Superior Street in 1886. Looking west from Lake Avenue.

1886



Galathea Fire Department headquarters with its two-horse engine in 1890. (St. Louis County Historical Society photo)

1890



The whaleback "Alexander McDougall" leaving the port of Duluth in 1910.

1910



A 1915 view of Superior Street from Fifth Avenue West.

1915

Congregations

(Reform, Orthodox - 26th Ave. W. and 3rd, 4th, 9th St. on 3rd Ave. E.)

Moses Montifiore Hebrew Congregation - 1888
(later Adas Israel Cong.)

Temple Emanuel -- organized 1891 -- Reform
(built on 2nd St. at 7th Ave E. in 1904)
Now Temple Israel -- 16th and 2nd St.

Tifereth Israel -- 1893 (Orthodox . Conservative)
Merged with Temple

Adas Israel -- 1900 (Orthodox)

Temple Beth El in Superior -- 1904

Superior Hebrew Congregation

Agudas Achim Congregation, Superior

Hebrew School -- 1908

Shaarai Tzedek ("Ninth St. Shul") -- 1909

Hebrew Brotherhood -- 1912 -- (Orthodox).

The history of the Duluth Jewish congregations is laden with interesting details, a huge topic for another project.



Adas Israel Shul -- 1914 *Simchas Torah* - *Rejoicing with the Torah*



Adas Israel Synagogue -- 1924 AND Shirley Karsner - Age 3
(Shirley Garber)

Most recent Jewish Immigrants:

Alexander **Chernyshev** (concert pianist, UMD Asst. Prof)
and Olga **Chernyshev**, DSSO violinist, and teacher.
from sister city Petrozavodsk

BAM bros. barbers: Arsen, Boris, Michail **Nektalov**
From Uzbekistan

Simon and Maya **Abramovich**

Came from St. Petersburg via Moscow

Arrived Halloween blizzard 1991 -- 3 feet of snow

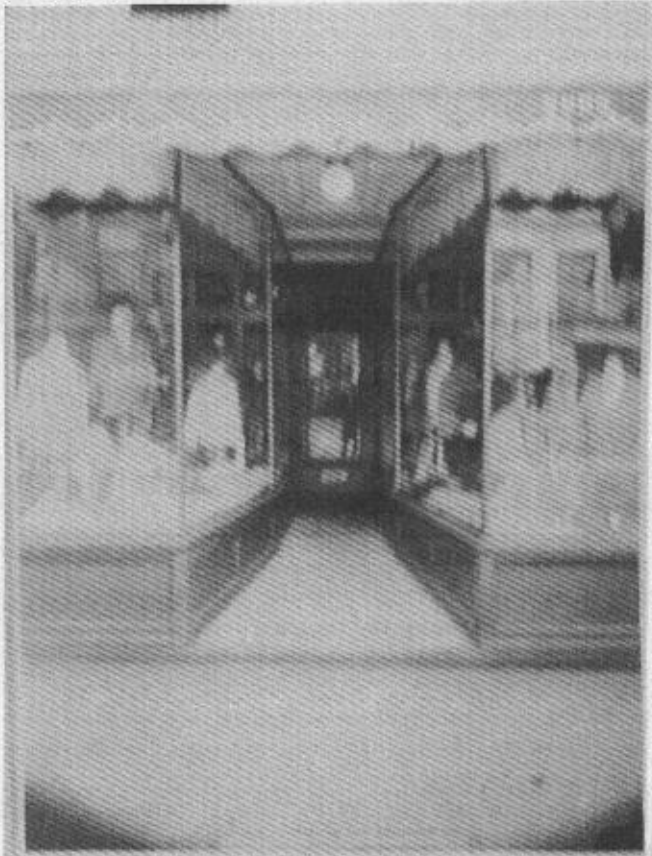
Employed in St. Paul -- VP of world wide metals
corporation -- metallurgy, quality control, troubleshooting.

Daughter Marina -- arrived at age 12, now an MD
(radiologist), married to Dr. Joe Levine internists
specializing in hematology-oncology -- moving back to
Duluth with their new twins!

(Joe's Duluth Grandpa was "Battling Morris" -- professional prizefighter,
with over 250 bouts!)

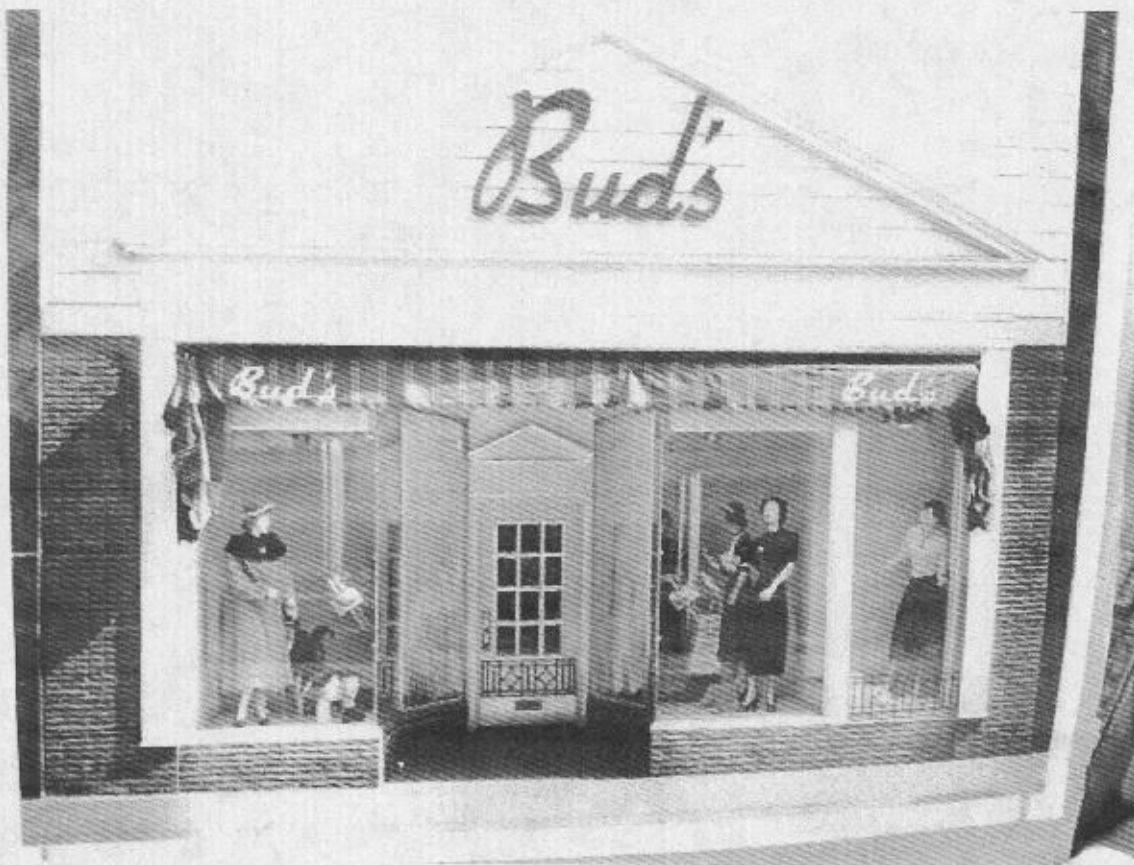
The Abram family

Bud's



7 East Superior St. 1910







Richard and Muriel Abram ran the store
Richard was active with Lions Club
Their son is a prominent orthopedist

Dr. Peter Austin's parents came from Germany

**Berman, Sam -- tailor in Kiev, Ukraine; arrived in 1916
Independent Cleaners --- 1920's**

George Berman

Mike Berman -

lobbyist, VP Mondale's campaign manager for years

**Janet Berman Davis - volunteer par excellence.
Woman of the Year.**

**Cohen, Harry -- violinist -- from Russia, charter
member of Duluth Symphony.**

Son -- Mel Cohen: Mel's Radio and TV

Two grandsons (Mel and Carol's sons) are MD's

Some Crystal Family members....

**Jacob and Rachel Crystal -- -- Jacob Crystal came from
Poland in 1912, returned for wife and two children in Warsaw in 1920**

Is Crystal -- merchant, raconteur, historian

**son Lester Crystal -- Producer of MacNeil-Lehrer
TV News and former President of NBC News.**

Freimuth Department Store

**Ignatz Freimuth was born in Bohemia, Austria
Arrived in Duluth 1883, started a store on Superior
Street, moved to Lake Avenue in 1900 -- a two story
building, later 5 stories. One of the founders of Temple
Israel.**



**Ignatz' son David and grandsons Edgar, Paul and Don
took over.**

Don active with Optimist Club.

Garber

Jack -- Optimist Club (Optimist of the Half Century!)

Jack and Shirley -- Captain's Table Cafeteria,



Caterers of thousands at the DECC

Garbers were the original Thanksgiving & Christmas meal organizers for Union Gospel Mission.

Shirley -- Woman of the Year, volunteer, teacher, leader

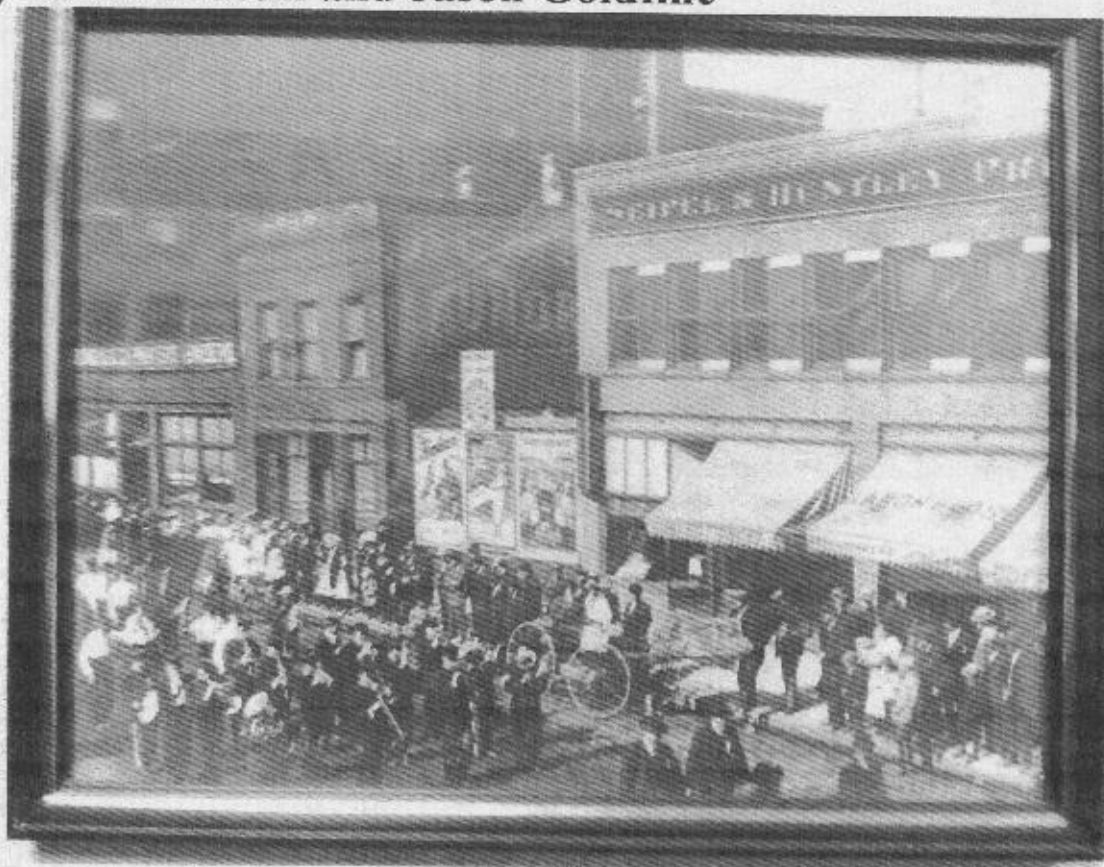
Jack -- Optimist of the Half Century

Garon, Israel

Garon Knitting mill

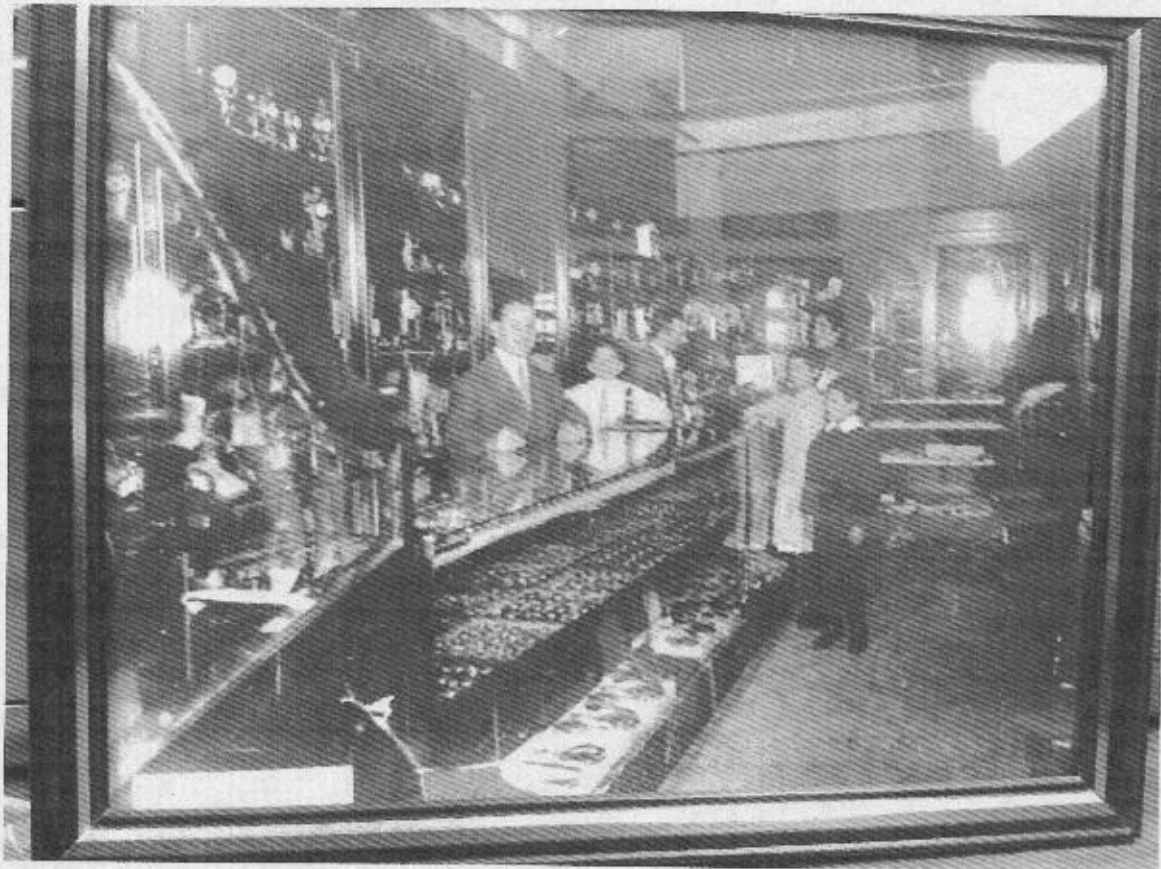
Religious leader, early immigration facilitator

Garon Jewelers -- opened in 1903 on First St. by Abe and Julius Garon, partnerships ensued, and now owned by David Blustin and Jason Goldfine



(On second awning from the right is printed "Garon Bros.")

