

MY STORY  
by LOUIS P GREENBERG

I AM WRITING THIS LITTLE AUTOBIOGRAPHY WITH NO INTENT OF PRODUCING A BEST SELLER AND AM ADDRESSING IT TO MY CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN AND LIKEWISE TO MY BROTHER'S CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN.

I HAVE TWO REASONS FOR WRITING THIS STORY, FIRST TO BETTER ACQUAINT YOU WITH YOUR ROOTS OR BACKGROUND AND SECOND AND MOST IMPORTANT TO GIVE YOU KNOWLEDGE THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE BORN A JEW. ALSO I SEEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE LEFT WITH A RECOLLECTION OF THE OLD COUNTRY AND OF THE OLDER GENERATION.

TO BEGIN THE STORY MY REAL SURNAME IS "COLTON" AND WAS CHANGED TO "GREENBERG" AN UNCLE'S NAME ON FATHER'S MATERNAL SIDE WHO SPONSORED THE FAMILY MEMBERS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES.

FATHER'S OLDER BROTHER AND TWO SISTERS PRECEDED HIM INTO THE STATES AND WERE FOLLOWED THREE YEARS LATER BY HIS MOTHER AND TWO YOUNGER SISTER AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER LATER.

MOTHER'S SURNAME WAS FLEISCHER. SHE WAS THE YOUNGEST IN A FAMILY OF TWO BROTHERS AND FIVE SISTERS. THE OLDEST BROTHER CHANGED HIS NAME TO FREEMAN DURING THE 1ST WORLD WAR, WHO SHE NEVER MET DURING HER ENTIRE LIFE, AND A SISTER NAMED VEDENBURG CHANGED TO STONE, EMIGRATED TO LEEDS ENGLAND. HER OLDEST SISTER OR AUNT LIBBY LIVED IN THE SAME SMALL TOWN THAT WE LIVED IN AND THE TWO OTHER SISTERS LIVED IN NEARBY SMALL TOWNS OR VILLAGES IN RUSSIAN POLAND.

AUNT LIBBY'S OLDEST DAUGHTER OR MOTHER'S NIECE MRS . YABLONOWITZ, WHO WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS YOUNGER THAN MOTHER AND HAD PRECEDED US TO THE STATES, LIVED IN NEW YORK CITY. OTHER NIECES OF MOTHER'S LIVED IN CHICAGO AND IN CALIFORNIA.

COUSINS OF MOTHER'S, THE SARASOHN'S, EMIGRATED TO AMERICA IN THE 1880'S AND 1890'S SETTLED IN NEW YORK CITY. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CLAN ENDED UP IN DETROIT, MICH.

THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE SARASOHN'S WERE THE OWNERS AND PUBLISHERS OF THE "TAGEBLATT" AN OUTSTANDING YIDDISH DAILY NEWSPAPER CATERING TO THE PREDOMINANT JEWISH ORTHODOX SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE PATRIARCH OF THE DETROIT BRANCH OF THE SARASOHN FAMILY MADE HIS WAY ON FOOT FROM NEW YORK TO MICHIGAN BY PEDDLING WITH A PACK ON HIS BACK, SELLING NOTIONS TO FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY SIDE.

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NOW IT IS TIME THAT I STARTED THE STORY WITH MY ENTRY INTO THIS WORLD AS ALL GOOD AUTOBIOGRAPHIES SHOULD. I WAS BORN ON THE SECOND DAY OF HANUKKAH IN THE YEAR OF 1896 IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF LOPY IN THE PALE OR RUSSIAN POLAND. AT NO TIME DID MY PARENTS GIVE ME THE REAL CALENDAR DATE AND AS A RESULT I NEVER REMEMBERED THE DATE OF BIRTH THAT I GAVE WHENEVER I HAD TO REGISTER AND THAT CERTAINLY FOULED UP MY OFFICIAL RECORD. FINALLY GOT TIRED OF THIS SITUATION AND WHEN MY BAR-MITZVAH FELL ON THE 25TH OF DECEMBER, I ADOPTED CHRISTMAS AS AS MY BIRTHDAY, OF COURSE, ANOTHER JEW HAS THE SAME BIRTHDAY. THE YEAR OF 1896 IS ALSO OUTSTANDING, THAT IS THE YEAR THAT HERZL STARTED ZIONISM. JUST IMAGINE WHAT I HAD TO LIVE UP TO.

BROTHER SAM WAS TWO YEARS OLDER AND SISTER IDA, TWO YEARS YOUNGER. SISTER MINNIE WAS BORN IN THE USA ON ELECTION DAY 1905. HER BIRTHDAY WAS ALWAYS CELEBRATED WITH HUGE BONFIRES.

LAPY WAS LOCATED ON THE MAIN RAILROAD LINE RUNNING TO WARSAW AND BIALYSTOK AND ABOUT A THREE QUARTER HOUR DRIVE BY SPRINGLESS WAGON FROM BIALYSTOK THE NEAREST LARGE CITY.

WE DID NOT ORDINARILY RIDE THE TRAIN BECAUSE THAT COST HARD CASH BUT WAITED UNTIL THE LOCAL BALAGALA OR TRUCKER HAD OCCASION TO MAKE THE TRIP AND AS A RIDER THE FARE WAS QUITE SMALL.

LAPY WAS LIKE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER SHTETELS IN POLAND AND ITS LIFE HAS BEEN SO ABLY DESCRIBED BY SHOLEM ALEICHEM AND OTHER WRITERS.

LAPY'S ONLY REASON FOR DISTINCTION WAS THAT IT BRAGGED OF A RAILROAD SHOP AND IT WAS ALSO THE CENTER OF A FARMING AREA. FORMING A MINORITY OF THE TOWN WAS THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, A GROUP OF ABOUT 200 CLOSELY KNIT SOULS.

THE TOWN ITSELF WAS BUILT AROUND THE MAIN PAVED SQUARE AND THE TWO STREETS RADIATING FROM THE SQUARE WERE TWO UNPAVED HARD DIRT ROADS WITH NO CURBS AND NO STREET LIGHTING. IF ONE HAD TO VENTURE OUT AT NIGHT YOU CARRIED YOUR OWN LIGHTING, KEROSENE LAMPS. ALL INTERIOR LIGHTING WAS BY CANDLES OR KEROSENE LAMPS. THE LAMPS WERE SOMETIMES WORKS OF ART.

LAPY WAS LUCKY BECAUSE IT WAS LOCATED SO NEAR TO SUCH CENTERS OF INDUSTRY, LEARNING AND YESHIVAS LOMZHA, GRODNO, WILNA, BREST-LITOVSK (OR PLAIN BRISK) AS WE KNEW IT AND MANY OTHER CENTERS.

BRISK WAS THE BIRTH PLACE OF MENACHEM BEGIN THE FUTURE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL. BIALYSTOK A LARGE TEXTILE AND MANUFACTURING CITY GAVE BIRTH TO LIVINOF THE FIRST AMBASSADOR OF COMMUNIST RUSSIA TO THE UNITED STATES AFTER RECOGNITION BY FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

BIALYSTOK WAS A HOT BED FOR SOCIALISM WHICH ATTRACTED THE YOUNGER JEWISH WORKING GENERATION. ALSO LET US NOT FORGET BIALYSTOK'S GIFT TO HUMANITY THE TASTY AND WELL KNOWN BIALYS.

THE JEWS OF LAPY EXISTED MAINLY BY A BARTER SYSTEM AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH VERY FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EARNING CASH OF THE REALM. ALL OF THIS WAS A VERY BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR THE AWAKENING YOUNGER GENERATION.

THE ONLY INFUSION OF MONEY CAME BY WAY OF REMITTANCES FROM RELATIVE IN AMERICA OR BY EARNINGS BUSINESSES AS THE BAKER OR THE OPERATION OF A WINDMILL OPERATED BY FATHER'S FAMILY AND WHICH WENT OUT OF EXISTENCE WHEN FATHER AND HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WENT INTO MILITARY SERVICE. ALSO A LITTLE MONEY WAS EARNED BY BUYING AND SELLING FARMERS PRODUCE AT THE REGULAR BI-WEEKLY FAIR.

FATHER WAS A TALMUDIC SCHOLAR OF NOTE, ENJOYED READING AND WRITING HEBREW AND SUBSCRIBED TO HEBREW NEWSPAPERS. WHILE YIDDISH WAS THE MAIN LANGUAGE, FATHER COULD ALSO SPEAK AND READ POLISH, RUSSIAN AND GERMAN. HE MUST HAVE BEEN SELF TAUGHT BECAUSE I WAS NEVER ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT SCHOOLS, IF ANY, THAT HE HAD ATTENDED.

FATHER PRACTICED AND ENJOYED ORTHODOX JUDAISM IN ALL FACETS, NOT BY ROTE BUT BY CONVICTION. ALTHOUGH HE DIED IN 1943 AT THE AGE OF 76, NEVER IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE DID HE BREACH THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH OR THE VARIOUS HOLIDAYS AND THE OBSERVANCE OF ALL THE DIETARY LAWS. DESPITE HIS VERY STRONG FEELINGS AS TO THE VARIOUS REGULATIONS AND OBSERVANCES HE WAS LIBERAL ENOUGH TO HAVE COMPASSION FOR THE NON-OBSERVER.

MOTHER WAS ABLE TO READ AND WRITE YIDDISH AND ALSO TO READ ALL THE PRAYER BOOKS AND FOLLOW THE SERVICE EVEN THOUGH ALL WOMEN WERE CONSIGNED TO THE BALCONY. THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE FAR BEYOND THOSE OF THE AVERAGE JEWISH WOMAN AND AT SERVICES MOTHER WAS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO COULD ONLY REPEAT THE PRAYERS AS MOTHER READ THEM OUT LOUD.

WHILE MOST JEWISH YOUNG MEN NATURALLY SHIRKED MILITARY DUTY IN THE CZAR'S ARMY, FATHER WOULD NOT MUTILATE HIMSELF OR TRY ANY OTHER MEANS IN ORDER TO ESCAPE SERVICE. WHEN HIS CALL CAME HE ANSWERED SAME AND AFTER INDUCTION WAS SHIPPED OUT TO THE VOLGA RIVER AREA IN DEEP RUSSIA. THIS WAS A SYSTEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT USED AND STATIONED THE SOLDIERS FROM THE WEST IN THE EAST OR POLAND. THIS WAS DONE SO THAT IF TROUBLE OR RIOTING STARTED BECAUSE OF POOR HARVESTS OR WHATEVER, AS IT VERY OFTEN HAPPENED, THERE WOULD BE NO SPLIT IN LOYALTIES IN THE RANKS TO PUT DOWN SUCH DISTURBANCES. AFTER HIS ASSIGNMENT FATHER EXPERIENCED A PERIOD OF HARASSMENT AND OR PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT BECAUSE HIS CONVICTIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO EAT TREFFE FOOD, BUT IN TIME HIS COMMANDING OFFICERS RLENDED AND LEFT HIM TO OWN RESOURCES. BECAUSE FATHER WAS ABLE TO READ AND WRITE HE WAS PROMOTED TO MESS SARGEANT. THIS DESIGNATION WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ITS MEANING IN OTHER ARMIES.

AT THIS TIME THE RUSSIAN ARMY LIVED OFF THE LAND WHEREVER IT WAS STATIONED AND IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE MESS SARGEANT TO FORAGE OR BUY OR PAY FOR ALL PROVISIONS AND GOODS THAT HE TOOK BUT IN PRACTICE THAT RARELY HAPPENED WITH THE OTHER SARGEANTS, BUT NOT WITH FAT. HE WAS ALWAYS VERY FAIR WITH THE FARMERS OR TRADERS. IN TIME FATHER WAS LEFT STRICTLY ON HIS OWN, WITH HIS OWN WAGON AS TRANSPORTATION, CARRIED HIS OWN KOSHER DISHES AND EVEN PREPARED HIS OWN MEALS, AND ALL THIS AS LONG AS HE PRODUCED FOR HIS UNITS REQUIREMENTS.

HIS FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE ENDED WITH FOUR MONTHS OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR. AT HIS DISCHARGE HE WAS GIVEN THE OPTION OF RE-ENLISTING AND BE SENT TO MEDICAL SCHOOL AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE PROVIDING HE CONVERTED TO CHRISIANITY. NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT THIS OFFER WAS TURNED DOWN, OUT OF HAND. FATHER WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED AND THEN PUT ON THE ACTIVE RESERVE LIST.

FATHER RETURNED HOME TO LAPY AND EVEN THOUGH HE WAS A VETERAN AND AS A JEW HE DID NOT RATE PERMISSION TO LIVE IN RUSSIA PROPER WHERE THERE WERE MANY MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EARN A LIVELIHOOD.

FATHER MARRIES AND WITH THE ADVENT OF A FAMILY THE PROBLEM OF SUPPORTING SAME BECAME ACCUTE. IN A SMALL CLOSED COMMUNITY LIKE LAPY THAT EXISTED PRIMARILY BY BARTER LEARNING WAS A COMMODITY COULD NOT FIND A READY MARKET. FATHER HAD NO PARTICULAR MANUAL SKILL OR TRADE SO HE TRIED A NUMBER OF THINGS BUT IT WAS NO GO.

THE GOVERNMENT OFFERED TO SUBSIDIZE HIS EFFORTS IN STARTING A CHEDER OR HEBREW SCHOOL PROVIDING THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULUM A COURSE IN MILITARY DRILL OR TRAINING TO BE SPECIFIED BY THE ARMY, THIS WAS FLATLY REJECTED.

FATHER THEN LEFT FOR LEEDS ENGLAND WHERE MOTHER'S BROTHER AND SISTER LIVED AND IN THE HOPE THAT IN A LARGE INDUSTRIAL CITY HE COULD FIND WORK. HIS RELIGIOUS BELIEF IN THE SANCTITY AND OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH AGAIN SERVED AS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OBTAIN A JOB.

AFTER A TRIAL PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS FATHER DECIDED TO RETURN TO LAPY AND ON THE WAY HOME STOPPED OVER IN GERMANY TO VISIT WITH ANOTHER BROTHER OF MOTHER'S WHO WAS IN THE SHIPPING BUSINESS. UNSUCCESSFUL IN FINDING SOME USEFUL MEANS OF EMPLOYMENT HE DECIDED TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE AN OLDER BROTHER AND TWO SISTERS HAD ALREADY BEEN LIVING FOR SOME TIME IN NEWARK, N J.

FATHER HAD STARTED HIS TRAVELS IN 1900 AND TO THE UNITED STATES AT ABOUT THE END OF 1900.

I WAS TOO YOUNG TO HAVE REMEMBERED HIM IN ANY WAY AND USED TO TELL PEOPLE THAT I FIRST MET MY FATHER IN SEPTEMBER 1904 WHEN HE BROUGHT US TO AMERICA AND I WAS THEN ABOUT 8 YEARS OF AGE.

NOW BACK TO LADY WHERE WE LIVED IN A LARGE ONE ROOM APARTMENT IN A ONE STORY FRAME BUILDING OWNED BY A POLISH WOMAN AND WHILE IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE CLASSED AS VERY PRIMITIVE LIVING QUARTERS BY MODERN STANDARDS, IT WAS THE ACCEPTED NORM AT THAT TIME. THE ROOM HAD A LARGE TILE STOVE THAT WAS USED BOTH FOR COOKING AND HEATING PURPOSES. LIGHTING WAS BY A KEROSENE LAMP. A WATER PUMP IN THE HALL WAS A COMMON WATER SUPPLY FOR ALL OCCUPANTS AND AN outhouse IN THE YARD REPRESENTED ALL THE SANITARY FACILITIES.

A CURTAIN SEPARATED THE SLEEPING QUARTERS FROM THE LIVING QUARTERS. TWICE A YEAR, BEFORE PASACH AND ROSH HASHONAH, DIRT FLOOR WAS COVERED WITH FRESH YELLOW SAND.

AT ABOUT THE AGE OF FOUR I WAS ENROLLED IN THE CHEDER OR HEBREW SCHOOL AND WHEN BROTHER SAM HAD ALREADY GRADUATED FROM THE BEGINNERS CLASS. THE CHEDER WAS FINANCED BY THE DONATIONS FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. JEWS WERE ADMITTED TO THE STATE OPERATED SCHOOLS UNDER A FIVE PERCENT QUOTA SYSTEM, BUT EVEN THAT WAS MEANINGLESS SINCE WE COULD ONLY BE PERMITTED TO ENROL BY CROSSING THE PALM OF THE PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE.

CONDITIONS WERE DIFFERENT IN GALICIA THE POLISH SECTION UNDER THE RULE OF THE MORE ENLIGHTENED AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE HERE NO QUOTA SYSTEM EXISTED AND EVERY ONE WAS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND SCHOOL. THE JEWISH POPULATION OF THE PALE OF RUSSIAN POLAND WAS MANY TIMES THAN THAT OF GALICIA.

CHEDER BEGAN ABOUT SEVEN IN THE MORNING AND EXCEPT FOR A LUNCH BREAK ENDED AT EARLY EVENING WHEN MAARIV OR END OF DAY PRAYERS WERE RECITED. AS BEGINNERS WE WERE EXCUSED FROM THE PRAYER SERVICES AND I WAITED FOR SAM TO

THE BEGINNERS WERE STARTED WITH ALPHABET, LEARNING TO RECITE THE PRAYERS AND THEN INTRODUCED TO CHUMASH WHICH MEANS FIVE AND STOOD FOR THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES, THE TORAH. WE WERE ALSO TAUGHT RASHI THE COMMENTARY ON THE TORAH AND WHICH WAS WRITTEN IN ARAMAIC THE LANGUAGE USED BY JESUS IN HIS TO THE MASSES. ALL LESSONS WERE RECITED OUT LOUD.

AFTER CHUMASH WE WERE INTRODUCED TO TANACH THE WRITINGS OF THE VARIOUS PROPHETS AND FINALLY TO THE STUDY OF GEMORAH OR TALMUD A COMPILATION OF LAWS AND THE VARIOUS COMMENTARIES UPON COMMENTARIES. ALL THE SUBJECTS WERE IN BIBLICAL HEBREW AND WE WERE ONLY PROMOTED WHEN THE REBBE WAS SATISFIED WITH OUR PROGRESS. MY FORMAL EDUCATION WAS STOPPED IN 1904 WHEN I WAS ALMOST 8 YEARS OLD, FATHER SENT FOR US TO JOIN HIM IN AMERICA THE "GOLENE MEDINAH).

WHEN OUR FORMAL EDUCATION ENDED REGARDLESS OF AGE THE PARENTS HAD A CHOICE OF LETTING US CONTINUE OUR STUDIES AS A YESHIVA BOCHER IN THE SHUL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ELDERS AND RABBI OR APPRENTICESHIP FOR A TRADE. THE APPRENTICESHIP USUALLY LASTED FOR TWO YEARS WITH HARDLY ANY PAY AND JUST FOR KEEP. EVENTUALLY AT ABOUT THE AGE OF FOURTEEN OR FIFTEEN AND EVEN IF YOU MASTERED A TRADE THERE WERE FEW PROSPECTS OF EMPLOYMENT AND THE EVER PRESENT FEAR OF EVENTUAL CONSCRIPTION INTO THE ARMY. THE ONLY ANSWER WAS EMIGRATION TO AMERICA AT THAT TENDER AGE AND IN MOST CASES SEPARATION FROM FAMILY FOR GOOD AND NEVER SEEING THEM AGAIN.