An early in-store picture follows



Gershgol, Isaac -- came in 1906. Peddler

Started store in 1919 in a tent.

Gershgol's Grocery

Joe (came in 1906, at age 1) and David later

Glazman -- European Bakery

**Harry and sons Jimmy and Aaron (Babe) owned it,
and were religious and community leaders.**

Babe was the first Jewish potentate of Aad Temple.

Harry's grandson Charlie is a college dean.

**Father of Babe's wife Lorryne was Max Cherson,
who immigrated in 1913 at age 3. Grocer. Helped
Jeno get first job, and Jeno never forgot....**

Goldfarb, Joe -- Lower East Side tenement in 1902 at age 2. Became ill, doctor (on house call!) said the only thing that would save him would be to take him to the mountains.

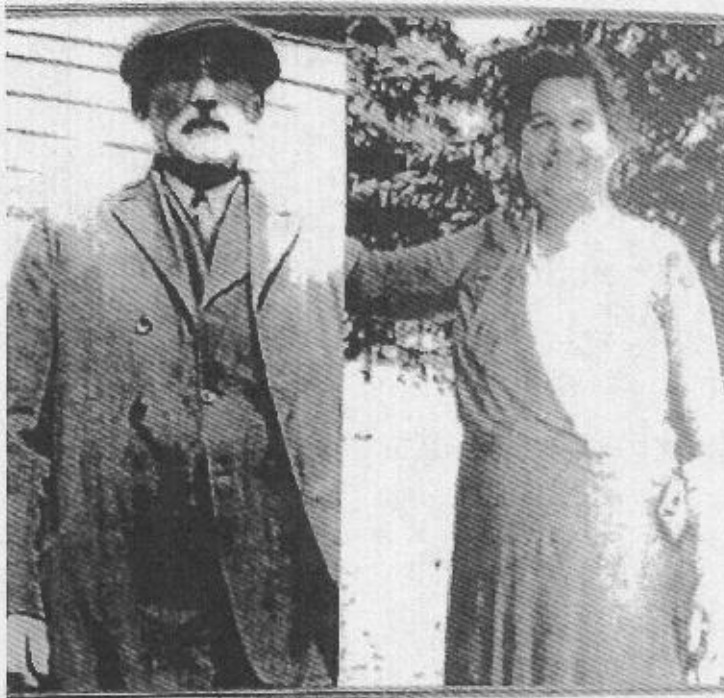
Relatives in Superior wrote that on the other side of the bay was Duluth, built on a mountain, so they came, and it worked. He lived till over 89 -- grocer at 401 E. Superior St.

His wife's father, Max Gordon, was sponsored by the Freimuth family as a gardener and by the Glazmans, then became a grocer at 6th Ave. E. and 7th St.

Joe's son, Benjie: MD, cardiologist near Beer Sheba

Goldfine Family

Sander and Rose Kaner Goldfine from Vilna area (Vilnius), poor tenanat farmers immigrated with two year old son Abe Goldfine, in 1901. Poor on arrival, they left an especially notable legacy.



**By the Family of
Rose and Sander Goldfine**
Compiled by Monnie

Sander Goldfine had a 5-cow 5-acre dairy farm ~ where the antenna farm is today.

But main occupation was having 9 kids, although not able to support them without outside family help.

Sander and Rose's son **Abe Goldfine** was family breadwinner at an early age as apprentice butcher, then an itinerant butcher. Risk taker. Developed into a hard working, trustworthy businessman. **Abe married Fannie Overman**, and they produced Erwin, Manley and Sandra Goldfine.

Abe became a cattle buyer, then horse and feed dealer. Starting in 1922, Abe and Fannie sold livestock, horses, farm supplies and furniture, the Trading Post eventuated -- on Garfield Ave., and then Goldfine's by the Bridge.

With a Jewish variation of the Protestant work ethic, including intense drive and confidence, the family grew the business -- a one-stop shopping center, for rural and urban customers.



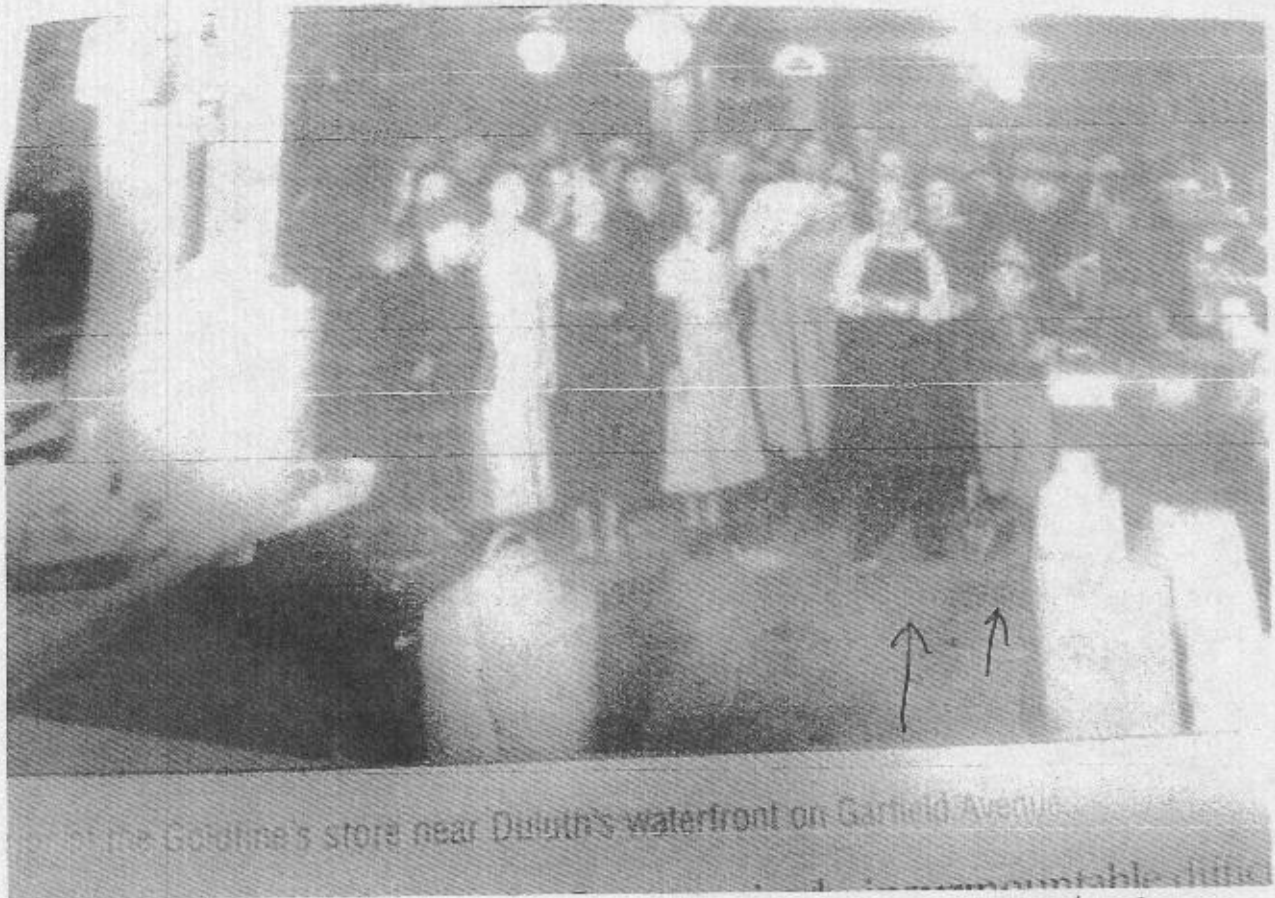
The Old Goldfine's Trading Post



The New Goldfine's By-the-Bridge

Subj: **Early Goldfine Trading Post**
Date: 7/5/2011 3:21:57 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com
Young Erv and little Monnie?

ELMO



Erv & Monnie?

Sent from my iPhone

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Fannie Overman Goldfine, a successful Duluth businesswoman, presided over the groundbreaking for Goldfine's discount store in 1961. Starting in 1922, she was in businesses with her husband, Abe, selling livestock, farm supplies, and furniture.



sharp decline in blue-collar occupations from 48.4% in 1947 to only 8.8% in 1971.⁹⁰

The same study showed that the median household income for Minneapolis Jews was \$1,805 higher than that reported for all Hennepin County households and that the education level was substantially higher than that of a less than a

The "Easy Mark Monte" and "Soft Touch Erv" TV commercials were memorable..... They grew to six stores, when a company to whom they merged the business went bankrupt, and they had to start over from rock bottom, this time in the lodging business. Now ZMC Hotels is one of the largest management companies in the industry. And the family continues to own the Vista Fleet of excursion boats. Manley and Erwin were strong leaders in the development of prominent local features including the DECC, Spirit Mountain, the Aquarium, the Depot, the Community Foundation, and much growth of UMD and of the College of Saint Scholastica, as well as housing rehabilitation, tourism, charities, and Twin Ports Jewish projects and organizations. AND -- at the same time -- Erwin served for twelve years as a Regent of the University of Minnesota -- fighting successfully for the benefit of UMD.



Erv

Fannie

Monnie

Erv's wife, Beverly, and Monnie's wife, Lillian, are no slouches either -- very active community and charitable leaders.



Monnie & Lil Andy Ellen Dan Steve Dondi &... & John Bev & Erv

As Erv and Beverly's son Steve Goldfine put it, why did so many Russian-Lithuanian Jewish immigrants settle on the Central Hillside? In the old country villages and small towns, Jews tended to follow the traditions of those who were religiously observant, and because they are not supposed to ride on Sabbath or other religious holidays they tended to congregate their homes within walking distance of the shuls (synagogues).

Steve wrote about a particular duplex in "Duluth's New World Shtetl," and he asked how was it possible that so many successful Jewish people were conceived or born in the Central Hillside -- and especially in one particular nondescript duplex at 517 North Third Avenue East, where four such people were born -- and one conceived there? It was purchased by Abe and Fannie Goldfine, and her brother Ben Overman with his wife Jeanne. When they all moved elsewhere, two close friends -- Abe and Beatty Zimmerman -- moved in. Consequently, in that duplex were conceived or borne **Erv Goldfine, Monnie Goldfine, and Sandra Goldfine** (described in the Houston Post as one of the most influential women in Houston). AND in that very same house was borne **Bill Overman**, who became a New York executive who, Steve says, "achieved a level of financial success" comparable to one other Duluthian -- (as Erv would have emphasized) also born in that same house ? Well, the other one born there was....

the Zimmerman's son Robert ----- **Bob Dylan.**

Gurovitsch, Ben -- from Russia, to avoid conscription.

To Galveston in 1907, with 9 mo. old Morris

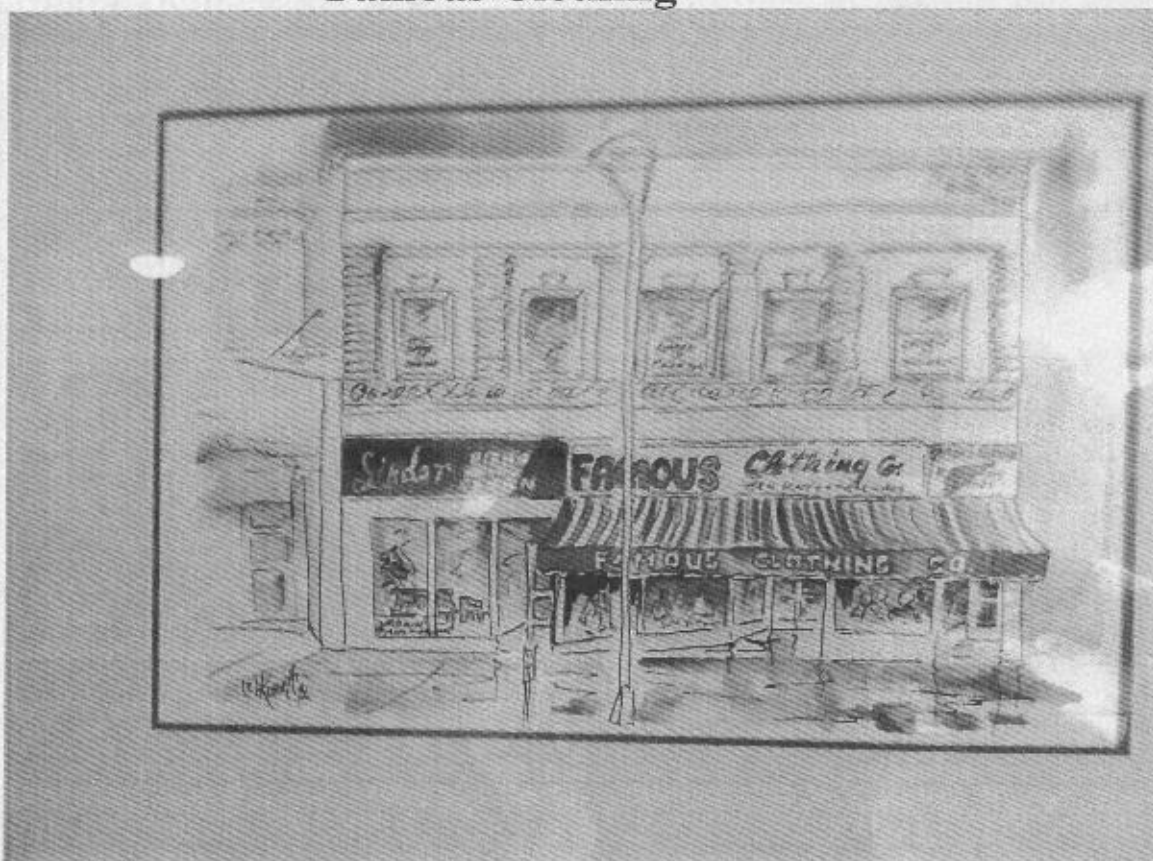
A friend advised: Go to Duluth

Ben wired DCHS, founded Zenith electric, later Northern Electric (1932)

(supplier without going through middleman.)

Horwitz, Julius and Alyce

Famous Clothing

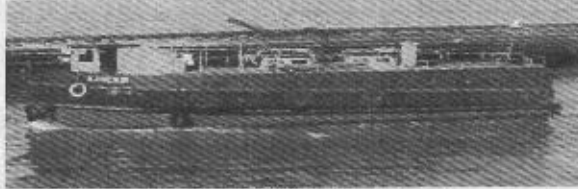


Julius's father, Abe Horwitz, was a Cossack, escaped Lithuania to Rapid City, SD and became a Pony Express rider! Opened a grocery store. Moved to Duluth. A founder of the Tifereth Israel 4th St. Shul.