TO BACHTRACK SOMEWHAT, LAPY WAS A TYPICAL SHTETEL, NO DOCTORS AVAILABLE AND ONLY A FELSHER OR PHARMACIST WHOSE ADVICE WAS SOUGHT IN EXTREME EMERGENCIES AND ORDINARILY REMEDIES WERE HANDED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER. THE TOWN BARBER PULLED TEETH AND IN THE CASE OF A TOOTH ACHE, COTTON SOAKED IN VODKA WAS THE PRESCRIBED MEDICINE. OF COURSE, NO NEWSPAPERS REACHED US AND LITTLE COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

ANTI-SEMITISM OF THE WORST VIRULENT TYPE WAS RAMPANT IN THE SURROUNDING GOIESHA COMMUNITY WHICH WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY POLICH. THIS WAS A RESULT OF THE FACT THE RUSSIANS JUST SUFFERED THE STUBBORN JEWS TO EXIST BUT THE PALE WAS CONSIDERED AS SUB-HUMANS AND A THREAT TO THE CONTROL BY THE RUSSIANS AND AS A RESULT THE POLES VENTED THEIR SPLEEN AND ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE AGE OLD GOAT THE DEFENSELESS JEWS.

THE MOST DANGEROUS PART OF THE YEAR FOR THE JEWS IN LAPY WAS THE EASTER AND CHRISTMAS PERIODS WHEN IT WAS NOT SAGE TO ANY JEW TO BE FOUND OUTSIDE OF HIS HOME. THE DRUNK CELEBRANTS INCLUDING ANY SOLDIERS STATIONED IN THE VICINITY AND EGGED ON BY THE CHURCH AND POLICE, GOUND GREAT SPORT IN HARASSING JEWS. ONE SIDE EFFECT OF ALL THIS WAS TO MAKE THE JEWISH COMMUNITY MORE COHESIVE.

WHEN A WEDDING TOOK PLACE NO INVITATIONS WERE NEEDED, THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY RICH OR POOR CELEBRATED THE EVENT. BY THE SAME TOKEN WHEN A DEATH OCCURED THE ENTIRE GROUP WENT INTO MOURNING.

THE SHUL, THE CHEDER AND EVEN MY AUNT LIBBY'S HOME WERE SITUATED AT THE CENTER OF THE TOWN NEAR THE PAVED SQUARE. I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PASSOVER.

THE SCHOOL TERM ENDED AND THE WHOLE TOWN PITCHED IN TO BAKE THE MATZOS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RABBI AND MAKE SUCH OTHER ITEMS AS MIGHT BE NEEDED FOR THE WEEK. AUNT LIBBY KOSHERED THE STOVE AND HOME AND WAS THE CENTER OF ALL ACTIVITIES. EVERYONE INCLUDING ALL YOUNGSTERS CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORT IN BAKING THE MATZOS AND PREPARING THE FARFEL AND FLOUR. ALLOTMENTS WERE MADE ACCORDING TO ONE'S NEED. WE LOVED TO ALLOWED TO WORK THE HUGE WOODEN PESTLE.

I ALMOST FORGOT TO MENTION THE PURIM CELEBRATION OF A MONTH BEFORE PASSOVER, THE RECITATIONS OF THE SCROLL OF ESTHER, THE HANGING OF HAMAN IN EFFIGY, THE PURIM SPIEL AND GIFTS. WHAT A PERIOD OF JOY FOR US KIDS.

TIME MARCHED ON IN A MORE OR LESS QUIET WAY AND HARDLY EFFECTED BY OUTSIDE POLITICAL OR NEWS EVENTS. WE KNEW LITTLE OR WERE HARDLY TOUCHED BY THE FERMENT TAKING PLACE IN THE LARGE CITIES AND OF THE TURN TO SOCIALISM BY THE WORKERS SUFFERING UNDER THE YOKE OF SUPPRESSION OF THE CZARS AND THEIR HENCHMEN.

MOTHER RECEIVED HER MONTHLY REMITTANCE FROM FATHER AND EVENT WAS CELEBRATED BY BUYING WHITE BREAD AND CAKE AT THE BAKERY A CHANGE FROM THE HOME BAKED BLACK BREAD. OUR DIET DID NOT INCLUDE SUCH LUXURIES AS MILK, EGGS AND SUCH FANCY ITEMS AS ORANGES THAT ONLY EXISTED IN DREAMS. WE DID HAVE PLENTY OF CABBAGE SOUP, BORSHT, KASHE, POTATOES AND ANY VEGETABLE THAT NEIGHBORING FARMERS WOULD SELL OR GIVE AWAY AND RARELY SOME MEAT.

THE ONLY PROBLEM THAT PRESENTED ITSELF WAS THE AGREEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE LETTERS TO FATHER. FATHER WROTE OUT IN YIDDISH THE NEWARK, N J ADDRESS BUT THE ONLY MAN IN TOWN WHO COULD WRITE ENGLISH AND CHARGED A FEE FOR ADDRESSING LETTERS SAID THAT FATHER WAS WRONG AND THAT NO NEWARK EXISTED ONLY NEW YORK WAS ON THE MAP. SO WITH THE LETTERS GOING ASTRAY FATHER FINALLY DECIDED TO ENCLOSE SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES.

THE YEAR 1903 BROUGHT TWO WORLD SHATTERING EVENTS FOR US. THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR AND THE TERRIBLE PROGRAMS OR MASSACRES PERPETRATED ON THE JEWS.

FATHER NEVER INTENDED TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN THE GODLESS AND NON-OBSERVANT AMERICA FOR HIS HOPE HAD ALWAYS BEEN TO RAISE HIS TWO SONS AS STRICT FOLLOWERS OF ORTHODOX JUDAISM AND THAT COULD ONLY BE PRACTICED IN THE GHETTOS OF EUROPE.

WITH THE OUT-BREAK OF THE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND JAPAN FATHER BEING IN THE ACTIVE RESERVE WAS IMMEDIATELY CALLED UP FOR ACTIVE DUTY. BEING IN AMERICA HE DID NOT ANSWER THE CALL TO ARMS AND WAS THEREFORE SUBJECT UPON APPREHENSION TO BE SHOT AS A TRAITOR. THIS SITUATION THEREFORE FORCLOSED ANY THOUGHT OF FATHER EVER RETURNING TO RUSSIA ( A HEAVEN SENT GIFT).

THE SECOND TERRIBLE EVENT WAS THE MURDEROUS PROGRAM, THE FORERUNNER OF MANY OTHERS IN KIEV, THE CITY WHERE GOLDA MEIR WAS BORN WHICH EVENT SHE SO ABLY DESCRIBES WHEN SHE WAS 5 YEARS OLD.

THE NEWS OF THE PROGRAM REACHED US IN LADY BY WAY OF A TRAVELING PREACHER. THE RABBI SUMMONED THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO SHUL. THE HOLY ARK WAS OPENED AND PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD WERE RECITED. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS SHAKEN TO ITS ROOTS FOR WE ALL KNEW THAT PRAYERS WERE NO GUARANTEE FOR OUR SAFETY.

NEWS REACHED US OF PROGRAMS TAKING PLACE IN OTHER PARTS OF RUSSIA AND POLAND AND IN OUR LITTLE TOWN OUR POLISH NEIGHBORS WARNED US TO EXPECT SIMILAR TREATMENT. MOTHER QUICKLY HID OUR FEW BELONGINGS IN THE COCK-LOFT AND LEFT FOR THE NEAREST LARGE CITY OF SAKOLA WHERE WE HAD SOME CLOSE RELATIVES OF FATHERS. WE STAYED THERE UNTIL THINGS SETTLED DOWN AND BECAME NORMAL.

IN NEARBY BIALYSTOK, A LARGE TEXTILE CENTER WITH A LARGE WORKER'S ELEMENT, THE YOUNG JEWS DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. THEY ORGANIZED THEMSELVES, WENT TO THE WOODS ON THE SABBATH, PRACTICED THE USE OF ARMS. LACKING ARMS USED BROOM-HANDLES AND WOODEN CLUBS. THEY WERE EXCOMMUNICATED FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN BREAKING THE SABBATH BUT WHEN THE PROGRAM FINALLY TOOK PLACE, THEY GAVE FAR MORE THAN THEY RECEIVED. AS A RESULT OF THESE EVENTS FATHER HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND FOR US AND TO IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE FOR OUR PASSAGE.

THE USUAL MEANS OF LEAVING RUSSIA WAS BY A SMUGGLER WHO WOULD SNEAK YOU ACROSS THE BORDER INTO GERMANY FOR A FEE. AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED. GERMANY PERMITTED THIS PASSING THROUGH BECAUSE IT MEANT BUSINESS FOR ITS SHIPPING LINES.

MOTHER SAID THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WOULD SHE TRUST A SMUGGLER AND WORK WAS STARTED BY RELATIVES TO OBTAIN THE PROPER PASSPORTS BY PAYING THE OFFICIALS IN CHARGE. FINALLY AFTER WEEKS OF MANIPULATION WE WERE INFORMED THAT PROPER PASSPORTS WOULD BE ISSUED BUT ONLY ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL TREATMENT IN GERMANY. THIS RESTRICTION WAS FOR SHOW ONLY AND PERMANENT PERMISSION DENIED BECAUSE OF TWO FUTURE CANDIDATES FOR THE ARMY.

MOTHER NOW WROTE FATHER THAT WE WOULD BE LEAVING ON A CERTAIN SHIP AND NOT TO EXPECT ANY FURTHER MAIL. THEN BAD FORTUNE AND ANOTHER DELAY IN THE ISSUING OF THE PASSPORT WHEN FURTHER PAYMENTS CLEARED UP. THIS DELAY TURNED OUT TO BE THE GREATEST GIFT OF LIFE AS WILL BE SEEN LATER.

PREVIOUS TO THE LAST DELAY WE SPENT A WEEK IN BIALYSTOK, STAYING WITH SOME SARASOHNS AND GETTING MEDICAL CHECK-UPS.

THE U. S. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES WERE VERY STRICT IN EXAMINING ALL IMMIGRANTS FOR TRACHOMA OF THE EYES OR ANY OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

FINALLY THE GOOD NEWS THAT THE PASSPORTS WERE READY. WE WERE THE ENVY OF THE WHOLE TOWN AND WERE LOADED DOWN WITH ADDRESSES OF RELATIVE OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE IN THE U. S. AND HAD TO PROMISE TO BE SURE TO PASS ON PERSONAL REGARDS. AS FAR AS THE LANDSLEIT WERE CONCERNED NEW YORK WAS THE WHOLE UNITED STATES AND THE RELATIVES IN TEXAS WERE ONLY NEXT DOOR TO NEW YORK CITY.

WE WENT TO A NEARBY VILLAGE WHERE WE SAID GOODBYE TO GRANDFATHER FLEISHER, OF COURSE, ALL GOODBYES WERE FOREVER AND FINAL. SAYING GOODBYE TO AUNT LIBBY, UNCLE AND COUSINS AND NEIGHBORS WAS NOT AN EASY MATTER.

MOTHER PACKED OUR FEW BELONGINGS, PRIMARILY THE FEATHER BEDS, THE SAMOVAR, COPPERWARE, CANDLESTICKS AND SOME BOOKS. MOTHER TOLD SAM THAT NOW HE WAS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY OR LEADER AND TO BE IN FULL CHARGE. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TRIP HE PERFORMED ABLY AND TOOK CARE OF US IN A MANNER THAT NO GROWN-UP COULD HAVE BETTERED.

THE FIRST LAP OF THE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES CONSISTED OF A 24 HOUR RAILROAD RIDE TO LIBAU IN LATVIA WHICH IS A SEAPORT ON THE BALTIC SEA. OUR ACCOMADTIONS ON THE TRAIN WERE FAR FROM FIRST CLASS. WE CARRIED OUR OWN FOOD, MAINLY BLACK BREAD AND HERRING AND OF COURSE THE TIN TEAKETTLE WITHOUT WHICH NO RUSSIAN TRAVLER COULD VENTURE TO GO ABROAD. AT EVERY TRAIN STOP OF ANY LENGTH, SAM WOULD RUSH TO THE ENGINE AND HAVE THE ENGINEER FILL THE KETTLE WITH HOT WATER SO THAT WE COULD WASH DOWN OUR MEAL WITH GOOD HOT TEA.

IN LIBOU WE ERE QUARTERED AT A HOTEL, THAT WAS INCLUDED IN OUR FARE, FOR AN OVERNIGHT STAY TO WAIT FOR A SMALL BOAT TO TAKE US TO COPENHAGEN.

THE TRIP TO COPENHAGEN OR THE SECOND LAP OF OUR JOURNEY WHERE WE WOULD BOARD THE LARGE STEAMER OF THE RUSSO-AMERICAN LINE TO BE TAKEN TO NEW YORK, LASTED TWO DAYS. WE WERE ALMOST SCARED INTO RETURNING TO LAPY WHEN ON THE MORNING AFTER OUR ARRIVAL IN LIBOU A CROUP OF JEWS CHECKED IN AT THE HOTEL WITH THE STORY THAT THEY WERE DENIED PERMISSION TO SAIL AT COPENHAGEN FOR PHYSICAL REASONS AND WERE WARNED TO EXPECT THE SAME TREATMENT. THE SHIP LINES WERE OBLIGATED TO RETURN FREEE OF CHARGE ANY IMMIGRANT WHO WAS DENIED ENTRY BECAUSE OF MEDICAL RESONS. FINALLY AND WITH MUCH TREPIDATION MOTHER DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE JOURNEY.

WE ARRIVED IN COPNEHAGEN AND STAYED ABOARD SHIP FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS WAITING FOR OCEAN GOING LINER TO TAKE US ACROSS THE BIG POND. THE DOCK OR QUAY WAS LARGE, CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL. THE DAY AFTER OUR ARRIVAL A COMMITTEE FROM THE COPENHAGEN JEWISH COMMUNITY TALLK ALL THE CHILDREN FOR A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF THE CITY AND PROVIDED US WITH ENTERTAINMENT, REFRESHMENTS AND TREATS OF FRUIT AND CANDY.

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS WE WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE OCEAN LINER AND THE THIRD OR FINAL LEG OF OUR TRIP BEGAN. WE TRAVELED STEERAGE, LOCATED IN THE HOLD OF THE SHIP AND CONSISTED OF ONE VERY LARGE OPEN ROOM WITH ACCOMODATIONS FOR ABOUT 200 PEOPLE.

THE ACCOMODATIONS CONSISTED OF IRON TRIPLE DECKER COTS LINING THE SIDES OF THE ROOM, NO GURTAINS SEPARATING THE UNITS AND OPEN SPACE IN THE CENTER FOR A LARGE TABLE WHERE LARGE BOWLS CONTAINING MOUNDS OF POTATOS AND OTHER SLOPS AND BREAD AND UTENSILS WERE DUMPED.

WE HAD TO SERVE OURSELVES AND IF YOU WERENT ADELPT AT PUSHING OR ELBOWING YOUR WAY THROUGH YOU JUST WENT WITHOUT. SAM SOMEHOW MANAGED THAT IDA AND I DIDN'T GO HUNGRY. MANY OF THE OLDER PEOPLE DID NOT EAT THE FOOD THAT WAS SUPPLIED BECAUSE IT WAS NOT KOSHER.

MOTHER WAS CONFINED TO BED FOR MOST OF THE TRIP WITH SEA-SICKNESS AND WHEN HER STOMACH PERMITTED SHE EXISTED MAINLY ON BREAD AND TEA. FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON THE THREE OF US GROWN-UP YOUNGSTERS SHOWED NO SIGNS OF SEA-SICKNESS AND RATHER ENJOYED THE TRIP.

THERE WERE SEVERAL STAIRWAYS LEADING FROM STEERAGE OR THE NETHER REGIONS TO THE UPPER DECKS AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WERE WE PERMITTED TO THE FIRST AND SECOND CLASS DECKS. OCCASIONALLY THE UPPER CLASS PASSENGERS LEANING OVER THEIR RAILINGS WOULD SPORT THEMSELVES BY THROWING FRUIT OR CAND DOWN AND WATCH US SCRAMBLE FOR SAME.

IN GENERAL THE TRIP WHICH TOOK ABOUT TWO WIIDS WAS QUITE UNEVENTFUL EXCEPT THAT ONE POINT THE SHIP SLOWED DOWN AND PRAYERS WERE OFFERED FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES WHEN THE SHIP AND LL PASSENGERS AHEAD OF OURS SANK AT ABOUT THIS LOCATION.

LATER WHEN WE ARRIVED IN THE U. S. WE LEARNED THAT THE SHIP THAT SANK WAS THE ONE WE WERE SCHEDULED TO SAIL ON. SINCE MOTHER NEVER INFORMED FATHER OF THE DELAY IN SAILING HE JUST ASSUMED THAT WE WERE ABOARD THE FATAL SHIP. FOR SEVERAL DAYS HE SPENT A 24 HOUR VIGIL AT THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE LINE TO SEARCH THE PASSENER LIST OF THE SHIP THAT SANK AND ALMOST LOST HIS MIND WHILE WAITING. FINALLY THE GOOD NEWS THAT FOR SOME REASON WE WERE NOT ABOARD. SOMEWHERE THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A GUIDING SPIRIT THAT OUR TIME WAS NOT UP, IF IT WERE NOT THE DELAYS IN ISSUING THE PASSPORTS I WOULD NOT BE WRITING THIS MEMOIR.

FINALLY THE GREAT BAEAUTIFUL DAY ARRIVED WHEN OUR SHIP SHIP ENTERED NEW YORK HARBOR AND WE DOCKED. I DONT REMEMBER AT WHICH RIVER OR PIER WE TIED-UP BUT I DO RECALL BEING TRANSFERRED TO A FERRY THAT TOOK US TO EELIS ISLAND THE GATEWAY TO AMERICA FOR PROCESSING. THAT DAY ALSO STANDS OUT IN MY MIND THAT BECAUSE OF THE ARRIVAL IN U.S. WATERS THE SHIPS MASTER CELEBRATED THE EVENT BY SERVINC US HARD-BOILED EGGS AND HOT ROLLS FOR BEAKFAST. THE RECEIVING ROOM AT THE RECEPTION CENTER WAS EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE WITH MANY EXAMINING ROOMS, OFFICES AND HOLDING ROOMS FOR IMMIGRANTS.

SINCE OUR SHIP WAS THE THIRD OR LAST ONE TO ARRIVE THAT DAY WE WERE TOLD THAT OUR TURN FOR PROCESSING COULD NOT BE REACHED THAT DAY, THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO SLEEP OVER AT UNCLE SAM'S EXPENSE AND BE PROCESSED AND RELEASED THE FOLLOWING DAY. FATHER AND AND HIS SISTER AUNT LENA WHO HAD BEEN ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR US THE WHOLE LONG DAY FINALLY PREVAILED ON THE AUTHORITIES TO TAKE US OUT OF TURNFOR INTERVIEWS AND PRO-CESSING. IT WAS EVENING WHEN WE WERE DELIVERED TO FATHER AND AUNT LENA.



I WELL REMEMBER THE RIDE ACROSS THE BAY TO JERSEY CITY AND THE LONG RIDE BY ELECTRIC TROLLEY TO NEWARK. THE THRILL OF SEEING ALL THOSE ELECTRIC LIGHTS TURNING NIGHT INTO DAYLIGHT IS SOMETHING THAT I COULD NEVER FORGET. ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL WELL PAVED STREETS, TALL BUILDINGS AND GRAND SHOPS TRULY THIS MUST BE THE LOND OF GOLD.

THE FIRST THING THAT AUNT LENA DID WHEN WE ARRIVE AT HER FLAT WAS TO GIVE US A GOOD SOAP AND HOT WATER SCRUBBING BY WAY OF THE KITCHEN SLATE WASH TUBS. WE WERE FED GIVEN SOME NIGHT CLOTHES AND BUNDLED OFF TO BED WITH HEAVENLY DREAMS. AUND LENA WAS CHILDLESS AND WE LIKE ALL HE NEPHEWS AND NIECES WERE IMMEDIATLEY ADOPTED AS HER OWN CHILDREN. AUNT LENA'S HUSBAND UNCLE MOISHE RABINOWITZ, A PAINTER BY TRADE, HOVERING IN THE BACKGROUND AND ALTHOUGH STERN IN APPEARANCE, DID HIS BEST TO LIVEN THINGS UP FOR THE NEWLY ARRIVED GREENHORNS.