Famous Clothing -- started by Abe and Julius's cousin, Leo Bensman.

Kaner Family

Hy Kaner and Bernie were the originators of the Vista Fleet, and ran the Bumboat -- a unique floating department store in the harbor -- (tools, shoes, gloves, probably various beverages in pop bottles, etc, etc).



Built in 1939, the 65-foot "Trader" was once the flagship of the Twin Ports bumboat fleet. ("Bumboat" from Low German *bumboot*, from *bum* tree + *boot* boat)

Also Kaner descendants:

Judge Sidney Kaner

Robert Kaner -- attorney

Karon. Shapse (Samuel) and Sarah Karon

Shapse arrived from Lithuania in 1887 with his father Yoseph Abba. Peddled metals and junk with horse and wagon

-- saved \$150 and founded NW Iron and Metal Co. in 1890.

Work opportunities attracted more immigrants.

First iron ore mine opened in 1890. Timber. Lake shipping. Fish. Foundries, factories, lumber mills.

Along with the few earlier arrivals from Lithuania, the Karons, Kaners, et al, planned and saved funds for a synagogue. Women helped raise money by mending torn burlap sacks -- at one cent a sack. **Shapse** detailed plans with a Chicago architect -- to accommodate 600 people. Shapse donated \$100 to give his father the honor of putting a steel box (time capsule) in the cornerstone.

He was congregation president for **forty-seven years**, and often was the cantor - with a great voice.

("impersonated" on DVD)

Shapse died at age 101 in 1966.

Son Bob Karon was a prominent attorney and religious leader

GENTLEMAN AT LAW

Shapse's great grandson has proved nice guys make good lawyers



Kathy Strauss/News-Tribune

Robert Karon graduated from law school in 1927 and at 90 continues to be active in the community.

...s who needed help
erty titles, deeds and
s.
e of practice that
aged in didn't require
an abrasive advocate,
d he always did what
for his clients.
job is to see that what-

...ever the client wants gets done
correctly within the rules of
law; it's not adversarial," he
said. "In the courtroom there's
always the other side. When you
do this work in the office you're
on both sides. You've got to
make sure that you do it right
from all angles."

LaVonne Kurrie worked as
Karon's legal secretary for 40
years and has kept in contact
with him for more than 30
years. "He's always been kind of
an inspiration to me," she said.
"He's always chosen to be
happy. That's such a neat thing
and he's such a brilliant person."

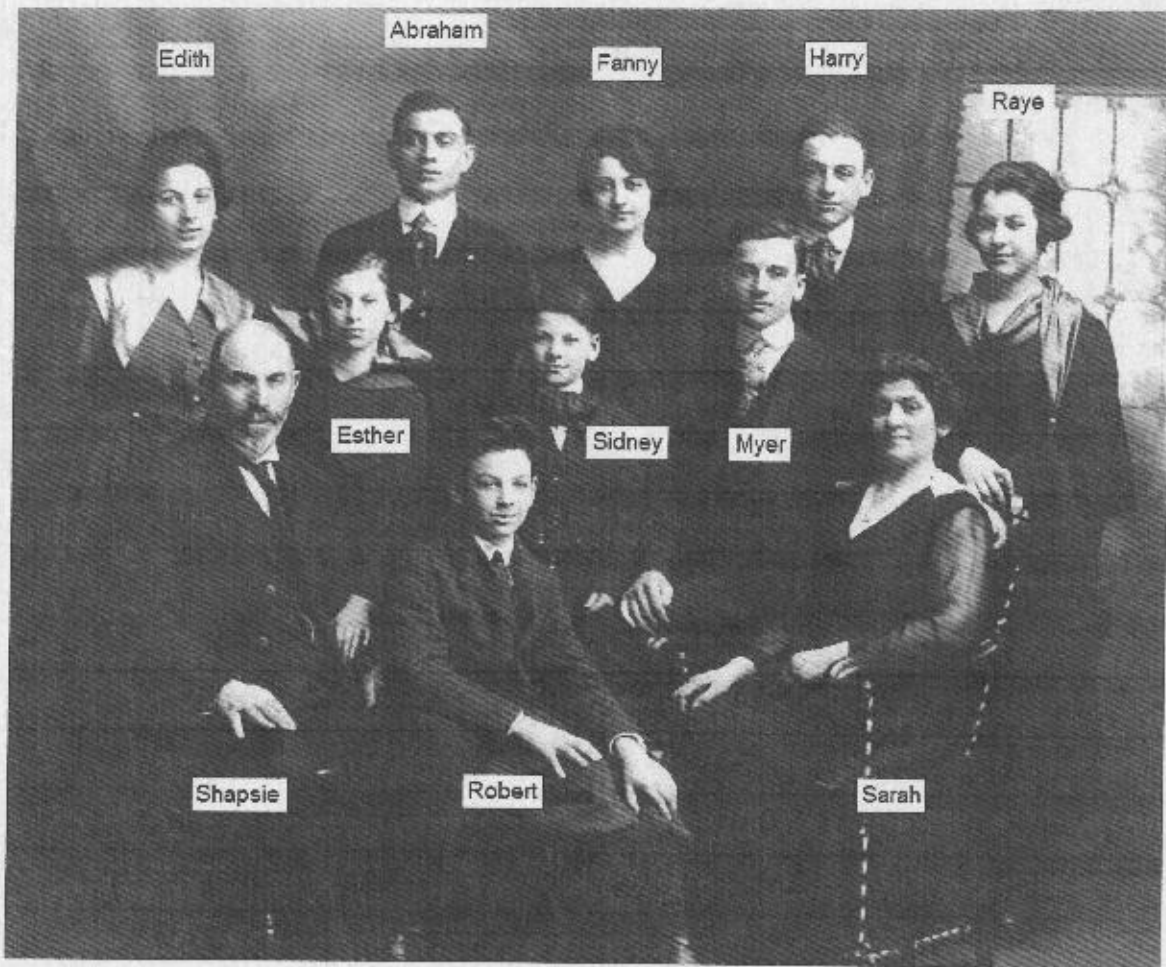
Duluth attorney Bob Ro-
ningen and Karon would so
times work for each other
one wanted to take a vacat

"His wisdom was unsur-
passed, as was his percepti-
right from wrong and his a

Please see Karon, P. 4

Shapse's great grandson Andy now runs the metal and wiping cloth business
t, and is part owner of the Duluth Huskies.

Shapse and Sarah's family -- (maybe about 1915?)

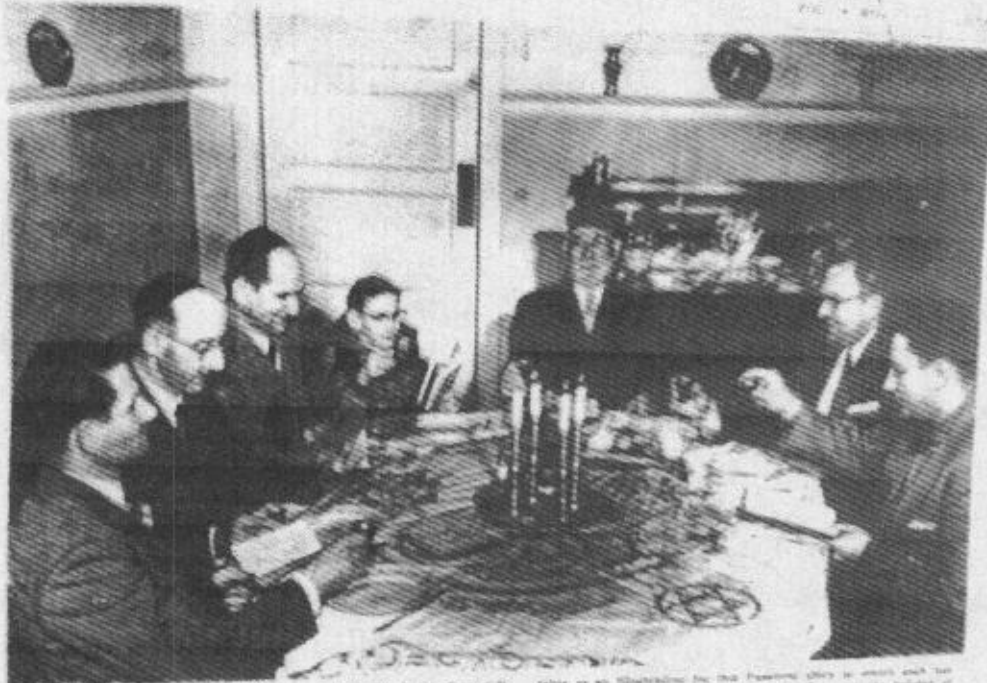


(Edith Karon Karsner became mother of Shirley Karsner Garber)

Passover 1953 -- sharing old Passover memories

Passover Means "Freedom"

NE



Duluth's
Congregation
To Greet

SEEN IN THE ABOVE PICTURE are, reading clockwise from left: Alfred Zyroff, Siegfert Wollstein, Joseph Welgrin, Philip Aronstein, S. Karon, Yale Davis, and Ralph Altman. They are gathered at the home of Mr. Karon in one of the Seder tables as so illustrated for the Passover story to which each has related his memories of an unforgettable experience. The picture is by [unclear].

Registration Is Now Underway
For Cantor's New Summer Day

During past Pesachs, these guests had been

A partisan -- Alfred Zyroff

A refuge in Shanghai -- Siegfert Wollstein

In a concentration camp -- Joe Welgrin

(Young Philip Aronstein)

(SHAPSE KARON --here at age 88 --)

A Marine, in Korea -- Yale (Bud) Davis

POW after being shot down over Germany WW-II --Ralph Altman

Karsner, Ben and Edith

**Shirley (Garber) -- , Rita (RN at Hadassah Hosp),
Phyllis (married to college prof)**

Karsbar

Shirley Karsner Garber and JACK GARBER CATERED MEALS FOR THOUSANDS AT THE DECK AND AT "CAPTAIN'S TABLE" CAFETERIA. THEY INSTITUTED CHRISTMAS AND THANKING MEALS (FREE MEALS) AT UNION GOSPEL MISSION. AND JACK GARBER WAS OPTIMIST CLUB'S "OPTIMIST OF THE 19TH CENTURY."

Kemp, Aaron

Abe -- A. Kemp Fisheries

Aaron's grandson Louis originated surimi with crab taste, etc.

Klatzky -- Immigrant ancestor of family came in 1892. Howard (advertising agency. His uncle Morris (with Kelly Duluth Hardware) helped originate Ernie Nevers' Duluth Eskimos in 1926 -- the first pro football team of the National Football League.

Krovitz -- Shimon and Lena

Abe -- Grocer ("Cash and Carry")

Sam - "Sam's Back" -- used cars - ex-Marine.

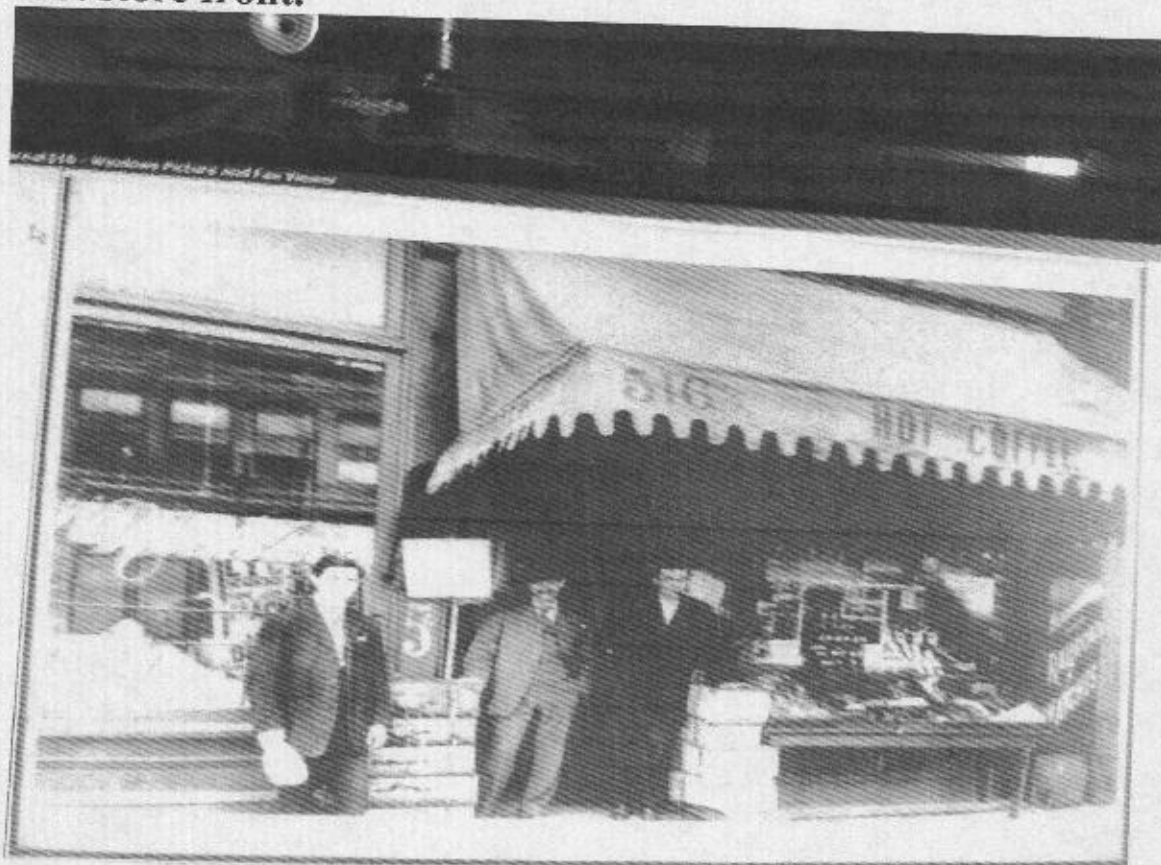
Maurice -- grocer, meat cutter, US Navy WW-II.

Married Esther Goldish

Shimon and Lena's granddaughter Mara Pappas is a New York based attorney, Director of the Division of Ethics and Compliance for a long time corporation with branches in 63 countries.