AUNT LENA RENTED A FLAT FOR US IN A FOUR STORY EIGHT FAMILY FRAME BUILDING TWO DOORS FROM WHERE SHE LIVED ON BRUCE ST. THIS WAS A GOOD ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE SHE COULD THEN KEEP A 24 HOUR WATH ON US AND INITITATE THE NEW GREENHORNS HOW TO LIVE IN A CIVILIZED AMERICA.

THE FLATS WERE FIVE ROOMS RAILROAD TYPE OF THE USUAL PLAN WITH THE BACK ROOM THE KITCHEN OR FAMILY ALL PURPOSE ROOM, THE FRON ROOM AND SAMLL HALL BEDROOM HAVING DIRECT LIGHT TO THE OUTSIDE. ON THE BACK PORCH THERE WAS A MALL TOILET ROOM COMMON TO BOTH FLATS ON THEFLOOR AND AN OVERHEAD FLUSH TANK WHICH FROZE SOLID IN THE COLD WEATHER.

THE LIGHTING WAS BY GAS FIXTURES WITH THE WELLSBACH MANTLES, CELING MOUNTED IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM. THERE WAS NO CENTRAL HEATING EACH FLAT HAVING A BLACK CAST IRON STOVE IN THE KITCHEN FOR COOKING AND HEATING AND A GAS CONNECTION FOR A TWO BURNER TABLE TOP GAS RANGE TO BE SUPPLIED BY THE TENANT.

WE WERE PARTICULARLY WANRD THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WERE WE TO BLOW OUT AND PILOT LIGHT OR THE LIGHTING FIXTURES IN ORDER TO EXTINGUISH SAME BECAUSE THE ESCAPING GAS MEANT SURE DEATH. SAM WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF MAINTENANCE OF THE GAS APPLIANES. THERE WERE LOTS AND LOTS OF THINGS THAT WE HAD TO LEARN IN ORDER TO ADJUST TO THIS NEW AND MOVERN WAY OF LIFE.

WE HAD ARRIVED AT THE END OF AUGUST 1904, JUST A FEW WEEKS BEFORE ROSH HASHONAH AND ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT FATHER HAD TO DO WAS TO BUY US NEW CLOTHES FROM INSIDE OUT AND FROM HEAD TO TOE. THE CLOTHES WE CAME WITH IMMEDIATELY LABELED US NEW GREENHORNS FROM THE SHTETEL AND THAT WAS UNTHINKABLE.

ON ARRIVEING IN THIS COUNTRY FATHER BECAME THE FIRST HEBREW TEACHER IN NEWARK AND DID QUITE WELL SINCE THE ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY WAS GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS AND THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY THAT RELIGIOUS TEACHING COULD BE PROVIDED. WHILE THE STUDENT FEES WERE SMALL SO WAS THE COST OF LIVING. FOR EXAMPLE RENT WAS ONLY NINE DOLLARS A MONTH, ROLLS WERE TEN CENTS A BAKERS DOZEN AND MOTHER WITH A DOLLAR AND A HALF IN HER POCKET COULD GO SHOPPING ON THURSDAY EVENING AND BUY A CHICKEN, FISH AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS FOR THE SABBATH MEAL.

WE LIVED AT THE BRUCE ST ADDRES ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AND THEN MOVED TO BOYD ST ABOUT EIGHT BLOCKS FROM AUNT LENA'S FLAT. FATHER WAS A STRICT OBSEVANT JEW BUT HIS OLDER BROTHER AND SISTERS ALTHOUGH OBSERVING THE DIETERY LAWS DID NOT FOLLOW ALL OF THE RELIGIOUS DICTATES AND WERE SCIALIST IN THEIR POLITICS. ALTHOUGH MILES APART IN THEIR APPROACH TO LIFE THEY AND FATHER RESPECTED EACH OTHERS WAYS AND IN NO WAY CHANGED THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS. FATHER WAS AFRAID OF OUR BEING CONTAMINATED AND SO THE CHANGE IN RESIDENCE.

BOYD ST WAS A STREET ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS LONG, PAVED WITH PAINTED COBBLESTONES. WE CERTAINLY NEEDED NO ALARM CLOCKS TO WAKE US MORNINGS. THE VARIOUS DELIVERY WAGONS WITH THEIR IRON RIMMED WHEELS DID THE JOB QUITE WELL.

BOYD ST AND THE SURROUNDING STREETS WERE IN THE THIRD WARD, ONE OF THE OLDEST SECTIONS OF THE CITY WHICH HAD BEEN OCCUPIED PRIMARILY BY PEOPLE OF GERMAN BACKGROUND AND IRISH CATHOLICS AND NOW BECOMING THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE.

NEWARK LOCATED ON THE PASSAIC RIVER ACROSS THE BAY FROM NEW YORK CITY WAS SETTLED IN 1666 BY A BAND HEADED BY ROBERT TREAT ORIGINATING IN RHODE ISLAND SEEKING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. THE PURITANS IN RHODE ISLAND, AS IN OTHER PARTS OF NEW ENGLAND, BELIEVED IN RELIGIOUS ONLY FOR THEMSELVES.

NEWARK AT THAT TIME COVERED WHAT IS NOW ALL OF ESSEX COUNTY AND FROM WHICH EVENTUALLY ABOUT FIFTEEN CITIES WERE CARVED AND BECAME A MECCA FOR THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION THAT STARTED AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THE MAIN ATTRACTION BEING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ALSO THE SIGHT OF AN OCCASIONAL TREE OR A POT OF GRASS.

MOST OF THE U.S. WAS WASP TERRITORY UNTIL THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION OF 1850'S IN EUROPE AND THE POTATO FAMINE IN IRELAND. WHEN THE NEWS OF THE GOLD DISCOVERY IN CALIFORNIA IN 1848 BROKE, THAT WAS THE FINAL DRAWING CARD, THE AMERICAN SLEEPING GIANT AWOKE AND THE TIDE OF IMMIGRATION STARTED.

NEWARK BECAUSE OF ITS GOOD WATER SUPPLY EVENTUALLY BECAME SECOND TO MILWAUKEE IN THE BREWING OF BEER, WHICH INDUSTRY WAS EXCLUSIVELY IN THE HANDS OF THEIR GERMANS. AS A RESULT OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF ETHNIC GERMAN IN ESSEX COUNTY AND IN NEWARK THEY BECAME A POLITICAL FORCE ELECTING A GERMAN, JAKE HAUSLING AS MAYOR OF NEWARK.

SCHOOL TIME NOW ARRIVED AND WE REGISTERED AT EIGHTEENTH AVE SCHOOL. WE DID NOT KNOW A WORD OF ENGLISH AND FATHER TOLD US TO GIVE OUR HEBREW FIRST NAMES WHEN REGISTERING, BUT OUR AUNT KNEW BETTER AND PINNED THE NAMES OF SAM, LOUIS AND IDA TO OUR SHIRTS ALTHOUGH STRICTLY SPEAKING THEY ARE NOT A TRUE INTERPRETATION OF OUR GIVEN NAMES.

THE THREE OF US REGARDLESS OF OUR AGES WERE PUT IN CLASS ONE B THE FIRST CLASS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. FATHER PROVIDED US WITH TUTORS IN ORDER TO CATCH UP WITH OUR AGE GROUP. THE TUTORS WERE BY A BARTER ARRANGEMENT AND IN RETURN FOR FATHER'S TEACHING OF HEBREW AND WE LEARNED FAST.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD STILL CONTAINED A SPRINKLING OF GERMANS AND IRISH AND FIRST WORDS THAT WE LEARNED IN THE NEW LAND WERE S.O.B, SHEENEE AND CHRIST KILLER, BEFORE WE EVEN KNEW WHAT THEY MEANT. WE HAD TO ASK FOR PROTECTION BECAUSE OF PHYSICAL HARASSMENT. ANTI-SEMITISM FOLLOWED US TO AMERICA ALTHOUGH NOT IN THE SAME VIRULENT MANNER THAT WE HAD EXPERIENCED IN POLAND. THE YUDEN-HATE OF THE GERMANS AND THE INCITEMENT TO HATRED BY THE PRIESTS FOR THE SIN OF HAVING GIVEN BIRTH TO THE JEW KNOWN AS JESUS WAS ACTIVE.

ALMOST FROM THE TIME THAT WE LANDED IN THE U.S. SAME STARTED TO COMPLAIN OF SEVERE HEADACHES. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR HIM MY AUNT TOOK HIM TO ROOSEVELT AND GOUVERNEUR HOSPITAL CLINICS IN NEW YORK CITY. THEY WERE UNABLE TO DISCOVER THE REASONS FOR HIS HEADACHES AND ADVISED THAT HE GET PLENTY OF REST AND FRESH AIR. FINALLY IN ESPERATION FATHER DECIDED TO ENLIST THE HELP OF OUR BRISKER KUV COTOR. AFTER EXAMINING SAME, DR PRICE FOUND THAT SAM WAS FAR SIGHTED AND THAT THE ONLY CURE WAS FOR THE RECURRING HEADACHES WOULD BE THE WEARING OF PROPER GLASSES. THAT CURED SAM'S HEADACHES.

THE FIRST TERM WAS SOON OVER AND NO FURTHER NEED FOR TUTORING. BOTH SAM & I DID WELL BUT IDA FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON REFUSED TO COOPERATE AND THE TEACHER SAID THAT IDA WAS BEING PROMOTED ONLY BECAUSE OF THE FEAR OF THE HARMFUL EFFECT OF MAKING IDA REPEAT THE CLASS AND SEPARATION FROM US.

OUR PROGRESS AT SCHOOL WAS GOOD WITH IDA FINALLY GETTING A CHANGE OF MIND. THE CONTINUAL DAILY LECTURES AND REMINDERS BY FATHER OF WHAT A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY WE HAD FOR A GOOD EDUCATION, SOMETHING RUSSIA WOULD NEVER HAVE GIVEN US ALSO HELPED. THIS HOME MOTIVATION UNFORTUNATELY IS LACKING IN A GOOD MANY HOMES OF TODAY. A FRIEND OF MINE AN ATTORNEY SAID IT WAS A MONTH OF BREAD AND WATER IF YOU BROUGHT HOME A POOR REPORT CARD.

IT WAS HARDLY STRANGE THAT OUT OF THE CLOSELY PACKED GHETTO CAME A DR H H KESSLER A WORLD REKNOWN OTHOPEdic SURGEON AND WHO A GREATFUL COMMUNITY BUILT A WONDERFUL SANITORIUM. HIS FOLKS RAN A GROCERY STORE ACROSS THE STREET FROM US AND AT THE OTHER END OF THE BLOCK THE FLAX FAMILY WITH THREE SONS ALL DOCTORS. THERE WERE MANY OTHEER PROFESSIONALS AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS MEN REARED IN THIS AREA IN SPITE OF MANY HARDSHIPS. I CAN NEVER FORGET THE STATEMENT MADE TO ME BY ONE OF THE TEACHERS THAT SHE WAITED LONG FOR A TRANSFER TO EIGHTEENTH AVE SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE MOTIVATION AND THE GREAT WILLINGNESS OF THE STUDENTS TO LEARN. THE EIGHTEENTH AVE SCHOOL WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST, PROBABLY BUILT AROUND 1860. THOSE TEACHER I CALLED DEDICATED AND INCIDENTALLY THERE WASN'T ONE JEWISH TEACHER IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL.

AFTER ABOUT A YEAR OF THE PARENTS PINCHING PENNIES THEY SAVED ENOUGH TO SATISFY THEIR DREAM AND PUT A DOWN PAYMENT FOR A HOUSE THEY COULD CALL THEIR OWN. THE HOUSE WAS LOCATED ON LIVINGSTON STREET, JUST A STONES THROW FROM THE FOURTH PRECINCT POLICE STATION. MINNIE WAS BORN HERE ON ELECTION DAY IN 1905. THE GREENBERG ESTATE CONSISTED OF A FRAME TWO STORY TWO FAMILY DWELLING AT THE FRONT OF THE LOT AND A TWO STORY FRAME THREE FAMILY DWELLING AT THE REAR OF THE LOT AND IN BETWEEN THE TWO DWELLINGS THREE SMALL FRAM STORAGE CLOSETS. THE TOTAL COST OF THIS REAL ESTATE WAS THIRTY FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

FATHER ALTHOUGH A BORN TEACHER WAS GETTING MORE BORED EVERY DAY WITH THE CHORE OF TRYING TO ROUSE A INTEREST IN HIS STUDENTS IN HEBREW, THE TORAH, ETC. THE STUDENTS WERE NOT INTERESTED AND ONLY ATTENDED AFTER REGULAR SCHOOL CASSES BECAUSE OF PARENTAL PRESSURE AND ALSO KNEW THAT SUCH ATTENDANCE WOULD END WITH THEIR BAR-MITZVAH.

FATHER WAS SO SINCERE IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET HIS MESSAGE ACCROSS THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS I HEARD HIM TELL SOME OF HIS TUDENTS THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THEIR WEEKLY PAYMENT OF FIFTY OR SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS BECAUSE HE WAS NOT SUCCESFUL IN TEACHING THEM ANYTHING THAT WEEK. AS A RESULT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF ARGUMENT BETWEEN FATHER AND MOTHER AS TO WHAT WOULD BE USED TO BUY GROCERIES WITHOUT COLLECTING FEES.

FATHER FINALLY DROPPED TACHING AND WENT INTO THE BUSIESS OF INSTALLMENT SELLING, A FIELD IN WHICH HE COULD MAKE OUT BECAUSE OF HIS LARGE FOLLOWING. IN A SOCIETY WHERE BUSINESS IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE BUYER BEWARE, FATHER WITH HIS DAILY LIFE BASED ON RELIGIOUS PRINCPLS PROCEEDING OTHERWISE, HIS NOT BECOMING A BIG SUCCESS WAS FOREDOOMED.

OUR HOME WAS TRULY OPEN HOUSE FOR IT WAS THE FIRST STOP FOR ANY NEWCOMER TO AMERICA BE HE FAMILY OR JUST A PLAIN LANDSMAN. HE WAS FREE TO STAY AND BE FED UNTIL A JOB COULD BE OBTAINED AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR PERMANENT ROOM AND BOARD. ETHEL KORICHINSKY, LATER MARRIED SAM FISCHER AND FOLLOWED BY HER BROTHER ISAAC, NIECE AND NEPHEW OF MOTHER BECAME MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY. ETHEL IN PARTICULAR UNTIL HER MARRIAGE LIVED WITH US AND HOW ER MANGED IN SUCH A SMALL FLAT I'LL NEVER KNOW. WE ALSO HAD ANOTHER KIND OF GUEST. FATHER WAS THE LAST TO LEAVE FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES AT SHUL AND FOLLOWING THE ADMONITION TO PROVIDE FOR TRAVELING OR HOMELESS JEWS WHO HAD NO ACCOMODATIONS WOULD INSTALL THEM WE WEEK-END GUEST IN OUR HOME. IT WAS A HARDSHIP ON MOTHER BECAUSE SHE NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH WATER TO ADD TO THE CHICKEN SOUP OR HOW TO APPORTION THE GEFILTE FISH. SOMETIMES SUCH A GUEST WOULD REPAY OUR HOSPITALITY BY WALKING OFF WITH ANY CASH OR JEWELRY BE COULD LAY HIS HANDS ON, IN SPITE OF ANY INCONVENIENCE FATHER NEVER CHARGED.

MY SCHOOL WORK WAS NO PROBLEM BUT THE CONTINUATION OF MY HEBRAIC STUDIES WAS A PROBLEM FOR FATHER AND HE FINALLY MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH A WELL KNOWN TALMUDIC SCHOLAR FOR ME TO JOIN A CLASS FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS. IT DID NOT WORK OUT BECAUSE ON THE ONE HAND I WAS GREATLY INTRIGUES IN SCHOOL WITH A GREAT NEW WORLD OF SCIENCE, HISTORY, LITERATURE, ETC., ALL IN MODERN ENGLISH AND ON THE OTHER HAND I WAS ASKED TO OCCUPY MY MIND WITH WHAT SEEMED A DEAD LANGUAGE AND A WORLD THAT WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE PAST. MY TALMUDIC STUDIES WITH AN OUTSIDER ENDED AND A NEW ARRANGEMENT MADE, I WAS AWAKENED AT SIX IN THE MORNING EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY, SPENT AN HOUR WITH FATHER OVERSEEING STUDYING THE TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK AND OTHER SUBJECTS. AFTER STUDY RECITING THE PRAYERS, BREAKFAST AND OFF TO PUBLIC SCHOOL. SAM WAS RELEASED FROM STUDIES AND STRICT SCHEDULE BECAUSE OF THE DOCTORS PRESCRIPTION OF PLENTY OF RESH AIR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AS A REMEDY FOR HIS HEADACHES. ACCORDING TO MY PARENTS VIEWS EVERY WAKING MOMENT HAD TO BE USED FOR SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS STUDY OR ANY CHORES, LEAVING NO TIME FOR SUCH UNNECESSARY SINS AS PLAY.

AT THIS TIME I WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN AMERICAN HISTORY AND SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT THE WELL STOCKED NEIGHBORHOOD FREE LIBRARY. HISTORICAL NOVELS REALLY FIRED MY IMAGINATION. LIKE MOST BOYS OF THAT TIME, SAME AND I WENT ALL OUT FOR PAPER BACKS OF HORATIO ALGER, FRANK AND DICK MERRIWEL AT YALE AND NICK CARTER DETECTIVE STORIES. THE LATTER WERE ALSO KNOWN AS DIME NOVELS AND WERE FROWNED UPON BY OUR PARENTS BECAUSE THEY WERE NO TEXT BOOKS OR ADDED NOTHING TO OUR KNOWLEDGE AND AS A RESULT WE COULD ONLY READ THEM ON THE SLY. SAM DID A GOOD DEAL OF TRADING AND EXCHANGING WITH THESE PAPERBACKS AND ENDED UP WITH A WHOPPING ACCUMULATION OF SAME HIDDEN IN A STORAGE BUILDING. FINALLY ONE DAY SAM HIRED A PUSH CART FOR TEN CENTS, PILED ALL THE BOOKS ON THE CART AND WE WHEELED THE PUSH CARRT WITH A MOUNTAIN OF BOOKS DOWN MARKET ST, THE MAIN DRAG, TO A BOOKSTORE AND ALD THE ENTIRE LOT. THE TWO OF US PUSHING THE CART WITH BOOKS MUST HAVE BEEN A SIGHT FOR THE LOCAL CITIZENRY.



IN SPITE OF THE STRICT REGIMEN AND BASIC WAY OF LIFE THAT WAS MAINTAINED WE STILL HAD SOME TIME FOR PERIODS OF JOY AND GLADNESS. HOW CAN I EVER FORGET THE SMELLS OF THE SABBATH GOOD BEING PREPARED OR THE PURIFICATION OF THE BODY TO GREET THE SABBATH. AS A RULE ON FRIDAY WHEN SCHOOL WAS OVER WE HAD TO BATHE, PUT OUT OUR SHABBOS CLOTHES AND PASS INSPECTION BY OUR FATHER THAT HANDS AND NAILS WERE CLEAN, SHOES SHINED AND THE REST OF US IN ORDER. LATE AFTERNOON WE LEFT FOR SHUL AND EVENING SERVICES TO USHER IN THE SABBATH AND THEN HOME FOR KIDDUSH AND A LEISURELY MEAL WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS. WE DIVESTED OURSELVES OF ALL THOUGHT OF WEEKLY CARES. AFTER RECITING THE MEAL END BLESSING A FEELING OF ALMOST DIVINE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND REST DESCENDED UPON US AND IT WAS AGAIN TIME FOR REJUVINATION OF MIND AND BODY. I MISS THIS SPIRITUAL FEELING MORE THAN ANYTHING IN LIFE. THIS WEEKLY SHUCKING OF ALL CARES AND PROBLEMS IS WHAT GAVE THE BELIEVING JEW THE STRENGTH TO CARRY ON.

WE WERE ABLE TO SNEAK IN PERIODS OF PLAY SUCH AS ROLLER SKATING, VOLLEY BALL AT A JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ACROSS THE STREET, SLEDDING IN THE WINTER ON HOME MADE BOX SLEDS. MONTHS OF SPARE TIME SPENT IN THE GATHERING OF WOOD CRATES AND BOXES FOR THE ELECTION NIGHT BONFIRE. OUR BIGGEST THRILL CAME FROM HARASSING THE POLICEMEN AT THE NEARBY PRECINCT STATION. WE USED TO HANG AROUND THE STATION, NEWW ALL THE POLICEMEN, RAN ERRANDS FOR THEM AND WERE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT GOOD CITIZENS THAT IS UNTIL NIGHT CAME.

ONE OF OUR FAVORITE TRICKS WAS TO TAKE A LARGE HEADED STEEL NAIL, RUN A RUBBER WASHER OVER THE NAIL SO THAT BY THE SUCTION OF THE WASHER WHEN ATTACHED TO THE GLASS FRAME OF A WINDOW AND PULLING ON THE NAIL WE COULD SET UP A TERRIFIC RATTLING. BY ATTACHING A LONG CORD TO THE NAIL, RUN THE CORD OVER THE TELEPHONE WIRE AND HIDING IN AN ALLEY WE COULD PULL ON THE NAIL AND SO OPERATE THE CONTRAPTION. THIS INFERNAL MACHINE USUALLY ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE WINDOWS IN THE RESERVE ROOM WHERE THE POLICEMEN WERE AT THEIR ETERNAL GAMES OF CARDS. BY CHANGING THE LOCATION OF OUR CONTROL WE KEPT THE POLICEMEN BUSY TRYING TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THE OPERATION.

WE HAD ANOTHER TRICK TO PLAY ON THE POLICE. IN THOSE DAYS THE POLICEMEN WERE DRESSED JUST LIKE THE OLD TIME MOVIES "KEYSTONE COPS" WITH GRAY BOWLER HATS AND THREE QUARTER LENGTH BLUE COATS. THE NIGHT SHIPT WOULD LEAVE THE PRECINCT A QUARTER TO NINE ON THE DOT, MARCHING FOUR ABREAST TO THEIR ASSIGNED POSTS. ALL WE DID WAS TO STRETCH A ROPE FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET AND AS THE POLICE APPROACHED WE PULLED THE ROPE GIGHT AT BOUT KNEE LEVEL AND IN THE DARK THEY NEVER SAW THE TOPE AND DOWN THEY WENT. WE DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AND TRY AS HARD AS THEY WOULD ALL THEY COULD FIND WAS THE SLEEPING ANGELS. WHAT FUN.

AS FAR BACK AS I COULD REMEMBER I ALWAYS LIKE TO DRAE OR COPY ANTHING THAT STRUCK MY FANCY, BUT OF LATE I SKETCHED ONLY BUILDINGS WHOSE APPEARANCE FASCINATED ME. THE SCHOOL BUILDING WHERE I WAS A PUPUL WAS THREE STRIES HIGH, BRICK AND BUILT LIKE AN OLD ENGLISH CASTLE WITH A CENTRAL TOWER AND MAIN ENTRANCE DOOR NEEDING ONLY TO DROP THE PLATFORM SO THAT THE KNIGHTS IN ARMOR COULD CROSS THE MOAT FOR PROPER ENTRY. AFTER SOME COAXING MOTHER FINALLY OBTAINED SOME GRAY WHITE WRAPPING PAPER FROM OUR GROCER AND WITH A TWELVE INCH RULER I SET TO WORK PREPARING A DRAWING OF THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE DRAWING I PRESENTED MY MASTERPIECE TO THE PRINCIPAL. HE SUGGESTED THAT I TAKE UP DRAWING IN EARNEST

THE PRINCIPAL TOLD ME ABOUT THE NEWARK DRAWING SCHOOL WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY THE CITY AND FREE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY. I COULD ATTEND THE ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT AT NIGHT AND KEEP UP WITH MY REGULAR SCHOOL WORK DAILY. THE FLY IN THE OINTMENT WAS THAT I HAD TO BE AT LEAST SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND I WAS HARLY FOURTEEN. THE COUSE WAS OF FIVE YERS DURATION AND WAS INTENDED FOR PERSONS WORKING DAYTIME IN BUILDING CONNECTED WORK. AFTER MUCH PRESSURE I WAS ACCEPTED AS A STUDENT CONDITIONALLY. I WORKED HARD, TOOK THE ENTIRE COURSE AND WITH MY HIGH SCHOOL WORK SUPPLEMENTING THE THE NIGHT SCHOOL WORK I GRADUATED IN 1914 NEAR THE HEAD OF THE CLASS. MY LIFE WORK WAS NOW ESTABLISHED.

FROM THE TIME THAT WE LANDED IN THE U. S. WE DEVELOPED A VERY CLOSE BOND WITH MOTHER'S NIECE YENTA YABLONOWITZ WHO HAD PRECEDED US, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF BLOOD RELATIONSHIP BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF HERSCHEL YABLONOWITZ HER HUSBAND. HERSCHEL AND FATHER MADE A GOOD TEAM SINCE THEY BOTH BELIEVED THE SAME WAY IN THEIR RELIGIOUS LIFE AND HAD THE SAME OUTLOOK ON LIFE. THIS BROTHERLY RELATIONSHIP EXISTED ALL THEIR LIVES AND ALSO WAS REFLECTED IN THE CHILDREN. HERSCHEL OPERATED A KOSHER BUTCHER SHOP AND WAS SUCCESSFUL IN A BUSINESS WAY. THE YABLONOWITZ'S HAD THEIR STORE IN A FIVE STORY TENEMENT ON FIFTH STREET NEAR AVENUE C AND LIVING QUARTERS ABOVE THE STORE. LATER ON THEY MOVED THE STORE AND APARTMENT TO 112TH ST AND FIFTH AVENUE.

IN ORDER TO VISIT THE YABLONOWITZ'S, WHL CH WE DID QUITE FREQUENTLY, WE HAD TO TAKE THE ELECTRIC TROLLY IN NEWARK, GO CLANKING DOWN THE PLANK ROAD TO JERSEY CITY, THERE CROSS THE BAY BY FERRY AND TO LOWER NEW YORK. IN NEW YORK CITY WE TOOK THE HORSE POWERED CAR TO OUR DESTINATION. THE RIDE ON THE HORSE DRAWN TROLLEY WAS REAL SPORT FOR WE WOULD ALWAYS SIT IN THE REAR AND WHEN THE CONDUCTOR WOULD APPROACH FOR HIS FARE WE WOULD JUMP OFF AND THEN CATCH THE TROLLEY AGAIN AS THE CONDUCTOR WOULD START TO THE FRONT. THE FARE WHICH WAS ONLY FIVE CENTS WAS NEVER PAID.

THE YABLONOWITZ'S WOULD RETURN OUR VISITS BY VENTURING TO THE COUNTRY IN JERSEY WHERE TREES AND GREEN FIELDS COULD STILL BE SEEN. THEY WOULD USUALLY VISIT IN JULY AND AUGUST WHEN THE POLIO SEASON WAS IN FULL BLAST AND WITH THE HOPE THAT THE COUNTRY MIGHT ACT AS A PREVENTATIVE. ANOTHER ATTRACSTION FOR THE SUMMER VISIT WAS THE TRIP TO EAGLE ROCK PARK IN WEST ORANGE A SUBURB OF NEWARK AND READILY REACHED BY TROLLEY. EAGLE RICK PARK WAS SITUATED HIGH IN THE ORANGE MOUNTAINS FROM WHICH ON A CLEAR DAY WE COULD SEE LOWER NEW YORK CITY WITH ITS TALL BUILDINGS. THERE WERE PLENTY OF TABLES AND BENCHES FOR PICNIC PARTIES AND OPEN AREAS FOR CHILDRENS GAMES AND ALL IN ALL THE DAY WAS HIGHLY ENJOYED.

WITH THE RISING TIDE OF IMMIGRATION INTO NEWARK AND THE RESULTING INCREASE IN THE SCHOOL POPULATION, A LARGE ADDITION TO THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS WAS INEVITABLE. ONE THING I HAVE TO ADMIT AND THAT IS THAT THE CITIZENS OF NEWARK DID NOT STINT MONEY ON PROVIDING ALL KINDS OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. NEW GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF THE FINEST, CLASES TO TEACH THE NEW ARRIVALS ENGLISH AND CITIZENSHIP, NEW LIBRARY BRANCH BUILDINGS IN THE EXPANDING CITY.

ANEW SCHOOL WAS ERECTED IN OUR DISTRICT IN 1909 AND JUST BEING WITHIN THE NEW DISTRICT WE HAD TO TRANSFER TO THIS NEW SCHOOL. IDA AND I DID NOT LIKE THE CHANGE ESPECIALLY SINCE WE WERE WITHIN A YEAR OF GRADUATION AND FINALLY RECEIVED PERMISSION TO STAY IN OUR OLD SCHOOL. SAM DID NOT CARE EITHER WAY AND MADE THE CHANGE. THE NEW SCHOOL HAD A GYM, MANUAL TRAINING SHOPS AND COOKING OR HOME ECONOMICS ROOM FOR THE GIRLS.

ONE DAY IN GYM WHILE SAM WAS EXERCISING HE LANDED ON HIS HAND MADE A CLEAN BREAK IN HIS ARM ABOUT HALF WAY DOWN FROM HIS ELBOW. HE WAS TAKEN TO ST BARNABAS HOSPITAL AND THE ARM WAS SET AND PUT IN A CAST. A SHORT WHILE AFTER THE CAST WAS REMOVED THE YBLONOWITZ FAMILY PAID US A VISIT AND WHILE ROLLER SKATING ON THE ASPHALT PAVED STREE, SAM DECIDED TO GIVE ONE OF THE YABLONOWITZ BOYS A RIDE ON THE SKATES. IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE YOUNG COUSIN FROM FALLING AND HURTING HIMSELF, SAM SOMEHOW BROKE THE SAME ARM AGAIN. THE FIRST THAT I KNEW OF THE ACCIDENT WAS WHEN SAM CAME UP TO ME AND WITH HIS LOWER ARM AT RIGHT ANGLES ORDERED ME TO PULL THE ARM SO AS TO RETURN IT TO ITS NATURAL LINE. I DID AS ORDERED AND WE RAN DOWN TO THE ST BARNABAS HOSPITAL ABOUT TEN BLOCKS AWAY WHERE THE ARM WAS AGAIN PROPERLY SET AND A CAST APPLIED.

SAM DID NOT SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN SCHOOL WORK AND IN 1910 UPON REACHING SIXTEEN HE APPLIED FOR WORKING PAPERS. UNDER STATE LAW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS MANDATORY UNTIL THE AGE OF SIXTEEN AND OR GRADUATION FROM GRAMMAR SCHOOL. YOU COULD GET WORKING PAPERS PRIOR TO GRADUATION IF HARDSHIP WAS SHOWN. AFTER GETTING HIS WORKING PAPERS SAM WENT TO WORK FOR UNCLE LOU SAMUELS WHO WAS MARRIED TO A YOUNGER SISTER OF FATHER. UNCLE SAMUELS WAS A GOOD ALL AROUND MECHANIC AND OPERATED A HARDWARE AND HOUSE FURNISHING SHOP IN NEW YORK CITY SOMEWHERE ON UPPER AMSTERDAM AVE. SAM LIVED WITH HIS AUNT AND UNCLE AND WORKED IN THE STORE FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS WHEN UNCLE SAMUELS BECAME ILL WITH TUBERCULOSIS, THE SCOURGE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THE STORE WAS CLOSED DOWN AND UNCLE WENT TO LIBERTY, N Y FOR TREATMENT AT A SANITARIUM MAINTAINED BY THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE.

THE FIRST DECADE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SAW THE GREATEST TIDAL WAVE OF IMMIGRANTS. THE GREATEST NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS WERE THE JEWS OF EASTERN EUROPE THEN CAME THE ITALIANS, IRISH, POLES CZECHS AND SOME RUSSIANS. THE ATTRATIONS WERE POLITICAL FREEDOM AND THE GUT ISSUE OF EMPLOYMENT. THE TIDE OF THE POLISH JEWISH IMMIGRANT WERE MAINLY YOUNG AND QUITE A FEW WITH SKILLS AS CARPENTERS, MASONS, PLASTERERS AND TINSMITHS, ALL THE SKILLS IN DEMAND FOR THE EXPANDING CITIES WITH NEED FOR HOUSING. NEWARK WAS A STRONG UNION ORGANIZED COMMUNITY AND THE TRAGEDY FOR THE JEWS WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THE A F L OR THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR WAS ORGANIZED BY SAMUEL COMPERS A JEWISH CIGAR MAKER IN THE 1890'S BECAUSE OF THE GRINDING SWEAT SHOP CONDITIONS THEN EXISTING, YET JEWS WERE NOT ADMITTED AS MEMBERS IN ANY OF THE LOCALS CONNECTED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. A SOP WAS FINALLY THROWN TO THE NEW ARRIVALS, MECHANICS, BY INSTITUTING LOCALS FOR JEWS ONLY FOR CARPENTERS AND PAINTERS. WORK WAS ASSIGNED TO THEM ONLY WHEN ALL OTHER UNION MEMBERS WERE FULLY EMPLOYED. AS A RESULT OF THIS DISCRIMINATION A HARDLY SITUATION RESULTED, FOR AS SOON AS THE JEWS LEARNED TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND FOUND THEIR WAY AROUND THEY SIMPLY BECAME CONTRACTORS AND DEVELOPERS BECAME EMPLOYERS.

THE JEWS WHO WERE TRAINED AS TAILORS, SHOEMAKERS AND BAKERS DID NOT HAVE LABOR UNION PROBLEMS BUT LIKE ALL WORKERS WERE LUCKY IF THEY AVERAGED 6 MONTHS WORK DURING THE YEAR. AT ABOUT THIS TIME QUITE A FEW WORKERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY BECOMING FED UP WITH SWEAT SHOP CONDITIONS AND THE HEALTH PROBLEMS IN THE SLUMS OPTED FOR FARMS OF NEW JERSEY AND CONNECTICUT.

THE ITALIANS WENT IN FOR TAILORING WORK AND INDUSTRY WHERE THE ENTIRE FAMILY COULD PARTICIPATE, SINCE MOST OF THE WORK WAS DONE BY SUB CONTRACTORS. A GOOD MANY OF THE ITALIANS FOUND WORK IN STREET PAVING, EXCAVATING AND THE EXTENSIVE LAYING OF WATER, GAS AND SANITARY LINES. THE IRISH WHO DID NOT GO INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOUND WORK IN THE SAME BACK-BREAKING JOBS WITH THE ITALIANS.

JEWISH LIFE IN THE THIRD WARD OF NEWARK WAS ALMOST LIKE THAT OF THE GHETTOS, WE WERE PRETTY CLOSELY PACKED IN WITH OUR NEIGHBORS. THE MAIN SHOPPING CENTER WAS PRINCE ST. THE IRISH CALLED IT SHAMROCK ALLEY, WITH STORES AND PUSH-CARTS LINING BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET. THE PUSH-CARTS CARRIED EVERYTHING YOU COULD THINK OF EXCEPT PIANOS, WERE REGULAR DEPARTMENT STORES. THE PEOPLE OF THE SUBURBS INCLUDING GENTILES WOULD SHOP THERE FOR ITEMS THAT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED IN THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS. AS THE JEWISH POPULATION KEPT ON INCREASING WITH THE MORE VENTURESOME SPREADING OUT TO THE SUBURBS OR OUTER AREAS OF THE CITY WHERE THEY FOUND GREATER OPPORTUNITIES IN BUSINESS.

THE GERMAN JEWS WHO CAME TO AMERICA IN THE 1860'S OR 1870'S HAD INTEGRATED INTO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY AND BECAME LEADERS IN INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS. THEY WERE NOW LIVING IN BEAUTIFUL KANSIONS IN THE WEALTHY SUBURBS AND LOOKED DOWN ON THE UNEDUCATED CO-RELIGIONISTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND LABELED THEM AS KIKES.

THE VARIOUS PEOPLE FROM EUROPE BROUGHT WITH THEM THEIR INGRAINED BRANDS OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND WE YOUNGER JEWS WHO WERE IN CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC WERE THE RECIPIENTS OF MUCH OF THE HATRED AND HARASSMENT. AS A RESULT WE WERE COMPELLED TO FORM GANGS FOR OUR PROTECTION AND WHEN WE WERE ATTACHED WE WERE ABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND OUR OPPONENTS THOUGHT TWICE BEFORE STARTING ANYTHING. THE PARTICULAR ETHNIC GROUPS THAT BOTHERED US MOST WERE GERMANS AND POLES.

FATHER TOOK THE CITIZENSHIP TESTS IN 1912 AND WAS SWORN IN AS A NATURALIZED U S CITIZEN. THE REST OF US THEREFORE BECAME DERIVATIVE CITIZENS.

GRADUATION DAY FROM GRAMMAR SCHOOL CAME AT THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY 1912 AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION AT ANY TIME ABOUT IDA AND I CONTINUING ON TO HIGH SCHOOL. ONLY ABOUT TWENTY PER CENT OF OUR CLASS CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION, THE REST GOING TO WORK TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES.

FATHER KEPT ENCOURAGING US TO STUDY HARD AND THAT BY OBTAINING GOOD GRADES WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO QUALIFY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP TO COLLEGE TO GO PLACES. I ELECTED TO ATTEND EAST SIDE COMMERCIAL AND MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL, A BRAND NEW AND MOST MODERN BUILDING WHICH HAD OPENED THE PREVIOUS SEPTEMBER. I CHOSE THE TECHNICAL COURSE AND LATER ON BECAUSE OF MY GRADES I WAS PERMITTED TO CARRY ALL THE OTHER COLLEGE PREP STUDIES THAT I DESIRED IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE.

HIGH SCHOOL WAS A BREEZE AND I ENJOYED THE SHOP WORK VERY MUCH. WHAT MADE HIGH SCHOOL SO INTERESTING WAS THE FACT THAT THE TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF ALL DEPARTMENTS AT THE SCHOOL WAS ONLY 250 STUDENTS, THAT MEANT VERY SMALL CLASSES, YOU REALLY HAD TO KNOW YOUR LESSONS. WE BECAME VERY CLOSE TO OUR DEDICATED TEACHERS AND BECAUSE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP THEY GUIDED US INTO STUDIES BEYOND THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM. FOR EXAMPLE IN MY THIRD YEAR AFTER GOING THROUGH TRIG A COUPLE OF US EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SURVEYING WHICH IS BASED ON TRIGONOMETRY, OUR MATH TEACHER GOT A LOAN OF A SURVEYOR'S TRANSIT AND CAME DOWN TO THE PARK, FACING THE SCHOOL, ON SATURDAYS AND TAUGHT US HOW TO USE THE TRANSIT AND CLOSE A SURVEY. HIGH SCHOOL WAS ABOUT THREE MILES FROM HOME AND WEATHER PERMITTING WE WALKED BOTH WAYS EVERY DAY. IDA ATTENDED SOUTH SIDE HIGH WHICH WAS A COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL.



AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER IN JUNE 1912 I HAD A TUTOR COACH ME IN THE NEXT TERM OF ENGLISH, GERMAN AND MATH AND UPON OPENING OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER I ASKED FOR EXAMS IN THE ABOVE SUBJECTS. I PASSED THE EXAMINATIONS AND SO GAINED A HALF YEAR. THE REASON FOR THAT HURRY WAS THAT I COULD THEN GRADUATE IN JUNE AND ENTER COLLEGE IN SEPTEMBER THE ONLY TIME OF ENTRY IN COLLEGE AND NOT LOSE A YEAR.

IDA WENT TO SUMMER SCHOOL TWICE AND MADE HIGH SCHOOL IN THREE YEARS THUS GAINING A HALF YEAR ON ME. ON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY 1915 IDA ENROLLED IN NEWARK NORMAL SCHOOL, NOW KNOWN AS TEACHERS COLLEGE, A STATE SUPPORTED INSTITUTION THAT PREPARED STUDENTS FOR TEACHING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THE COURSE WAS A TWO YEAR AFFAIR. IDA WAS A MEMBER OF SOUTH SIDE HIGH FIRST GRADUATING CLASS.