**Labovitz, Frank (Froike), Joel's great grandfather --
from a long line of rabbis
immigrated in 1900 from Galatz, Romania
with wife Rachel -- 8 months pregnant with Maurice**

**Frank peddled trays of button and bows, etc., save
\$300 for a wagon and then a horse, sold fruits,
vegetables. Tragically, the horse died.
Moved to Duluth in 1907,
opened a store at 516½ W. Superior St
Sold hot coffee, 5c hamburgers, steamer trunks, etc. all in a 15
foot store front.**

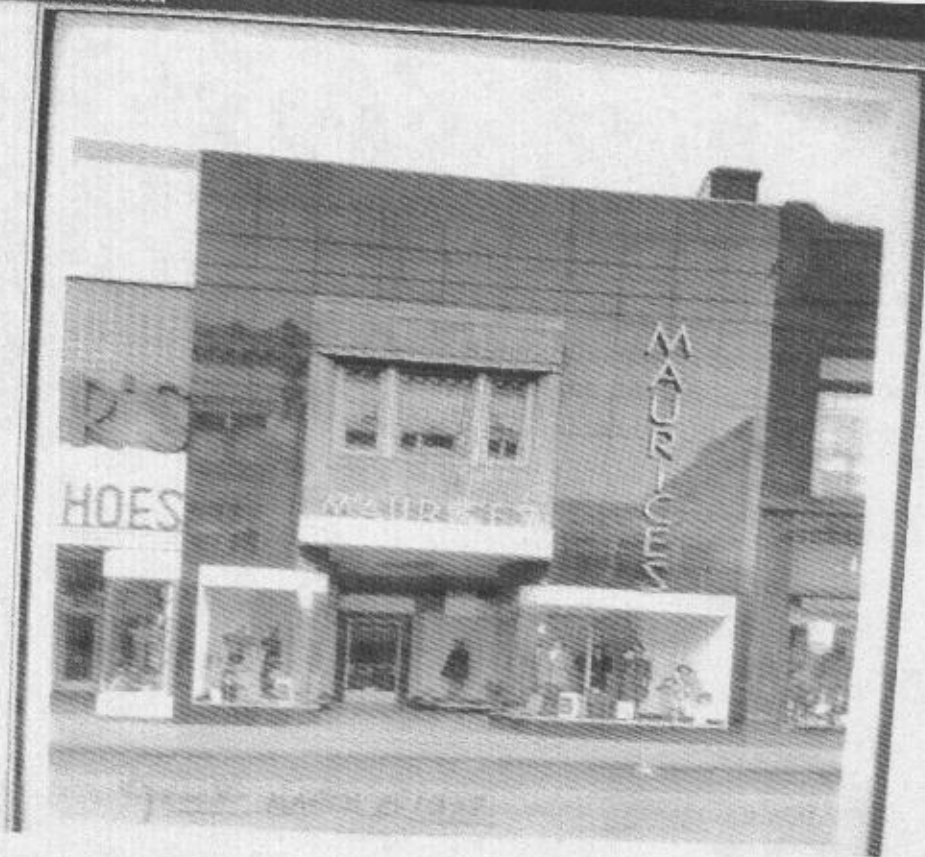


Then Opened a dry goods store where Wells Fargo is now, "The Fair".

Joel's father, Maurice Labovitz: born in Mpls, 1900. Maurice worked there at age 12 The Fair went bankrupt in 1928. He graduated Central High 1918. Opened "Maurices" in 1931. Sales that year: \$49,000 but profit for the year was \$4.12.

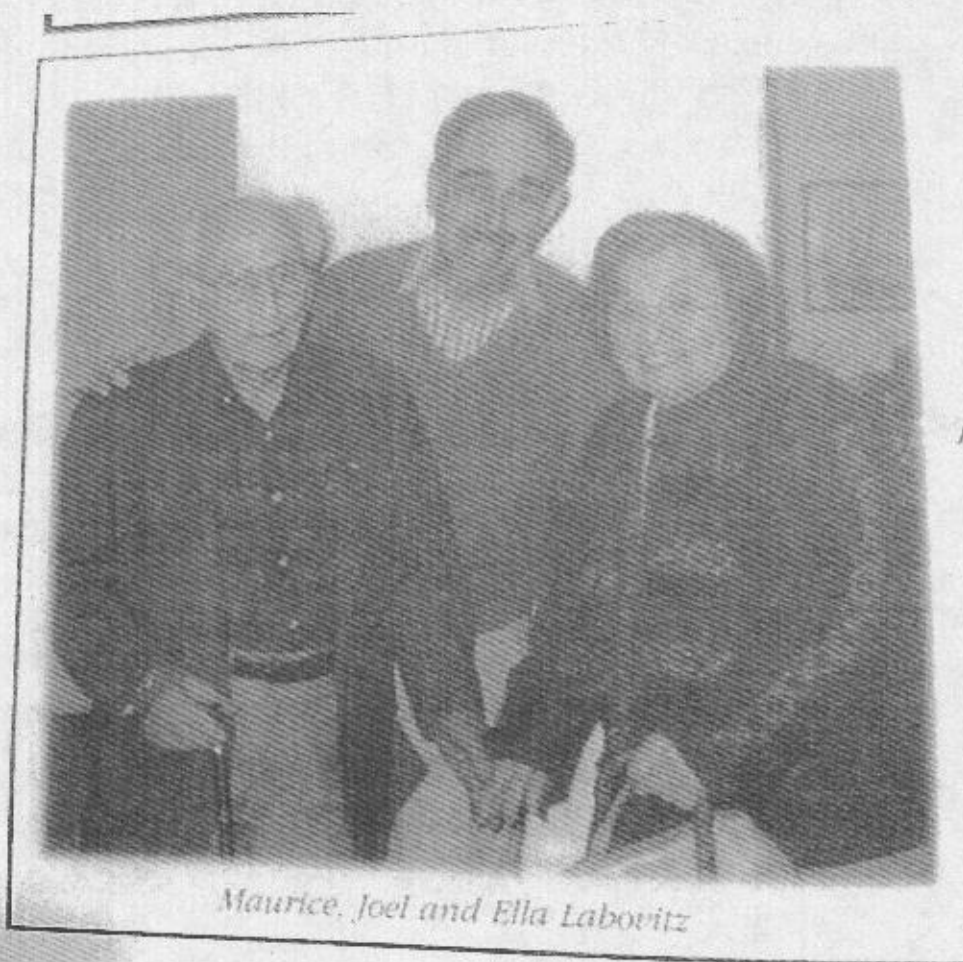
After that, his successes compounded, he became a civic and philanthropic leader.

Windows Picture and Fax Viewer



Maurices -- design ahead of its time.....

Subj: **Maurice, Joel, Ella Labovitz**
Date: 7/12/2011 6:37:36 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com



Sent from my iPhone

46

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 AOL: Bjgoldish

Joel's mother Ella: Her father, Abe Lavine, from Vilnius, Lithuania, came to Philadelphia in 1903, worked as a peddler. Sent for his wife and 8 month old child Ella Lavine; they had to hide from pogrom mob murderers while escaping from the Russians -- hiding in a wagon under a load of hay. Cossacks probed the hay with pitchforks! Joel's grandma had to hold baby Ella's mouth to avoid detection.

Ella Labovitz brought up Joel and his sister and also became a good enough artist that one or two of her paintings are in Tweed Museum.

[[[Ella Labovitz's parents, Abe and Sarah Lavine had five children, all of whom graduated college.

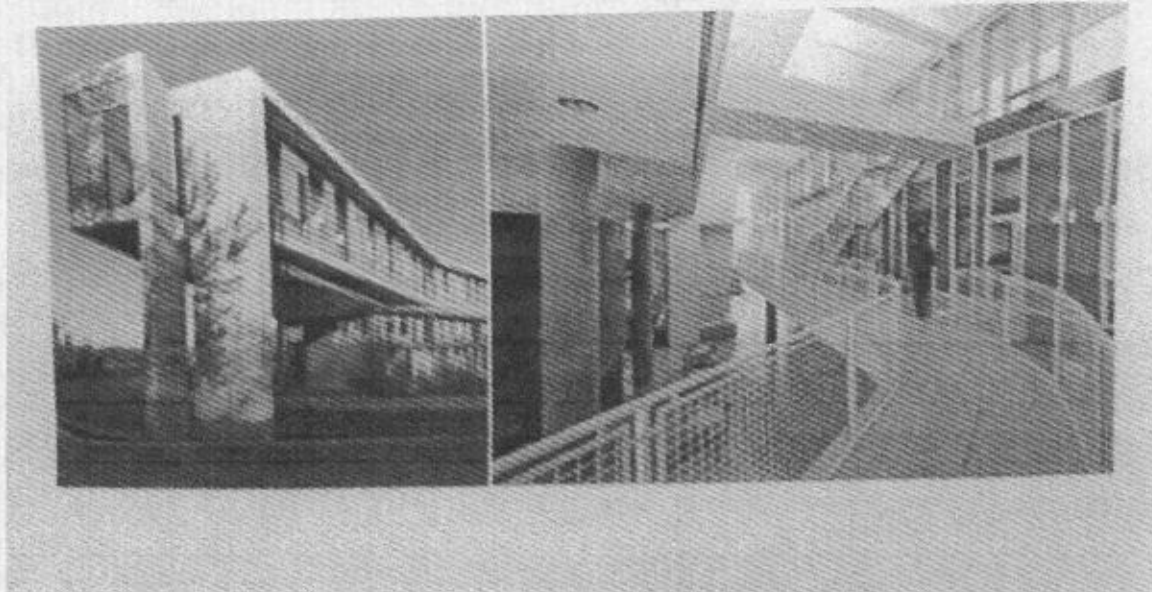
Joel's mother Ella: U of Chicago 1924; Max Lavine -- newspaper owner; Vernice -- personnel head in large Chicago hospital; Maurice Lavine: attorney) -- and next generations included educators, college dean, artist, hotelier and Joel's sister Sarah's family includes two adopted Chinese girls.]]]

Joel Labovitz (Maurice and Ella's son)

Central High, UMD ('49), started with Maurices in 1950, managed them when Maurice retired, increased to 7 stores, expanding to 175 stores, selling them in 1979. Since then: entrepreneur, hotelier (x5), philanthropist (especially his and Sharon's establishment of the Labovitz School of Business at UMD), as well as contributing to other civic and social endeavors.

Labovitz School

OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



Joel's sister Shana married Donald Lowitz, an attorney who was campaign mgr. for Rumsfeld and wrote a code of ethics for the White House after Nixon's debacle.

Litman, Joseph and Tillie --

came from Russia and Ukraine in ~ 1917

Joseph owned Litman & Son Car Body Shop

Hyman Litman, USN WW-II S. Pacific, Dentist

Norman Litman, USN WW-II, S. Pacific; Car repair shop

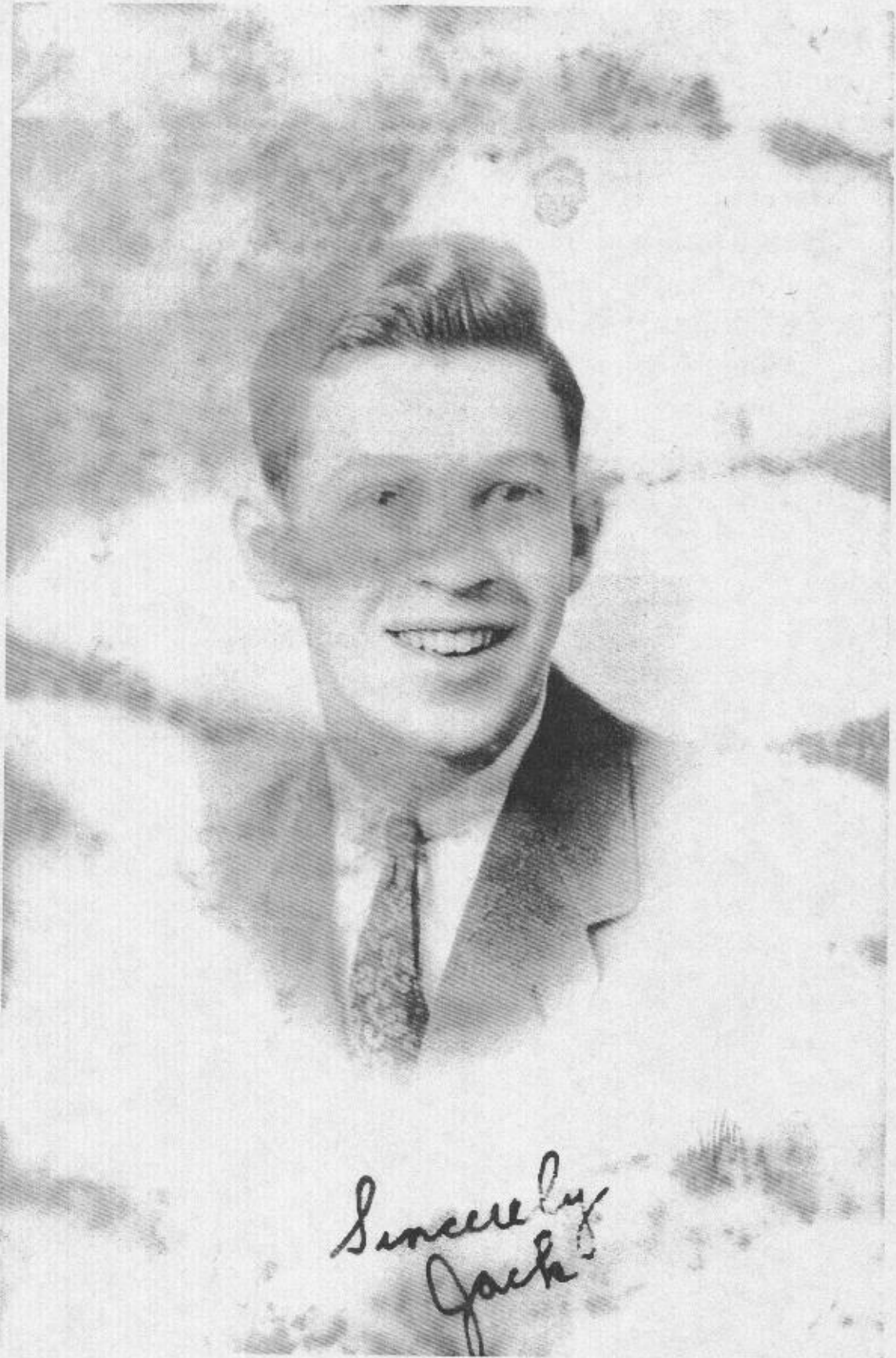
Jack Litman, Judge of District Court

Duluth Central High 1940, my classmate

USAF in WW-II, B-24 pilot in ETO, 26 missions.

Judge Litman presided over the Congdon trial

Dr. Sam Litman, early pediatrician, won awards for instituting the first free well baby clinic in the region.







Judge Jack Litman

son Jay Litman -- contractor

son Ross Litman -- St. Louis County Sheriff

Lurye, Alex J. -- furniture store. First president of the Jewish Fellowship Club. Rescued a family from Holocaust
Son Jay: Producer Son Robert: Furniture sales

Marcovich - Toby's grandfather (Lithuania) came in 1900 - second-hand furniture worker, then Popkins store owner
Grandmother in 1901, at age 16, worked as maid for rich folks, lived in attic ... with rats...