IN ADDITION TO ATTENDANCE AT HIGH SCHOOL, PREPARATION OF HOMEWORK ALLOTTED BY BY TEACHERS, I ATTENDED NIGHT DRAWING SCHOOL AND SUNDAYS I HAD TO MAKE THE ROUNDS FOR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS FROM FATHER'S INSTALLMENT CUSTOMERS. AS A RESULT OF ALL THESE ACTIVITIES THERE WAS LITTLE ROOM FOR SPORTS OR PLAY AND WHAT LITTLE TIME I COULD SPARE WAS SPENT AT THE LIBRARY. OUR HISTORY AND CIVICS TEACHERS ASSIGNED US OUTSIDE READING IN HISTORY AND ALSO INTRODUCED US TO THE N Y TIMES FOR DISCUSSION OF CURRENT EVENTS.

AS A JEW I DID NOT NEED ANY URGING TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE WORLD SUCH EVENTS AS THE DREYFUS AFFAIR IN FRANCE, THE CONTINUING PROGROMS IN RUSSIA, THE BLOOD RIALS ALSO IN RUSSIA SUCH AS THE INFAMOUS ACCUSATION OF MENDELE BEILIS THAT HE KILLED A GENTILE BOY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN BLOOD FOR SEDER SERVICES. IT WAS THE USE OF BORSHT DURING THE PASSOVER WEEK BY JEWS THAT THE GOERNMENT USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR ITS OUTRAGEOUS ATTACKS. IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE PRSSURES BY SUCH JEWS AS THE FINANCIER JACOB SCHIFF ON PRESIDENT TAFT THAT THE U S GOVERNMENT ISSUED A SOLEMN WARNING TO THE CZAR THAT IF THE PROGOMS CONTINUED THE U S WOULD BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA THAT CONDITIONS ABATED.

IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT WEALTHY JEWS IN ENGLAND DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CONTINUING WAVE OF MURDER AND HARASSMENT AND RESCUE SOME OF THE INNOCENT JEWS. AMONG CONCERNED JEWS WAS MOSES MONTEFIOR WHO CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF SETTLING THE JEWS ON THE LAND AND SO PROVIDE A HOME AND EXISTENCE FOR THEM. HE TRIED THE AFRICAN COUNTRY OF UGANDA WHICH WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF ENGLAND BUT COULD NOT COME TO ANY AGREEMENT. WHEN THAT PROJECT FAILED HE BOUGHT LAND FROM ARGENTINA IN SOUTH AMERICA AND ACUALLY SET UP A NUMBER OF JEWISH SETTLEMENTS THERE. NOT ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THESE SETTLEMENTS THEIR PERMANENT HOME AND THOSE THAT CAME CONSIDERED THE STAY ONLY AS TEMPORARY AND A STEPPING STONE TO THE U S. MORE SUCCESSFUL WAS BARON DE HIRSH WHO SET UP A FARMING COMMUNITY FOR JEWS IN WOODBINE, N J AND THAT LASTED A LONG TIME. BUT IN SPITE OF ALL IDEAS, PALESTINE, AS EVER REMAINED THE ONLY ATTRACTION AND HOPE FOR A PERMANENT HOME.

MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS WERE DRAWING TO A CLOSE AND I HAD TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO COLLEGE. I HAD DECIDED THAT ARCHITETURE WOULD BE MY FUTURE LIFE'S WORK. THERE WERE AT THAT TIME ONLY FIVE UNIVERSITIES ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD THAT HAD SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE, COLUMBIA, CORNELL, M I T, HARVARD AND PENNSYLVANIA. THEY WERE ALL OUT OF MY REACH BECAUSE OF THE COST OF TUITION AND ALSO THEY WERE GRADUATE SCHOOLS AND OF SIX YEAR DURATION. MY MATH TEACHER ARTHUR BELCHER A GRADUATE OF HARVARD TRIED TO INTEREST ME IN HARVARD AND HAD ME APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP THAT THE HARVARD CLUB OF N J OFFERED TO A RESIDENT OF NEW JERSEY. I TOOK THE ENTRANCE EXAMS, PASSED SAME AND LOST OUT ON THE SCHOLORSHIP BECAUSE MY ONLY COMPETITION A FELLOW NAMED FREY HAPPENED TO BE A

SON OF A HARVARD ALUMNUS. MY NEXT ATTENTION WAS NEXT FOCUSED ON RUTGERS A COLLEGE WHICH WAS IN PART SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC FUNDS AND IN RETURN FOR SOME GAVE A SCHOLORSHIP TO EACH OF THE NEWARK HIGH SCHOOLS. ON THE QUIET I WAS INFORMED THAT THE FIVE PER CENT QUOTA FOR JEWS WAS ALREADY FILLED AND THAT I WOULD NOT BE WELCOME. SHORTLY AFTER I HIT THE CEILING WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT A CLASSMATE, NEUSCHAFER, AN OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL PLAYER WAS AWARDED THE COVETED SCHOLARSHIP. WHAT I MENDED WAS THE DUPLICITY IN UNDERWRITING FOOTBALL ABILITY FOR SCHOLORSHIP. I LET MY FRIENDLY TEACHERS KNOW IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THE UNFAIRNESS OF THE DEAL AND THEY AGREED WITH ME.

I NOW WENT TO THE LIBRARY AND PULLED OUT THE CATALOGUES OF UNIVERSITIES HAVING ACRHITECTURE DEPARTMENT PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE MIDWEST. I WAS AMAZED TO SEE HOW MUCH THE MEDWESTERN STATES SPEND ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THE EASTERN STATES SPENT PRACTICALLY NIL. I FINALLY SETTLED ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, THE HARVARD OF THE WEST, BECAUSE I WAS ATTRACTED BY THE OUTLINE OF THE COURSES, SECOND BECAUSE IT CALLED FOR A FOUR YEAR COURSE OF STUDY INSTEAD OF SIX, THIRD BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION AND FINALLY ITS TUITION OF SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS A YEAR FOR AN OUT OF STATER. I WAS PARTICULARLLY ATTRACTED BY THE STATEMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH..

I CAME HOME AND TOLD FATHER OF MY DECISION TO ENROL IN MICHIGAN. HE OFFERED NO OBSTACLES AND RECALLED THAT A FORMER STUDENT OF HIS, RUDOLPH KRUGER WAS ATTENDING MICHIGAN. WE CONTACTED KRUGER AND WAS HAPPLILY SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT HE TOO WAS STUDYING ARCHITECTURE AND HAD JUST COMPLETED HIS FIRST YEAR AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO GUIDE ME AND SHOW ME THE ROPES. I SENT MY SCHOOL RECORD TO U M REGISTRAR AND AS A RESULT OF BEING IN THE UPPER TEN PERCENT OF THE CLASS, FULFILLING ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF STUDIES AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL AUTHORITIES, I HAD NO TROUBLE IN BEING ACCEPTED. ONE FOOT NOTE, ABOUT THIS TIME I WAS VERY MUCH SURPRISED TO RECEIVE A CALL FROM A FORMER HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL THAT UNBEKNOWN TO ME HE HAD OBTAINED FOR ME A FOUR YEAR SCHOLARSHIP TO NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING. I THANKED HIM MOST PROFUSELY FOR HIS EFFORTS ON MY BEHALF BUT THAT I HAD ALREADY ENROLLED AT MICHIGAN'S SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE.

TO GO BACK IN TIME A BIT TO THE PERIOD WHEN SAM WAS EMPLOYED BY UNCLE SAMUELS SAM USED TO AVERAGE A VISIT HOME ABOUT EVERY TWO WEEKS. SAM TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME AND WITH HIS FIRST MONEY THAT HE SAVED HE PRESENTED ME WITH A BRAND NEW IVOR JOHNSON JOHNSON BIKE, THE BEST THAT MONEY COULD BUY. AFTER THAT HE PRESENTED ME WITH A "BROWNIE" BOX CAMERA AND THEN AFTER THAT A REAL FINE "KODAK" CAMERA. IN TIME I BECAME A QUITE PROFICIENT PHOTOGRAPHER BUT I WAS SPARING IN THE USE OF THE USE OF THE CAMERAS FOR FILM AND OTHER PARTS COST MONEY. I CONVERTED OUR PORCH BATH-ROOM INTO A DARK-ROOM, SWIPED SOME CHEMICALS FOR DEVELOPING NEEDS FROM THE CHEM LAB IN SCHOOL AND BLUE PRINT PAPER FOR POSITIVES FROM THE MECHANICAL DRAFTING ROOM. I DID MY OWN DEVELOPING AND USED A GLASS FRAME AND EXPOSURE TO RUN OFF THE BLUE PRINT PAPER FOR MY POSITIVES. ON OCCASION SAM TOOK ME TO CONEY ISLAND ON A SUNDAY FOR SUN AND BATHING. ONE SUCH TRIP STANDS OUT IN MY MIND IT WAS A SUNDAY IN AUGUST 1914 WHERE WE MET COUSIN FREEMAN AND HIS PAL ABE GOLDMAN. IT WAS EARLY AFTERNOON AND THE NEWSBOYS WERE SHOUTING, EXTRA, WAR WAS DECLARED BY GERMANY AND ENGLAND AND WORLD WAR ONE WAS ON. THE DAY WAS SPOILED FOR EVERYONE ON THE BEACH.

I RECEIVED MY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOM JUNE 1915 AN IMMEDIATELY STARTED LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB IN ORDER TO EARN THE DESPERATELY NEEDED FUNDS COR COLLEGE. I APPLIED TO HYATT ROLLER BEARING CO IN HARRISON JUST ACROSS THE RIVER FROM NEWARK FOR A JOB. THIS COMPANY LATER ON BECAME A PART OF THE GENERAL MOTOR COMPLEX. THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICE INFORMED ME THAT THERE WAS AN OPENING IN THE INSPECTION DEPARTMENT AND SINCE I HAD TAKEN MACHINE SHOP IN SCHOOL AND KNEW HOW TO USE THE VARIOUS GAUGES REQUIRED I THOUGHT TAHT I SURELY HAD THE JOB SEWED UP. IN THE APPLICATION THAT I FILLED OUT I WAS TRUTHFUL AND GAVE NO PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE ALTHOUGH I HAD ALL THE TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE I LOST OUT.

WORK WAS SCARCE, THE SUMMER WAS SLIPPING BY WHEN I HAD A BRANSTORM, AGAIN APPLIED TO HYATT FOR AN INSPECTION JOB USING A RELATIVES NAME, HYMIE ALBOUM, WHO WAS BOARDING WITH US, SET UP FICTITIOUS PLACES OF FORMER EMPLOYMENT AND REFERENCES USING FRIENDS AS FRONTS AND IF ANY INQUIRIES CAME I WOULD RESPOND TO THEM MYSELF. SURE ENOUGH AN INQUIRY CAME AND LATER ON A NOTICE TO REPORT FOR WORK. THIS WAS ONLY A WEEK BEFORE I WAS TO LEAVE FOR MICHIGAN, SO COULD NOT ACCEPT THE OFFER. JUST THEN UNCLE SAMUELS CLOSED SHOP ON ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS AND WENT TO LIBERTY, NY FOR TREATMENT AND SAM WAS OUT OF WORK. I HASTILY SHOWED SAM HOW TO USE CALIPERS AND A MICROMETER TOLD HIM THAT HIS NAME HENCEFORTH WAS ALBOUM AND WITH MY NOTICE TO REPORT FOR WORK. HE FOLLOWED ORDERS AND WAS HIRED. WHILE STRICTLY SPEAKING THIS SET UP WAS NO KOSHER I FELT JUSTIFIED IN DOING THIS BECAUSE I FELT THAT I WAS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

THE FOLKS BOWWOWED A HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS FROM SARAH GOLDBERG TO START ME FOR FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE. AS I LOOK BACK I WONDER HOW INNOCENT AND TRUSTING WE WERE. I SPENT FIFTEEN DOLLARS ON TRAIN FARE, SIXTY-FIVE DOLLARS WAT TO BE USED FOR ONE YEARS TUITION, TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS FOR A ONE SHOT REGISTRATION AND THE BIG BALANCE WALL ALL MINE FOR ROOM AND BOARD AND INCIDENTALS.

THERE WAS FOUR OF US LEAVING TOGETHER FROM NEWARK, ANDY KRUGER AND KLEIN BOTH SOPHOMORE, HERMAN HERBER A NEIGHBOR, A GRADUATE OF EAST SIDE HIGH WHO WAS ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND MYSELF.

IT WAS QUITE A TRIP BY TRAIN, FIRST TO BUFFALO BY LEHIGH VALLEY AND THEN BY MICHIGAN CENTRAL THRU CANADA TO ANN ARBOR. THE TRIP TOOK TWENTY HOURS AND WAS MADE BY DAY COACH. I TOOK TEFILLIN AND PRAYER BOOK WITH ME AND PROMISED THE FOLKS THAT I WOULD DEFINITELY RECITE DAILY AT LEAST THE MORNING PRAYERS. I WAS ALSO PROVIDED WITH THE ADDRESSES OF MOTHR'S COUSINS IN DETROIT.

WE ARRIVED IN ANN ARBOR AT ABOUT 3:00 PM ON A NICE WARM DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER ABOUT FOUR DAYS BEFORE REGISTRATION, THUS ALLOWING OURSELVES ENOUGH TIME FOR INDING LIVING QUARTER AND JOBS. THERE WERE NO DORMITORIES FOR MEN. WE HAD EXPERT GUIDANCE FROM RUDY KRUGER. AS WAS THE CUSTOM AT THAT TIME THE YMCA ERRECTED A BIG TENT ON STATE ST JUST OFF THE CAMPUS AND LISTS OF ROOMS FOR RENT AND JOBS THAT WERE OPEN TO STUDENTS. SENIORS WERE ALSO ON HAND TO HELP OUT AND ADVISE.

WHILE EXAMINING THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE A VERY ATTRACTIVE YOUNG MAN APPROACHED ME AND INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS ABE JACOBY A FRESHMAN FROM BAY CITY, MICHIGAN LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WAS JEWISH, ASSUMED THAT I WAS TOO, HAD A ROOM AND A JOB FOR A PARTNER AT THE SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, WOULD I CONSIDER TEAMING UP WITH HIM. ABE MADE A TREMENDOUS IMPRESSION ON ME AND THE OFFER WAS LIKE A GIFT FROM HEAVEN, CERTAINLY HAD NO REASON TO EVER REGRET SAME.

ABE WAS A PRE-MED STUDENT, SHOWED ME THE DOUBLE ROOM HE WAS RENTING AND INTRODUCED ME AT THE FRATERNITY AS HIS PARTNER IN WASHING DISHES. THIS STROKE OF LUCK WAS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME. I FOUND OUT LATER ABE WAS NOT ONLY A GRAND PERSON. A MOST ACCOMODATING ROOMMATE AND ONE OF ABOUT EIGHT STUDENTS ON THE ENTIRE CAMPUS THAT WAS AN "A" STUDENT REGARDLESS OF SUBJECTS STUDIED. ABE HAD A PHOTOGRAPHIC MIND AND HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEEMED SO EFFORTLESS.

I REGISTERED IN THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE HEADED BY A PROFESSOR UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEAN OF ENGINEERING. WE HAD THREE OPTIONS OR SPECIALTIES OPEN FOR STUDY, ONE IN PURE DESIGN, TWO IN GENERAL PRACTICE AND THREE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING.

THE FIRST YEAR WAS THE SAME FOR ALL THREE OPTIONS. IN THE BACK OF MY MIND WAS THE THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT GO INTO CONTRACTING, SO CHOSE ENGINEERING BRANCH OF ARCHITECTURE AS BETTER PREPARATION. AS ALWAYS THE ELECTION WAS THE TOUGHEST OF ALL THREE OPTIONS.

RUDY INTRODUCE TO PROF E LOULE THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT AND UPON LEARNING THAT I WAS WORKING MY WAY THROUGH ADVISED ME TO STRETCH THE COURSE OF STUDY FROM FOUR TO FIVE YEARS. I POLITELY RESPONDED THAT FINANCIALLY FOUR YEARS WAS ALMOST UNSUMOUNTABLE AND ANOTHER YEAR UNTHINKABLE, THEREFORE, THE PROF WASHED HIS HANDS OF ME AND TOLD ME THAT IF I HAD ANY PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE TO FRET HIS OFFICE. LATER ON I WISHED THAT I HAD TAKEN THE PROFS ADVICE AND WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE BETTER USE OF COLLEGE LIFE AND ITS MANY ACTIVITIES.

WITH EVERYTHING SET AND A FEW DAYS TO THE BEGINNING OF CLASSES AND BECAUSE ROSH HASHANAH WAS UPON US I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A GOOD TIME TO PAY A VISIT TO MOTHERS RELATIVES IN DETROIT. I TOOK KERBER WITH ME AND INTRODUCES MYSELF TO THE SARASOHN'S AND COMPANY. KERBER AND I WERE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS AND MADE TO FEEL COMPLETELY AT HOME. PROVISIONS WERE MADE WHERE TO STAY AND DINE ALSO FOR ATTENDANCE FOR SERVICES AT THE TEMPLE FOR THE HOLIDAY. THE SARASOHN'S WERE OLD TIMERS IN DETROIT. THE OLDER GENERATION CONSISTED OF THREE SISTERS AND A BROTHER CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN. THE FAMILIES WERE COUSINS OF MOTHERS. THE THREE SISTERS HAD LAST SEEN MOTHER AT HER WEDDING AND THEREAFTER EMIGRATED TO AMERICA.

DETROIT AT THIS TIME WAS A GREAT EXPANDING METROPOLIS DUE PRIMARILY TO FORD WITH HIS INVENTION OF THE PRODUCTION LINE FOR PRODUCING CHEAP AUTOMOBILES AND HIS INTRODUCTION OF FIVE DOLLARS PAY FOR AN EIGHT HOUR DAYS WORK. THE THING THAT STRUCK ME ABOUT DETROIT OR THE MIDWEST WAS THE LACK OF OVERT ANTI-SEMITISM. A PERSON REGARDLESS OF RELIGION WAS TAKEN FOR WHAT HE WAS WORTH AS A HUMAN BEING. OF COURSE, THAT DID NOT MEAN THAT JEWS WERE WELCOME IN PRIVATE CLUBS OR FRATERNITIES, JUST THE SAME IT WAS A STEP FORWARD.



SCHOOL BEGAN AND I SURE BECAME ON HECH OF A BUSY BEE WITH CLASSES, LECTURES, QUIZZES AND DRAFTING. THE SCHOOL DAY LASTED FROM EIGHT IN THE MORNING TO FIVE PM AND SATURDAY TO ONE PM.

AS A GRADUATE FROM A MODERN HIGH SCHOOL EQUIPED WITH PHYSICS AND CHEM LABS, SHOPS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS, I WAS WAY AHEAD OF SOME OF MY CLASSMATES WHO WERE GRADUATES OF ONE ROOM SCHOOLS. I ACTUALLY RECEIVED ALMOST A FULL TERMS CREDIT WHILE THEY HAD TO ATTEND MAKE UP CLASSES. MY DISHWASHING JOB TOOK THREE HOURS A DAY AND AT TIMES WHEN WORK WAS HEAVY I WAS LATE FOR CLASSES BUT THE PROF CO-OPERATED AND I WAS OFFICIALLY EXCUSED.