Father: furniture store

Toby: Attorney, past Chairman of U of Wis. Bd of Regents

True Story about a Kindness that saved a family from the Holocaust

visit the
Jewish Magazine
archives

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or service



Donate
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needs you!

re: ALEX J. LURYE



The Kindness that Came Back

By Yisrael Nathan (as told to the Jewish Magazine staff)

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Chessed: (definition) an act of loving kindness done without any expectation of remuneration

Don't think that the really great stories are the one's that are written by the world's greatest writers. The really great stories are the stories that really happened to real people and they are really and absolutely true. The following is one of the many really great stories. Great because it's really true!

America had finally entered World War I. Troops poured into Europe to put an end to the war. The war was in it's final stages. American troops were dispatched through out Germany. The year was 1917.

A lone Jewish soldier from Duluth, Minnesota, Alex Lurye, found himself in a small German town called Seldes. It was Friday night. Being far away from home was lonely. The young Jewish soldier had some time on his hands. Feeling out of place, he decided to see what the local Jewish population was like. Entering the local village synagogue must have created a stir. An American soldier in uniform!. The Americans fought the Germans in bitter combat. The lone soldier felt out of place. He was greeted by a kind German Jew by the name of Herr Rosenau who made him feel at home in the synagogue.

After the services, Herr Rosenau invited the serviceman to his house for kiddush and the traditional Friday night meal.

Seeing the beauty of a traditional Shabbat together with the warmth and kindness of this German-Jewish family made a deep impression on this young soldier. He was a

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The webpage cannot be displayed

Most likely causes:

- There might be a typo in the URL
- If you clicked on a link that no longer exists

stranger, a foreigner, even an enemy Yet because he was Jewish he was invited to another Jew's home, given a delicious warm kosher home cooked meal, complete with wine and the traditional Shabbat songs. Herr Rosenau's family, together with his teenage daughter, gave the soldier the feeling that he was not alone, certainly not an enemy, even in such a far and distant land.

The soldier was never able to come back again to see this kind family again. However, the warm impression that he had received, the experience of the Shabbat in a warm and caring Jewish home did not leave him. It meant so much to this young soldier that when he finally returned to Duluth, Minnesota, his home town, he took time out to sit down and write a letter to the German Jew who had touched his life with such kindness. This was in 1917. For some unknown reason, although Herr Rosenau received the letter it was never answered. It was placed in a desk drawer and there it rested for twenty one years.

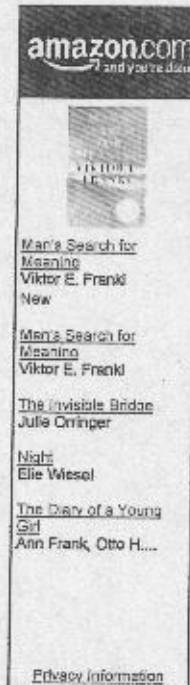
Time moves on. Ruth, the teenage daughter of the German Jew, has grown up and married a German Jew by the name of Eugen Wienberg. She now has three small children. The oldest is a boy of eleven. The time is a bad time for the German Jews. The year is 1938. The dreaded Adolf Hitler has taken hold upon Germany and anti Jewish proclamations are being contrived and enforced on a continually regular basis. Herr Rosenau is now a grandfather. He is bothered about the dark and dismal future for himself and his fellow Jews in Germany. He doesn't pay attention to his eleven year old grandson, Sigbert, as he is rummaging through his desk looking for something of interest. Suddenly a foreign postage stamp catches his eye. He pulls out the envelope with the postage stamp from America. "Grandfather, can I have this?"

Twenty one years have past since he received the letter. "Yes, take it," the grandfather replies. After years of giving, an old forgotten envelope makes his grandson happy. He takes it home to his mother. "Look, look what grandfather has given me!"

The mother and her husband, Herr Wienberg eye the envelope with curiosity. The letter is still inside. They remove the letter and read it. It is the thank you letter from the American service man, from twenty-one years ago.

The mother remembers the young man. "Let's write to him! Maybe he will remember us and sponsor us, enabling us to immigrate to America" (It must be remembered that the U.S.A. did not let refugees come to it's shores freely. However if some one would sponsor you, then there was a chance.)

Looking on the envelope, they saw that there was no



return address only the name, Alex Lurye, and the city and state, Duluth, Minnesota. "We have no future in Germany, we must get out before this mad man, Hitler, begins to do worse things to the Jews".

So they wrote a letter addressed only as follows:

Alex Lurye
Duluth, Minnesota

What can you do? Can you send a letter to a person in a large city with out a street address and expect it to be delivered? Of course not. You would have to be foolish to think that it would get to it's destination. But some times it works out. In this case, Alex Luyre had become a wealthy businessman who was well known in Duluth, a town of over a hundred thousand people. The postmaster delivered the letter.

When Alex received it, after a lapse of twenty one years, he quickly sent a return letter acknowledging his receipt of their letter and pledging to help bring the Wienberg family to Duluth. Alex kept his promise. The entire Wienberg family was brought over in that year and arrived in May of 1938. Shortly there after, the Rosenau family came over to America.

In Duluth, the Wienberg family began working hard to make life bearable through the depression era. Sometimes two jobs were necessary for both the father and mother in order to make it through the week. Yet in Duluth as in Seldes, Germany, the family made sure that the Shabbat would be joyously honored.

The rest of the family was quickly brought over to the states. Unfortunately, the horrible World War II swiftly came. The rest of German Jewry was destroyed.

Yet the kindness that Herr Rosenau had given to a stranger twenty one years earlier had come full circle. Because of their kindness, with out any thought of personal gain, Herr Rosenau and his family were spared from the horrible fate of their fellow German Jews. The chessed that they had so warmly given to others with out desiring a payment in return had come back to them with dividends. The entire family was saved.

Today that family has sprouted and grown. A family blessed with many children and grandchildren and great-grand-children (Bli Iyin Hara). All have taken upon themselves always to honor the Shabbat.

Doing chessed is the Jewish way. Helping another Jew, with out trying to receive a thing in return. Pure and unadulterated kindness. It's for you and for me.

* * * * *

For more Great True Stories, see our [Archives](#)

Naymark, David -- frequent letter writer
Len (promoter, entrepreneur), Brother -- USN career

Nides -- Arnold and Shirley

Loan company

Tom : worked for Johnson, Kennedy, was Chief of Staff for congressmen, then for the US Trade Representative and most recently CEO of Morgan Stanley until 2010.
Now is Hillary Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State for Management & Resources

Oreckovsky Family

(Info from "The Oreckovsky Family -- From Russia to America" by Len Traubman)

This immigrant leaders of this family were established merchants in Russia, successful and highly charitable here, with their huge family of descendants continuing prominent mercantile, charitable and cultural traditions of wide significance. I found it just too enormously extensive to organize and detail here. But here are some pictures.



The home of Israel and Lena Pietner Oreckovsky (later Bright), with Solomon, Sarah, and Harris (West Duluth, c. 1890)



"I. ORECKOVSKY, PRACTICAL WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER" in West Duluth, with Solomon, 10, Sarah, 4, Harris, 2, and Israel, 30 (c. 1891)

Raphael > Joseph ("Big Joe")>Abe R.>David



Seated: from left, "Big Joe" (1872-1952), Gabriel (1861-1940), and "Little Joe" (1864-1933)



"Big Joe" Oreckowsky (1872-1952) and Ida Oreck (1877-1945) were married January 26, 1896 in Duluth

Joseph Oreckovsky ("Big Joe")-- from Russia to Duluth in 1892 at age 16.

Founded First St. Department Store in 1914.

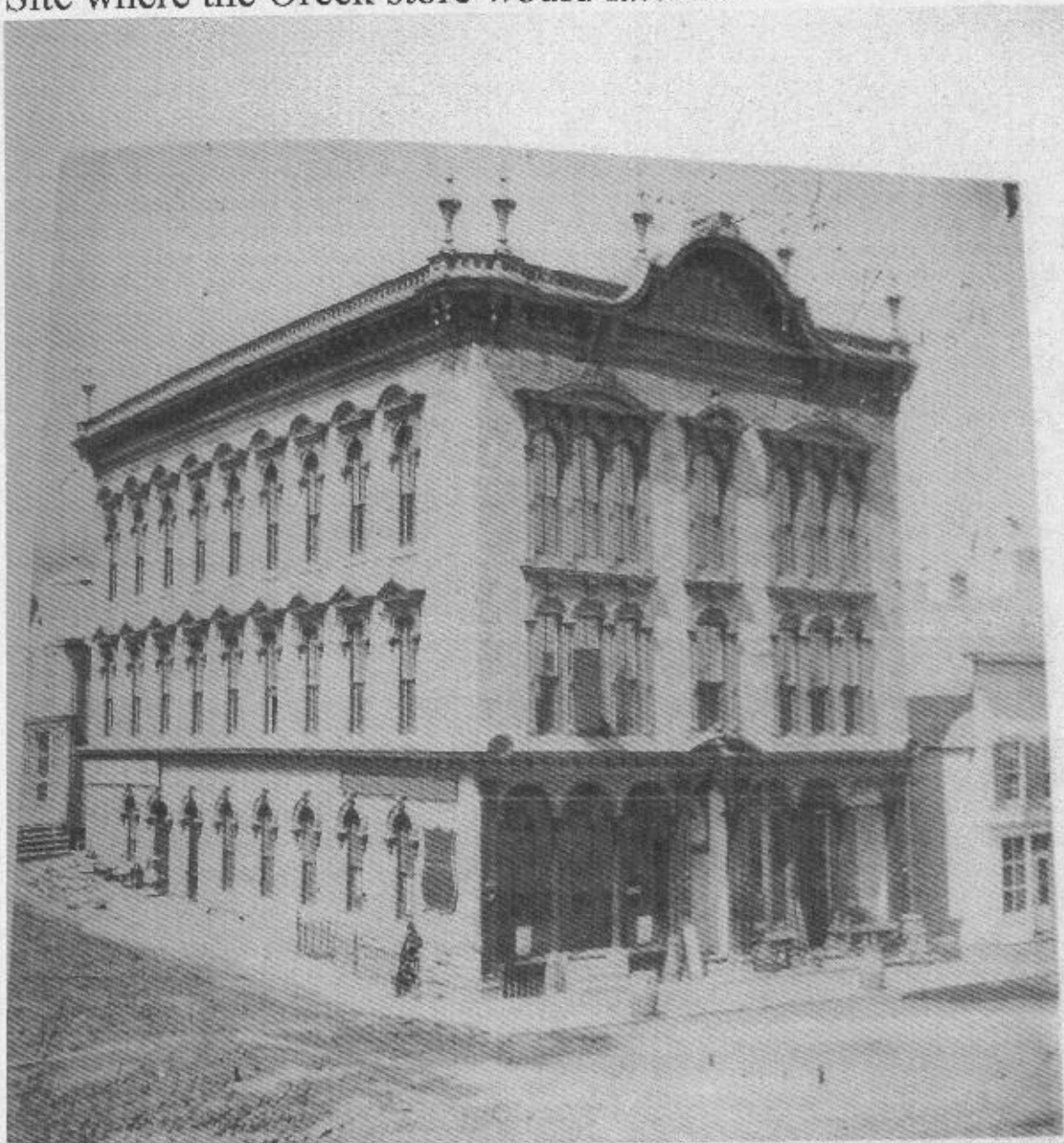
**His sister Ida Oreck married Arthur Silver ("Silvers")
Founded First Street Store, was VP of the Oreck Fdn. (a family group of 150 people).**

**At DLH Children's Home: "Mr. Thanksgiving" (parties)
Developed Oreck's Department Store**

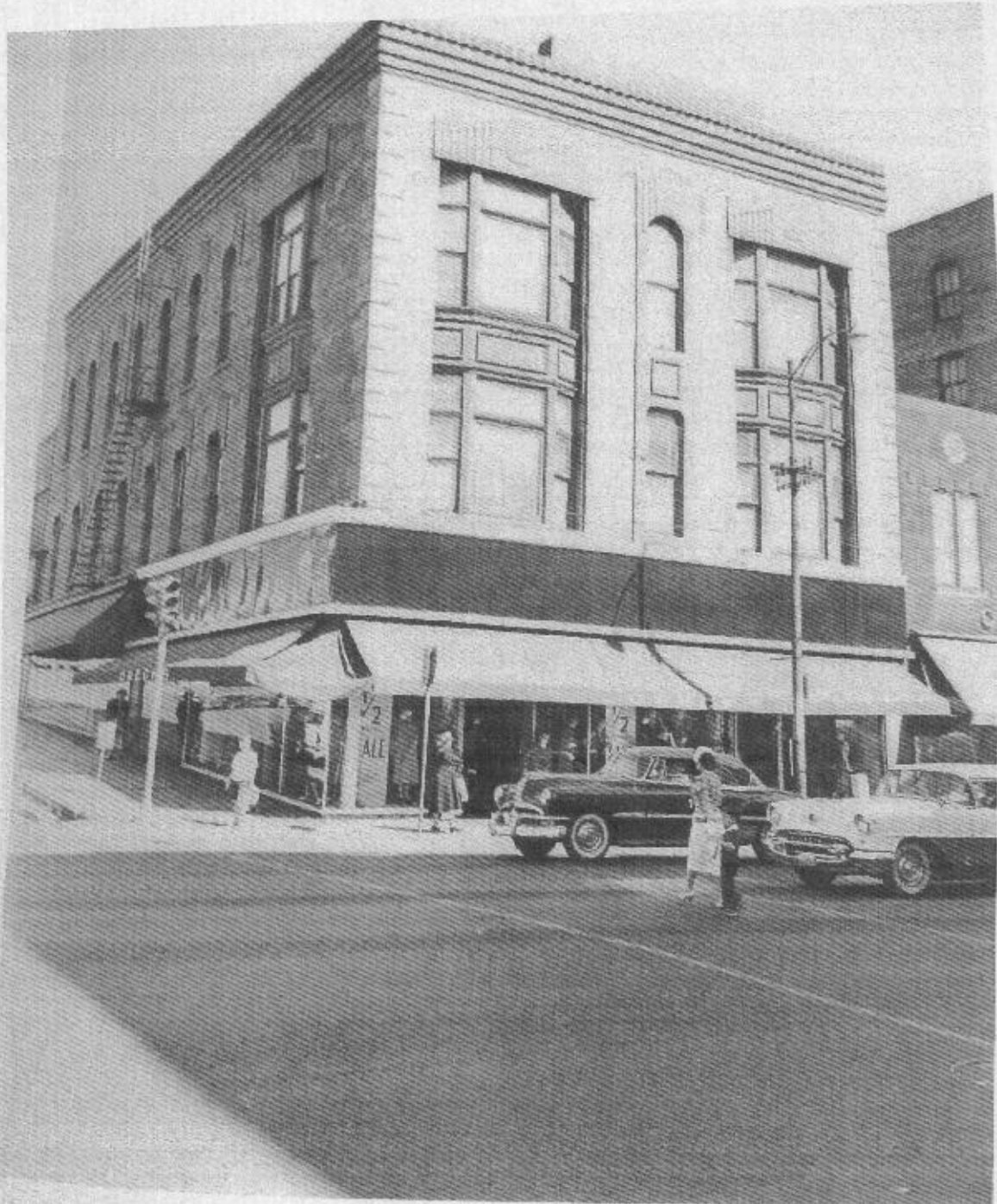
David Oreck (vacuum cleaners)