UNFORTUNATELY ABE JACOBY COULD NOT ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE TO FIT IN WITH THE JOB AT THE FRATERNITY AND I WAS COMPELLED TO GET ANOTHER STUDENT FOR THE JOB. SURPRISINGLY THAT CHANGE MADE NO DIFFERNECE IN OUR RELATIONS. SIGMA CHI WAS ONE OF THE TOP FRATERNITIES ON THE CAMPUS AND MONEY DID NOT MATTER WHEN IT CAME TO THE UPKEEP OF THE TABLE. THE CHIEF COOK AND MANAGER OF THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE WAS A WELL EDUCATED COLORED GENTLEMEN OF GREAT EXPERIENCE NAMED GREEN. HE TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME ESPECIALLY FOR SECONDS AND DESERTS SAYING THAT I DESERVED THE BEST BECAUSE I WORKED FOR MY MEALS WHILE THE FRATERNITY BROTHERS ONLY PAID FOR THEM.

ANN ARBOR WAS A TOWN OF ABOUT TWENTY THOUSAND PERMANENET RESIDENTS WITH ONLY SIX OR SEVEN NON-OBSERVANT JEWISH FAMILIES. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF JEWISH STUDENTS THERE WAS LITTLE EFFORT MADE BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA TO CATER TO OUR NEEDS. ONE EXCEPTION WAS RABBI FRANKLIN OF THE REFORMED TEMPLE IN DETROIT WHO PROVIDED FOR SERVICE ABOUT EVERY OTHER SUNDAY AND HE WOULD HAVE SOME OUTSTANDING RABBI OR LAYMAN DELIVER A SERMON. ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR RABBI STEPHEN S WISE OF NATIONAL REKNOWN AS AN ORATOR WOULD BE THE GUEST SPEAKER. ON SUCH OCCASIONS THE LARGEST CAMPUS AUDITORIUM COULD NOT HOLD THE OVEFLOW CROWD OF BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.

EASTER WAS UPON US AND I PROMISED FATHER THAT I WOULD OBSERVE THE PESSACH RULES AND WOULD NOT EAT CHOMETZ THAT WEEK. IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT YEAR THAT EASTER VACATION ENDED AND PESSACH BEGAN SO I ARRANGED WITH ABE THAT UPON RETURNING FROM EASTER VACATION HE WOULD BRING BACK WITH HIM SOME ROAST CHICKEN, MATZOS AND HARD BOILED EGGS ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US AND WITH TEA AT THE FRATERNITY I WOULD MANAGE. TO MY SURPRISE ABE RETURNED EMPTY HANDED AND I WAS STUCK EXISTING THE ENTIRE WEEK ON HARD BOILD EGGS THAT I SCROUNGED AND TEA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME WASHING DISHES. I WAS ONE SICK BOY BY WEEK END AND THEN AND THERE I DECIDED THAT HENCEFORTH I WOULD NOT OBSERVE CUSTOMS IF IT ENDANGERED MY HEALTH. I DID NOT GO HOME FOR EASTER OR CHRISTMAS VACATIONS DURING ANY OF THE FOUR YEARS, USING THE PERIODS FOR WORKING AT THE GOING RATE OF TWENTY-FIVE CENTS AN HOUR TO EARN MONEY FOR TEXT-BOOKS, DRAFTING SUPPLIES OR ANY OTHER NEEDS.

JUNE ARRIVED BEFORE I HARDLY REALIZED THAT MY FIRST YEAR IN COLLEGE WAS ENDING AND FOR A SOMEWHAT HOMESICK TEEN-AGER COMING FROM A RESTRICTED HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD THE CHANGE IN LESS THAN A YEARS TIME WAS TRAUMATIC. I GREW UP AND SUDDENLY BECAME AWARE OF A BRAND NEW WORLED. FORTUNATELY I HAD COSEN REAL WELL IN COMING TO MICHIGAN. THE UNIVERSITY WAS OUTSTANDING SCHOOL IN ALL RESPECTS, IT WAS THE HARVARD OF THE MIDWEST, VERY COSMOPOLITAN AND THE MEETING PLACE FOR STUDENTS FROM THE ENTIRE U S AND MANY FOREIGN COUNTRIES. COMING CONTACT WITH MANY PEOPLE OF SO MANY VARIES BACKGROUNDS AND STATIONS IN SOCIETY WAS AN EDUCATION IN ITSELF.

CLASSES AND FINALS WERE OVER, EVERYBODY WAS IN A RELAXED MOOD PACKING THEIR TRUNKS AND ARRANGING FOR TRANSPORTATION HOME. IT WAS SATURDAY EVENING THE LAST MEAL HAD BEEN SERVED AT THE FRATERNITY HOUSE, THE GOOD-BYES SAID AND I WENT BACK TO MY ROOMING HOUSE AND WITH NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT TO WAIT FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON TO ENTRAIN. THAT EVENING I GOT A PRETTY BAD ATTACK OF STOMACH-ACHE AND CRAMPS. THE BOYS RECOMMENDED SOME WAY OUT REMEDIES SUCH AS A GOOD DOSE OF CASTOR-OIL AND SOME REAL LULUS. BY MORNING I DIDNT FEEL ANY BETTER AND A DOCTOR WAS CALLED. AFTER EXAMING ME HE DECIDED THAT I HAD AN ATTACK OF APPENDICITIS AND ADVISED AGAINST AN EXTENDED TRAIN RIDE WHEN I MIGHT TAKE A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE AND THERE WOULD BY NO IMMEDIATE HELP AVAILABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT I ENTER ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS AND HAVE THE APPENDIX REMOVED.

THE BIG PROBLEM WAS THAT ALTHOUGH MY TUITION COVERED ALL MEDICAL PROBLEMS, THE SCHOOL YEAR WAS OVER AND ALL HEALTH SERVICE BOOKS CLOSED. I EXPLAINED TO THE DOCTOR THAT I WAS WITHOUT FUNDS AND SOMEHOW HE MANAGED FOR THE OPERATION AND HOSPITAL STAY AT NO COST TO ME. I ENTERED THE HOSPITAL THE SAME AFTERNOON, WAS OPERATED ON, RECEIVED THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE AND AFTER A STAY OF ABOUT TEN DAYS WAS RELEASED AND LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR HOME. SOMEHOW THE COUSINS IN DETROIT BECAME AWARE OF MY TROUBLES AND VISITED ME AT THE HOSPITAL.

AFTER A TWENTY HOUR DAY-COACH RIDE WHEN AT TIMES I FELT THAT I WAS BECOMING UNSTITCHED I ARRIVED HOME. THE YEAR AWAY FROM HOME WAS GOOD FOR ME AND NOW I WAS A FULL GROWN MAN. UNFORTUNATELY MICHIGAN CLOSED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER EASTERN COLLEGES WITH THE RESULT THAT MOST SUMMER JOBS WERE FILLED. THE ONLY JOB AVAILABLE FOR ME WAS PUSHING A HAND TRUCK FOR TEN HOURS A DAY, WITH MY HEALTH PROBLEM I LASTED ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

GOOD OLD BROTHER SAM CAME TO THE RESCUE. BY THIS TIME HE HAD BEEN PROMOTED TO ASSISTANT FOREMAN IN THE INSPECTION DEPARTMENT AT HYATTS AND HE NOW PUT IN AN ORDER FOR ANOTHER INSPECTOR AND I GOT THE JOB. THIS WAS A MOST RESPECTABLE JOB EIGHT HOUR DAY AND A FORTY HOUR WORK WEEK. SAM MADE SURE THAT I DID NOT HAVE TO LIFT THE HEAVY BOXES OF STEEL BEARING CASES FROM FLOOR TO BENCH OR VISA VIS. THE WORK WAS NOT TOO BAD, WE WORKED TWO WEEKS DAY-SHIFT AND TWO WEEKS SWING-SHIFT. IT WAS NICE WALKING HOME SUMMER NIGHTS AND STOPPING ON THE WAY AT LONGS BAR FOR A GOOD COLD BEER. I HAD SURELY GROWN UP. RECEIVED MY REPORT CARD, PASSED ALL SUBJECTS.

THE SUMMER WAS OVER AND ON TO ANN ARBOR. WE WERE GOOD SALESMEN FOR MICHIGAN, WE NOW HAD A PARTY OF FIFTEEN STUDENTS GOING TO U. M. AND SO RECEIVED PARTY RATES ON TRAIN THUS SAVING A COUPLE OF DOLLARS. I WAS NOW A SOPHOMORE AND LOOKING FORWARD TO DISHING IT OUT INSTEAD OF RECEIVING IN THE HAZING PROCESS. MY JOB AT SIGMA CHI WAS WAITING FOR ME. ABE JACOBY AND I CHANGED ROOMS SO THAT WE WERE NEARER TO THE CAMPUS TO SAVE TIME WALKING TO CLASSES.

I RECEIVED MY SCHEDULE AND IT WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE TOUGHEST OF MY FOUR YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THE VARIOUS ARCHITECTURAL SUBJECTS AND BEING IN THE ENGINEERING ELECTRIC GROUP WAS REQUIRED TO TAKE BASIC ENGINEERING SUCH AS CALCULUS, ENGINEERING MECHANICS CHEMISTRY AND STRUCTURAL AND BRIDGE DESIGN. WHILE THE FRESHMAN CLASS IN ARCHITECTURE STARTED WE HAD AN ENROLLMENT OF SIXTY-FIVE, THE BIGGEST IN THE SCHOOL HISTORY NOW REDUCED FIFTY PERCENT AND AT GRADUATION IN JUNE 1919 THERE WERE ONLY TWELVE LEFT TO RECEIVE DIPLOMAS.

I MIGHT DIGRESS FOR A WHILE AND TALK ABOUT THE OTHER EDUCATION I RECEIVED FROM MEETING AND GETTING TO KNOW SO MANY MEN FROM THE ENDS OF THE U. S. AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THERE WERE THE BOYS FROM BROOKLYN WHO WERE ALL KNOWING AND LOOKED DOWN THEIR NOSES

ON THE REST AS MERE PEASANTS. THE CLASSMATES FROM UPPER NEW YORK STATE ALL GENTLEMEN, THE JEWISH BOY FROM NORTHERN MICHIGAN WHO WAS FROM THE ONLY JEWISH FAMILY IN TOWN. THERE WAS THE GENTILE BOY FROM THE UPPER PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN WHO HAD SUCH A PECULIAR LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN WE WERE INTRODUCED THAT I INQUIRED AS TO WHAT WAS TROUBLING HIM. HE TOLD ME THAT I WAS THE FIRST JEW THAT HE EVER MET, WAS AMAZED THAT I LOOKED JUST LIKE OTHER PEOPLE AND HAD NO HORNS GROWING OUT OF MY FOREHEAD.

THERE WAS A STUDENT IN MY CLASS NAMED ALFREDO LOPEZ FROM COLUMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA WHOSE FAMILY ALTERNATED WITH THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN PRESIDENCY OF HIS COUNTRY AND SURE ENOUGH EVEN TO THIS DAY AN ALFREDO LOPEZ OCCUPIES THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR.

THERE WAS A CHINESE STUDENT NAMED WONG. THERE WAS PETE VERSHOOR OF DUTCH DESCENT FROM LANSING MICHIGAN WHO LIVED IN MY FRESHMAN ROOMING HOUSE, AN HONOR ENGINEERING STUDENT, WHO TOLD US THAT HIS FATHER WHILE LIVING IN HOLLAND, WAS THE ROYAL BUTCHER TO THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND. MET A SWEDISH BOY FROM OREGON WHO WAS STUDYING NAVAL ARCHITECTURE AND AN ENGINEERING STUDENT NAMED DOW WHOSE FATHER OWNED DOW CHEMICAL. DOW USED TO RACE AROUND THE CAMPUS IN HIS STUTZ BEAR CAT. IN MY DEPARTMENT WAS A BOY FROM CALIFORNIA WHO HAD NEVER SEEN OR EXPERIENCED SNOW. THERE WAS A COHEN FROM JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA STUDYING DENTISTRY. ALL IN ALL QUITE AN ARRAY OF IDEAS AND OPINIONS.

THERE WERE STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT SKILLS WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH. AN ENGINEERING STUDENT WAS A BRICKLAYER, EARNED ENOUGH WORKING SATURDAYS TO SEE HIM THROUGH. A STUDENT FROM NEWARK, FATHER A BARBER WHERE HE RECEIVED HIS TRAINING, WORKED A FEW AFTERNOONS A WEEK TO SUPPORT HIMSELF. RUDY'S YOUNGER BROTHER BILL KRUGER WAS A MUSICIAN, PLAYED AT FRATERNITY DANCES TO EARN HIS KEEP. THIS IS A GOOD SAMPLING.

CHRISTMAS VACATION HAD COME AND GONE AND WE WERE IN THE SECOND TERM OF THE SOPHOMORE YEAR. I WAS INFORMED THAT FATHER HAD PULLED UP STAKES, BOUGHT A FARM NEAR ENGLISHTOWN, N J ON THE ROAD FROM ENGLISHTOWN TO OLD BRIDGE. LIVING ON THE LAND WAS SOMETHING FATHER HAD DREAMT ABOUT ALL HIS LIFE. WITH ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE IN TALMUD HE CERTAINLY WAS NOT PREPARED FOR A LIFE AS A FARMER. SAM QUIT A GOOD JOB TO HELP OUT ON THE FARM, HE JUST ABOUT SAVED THE SITUATION. MINNIE WENT ALONG AND WAS ENROLLED IN THE ENGLISHTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL. IDA REMAINED IN NEWARK IN ORDER TO FINISH HER TWO YEARS IN NORMAL SCHOOL OR TEACHERS COLLEGE.

ABE JACOBY INVITE HERBER AND MYSELF TO SPEND EASTER VACATION AND PASSOVER HOLIDAY IN HIS HOME AT BAY CITY, MICHIGAN.

BAY CITY A CITY OF ABOUT 50,000 AND SAGINAW OF LIKE SIZE, ARE TWIN CITIES ABOUT 150 MILES NORTH OF DETROIT AND ABOUT 3½ HOUR RIDE BY FAST LINE TROLLEY FROM ANN ARBOR. BAY CITY WAS AT ONE TIME THE CENTER OF MICHIGAN'S GREAT LUMBER INDUSTRY AND WHAT INTERESTED ME WAS THE FACT THAT IT WAS STILL THE CENTER FOR THE COUNTRY READY-CUT LUMBER HOME INDUSTRY. ABE TOOK US ONE DAY FOR A TRAMP INTO THE COUNTRY AN AREA WHICH HAD AT ONE TIME BEEN A LAND OF GREAT FORESTS AND NOW AFTER UNRESTRICTED CUTTING AND NO PROGRAM FOR REFORESTRATION HAD BECOME A WASTELAND WITH NO MORE THAN TREE STUMPS AND SAND AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. IT WAS A TERRIBLE LESSON TO LEARN WHAT HUMAN GREED CAN DO TO THE LAND.

WE WERE ENTERTAINED AND TREATED LIKE HONORED GUESTS BY ABE'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS. GOING HOME FROM SERVICE THE SECOND DAY OF PESSACH, WE WERE GREETED BY NEWSBOYS SHOUTING, EXTRA, WAR WAS DECLARED ON GERMANY. THIS WAS APRIL 17, WE WERE SHOCKED DUMB, WE KNEW THAT WE WOULD SOON BE PART OF THE ARMED FORCES.

BACK TO ANN ARBOR AND THINGS WERE IN A TURMOIL, MANY STUDENTS NOT WAITING FOR THE DRAFT AND SOME ENLISTING IN OFFICER TRAINING CAMPS THE INFANT AIR CORPS. MANY OTHER COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE ALREADY IN SERVICE WITH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH FORCES OR HOSPITAL UNITS IN EUROPE AND UPON DECLARATION OF WAR TRANSFERRED TO THE U S FORCES. I HAD ENROLLED IN THE R O T C. BEFORE WAR WAS DECLARED WE LISTENED TO SUCH FAMOUS PACIFISTS AS EUGENE DEBS, WHO WAS LATER IMPRISONED BY WOODROW WILSON AND THE GREAT ORATOR J BRYAN WHO HAD RESIGNED AS SECRETARY OF STATE. AT NO TIME WERE ANY UNIVERSITY HALLS OPEN TO THESE MEN.

THE SCHOOL YEAR WAS OVER AND BACK TO THE FARM. IDA WAS ALREADY THERE. WE PITCHED IN FOR ANY CHORES THAT WE COULD FIND. IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING THAT WHAT WE KNEW ABOUT FARMING COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF A POSTAGE STAMP.

THE FARM WAS ABOUT 12 ACRES IN AREA, DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO RAISING CHICKENS, THE GROWING OF CORN FOR FEEDING THE FEW ANIMALS AND FIELDS FOR GROWING VEGETABLES. WE WERE NOT WELCOMED BY THE WASP OLD LINE NEIGHBORING FARMERS, WHO LAUGHED INWARDLY AT OUR CLUMSY EFFORTS.

IT NOW SUDDENLY OCCURED TO ME THAT I NEEDED MONEY TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. I WROTE TO THE HEAD OF THE ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT INQUIRING ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF A SCHOLARSHIP. MICHIGAN AS A STATE SUPPORTED UNIVERSITY HAD NO FUNDS SET ASIDE FOR SUCH PURPOSE.

I WENT TO NEWARK, STAYING WITH AUNT LENA AS A NON PAYING BOARDER AND WENT LOOKING FOR WORK. I FOUND A JOB WITH A METAL CAN MANUFACTURING FIRM LOCATED IN HARRISON IN THE PACKING AND SHIPPING DEPARTMENT. FOR A SIXTY HOUR WEEK AND TWICE A WEEK PERIODS OF TWO HOUR DURATION OVERTIME AT THIS BACK BREAKING JOB WE RECEIVED THE PRINCELY SUM OF TWELVE DOLLARS. FOR THE OVERTIME PAY THE FOREMAN TOOK US TO A SALOON ACROSS THE STREET, BOUGHT EACH OF US TWO BEERS AND ALL THE FREE LUNCH WE COULD EAT. AFTER ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS I GAVE NOTICE THAT I WAS LEAVING AND BACK TO THE FARM AND SCHOOL.

SCHOOL OPENED ON A SOMBER NOTE WITH MANY OF THE CLASS ROOMS HALF EMPTY. STUDENTS THOUGHTS WERE MORE ON THE COURSE OF THE WAR AND WHEN TO ENTER THE ARMED SERVICES. THE PROFS WERE TELLING US TO WAIT, GET MORE EDUCATION AND BE OF BETTER SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY. I WAS BACK AT THE FRATERNITY DISHWASHING, ATTENDING CLASSES, TRAINING WITH THE R O T C AND TRYING MY BEST TO CARRY ON AS USUAL. ABE, KERBER CARL BOCCARO, A NEWARK FROSH DENTAL STUDENT, AND I RENTED AN APARTMENT JUST OFF THE CAMPUS. WITH AN APARTMENT EACH OF US COULD SHUT OURSELVES OFF AND CONCENTRATE ON HOME-WORK WHILE THE OTHERS WERE HAVING A BULL SESSION.

I TURNED TWENTY-ONE ON CHRISTMAS. REGISTERED FOR THE SECOND DRAFT WITH THE BOARD IN MY LEGAL HOME ENGLISHTOWN. SAM WAS IN THE FIRST DRAFT AND WAITING FOR A CALL. WAS STRONGLY MINDED TO ENLIST IN THE NAVY WHICH WAS ANXIOUS FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS TO ENLIST IN THEIR QUARTERMASTER CORPS, WHO AFTER THREE MONTH TRAINING WERE COMMISSIONED AS ENSIGNS FOR DUTY AT THE WHEEL OF MANY LIBERTY SHIPS. I WROTE HOME ABOUT MY INTENTIONS AND RECEIVED A VERY STRONGLY WORDER NO. OUR ENGINEERING DEAN ADVISED US TO ENLIST IN ENGINEER'S RESERVE AND WE WOULD BE CALLED AS WE WERE NEEDED. THE YEAR ENDED AND I PASSED ALL SUBJECTS WITH PRETTY GOOD GRADES.



I CAME HOME FOR THE 1918 SUMMER VACATION WITH THE FOLKS WHO IN THE MEANTIME HAD BOUGHT A LARGER FARM AT TRACY STATION. MY FIRST STOP WAS AT THE NEWARK ENLISTMENT CENTER AND ENLISTED IN THE ENGINEER'S RESERVE. NEWARK BEING IN THE FIRST CORPS AREA I WAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE THIRD CORPS AND I WAS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE THIRD CORPS AREA WHERE ANN ARBOR WAS LOCATED, ASSIGNED TO SCHOOL AND TO WAIT FOR A CALL TO ACTIVE DUTY. I NOTIFIED THE DRAFT BOARD OF MY ENLISTMENT AND WERE THEY WERE BURNT UP BECAUSE IN ORDER TO FILL THEIR QUOTA, A GOOD GENTILE FARMER WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED INSTEAD OF A JEW WHO HAD OUTFOXED THEM.

WITH THE SERVICE PROBLEM OUT OF THE WAY MY WORRY NOW WAS FOR A JOB. AN AMMUNITION PLANT WAS BEING BUILT AT OLD BRIDGE CALLED THE CALIFORNIA LOADING CO, WHICH WAS TO BE USED TO LOAD PINEAPPLES ALSO KNOWN AS HAND GRENADES. A BOY WITH A FORD TRUCK PICKED UP MANY OF THE LOCAL FARMERS EAGER FOR A QUICK BUCK, WHO HAD BOUGHT SOME CARPENTER TOOLS AT THE FIVE AND TEN, WERE HIRED AS CARPENTERS. I WENT ALONG HOPING TO OBTAIN A JOB BECAUSE OF MY TRAINING AS AN ARCHITECT. BY NOT CALLING MYSELF A TRADESMAN, COULDN'T GET BY THE HIRING GATE.

WAITED UNTIL ALL THE HIRING FOR THE DAY WAS OVER AND APPROACHED THE GATE-KEEPER WHO SEEMED TO BE A NICE LITTLE IRISHMAN AND TOLD HIM THAT I WAS AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE STUDENT WORKING MY WAY THROUGH SCHOOL AND BADLY NEEDED A JOB TO SEE ME THROUGH THE FINAL YEAR. AFTER LISTENING TO MY STORY HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD TWO NEPHEWS WHO WERE WORKING THEIR WAY THROUGH YALE APPRECIATED MY PROBLEM AND TOLD ME TO WAIT, HE WOULD TRY TO DO SOMETHING. HE CALLED THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND HE CERTAINLY MUST HAVE USED PLENTY OF BALARNEY BECAUSE HE GAVE ME A BADGE AND DIRECTED ME TO THE ENGINEERING OFFICE. I WAS HIRED AS A MECHANICAL DRAFTSMAN AT THE UNBELIEVABLE SALARY OF \$125.00 A MONTH, I WAS IN CLOVER.

SAM WAS NOW IN SERVICE AT FORT DIX AND WITH HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE VERY LITTLE FARMING WAS DONE AT THE GREENBERG SPREAD. MOST OF THE INCOME NOW WAS DERIVED FROM SUMMER BOARDERS. SAM CAME HOME ON FURLOUGH AT BEGINNING OF JULY AFTER BASIC TRAINING. HE IMMEDIATELY HELPED HIMSELF TO MY ROT C UNIFORM WHICH FITTED HIM IN CONTRAST TO THE GENERAL ISSUE THROWN AT HIM AND WHICH WAS MANY SIZES TOO LARGE. WHEN HIS TIME WAS UP, SAM RETURNED TO CAMP.

AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS AND NO LETTER FROM SAM, FATHER INSISTED THAT I GO TO WRIGHTSTOWN TO SEE WHAT WAS DOING. IT WAS SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE MIDDLE OF JULY, SAM AND HIS COMPANY WERE LINED UP IN OPEN HOT SANDY FIELD DRESSED IN WOOLEN UNIFORMS WITH PACKS HANDY, READY TO BE SHIPPED OVERSEA. THE BIG PUSH WAS ON IN EUROPE BY THE GERMANS TO BREAK THE TRENCH WARFARE AND CANNON FODDER WAS NEEDED. ONE OF THE MEN IN HIS COMPANY, A CLOAK AND SUITER FROM NEW YORK WAS IN TEARS LAMENTING TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN GIVEN A GUN AND HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHICH END YOU SHOOT WITH, HE WAS SURE THAT HE WAS GOING TO HIS DOOM.

SAM ON ENTERING ON ENTERING SERVICE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR HEAVY ARTILLERY WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS HORSE-DRAWN AND THEREFORE A GOOD SPOT FOR A SO CALLED FARMER. FORTUNATELY SAM'S COMPANY COMMANDER RECEIVED AN ORDER TO ASSIGN A CERTAIN NUMBER OF MEN TO COOKS AND BAKER SCHOOL AND SOMEHOW LIGHTNING STRUCK AND SAM WAS SELECTED TO BECOME A MESS SERGEANT AND HE SPENT THE REST OF THE WAR YEAR AT CAMP DIX.

A PROBLEM NOW CAME UP ABOUT MINNIE, SHE WAS READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND HER EYES SET ON FREEHOLD HIGH WHERE MOST OF THE CHILDREN SHE KNEW ATTENDED. THE FARM WAS PARTLY IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEANT JAMESBURG AND NEITHER COUNTY WAS ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE HER AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION. FREEHOLD FINALLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE THE BED-ROOMS WERE IN MONMOUTH COUNTY.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER I RECEIVED QUITE A SHOCK WHEN READING THE MORNING PAPER I FOUND THE NAME OF MAX FEINSOD LISTED AS WOUNDED IN ACTION AND TWO DAYS LATER AS HAVING DIED. MAX AND I WERE INSEPARABLE DURING GRAMMAR AND HIGH SCHOOL DAYS AND WERE KNOWN AS, ME AND MY SHADOW. OUR FATHERS CAME FROM THE SAME CITY IN POLAND HAD EVEN ATTENDED THE SAME CHEDER.

IT WAS A RAINY NIGHT WHEN MOTHER DROVE ME TO TRACY STATION OR SHED AT THE RAILROAD CROSSING WHERE I FLAGGED DOWN THE ONE A DAY TRAIN TO MONMOUTH JUNCTION AND THEN TO NEWARK FOR THE TRAIN TO ANN ARBOR. IT WAS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I SAID GOOD-BYE AND WITH NO IDEA WHAT THE FUTURE HAD IN STORE FOR ME.

I ARRIVED IN ANN ARBOR TO FACE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT U S CAMPUS. THE ARMED FORCES HAD TAKEN OVER THE UNIVERSITY. THE STUDENT ARMY TRAINING CORP HAD INDUCTED ALL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICE AND ENLISTED TOOK OVER THE FRATERNITY HOUSES AND THREW UP ADDITIONAL BARRACKS AS BARRACKS. ARMY COMPANIES AND NAVAL UNITS WERE FORMED, SCHEDULES OF TRAINING ARRANGED AND ORDERS GIVEN TO THE PROFS AND TEACHERS WHAT CLASSES WERE TO BE CONTINUED. THE ARMED FORCES WERE NOW IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE UNIVERSITY. THE PROFS SURE HATED THE SET-UP. KERBER HAD ENLISTED IN THE NAVY UNIT THAT I HAD HOPED TO JOIN AND ABE JACOBY WHO HAD FINISHED HIS FIRST YEAR IN MEDICAL SCHOOL SWITCHED TO RUSH MEDICAL SCHOOL IN CHICAGO AFTER SOME ARGUMENT WITH HIS INSTRUCTOR IN ANATOMY. STRANGE THINGS WERE HAPPENING ON THE CAMPUS, ONE DAY THE ENTIRE SENIOR CLASS IN DENTAL COLLEGE WHO JUST FINISHED THE ACCELERATED COURSE WAS LINED UP TOLD TO RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND AND WERE SWORN IN AS OFFICERS IN THE U S ARMY DENTAL CORP.

I STARTED SENIOR CLASSES WHILE WAITING FOR THE TRANSFER OF MY ENLISTMENT PAPERS TO ARRIVE BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARMY PROCEDURE AND SNAFUS THE TRANSFER DID NOT CATCH UP WITH ME TILL AFTER THE ARMISTICE BECAME OFFICIAL. I DIDNT SHED ANY TEARS FOR THE DELAY AND APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED MY HONORABLE DISCHARGE.

THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES COULDN'T WAIT TO GET RID OF ALL VESTIGES OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND RETURN TO NORMAL OPERATIONS. BY THE SAME TOKEN THE ARMY BRASS WAS ANXIOUS TO GET RID OF AS MANY SOLDIERS AS POSSIBLE ESPECIALLY STUDENTS WHO COULD PROVE THAT THEY WERE RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND WOULD BE A BURDEN TO THE GOVERNMENT. SO EVERYBODY WAS HAPPY.

I NOW FOCUSED MY ATTENTION ON THE COMPLETION OF MY COURSE IN ARCHITECTURE AND RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA. I HAD COMPLETED ENOUGH COURSE CREDITS NEEDED FOR GRADUATION, COULD HAVE GONE HOME AFTER THE FIRST TERM AND THE DIPLOMA WOULD HAVE BEEN MAILED TO ME. I DECIDED TO STAY FOR THE EXTRA TERM AND TAKE SUCH ELECTIVES OR SUBJECTS THAT TOOK MY FANCY. I TOOK ALL THE COURSES THAT WERE GIVEN IN DESIGN AND TESTING OF REINFORCED CONCRETE AND AREA IN WHICH THERE WERE FEW TEXT-BOOKS AND INFORMATION SOURCES. FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON THE U S WAS WAY BEHIND THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE USE OF THIS MATERIAL IN CONSTRUCTION AND ONLY THREE CITIES, CHICAGO, DETROIT AND NEW YORK HAD ANY RULES IN THEIR CODES ON THIS TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION.

KERBER WAS DISCHARGED FROM SERVICE AND WE TEAMED UP AS ROOMMATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. I STILL HELD ON TO MY PEARL DIVING JOB AT SIGMA CHI AND IN EXTREME NEED I COULD DEPEND ON IDA FOR A LOAN AS SHE WAS NOW WORKING AS A SCHOOL TEACHER.

WITH GRADUATION IN SIGHT THE NECESSITY FOR A JOB IN ARCHITECTURE OR CONSTRUCTION FIELD BECAME OF PRIME IMPORTANCE BUT AS A RESULT OF THE HALT IN THE NORMAL BUILDING ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR YEARS THERE WERE FEW OPENINGS AROUND AT THIS TIME. THERE WAS A CALL FOR ARCHITECTURAL GRADUATES FROM A DALLAS, TEXAS FIRM, I SENT IN AND APPLICATION BUT I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT ACCEPTING AN OFFER AS IT WOULD BE PERMANENT RESIDENCY AWAY FROM HOME. I SETTLED FOR DETROIT AND IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH ONE OF THE TWO LARGE FIRMS OF ARCHITECTS, AS AN ENGINEER. AS A RESULT OF THE TREMENDOUS WAR PROFITS ROLLED UP BY THE AUTOMAKERS THEY WERE ALL BUSY SPENDING THE EXCESS PROFITS BY EXPANDING THEIR PLANTS AND SO ESCAPE SOME INCOME TAXES. DETROIT AS IT TURNED OUT WAS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY.

WHEN ALL TESTS WERE OVER I ARRANGED TO BOARD WITH MRS CHANNAH MINES, ONE OF MOTHER'S COUSINS IN DETROIT AND REPORTED FOR WORK AT SMITH, HINCHMAN AND GYLS A COMPETITOR OF ALBER KAHN, ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE GRADUATION, THE PAY BEING \$125.00 A MONTH, THE GOING RATE FOR YOUNG GRADUATES, I DID NOT ATTEND THE SCHEDULED FESTIVITIES OF GRADUATION WEEK AND CAME TO ANN ARBOR ONLY TO RECEIVE MY DIPLOMA. THE REASON FOR NOT ATTENDING ALL THE EVENTS OF THE WEEK WAS THAT I HAD ONLY ONE SECOND-HAND BUSINESS SUIT FOR MY ENTIRE WARDROBE AND THAT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE WEAR, BUT ON GRADUATION DAY I WORE CARP AND GOWN AND THAT COVERED A LOT OF SINS. I HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY PAY YET BUT CHANNAH SAID THAT MY CREDIT WAS GOOD.

THE FAMILY OF MRS MINES CONSISTED OF SAM, A MARRIED SON, NETTIE AN UNMARRIED DAUGHTER, A SON WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION, A SON PHILIP OF MY AGE AND A YOUNGER SON MORRIS STILL IN SCHOOL AND ALL EXCEPT SAM LIVING AT HOME. I WAS TREATED LIKE A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, IMMEDIATELY FELT AT HOME AND BECAME LIKE A PAL WITH PHILIP AND HIS FRIENDS.

MRS MINES, LIKE MRS FEINSOD IN NEWARK, NEVER GOT OVER THE LOSS OF HER SON. THE MINES APARTMENT WAS LOCATED ON WARREN ST IN THE OLDER RESIDENTIAL SECTION OF DETROIT. AFTER ABOUT SIX MONTHS THE FAMILY MOVED TO A NEW SECTION KNOWN AS THE EIGHT MILE LIMIT, NEAR THE BEAUTIFUL NEW LINCOLN AUTO LANT. DETROIT AT THIS TIME WAS A REAL ESTATE MAN'S DREAM, FOR IN FIVE YEARS FROM 1915 TO 1920 THE POPULATION HAD DOUBLED FROM 500,000 TO A MILLION AND IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS DOUBLED AGAIN TO TWO MILLION. AS A RESULT FORTUNES WERE MADE AND OF COURSE THE SARASOHN'S WERE ALSO IN THE SWIM.

I WAS DOING WELL AT THE OFFICE ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE EXTRA COURSES THAT I TOOK IN THE DESIGN OF REINFORCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION WHICH WAS NOW IN VOGUE BECAUSE OF THE WAR-TIME LACK OF STEEL. I WAS MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THIS FIELD IN THIS FIELD THAN GRADUATED ENGINEERS WITH FIFTEEN OR TWENTY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE, AS A MATTER OF FACT THEY CAME TO ME FOR ADVICE IN DESIGN PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREAS. AFTER WORKING ABOUT FOUR MONTHS I ASKED THE ASSISTANT CHIEF ENGINEER FOR A RAISE AND HE ADVISED ME TO WAIT A FEW MONTHS AND THAT HE WAS SURE THAT BY YEARS END SOMETHING WOULD BE MANAGED. IT WAS ABOUT CHRISTMAS TIME WHILE OUT TO LUNCH WITH SOME OF THE YOUNG ENGINEERS WHO WERE IN MY CLASS IN SCHOOL AND HAD STARTED WORK AT THE SAME TIME THAT I HAD, ONE INADVERTANTLY LET SLIP THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A \$25.00 A MONTH RAISE WHEN HE THREATENED TO QUIT UNLESS HE RECEIVED SAME. I HIT THE CEILING AND WHILE STILL ON MY LUNCH PERIOD I WENT TO LOCKWOOD GREEN ENGINEERS, AN INTERNATIONAL FIRM, WHO HAD JUST OPENED AN OFFICE IN DETROIT AND ASKED FOR A JOB. I WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE CHIEF, WAS HIRED AT THE TOP SALARY OF \$200.00 A MONTH AND WAS TOLD TO REPORT FOR WORK IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEW YEAR. I TOLD MY BOSS AT SMITH HINCHMAN THAT I WAS LEAVING AT YEAR END, HE MADE ALL KINDS OF OFFERS AND WAS EVEN WILLING TO MEET ANY OFFER THAT I HAD, BUT NO SOAP. I STARTED WORK AT THE NEW OFFICE AT THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1920.

I MANAGED A PRETTY BUSY SCHEDULE, 48 HOUR WEEK AT THE OFFICE WITH AN OCCASIONAL OVERTIME TO MEET A DATELINE. WEEKENDS HELPING OUT AT A SMALLER OFFICE NOT ONLY FOR PAY BUT FOR THE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND AT TIMES AFTER HOURS TO CHECK THE PROGRESS ON THE BUILDING OF THE HOME OF JOHN F DODGE THAT SMITH, HINCHMAN HAD PLANNED AND WAS SUPERVISING THE CONSTRUCTION WHICH WAS COSTING ABOUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS.

I DID NOT NEGLECT MY SOCIAL LIFE, I WAS INVITED TO JOIN A SOCIAL CLUB WHICH WAS FORMED BY OUNG UNATTACHED COLLEGE GRADUATES. ATTENDED TWO MEETINGS WHEN I FOUND THAT THE CLUB WAS REALLY A FRONT FOR COMMUNISTS, SO IT WAS GOOD-BYE IN A HURRY. I ATTENDED THE THEATRE AND CONCERTS GIVEN BY VISITING OPERA STARS. BEING A GRADUATE OF U OF M WAS AN OPEN DOOR TO ALMOST ANYTHING SINCE MICHIGANERS TOOK A SPECIAL PRIDE IN THEIR UNIVERSITY. THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO ANTI-SEMITISM NOTICEABLE.

AT THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER OF 1920 I HAD A VISIT FROM KERBER WHO WAS ON HIS WAY HOME AFTER ALMOST A YEAR OF ROAMING AROUND AFTER DIFFERENT JOBS AND HAD NOW DECIDED TO RETURN TO MICHIGAN IN THE FALL FOR ANOTHER YEAR IN FORESTRY SCHOOL AND OBTAIN A MASTERS DEGREE. HE WAS NOW RETURNING HOME FOR THE SUMMER. IT SUDDENLY DAWNED ON ME THAT I WAS HEADED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN DETROIT BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THAT AFTER A FIVE YEAR ABSENCE THAT NOW BEING SELF-SUPPORTING I HAD AN OBLIGATION TO RETURN HOME GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF MY EARNING POWER AND HELP THEM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. I GAVE NOTICE TO THE CHIEF ENGINEER AT THE OFFICE THAT I WAS RESIGNING AND WAS STAYING LONG ENOUGH TO SET UP MY END OF THE BUILDING DESIGN THAT I WAS WORKING ON SO THAT OTHERS COULD CONTINUE. I WAS TOLD THAT IF I REMAINED ON THE JOB FOR ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH OR SO UNTIL ALL PLANS WERE COMPLETED THE PARTICULAR PROJECT THEY WOULD TRANSFER ME TO THE N Y CITY OFFICE AND EVEN PAY MY MOVING EXPENSE. I WAS VERY SORRY LATER FOR HAVING LEFT IN SUCH A HURRY BUT I WAS AFRAID OF CHANGE OF MIND IF I HESITATED.

I RETURNED TO NEWARK AND SINCE THE FOLKS WERE STILL LIVING ON THE FARM, I BECAME A BORDER AT AUNT LENA'S, SHE ALWAYS HAD ROOM FOR ONE MORE. A JOB WAS NOW IMPERATIVE. IT WAS QUITE A LET DOWN IN COMING FROM A PART OF THE COUNTRY THAT WAS BUSY AND ON THE MOVE TO THE OLD CONSERVATIVE EAST WHICH WAS STILL IN A RECESSION.

IN NEW YORK CITY I KNOCKED ON THE DOORS OF MANY ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING AND CONTRACTING OFFICES INQUIRING ABOUT OPENINGS. I FINALLY FOUND AN OUTFIT WESTINGHOUSE CHURCH CONTRACTORS WHO WERE STARTING OUT IN CIVILIAN WORK. AFTER FILLING OUT AN APPLICATION I WAS USHERED INTO THE CHIEF ENGINEERS OFFICE FOR A PERSONAL INTERVIEW. HE WAS PLEASED WITH MY CREDENTIALS AND WAS PARTICULARLY HAPPY WHEN HE LEARNED THAT MY FORMER BOSS IN DETROIT WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND. IT WAS FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND THE CHIEF WAS ON THE VERGE OF TELLING ME TO REPORT ON MONDAY FOR WORK WHEN HE GLANCED AT MY APPLICATION AND NOTED THAT I HAD NEGLECTED TO STATE WHAT CHURCH I ATTENDED. I TOLD THE ENGINEER THAT I WAS JEWISH AND HE IMMEDIATELY FROZE SAYING THAT HE WOULD PLACE THE APPLICATION ON FILE. I ROSE AND TOLD HIM TO TEAR UP THE APPLICATION IN MY PRESENCE AND THAT NO LAME EXCUSE WAS NECESSARY AND GAVE HIM A GRAND GOOD-BYE. I RETURNED TO NEWARK AND FINALLY LOCATED A JOB WITH A FIRM OF CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS. THE JOB LASTED TILL DECEMBER WHEN THE FIRM WENT OUT OF BUSINESS BECAUSE OF THE LOSSES THAT THEY HAD ACCUMULATED IN THE CONTRACTING BUSINESS DURING THE WAR YEARS.