**Also, recall "The Flame" Restaurant -- by Jimmy Oreck
(where the Aquarium is now)**

Site where the Oreck store would later be

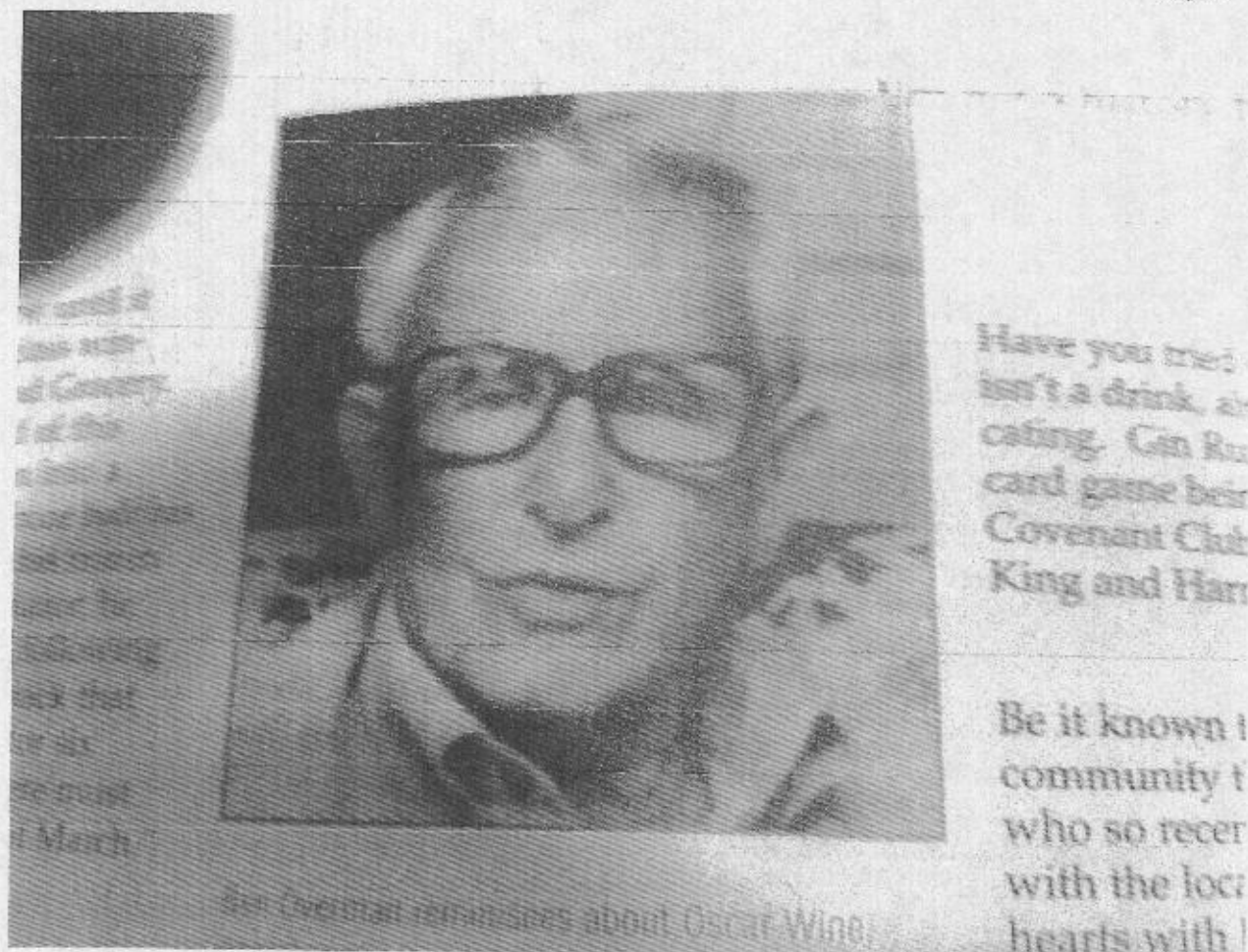


The original "Hunter Block" at 31 W. Superior Street, built by John Hunter as a bank building in 1872, was Duluth Savings Bank before Gabriel and Lena Poliinsky Oreckovsky began their mercantile business there in 1909. (Source: 1879 photo, Northeast Minnesota Historical Center)



Oreck's Department Store as it appeared in 1958. Founded in 1909 by Gabriel and Lena Polinsky Oreckovsky, this was originally the "Hunter Block," architecturally modified several times by the Oreckovskys. (Source: Northeast Minnesota Historical Center)

Subj: Ben Overman
Date: 7/5/2011 3:03:56 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com



BEN OVERMAN

Sent from my iPhone

60

Overman: Hyman Ovetsky Overman came from Chotokov, near Kiev, with wife and three children Jessie Overman, Ben Overman, and 2 year old Fannie Overman (later Fannie Goldfine). Hyman worked in a chair factory in Superior, but they were very poor. Ben and Fannie picked up coal off the RR tracks to help heat their home. (Note: Jeno did the same.) Ben sold papers at age 10, got rights to streetcar positions, commissioned others to sell papers for him and split the profits; set up a concession stand in Billings Park at age 16! Lit papers under the house during winter to unfreeze the pipes!!!!

**Ben Married Jeanne Horowitz
Became a successful realtor, and they were generous philanthropists.**

**Polinsky, Abe and Viola -- philanthropic
Jerrold and Richard --
Minnesota Woolen
And donated Polinsky Rehabilitation Center**

**Rosenzweig, Joe and Susie
Partisan -- Drove refugees to Marseilles to the Exodus.
Duluth son Michael - Masonic leader,
stock broker & part owner of the Huskies**

Seiler Family -- Jerome and Jack arrived from Poland in 1921. Jerome was 18. They sold papers, sat outside of night school classes to learn English. Bernard, here earlier, worked in a jewelry store. Jerome and Jack sold musical instruments. Established Security Jewelers by 1938 -- also sold luggage, instruments, cameras, charms, etc. They were socially, religiously, Zionistically, civically -- very philanthropic.



The Seiler Brothers

Bernard Jerome
(Steven and
Jack's father)

Jack
(Stuart's father)
(Jay's grandfather)

Subj: Jerome, Jack, Stuart, Jay Seiler
 Date: 7/5/2011 3:00:41 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: bjgoldish@aol.com
 To: bjgoldish@aol.com

ELMO

TOV
 EE YEAR
 ealthy &
 w Year
 Family



MAZEL
 TOV

Stewart

Jack



Jay

6 Mary's
 spice & 1

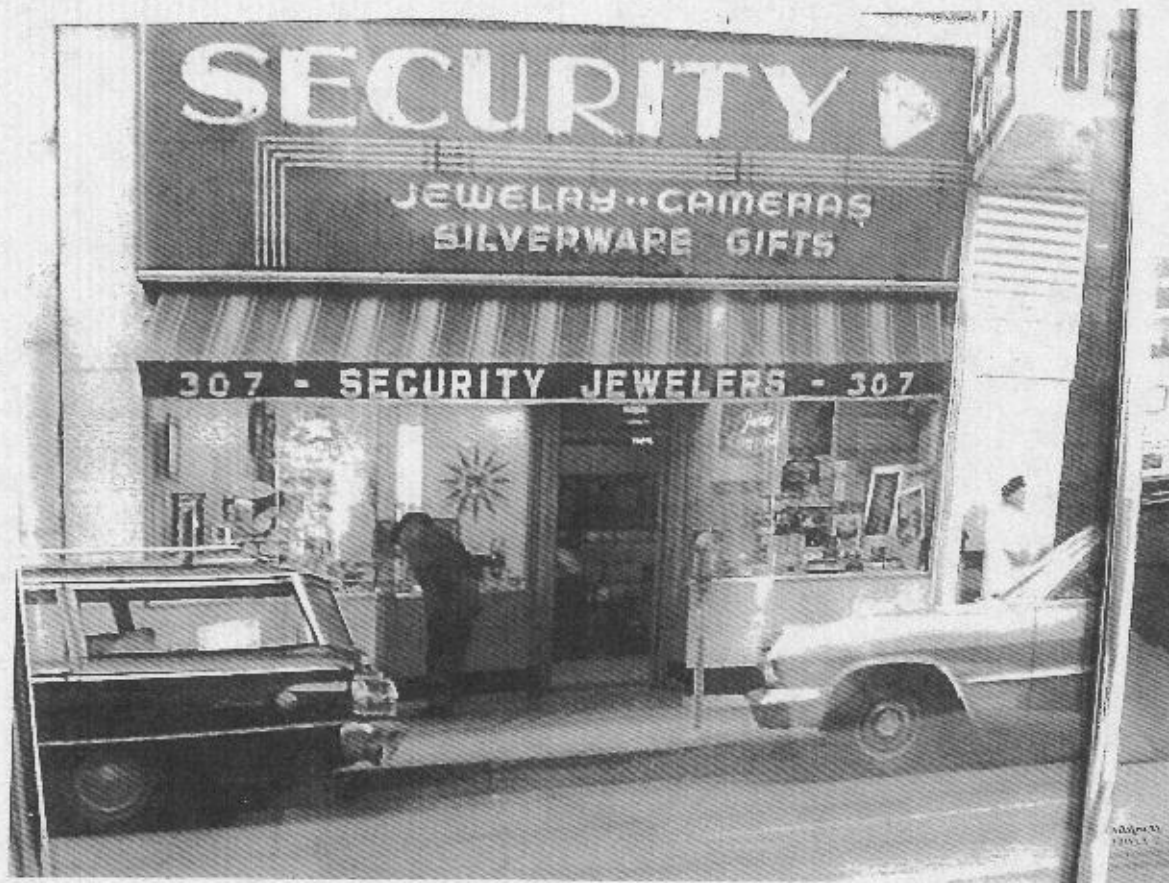
5
 5
 6
 bath.

1995

on your Jerome
 50th ANNIVERSARY
 of the Jewish Fellowship Club

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63



Sher, Faiveh and Gittel (nee Karon)

P. Sher Meats

David Sher -- meat dealer

**Phillip Sher -- religious leader, physics teacher,
meat dealer.**

Joseph Sher's parents came in 1889.

Joe started Sher Plumbing and Heating Co. in 1923

Slonim, Edward and Dorothy

**Sigmund Slonim, Ed's father, an anti-Czar
socialist, arrived around 1890 from Valkimir, Lithuania.**

Sigmund worked at N. Cold Storage, the Steel Plant.

Became a prominent attorney.

**Ed and partners developed Gateway Distributors
(wholesale foot wear and clothing).**

He and Dorothy are notable philanthropists.

Solemovich, Joseph

Solon Brothers

and grandson Ron Solon-- Universal Electric

Harvey Solon, grandson: athlete, promoter

Widdes Family --

**Farmed, where the Hartley Tract is; hired Chinese
workers, Feed store, Cattle dealers**

George Winthrop started Ideal Grocery and Meat Co. in 1920 with Louis Camenker.

His son **Harvey Winthrop** came into the business after service in the Korean war, 1950.

Harvey's Brother, Ed Winthrop --

Central '40, West Point '45, > Col. Winthrop.

After 25 yr. in Army, went to U Kansas Law School, passed bar at age 50, practiced law until age 85.

Harvey Winthrop

IT WAS IDEAL

The last of downtown grocers will close shop in January

By Paul Karpis

It is an act of historical significance, the Ideal Market and Deli, a last of downtown's full-service grocers, will close its doors in January. The market, which has been a fixture in the neighborhood since 1924, will be replaced by a new building, which will be a part of the new downtown grocer.

Winthrop, who has been in the market since 1924, said he was not sure if he would be able to keep the market open for another year. He said he was not sure if he would be able to keep the market open for another year.

The last of the downtown grocers will close its doors in January. The market, which has been a fixture in the neighborhood since 1924, will be replaced by a new building, which will be a part of the new downtown grocer.

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Harvey Winthrop, owner of Ideal Market, stands in the doorway of the store.



A sign for Ideal Market, showing the store's name and address.

Ideal became the last full service grocery downtown.

Esther Ackos Winthrop, Harvey's wife --

Born in Preveza, Greece in a middle class, hard working family -- but still with primitive facilities. Nazis invaded, and Esther's aunt's friend, Mrs. Sayano, a Christian, hid the Ackos family in her home from 1941-1943.

Many other Greeks also risked their lives by helping Jews to survive if possible. Jews had to report to Nazis weekly at synagogue -- and on 3-22-44 locked the men in and then trucked them to Auschwitz.

Esther's father, they learned later, was killed on arrival and incinerated, along with other family members.

Esther, along with the other remaining family members hid again -- again with Mrs. Sayano. Fifteen year old Sam, Esther's brother, supported the family -- shining Nazi shoes for food, and had also to beg and steal for the family to survive. He and the family had to pretend to be Christians. Thousands of Greeks died of starvation. After Greece was liberated there was civil war, and the Ackos survivors lost their home to the communists, had to live in a single basement room. A judge denied their claim to their home -- and said the Nazis should have taken them all.....

Rosa Ackos and her five kids came to the USA in 1951 -- and have had successful lives.

Subj: **Esther**
Date: 7/12/2011 6:16:11 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com

Esther, AN



Sent from my iPhone

69

Wednesday, July 13, 2011 AOL: Bjgoldish



**The girls all graduated college.
 Esther became an RN. worked at SMH for 35 years
 and volunteered as a nurse counselor at Temple Israel.**

Louis Witkin, of Superior

Escaped Russ army conscription

**Housepainter in NY, sent money for brother
 to accompany girl friend (Louis's future wife) to the US
 Cattle buyer, meat market.**

Paul, Harold, attorneys.

Shirley (Bubbles) Sigler

Mark Sigler -- State Department official (retired)

Wolfe, Tom (Zenith Interstate News distrib.)
Goldie Kenner Wolfe (avid Bulldog hockey fan,
Civic activist, (organized the first UMD hockey club
auxiliary).

Robert -- Marine -- photographer, writer.

Ben (Benjie) - International pioneer in grief counseling

Zalk, Max & H.Y. Josephs: Zalk-Josephs Steel Co.

Zyroff, Sonia -- Nazis needed a seamstress....could not
sew but said yes, taught herself and..... survived.
In Duluth taught sewing, TV program...
married Alfred Zyroff --
Son a prominent MD

Harry Senior and Beatrice Klain Senior --
parents of my wife Selma Senior Goldish

Harry Senior immigrated ~ 1918, to the Bronx. 1 bedroom apt.

He inspected hosiery, gloves on kitchen table; also a movie projectionist.

Beatrice Klain -- from Russia/Poland ~1918; brick factory, well-to-do,
but lost everything to communists

Learned English with 8 year old third graders....humiliatingly

Daughter Selma Senior -- married Bob Goldish.

Selma formed Yiddish afternoon. (Women knew and sang
the same Yiddish songs. How did they know them? It turned out
that they had sung those same Yiddish songs quietly in the
"camps".)

Selma: Long-time volunteer. Activist. ESL aide >25 yr. Actress:

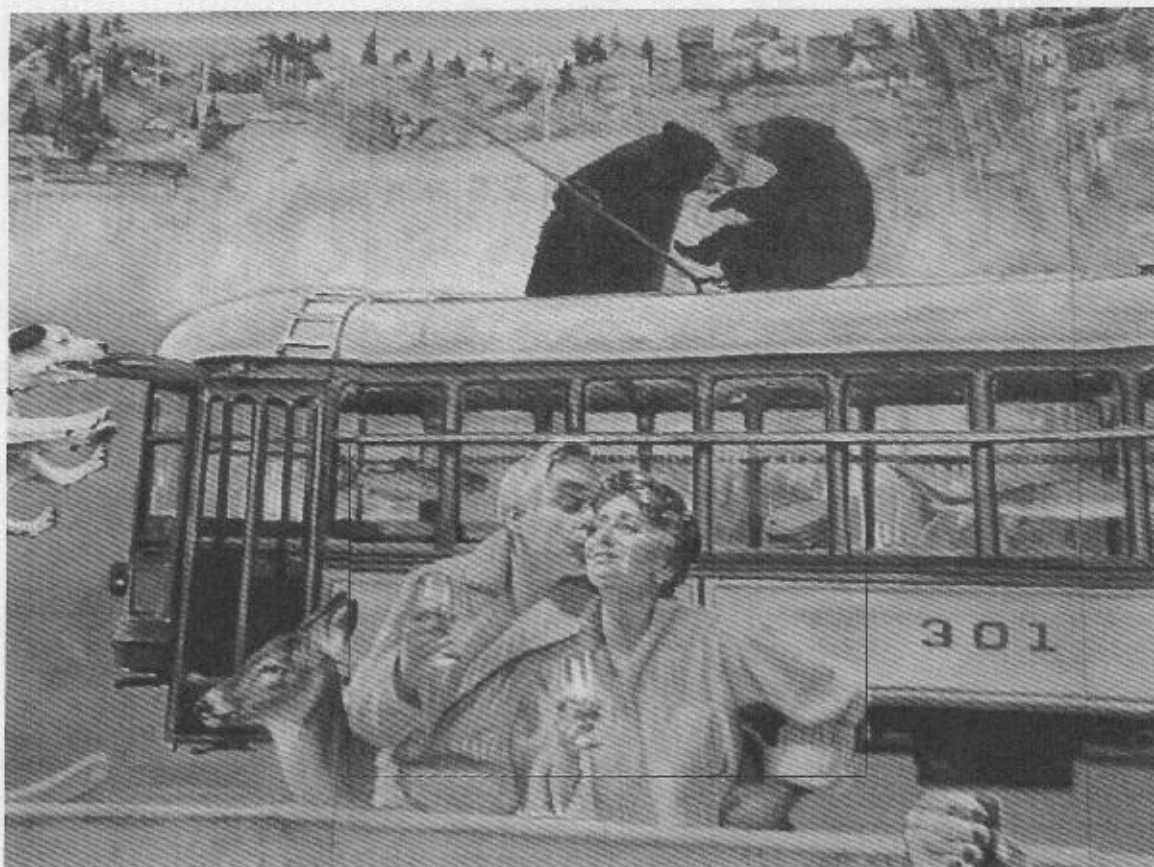


Illustration on semi-surreal mural at Playhouse rotunda
-- pic adapted from 1987 play "Alone Together"

Kenner Family -- (my maternal grandparents)

Benjamin Kenner -- from Vilna Gubernia

(fubernia: a governorate or province of the Russian Empire in Lithuania)

He escaped from conscription -- ran through swamps to Hamburg, got to Canada, then to US.

Founded B. Kenner Grocery -- 1st Ave. E. -- in 1898.



Kenner family -- 1897

Chaya (Ida)

Binyamin

Holding eldest son

Ben I. (Boruch
or Baruch Israel)

The bearded patriarch was

My great grandfather

Getzel Kenner and wife Rocheh Zelda

Incidentally, 20 years later, Benny was to fight in WW-I.



Benjamin Kenner in 1897 (Father of Hattie -- "Meema")

Ida (Chaia) Karon Kenner in 1897 (*Meema's mother*)
Her arrival was frightening ... and dramatic - described in
speech.



Sons Ben I. (Boruch) Kenner, Harry and Lou were grocers.
Son Bob Kenner was a pharmacist (Chester Park Pharmacy).
Daughter Hattie married Sam L. Cap Goldish.
Daughters Rose and Goldie were grade school teachers.

Subj: **Kenner store. About 1923.**
Date: 7/5/2011 3:08:09 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com



Uncle Benmy Kenner
Sent from my iPhone

102 E. FIRST ST.

Rox Hattie
Kenner Kenner

About 1923

76

Goldish Family

Shmuel and Esther Goldis -- arrived in about 1890

Dov David (Beryl Dovid) & Tillie (Taibe) Goldish

Sea trip with two sons (Ben and an unnamed baby, who died and was buried at sea).



TILLIE (TAIBE)



DOV DAVID (Beryl)
GOLDISH

Peddled fish -1896. Origin of the Lake Superior Fish Co.

Initially lived on First St., over the store

son Ben -- NW National Life Insurance.

grandson Dan, MD and opera and symphony patron

grandson Sidney -- Minnesota Poll, editor Mpls StarTrib

son Louis died in boat accident 1913

son Sam married Bessie Walt

Daughter Alyce Horwitz, and Julius: Famous Clothing.

By the way, Alyce's cousin (Bessie's nephew) Sherman Walt from Virginia: was recognized as the "world's greatest bassoonist of the 20th Century"



Sherman Walt

Berl Dovid's Son Harry Goldish -- was engineer on the L. Goldish at age 16!

Managed LSF Co. after SL died.

Son S.L. Goldish (Cap) married Hattie Kenner, 1923



Children: Robert Goldish MD, flight surgeon USAF, internist, actor

s [The international organization SuperSibs was founded by Goldish
s and Kenner granddaughter Melanie, helping thousands of child
siblings of pediatric cancer patients and their families in every
state and Canadian province, free of charge.]

Esther Krovitz - (Duluth) - (see Krovitz family)

**Barbara Bearmon and Lee- (Plymouth) -- Three
daughters. Amy is married to a rabbi.**

Subj: **Original Talmud Torah. Ida Cook Hebrew School.**
Date: 7/12/2011 6:19:07 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: bjgoldish@aol.com
To: bjgoldish@aol.com



304 E 3rd St

Sent from my iPhone

ORIGINAL
TALMUD TORAH SCHOOL BUILDING

80

Subj: Mr. Wiener -- 7th Av E & 4th St.
 Date: 7/5/2011 3:19:51 P.M. Central Daylight Time
 From: bjgoldish@aol.com
 To: bjgoldish@aol.com

In 1931 he was my first cheder (Hebrew school) teacher -- in his tailor shop. Pic probably about 1920.
 For years, his son J B Weiner was assistant supervisor of Duluth schools



CIRCA 1922

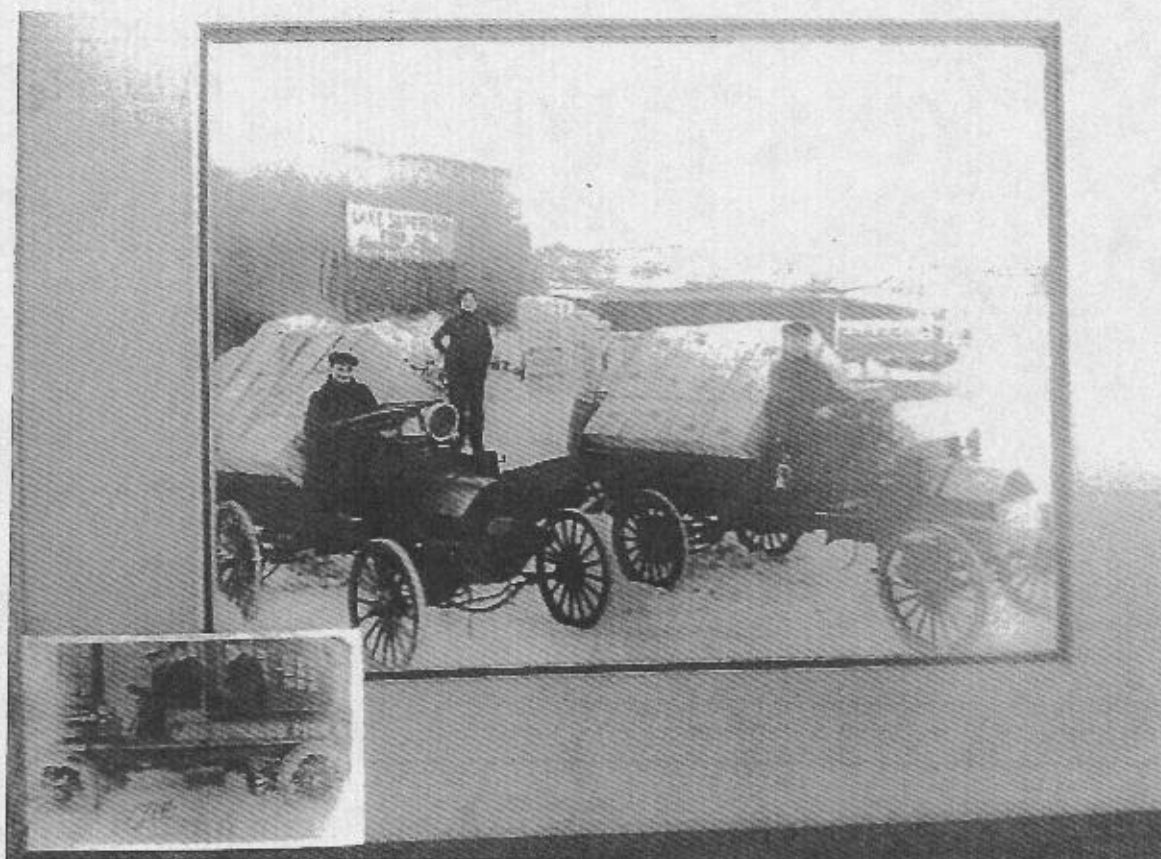
Sent from my iPhone

MR. WEINER
 LIVED WITH HIS WIFE in BACK of HIS
 SMALL TAILOR SHOP AT 624 EAST FOURTH ST.
 HE WAS MY FIRST "MELAMED" (HEBREW TEACHER
 When I was 7 - in his tailor shop work room,
 (in YIDDISH: "CHEDER")
 HIS SON, J.B. WEINER, For some decades,
 WAS ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT of DULUTH schools

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Tuesday, July 05, 2011 AOL: Bjpgoldish

Lake Superior Fish Co. -- started by B. David Goldish in 1896.



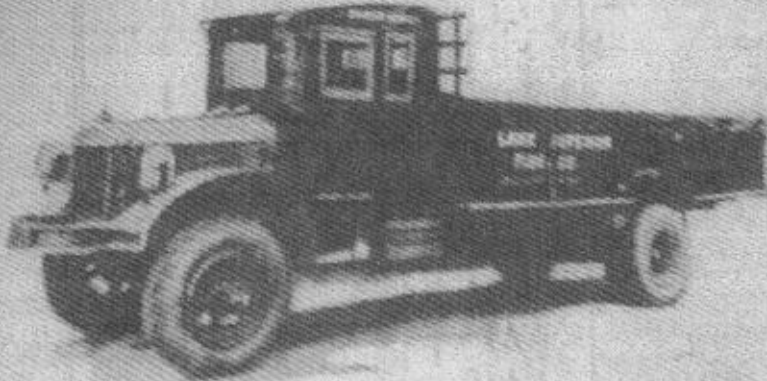
1915 Chase Trucks

SL (my dad), Uncle Harry, Uncle Sam S. (Alyce Horwitz's dad)
First trucks in Duluth? (Note hard tires, chain drive, single headlight, not windshield). "...20 mph...."

In about 1929

FAGEOL Safety Coaches
*Developed Bus Transportation to
the 'Nth Degree of Perfection*

FAGEOL TRUCKS
*Are fast developing long distance freight and
express haulage to an equally high standard*



*Fageol Trucks powered by the nationally famous Hall-Scott Motors,
(used exclusively by Fageol) and equipped with compound transmissions
are daily achieving results never before attained in motordom*

BUILT IN SIX SIZES—2 TO 6 TONS
INQUIRIES SOLICITED

EARL W. BRADLEY
301 Builders Exchange Building

THE L. GOLDISH

BUILT by CHARLES HILL OF LARSMONT, MN ~~1886 TC~~



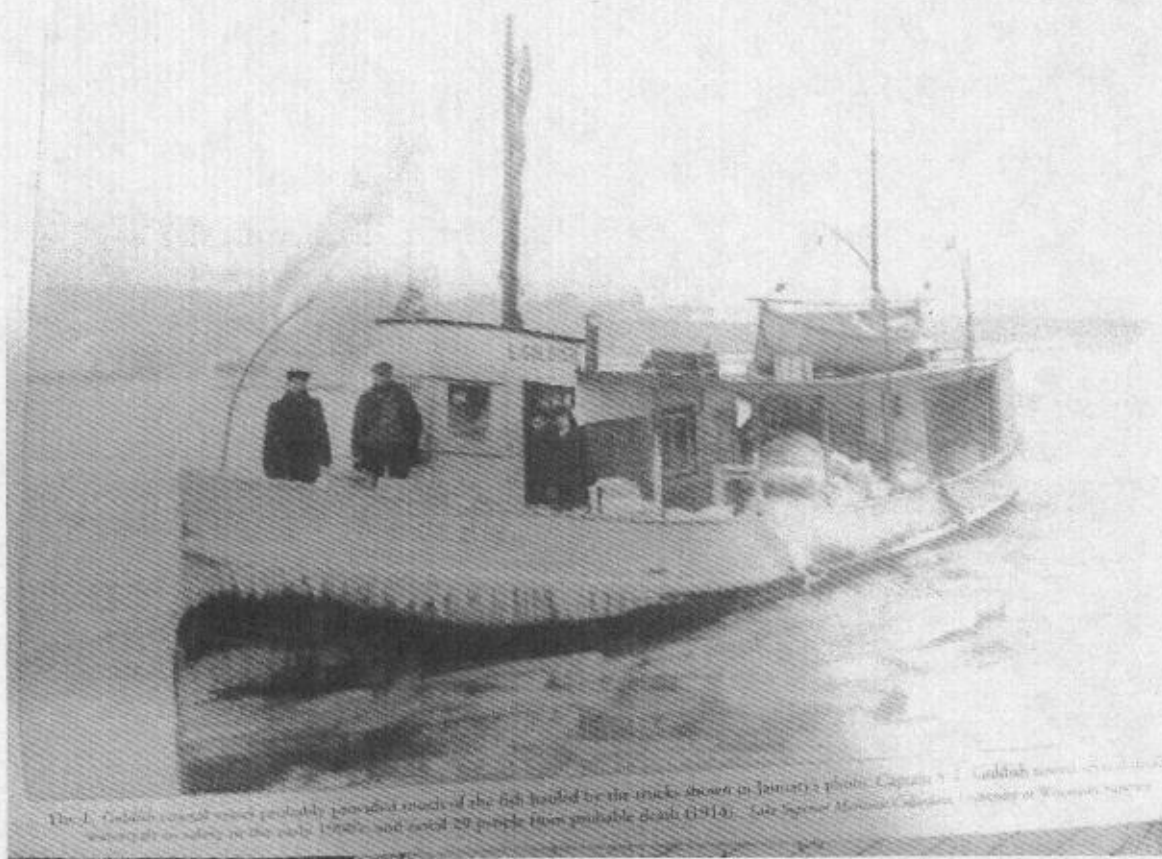
For a complete description of the Goldish news articles, [click here](#).

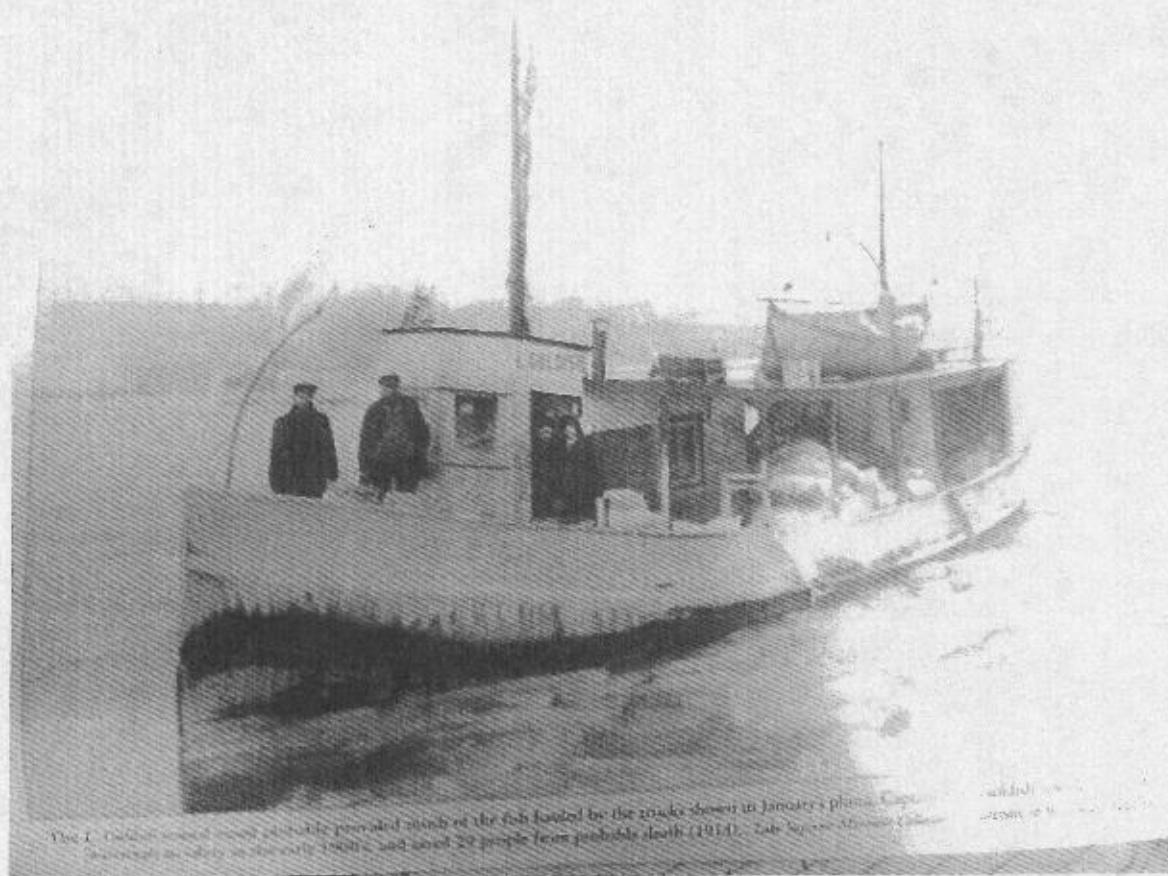
Boatstore Trac II

INLAND SEAS[®]



QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
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THE L. GOLDISH
 WITH A CARGO OF
 FROZEN FISH.
 IN THE BOW: CAP GOLDISH (SLG)
 A DECKHAND IS NEXT
 AND TWO PASSENGERS.

A Coastal Packet on Lake Superior*

By JULIUS F. WOLFF, JR.

MOST STUDENTS OF LAKE SUPERIOR shipping history have concerned themselves with the interlake freighters—schooners, steamers, or barges—which carried the iron ore, grain, lumber, coal, package freight, or passengers to and from the major port towns. Yet, an often neglected but still fascinating area of study is that involving the small coastal packets and freighters which touched the remote, out of the way places on Lake Superior's shoreline, dropping off fishermen, homesteaders, explorers, bringing supplies to isolated settlers or logging camps, or picking up the products of the net or the farm for transportation back to the major centers of population. With a network of highways now completely surrounding Lake Superior, and with most parts of the shore reasonably accessible to automobiles, it is hard for modern residents of the lake district to envision a time when such easy access was simply not the case. To be sure, for most of the last hundred years, railroads have touched key locations on the Lake, but even as late as the 1920's a scattered population all around the western end relied on a fleet of 15 small freight vessels, owned by a variety of different companies at Duluth-Superior, for the weekly or monthly necessities of life as well as for the means of sending farming or fishing produce to market.

One of the few surviving participants in this well-nigh forgotten era of lake travel is Captain S. L. Goldish of Duluth. Still active at age seventy-two as a partner in the Lake Superior Fish Company, Captain Goldish reputedly was one of the youngest skippers ever to sail Lake

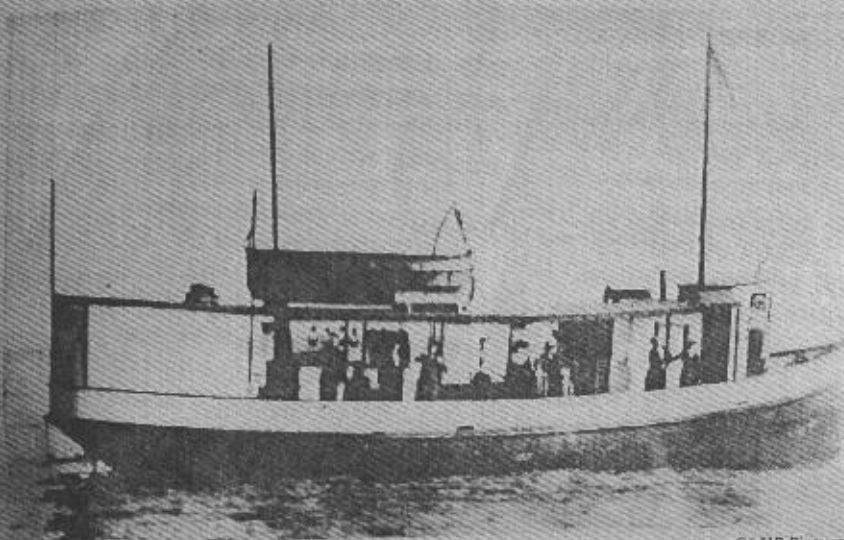
* Information for the following article was obtained in a series of interviews with Captain S. L. Goldish of Duluth, Minnesota, the most recent being June 21 and 30, 1966. Captain Goldish generously made available his pictures and a clipping album covering his Lake Superior career. Duluth newspaper files furnished additional data.

INCREDIBLE SAMARITAN:

The Packet L. Goldish

By JULIUS F. WOLFF, Jr.

The author's research on this remarkable little packet, which holds the Lake Superior citizen rescue record, not only turns up details on some of the voyages . . . but also serendipitously uncovers some little known Lake Superior ethnic sociology.



The L. Goldish

GLHS Picture File

The Captain's Wife

From her home overlooking the Duluth Ship Canal and the eastern shore of Minnesota Point, Hattie K. Goldish can watch the comings and goings of the Duluth port. She is the widow of the late Capt. S. L. Goldish, skipper of the 65-foot fish-and-freight packet *L. Goldish*, and holder of the private citizen's rescue record for all of Lake Superior.¹

One thing perplexed me. S. L. did not fit the pattern of Great Lakes' captains in the early 20th century. He was not English, Irish, Scotch, Yankee, Scandinavian, French-Canadian . . . nor tough. Besides, he was a humble man, resolute but mild, and soft of voice.

All this intrigued me, but he died before I had the whole story.

On the afternoon of August 2, 1982, I visited Mrs. Goldish in Duluth. A rugged 30-mile-an-hour northeaster was kicking up Lake Superior, sending endless lines of frothing breakers against Minnesota Point as far as the eye could see, like waves of infantry. I thought to myself — here must be a wife who was truly devoted to her husband's lake, perhaps had sailed with him,

GOOD MORNING:

Twin Ports: Cloudy.
 Iron Range: Cloudy.
 Northern Wisconsin: Cloudy.
 Upper Michigan: Showers.

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DULUTH, MIN.



—Photo Courtesy of the St. Louis County Historical Society

Steamers await their chance to free themselves from ice outside the harbor on May 22, 1917.

Shipping's January in June Recalled Today Marks Anniversary of 1917 Lake Ice Blockade

Forty-five years ago today the western end of Lake Superior was locked in one of June's worst ice jams in the history of Great Lakes shipping. More than a score of vessels were held fast off the Superior entry to the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

The June 7, 1917, ice blockade climaxed an exceedingly bitter

winter that saw ships trapped several times.

On May 22 of that year more than 40 vessels were caught in the ice. Many worked their way out and gained the safety of the harbor. Others plowed to the opposite end of the ice field and headed back down the lake.

But those caught fast could do

little but wait through the bitterly cold night. The May 22 edition of the Duluth Herald reported the scene:

"As the beleaguered fleet grew during last night, and clustered rather close together, as the hard-packed ice was reached, the scene from land and from incoming trains was one of beauty and

caused a great deal of excitement. "With cabins and masts lighted up, and some of the crews playing their searchlights on the ice, it looked as if a miniature city had sprung from the lake."

As if the ice jams were

Continued on Page 2, C

Missing Hoffa

Sports Highlights

Suspect Charles
 William J. Hollinger, 34, a self-employed gas station attendant, was arraigned in Duluth Municipal Court today on a charge of kidnapping. He was held in lieu of \$5,000 bail.
 Thomas Bugold, 42, was arraigned on a charge of kidnapping. He was held in lieu of \$5,000 bail.
 A preliminary examination was held today in Duluth Municipal Court. The judge set the trial for June 11.
 The trial of the two men was postponed until June 11.
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Ship Fires on Lake Superior

By DR. JULIUS F. WOLFF, JR.

(Continued from Summer 1981)

1917
↓

An unregistered fishing boat produced a fire fatality in 1917. On November 29 off Sand Island Capt. S. L. Goldish, western Lake Superior's outstanding private rescuer, was at anchor with the 65-foot packet *L. Goldish* when he heard distress whistles. About two miles off he spotted a smoke plume, and getting underway, he quickly approached the small fish boat *Herring King*. An engine backfire had ignited a broken gasoline, and the little vessel was blazing from stem to stern. Her two crewmen were hugging the forepeak; her excited skipper had dropped the dory over the side without a line, and the lifeboat had been swept away immediately in the rough water. Captain Goldish had to act fast. He brought the *Goldish* as close as he dared to the flaming wreck; then his crew tossed liferings alongside the *Herring King*. The Engineer jumped immediately to the life preserver and was quickly hauled aboard the *Goldish*. Captain Gordon, however, hesitated until the flames were almost on him, when badly overheated, he dove into the icy waters and tried to reach the lifering. The shock was too great, and he went down only five feet from rescue! Captain Goldish quickly peeled away, just in time, as when the fire hit the gasoline tanks, the *Herring King* blew up. One life had been lost, and a vessel of unknown value destroyed. Still, another man had been saved by the heroism of Capt. S. L. Goldish. Altogether, Captain Goldish would save twenty-nine lives in his thirteen years of sailing the small fish packet *L. Goldish* in western Lake Superior.⁵⁷

A gigantic forest fire at Duluth on October 12, 1918, produced some strange maritime casualties. While the catastrophic conflagration which

57. *Duluth News-Tribune*, November 30, 1917.

CAPT. SAM GOLDISH IN ROLE OF LAKE HERO

Capt. Sam Goldish, residing at 208 East First street, this city, played in the role of hero during the storm Thursday, when the steamer L. Goldish of the Lake Superior Fish com-

pany discovered the C. W. Turner, owned by the Booth company, in a disabled condition, tossed by the waves in the region of Eagle Island.

Captain Goldish braved the storm, which was at its height, and came about to Turner's aid by means of a tow line. Considerable difficulty was encountered, the line breaking four times before Bayfield was reached.

JANUARY
1916

GOLDISH BOAT RESCUES INDIANS

Sam Goldish, general manager of the Lake Superior Fish company, returned to Duluth yesterday after one of the most thrilling experiences in his career, according to the story told friends.

In company with his brother, Captain Goldish, who commands one of the company's steamers, Mr. Goldish made a trip down the lake Saturday and Sunday.

They were about six miles off Bayfield, Wis., near Oak Island, when they sighted a small launch drifting helplessly in the heavy sea then rolling. In the boat was an Indian from the Red Cliff reservation, his wife, and three small children. The boat was partially filled with water, and their predicament was serious.

It required some maneuvering on the part of Captain Goldish to bring the fishing craft alongside and land the Indians, but they finally succeeded. The launch was taken in tow and all were landed at Bayfield.

JULY
1916

FISHING BOAT IS AT TWO HARBORS FOUR DAYS LATE

Anxiety for Safety of Goldish Is
Relieved by Later Message
Last Night.

Anxiety for the safety of the steamer L. Goldish and crew was quieted late last night with a message that the boat was in shelter at Two Harbors. The steamer Goldish, a 65-foot gas engine vessel, has been used as a fish boat by the Lake Superior Fish company and has experienced several perilous trips during the late fishing season on Lake Superior. The boat was four days overdue and its owners feared it had been lost.

Wires were down yesterday north of Two Harbors and no connection could be obtained with points on the north shore where they might have put in for safety, increasing the alarm earlier in the day.

NOV. 30,
1914

The images below show the Goldish boat leaving the Duluth Harbor in about 1920.

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LAKE SUPERIOR

Captain S. L. Goldish sailed_^ for 11 years -- until 1924 -- never had an accident, and went out voluntarily on five very hazardous, brave rescue missions -- saving twenty-nine lives in all, according to research by Dr. Julius F. Wolff. He noted that to be an all-time rescue record by a civilian on western Lake Superior. Our dad was an unsung hero, a truly intrepid hero.

And that completes my gleanings from the treasure trove of Jewish immigration to the Twin Ports.