I WAS HARD PUT TO FIND ANOTHER JOB SINCE THE ECONOMY AND THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN PARTICULAR, WERE STILL IN THE DOLDRUMS THE YEAR END OF 1920. ONE DAY I DROPPED IN TO SEE MY GOOD FRIEND AND SPONSOR OF THE DRAWING SCHOOL DAYS MR SHIRLEY, WHO WAS NOW BUSINESS MANGER FOR THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION. I TOLD HIM ABOUT MY PROBLEM AND HE CONTACTED THE NEWARK ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF GUILBERT & BETTELE SPECIALISTS IN SCHOOL DESIGN AND WHO WERE ALSO DOING PLANS FOR THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION. I WAS HIRED. THIS FIRM OF ARCHITECTS BECAUSE OF THEIR NEW STYLE IN PLANNING FOR THE MORN SCHOOL BUILDINGS WAS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING FIRMS IN THE COUNTRY IN THIS FIELD. GUILBERT WAS DEAD BUT J O BETTELE WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE, LECTURED ON SCHOOL PLANNING AT COLUMBIA FOR CLASSES OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, WAS A NATIVE OF DELAWARE AND A FRIEND OF THE du PONT FAMILY.

THE STATE OF DELAWARE HAD ABOUT THE WORST RECORD FOR ITS POOR EDUCATION PLANTS SO THE du PONTs OFFERED TO MATCH THE STATE OF DELAWARE DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR THAT IT WOULD SPEND ON NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS. OF COURSE, JAMES O BETTELE WAS COMMISSIONED AS ARCHITECT FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM. AS A RESULT OF THIS PUBLICITY ALSO THE WINNING OF A COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS IN CONNECTICUT THEIR OFFICE BECAME ONE OF THE BUSIEST ALONG THE EASTERN SEABOARD. THE FIRM WAS ALSO INVITED AS CONSULTING ARCHITECTS BY FIRMS IN NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY WITH SCHOOL-BUILDING PLAN COMMISSIONS.

AFTER AWHILE THERE WAS A SHORT LULL IN BUSINESS AND I WAS LET GO AND GIVEN A WEEKS PAY TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER POSITION AS A DRAFTSMAN. AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS I CAME BACK TO THE OFFICE AND ASKED MR BAUER THE CHIEF DRAFTSMAN, WHO WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE FIRM, FOR PRINTS OF THE DRAWINGS THAT I HAD WORKED ON, TO PRESENT, AS SAMPLES OF MY WORK. BAUER THEN DECIDED THAT HE WAS TOO RASH IN LETTING ME GO AND WOULD I RETURN TO THE OLD DRAWING BOARD. I ACCEPTED, BUT I KNEW THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR FIRING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS THAT I WAS A JEW AND BAUER WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE FIRM WHO WAS ANTI-SEMITIC. I STAYED WITH THE FIRM FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS UNTIL I SET UP MY OWN PRACTICE.

BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING RECESSION IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY THIS OFFICE WAS ABLE TO EMPLOY SOME OF THE FINEST ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNERS, ARTISTS AND READERS TO BE FOUND ANYWHERE. THE OFFICE KEPT EXPANDING AND THE OLDER MEN WERE LIKE TACHERS ALWAYS READY TO ADVISE AND HELP THE YOUNGER MEN. WE WERE JUST LIKE A GREAT FRATERNITY AND I WAS LEARNING SO MUCH THAT I WOULD HAVE WORKED FOR NO PAY JUST TO ASSOCIATE WITH SUCH MEN OF NATIONAL REPUTATION.

IN THE BEGINNING OF 1921, IDA WHO NOW HAD TENURE IN THE NEWARK SCHOOL SYSTEM AND I DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO BRING THE GOLDS BACK TO THE CITY SO THAT WE COULD AGAIN BE A UNITED FAMILY. FIRST WE HAD TO FIND AN APARTMENT BUT THAT WAS LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK. BECAUSE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DURING THE WAR YEARS AND NEW DEMAND THERE WERE FEW APARTMENTS AVAILABLE. APARTMENTS ADVERTISESED FOR RENT STATED GENTILES PREFERRED. WE WERE REALLY STUMPED BUT ONE DAY I FOUND AN AD IN THE PAPER WHICH SAID JEWS PREFERRED. IDA AND I RUSHED UP IMMEDIATELY AND THE APARTMENT WAS SIX ROOMS IN A THREE STORY, THREE FAMILY MODERN BUILDING OPPOSITE WEST SIDE PARK OWNER OCCUPIED, JUST WHAT WE WANTED. WE RENTED THE APARTMENT. WE SPENT ABOUT 4800.00 TO COMPLETELY FURNISH THE APARTMENT INCLUDING A HAND-WINDING VICTROLA WITH RECORDS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR MOVING THE FOLKS WITH IDA AND I SHARING EXPENSE.

THE YEARS 1930 ND 1921 WERE BAD FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK FROM THE RACE STANDPOINT. NEWARK AS A VARIED INDUSTRIAL CITY HAD ALWAYS HAD AN INDIGENOUS WELL INTIGRATED NEGRO MINORITY BUT WITH THE ADVENT OF WAR AND EMPTYING OF THE FACTORIES BY THE DRAFT A GREAT NEED AROSE FOR HELP. AGENTS WERE DISPATCHED TO THE SOUTHERN COTTON FIELDS FOR NEGRO HELP TO WORK IN THE AMMUNITION PLANTS AND THEY CAME BY TRAIN LOAD. WITH THE END OF THE WAR AND THE SLOW CHANGE OVER TO CIVILIAN ECONOMY, THE VETERANS RETURNED TO THEIR HOMES AND FORMER JOBS. THIS LEFT THE IMPORTED HELP OUT IN THE COLD FOR WORK AND NO PLACE TO GO, THE RESULT WAS RACE RIOTS.

THE JEWISH PUPULATION STILL LIVING IN THE OLD CORE OF THE CITY HAD TO WITHSTAND THE PUSH OF THE NEWCOMERS. IF THIS WASNT ENOUGH THE JEWS IN PARTICULAR WERE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A NEW DANGER, THE KU KULX KLAN. THIS ORGAINIZATION WHILE ON THE FACE OF THINGS WAS ALSO ANTI-CANTOLIC AND ANTI-NEGRO, AS USUAL FOUND ITS MAIN THRUST AGAINST THE JEWS. THE KLAN FOUND FERTILE GROUND IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY AND BEFORE LONG ELECT SOME KLAN MEMBERS TO STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICE. THE KLAN SPOUTED THE OLD SHOPWORN TIREADES ABOUT THE JEWS HAVING A MONOP-OLY OF THE BANKS, MONEY, WERE COMMUNITIS, ETC. NOT STRANGELY ENOUGH THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE KLAN IN THE NORTHEAST WAS CENTERED IN MONMOUTH COUNTY OF NEW JERSEY AND THEIR RAVINGS EXIST EVEN TO THIS DAY,AS WITNESS THE SAME PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE RECENTLY BY GENERAL GEORGE S BROWN CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE HIGHEST OFFICER IN THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHO HAILS FROM MONMOUTH COUNTY. THE PRESIDENT OF THE U S GAVE BROWN A SLAP ON THE WRITST FOR MAKING SUCH STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC. THE SOUTH HAS ALWAYS HAD A HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM SUCH AS LYNCHING OF JEWS ON TRUMPED UP CHARES AND ELECTING BILBO TO THE U S SENATE SOLEYLY ON THEIR RECORD OF ANTI-SEMITIMS. WHILE IT MAY SEEM THAT I AM HARPING TOO MUCH ON THE SUBJECT OF ANTI-SEMITISM I CANNOT HELP TOO STRONGLY TO IMPRESS ON MY CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN OF THE LATENT BIGOTRY THAT IS PART OF CHRISTIANITY FOR WE CANNOT BE FORGEIVEN FOR THE FACT THAT CHRIST WAS BORN A JEW AND DIED A JEW.

HOW SAFE WE MAY NOW FEEL HISTORY HAS PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT A HOLOCAUST CAN HAPPEN HERE TOO.

WITH THE FAMILY UNITED AGAIN IN THE CITY WHICH HAD BEEN SO MUCH A PART OF OUR LIVES WE QUICKLY PICKED UP OUR FORMER TIES TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. FATHER FOUND A JOB AS A MASHGIEACH OR SUERVISOR IN A SLAGHTER HOUSE CATERIN TO KOSHER JEWISH BUTCHERS. A JOB THAT HE WAS ABLY FITTED FOR AND RELISHED HIS DUTY TO SEE THAT THE STEERS WERE PROPERLY SLAUGHTERED. ON EDAMINATION OF ALL CARCASSES TO SEE THAT THEY WERE FREE OF ANY DISEASE AND THAT ALL PARTS AND WORK COMPLIED WITH ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DIETARY LAWS. WHEN THE THE SIDES OF BEEF WERE APPROVED BY HIM, HE STAMPED THEM WITH A SPECIAL INDELIBLE VEGETABLE DYE STAMP AND THEN ONLY WERE THEY SOLD TO THE KOSHER BUTCHERS. FATHER KEPT THAT JOB FOR TWENTY YEARS UNTIL HIS FINAL ILLNESS. FATHER CONTINUED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE "CHEVRAH THILIM" SYNAGOGUE A CONGREGATION HE HELPED FOUND. HE ACTED AS READER OF THE TORAH AT ALL SERVICES AND AS ONE OF THE FEW OUTSTANDING TALMUDIC SCHOLARS HE BECAME TH TEACHER OR LEADER OF THE GROUP IN THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION OF COMMENTARIES OF THE TALMUD. THE CONGREGATION UNTIL NOW DID NOT HAVE A FORMAL RABBI. SO THE MEMBERS INSISTED THAT FATHER APPLY TO THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR PAPERS OR LICENSE DESIGNATING HIM AS RABBI OR REVEREND OF THE CONGREGATION. THE STATE LICENSE CAME THROUGH AND HE WAS OFFICIALLY PERMITTED TO PERFORM ALL FUNCTIONS OF A FULLY ORDAINED RABBI. HE NEVER KEPT ANY FEES FOR HIS PERSONAL USE, WHEN HE OFFICIATED AT WEDDINGS, USUALLY RETURNING SAME AS A GIFT TO THE NEW COUPLE OR GIVING THEM TO A DESERVING CHARITY.

AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS THE FOLKS BOUGHT A THREE FAMILY DWELLING ON HUNTERDON ST A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD THAN THE OLD THIRD WARD IN THE CORE OF THE CITY.

MINNIE UPON HER RETURN TO NEWARK DECIDED NOT TO COMPLETE HER HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, ALTHOUGH SHE ONLY NEEDED A TERM FOR A DIPLOMA. SHE PREFERRED BUSINESS INSTEAD. IDA WHO HAD A SLOW SCHOOL START QUICKLY HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AS NOTED BEFORE AND GAVE ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY TO KEEP UP WITH HER. WITH HARLY AND URGING FROM THE PAREANTS SHE BECAME A STUDENT OF THE FREE HEBREW SCHOOL, THAT IS AFTER REGULAR PUBLIC SCHOOL HOURS AND AN AVID READER AND SCHOLAR. AT THE AGE OF ABOUT FIFTEEN WHILE STTILL IN HIGH SCHOOL SHE GOT A JOB TO TEACH HEBREW CLASSES WEEK-ENS AT ONE OF THE CONSERVATIVE JERSEY CITY TEMPLES.

I NOW DECIDED TAHT MY LIFES WORK OR PROFESSION WAS TO BE AS AN ARCHITECT AND EVENTUALLY IN BUSINESS FOR MYSELF. ENGINEERING WAS OUT BECAUSE EMPLOYMENT IN THE FIELD MEANT WORKING FOR A LARGE FIRM AND NEVEVER BEING SURE OF A JOB. CONSTRUCTION WAS ALSO OUT BECAUSE I LACKED THE FINANCIAL BACKING. HAVING BEEN AWAY FOR FIVE YEARS I KNEW THAT STARTING OUT FOR MYSELF WOULD BE TOUGH SLEDDING AND I ALSO REALIZED THAT I WOULD NOT BE IN LINE FOR COMMISSIONS DESIGNING SCHOOLS OR BANKS THE THE WORK THAT I WAS DOING AT THE OFIC. I THEREFORE SPENT EVENING AND WEEK-ENDS DOING DRAFTING FOR WMALLER OFFICES ON WORK THAT I WOULD MEET WITH WHEN I STARTED ON MY OWN. I GAINED GOOD EXPERIENCE. IN PREPARATION I JOINED VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS JUST TO MEET PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE TO WHICH MOST OF THE JEWISH CONTRACTORS AND DEVELOPERS BELONGED, MY UNCLE MOISH RABINOWITZ WAS A BIG WHEEL HERE. MIKE SRAVITSKY INVITED ME TO BECOME A DIRECTOR IN A BUILDING & LOAN ASSN THAT HE AND SOME FRIENDS WERE STARTING.

I SPENT MY VACATION IN 1922 BY TAKING A TRIP TO ANN ARBOR AND DETROIT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN RECORDS OF MY SCHOOLING AND DATA FROM THE ENGINEERING FIRMS IN DETROIT THAT I HAD WORKED WITH, TESTIFYING TO MY EMPLOYMENT WLL TO BE ATTACHED TO MY APPLICATION TO THE REGISTRATION BOARD FOR A LICENSE TO PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

THE RULES OF THE LICESING BOARD STATED THAT IF AN APPLICANT WAS A GRADUATE OF AN APPROVED SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PRESENTED EVIDENCE OF COMPETENCY IN ALL PHASES OF THE PROFESSION THE BOARD COULD IN ITS DISCRETION GRANT A LICENSE WITHOUT THE APPLICANT TAKING THE REQUIRED THREE DAY EXAMINATION. A WONDERFUL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM MY BOSS J O BETELLE WHO AT THAT TIME WAS THE LEADING ARHITECT OF THE STATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE A I A HELPED AND I WAS DULY LICENSED TO PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. SEVERAL YEARS LATER I WAS ALSO LISCENSED BY THE REGENTS OF N Y STATE.

I NOW REACHED THE RIPE OLD AGE OF TWENTY-SIX PLUS AND THE FOLKS WERE GETTING WORRIED ABOUT MY SINGLE STATUS. I WAS INVITED BY BEA HAILPERIN AN AUNT OF LEAH BY MARRIAGE TO MEET HER NIECE LEAH HAILPERIN. I KNEW BEA HAILPERIN WHEN HER NAME WAS STAVITSKY AND WAS A CLASSMATE OF MINE IN GRAMMER SCHOOL AND ALSO HAPPENED TO BE A SISTER OF MIKE STAVITSKY WHO WAS MY ONE TIME TUTOR. M MET LEAH AND AFTER SOME DATING AND HARD THINKING ON MY PART I DECIDED TO ASK LEAH FOR HER HAND IN MARRIAGE. SHE TOLD ME MUCH LATER THAT THE ONLY REASON SHE ACCEPTED WAS THAT SHE HAD PITY ON ME AND I WAS THE HOMELIST MAN THAT SHE EVER MET. THE HAILPERINS WERE A WELL KNOWN AND RESPECTED FAMILY IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF NEWARK, HER FATHER WAS A SHOCHET, HER GRANFATHER WAS THE CHIEG RABBI IN NEWARK AND TWO UNCLES ALSO WERE RABBIS. THE FOLKS WERE NATURALLY PLEASED WITH MY CHOICE AND A FORMAL ENGAGEMENT PARTY HELD. THE PARTY WAS ALMOST LIKE A WEDDING AFFAIR.

BY THE END OF 1922 I HAD DECIDED TO GIVE UP MY JOB AND TO OPEN MY OWN OFFICE FOR THE PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE. I FELT THAT I WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE FOR SUCCESS IN A SUBURB LIKE BLOOMFIELD WHICH WAS CENTER OF A CLUSTER OF TOWNS AND CITIES LIKE MONTCLAIR, VERONA, NUTLEY, ETC AND I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A NEW BUILDING BOOM AND THAT WOULD SPREAD TO THE SUBURBS OF NEWARK. I INTENDED TO BECOME PART OF THE COMMUNITY INSTEAD OF BEING LOST IN THE BIG CITY. I OPENED AN OFFICE IN BLOOMFIELD CENTER BUT SOON LEARNED THAT I HAD MADE A MISTAKE AND WHILE MANY OF THE MERCHANTS WERE JEWISH THEY ALREADY HAD THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS IN NEWARK. AS FAR AS THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD WAS CONCERNED I JUST DID NOT ATTEND THE RIGHT CHURCH. AFTER ABOUT FIVE MONTHS OF KNOCKING AT DOORS OF BUSINESS AND REAL ESTATE OFFICES AND LETTING THEM KNOW THAT I WAS AVAILABLE I HAD TO GIVE UP AND RETURN TO THE BIG CITY. NEWARK AS THE LARGEST IN NEW JERSEY WAS THE FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE STATE. IT WAS ALSO THE HOME OF THE PRUDENTIAL AND OTHER INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THE HUB OF MANY INDUSTRIES.

I STARTED LOOKING FOR AN OFFICE AND BECAUSE OF THE RETURN TO NORMAL AND THE UNDERBUILDING DURING THE WAR, OFFICE SPACE WAS AT A PREMIUM. I HAD TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO BE PUT ON A WAITING LIST FOR SPACE IN THE FIRST CLASS OFFICE BUILDING, ALSO GIVE THE NAME OF THE CHURCH THAT I ATTENDED. I FINALLY FOUND SPACE IN ONE OF THE SMALLER BUILDINGS IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY AND HUNG OUT MY SHINGLE.

IDA HELPED IN MY GETTING ESTABLISHED BY INTRODUCING ME TO ALL HER FRIENDS, I HAD LOST ALL MY CONTACTS BECAUSE OF FIVE YEAR ABSENCE. IDA WAS VERY ACTIVE IN THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, THE HADASSAH AND I MET MANY OF THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS STARTING OUT. I MADE USE OF HER MANY FRIENDS. THE BUILDING BOOM WAS FINALLY GETTING STARTED AS MANY OF THE BOYS WHO RETURNED FROM WAR, MARRIED, NEEDED HOMES OR APARTMENTS. THEY WERE CERTAINLY NOT SATISFIED WITH THE OLD RAILROAD TENEMENTS AND SO BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS STEPPED IN TO SATISFY THE DEMAND FOR ALL CLASSES OF BUILDING. THE EXPANSION OF NEWARK INTO THE LYONS FARMS AND WHAT LATER WAS TO BE KNOWN AS THE WEEQUAHIC SECTION BEGAN ALONG WITH THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS BUSINESS BUILDINGS NEEDED TO SERVE THE AREA. I GOT MY SHARE OF THE BUSINESS. ABOUT THIS TIME LEAH'S FOLKS DECIDED THAT THE YEAR'S ENGAGEMENT HAD LASTED LONG ENOUGH AND THAT A WEDDING WAS IN ORDER. A DATE WAS SET FOR JUNE 6, 1923 A WEDNESDAY.

THE WEDDING WAS HELD IN SCHARY MANOR ON HUGH ST, NEWARK. THE SCHARY'S WERE THE PARENTS OF DORE SCHARY WHO WAS LATER TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF IN HOLLYWOOD, BUT AT THIS TIME WAS BUSY WRITING AND HELP PRODUCING FOR THE YMHA THEATRE GROUP. IT TOOK FOUR RABBIS TO TIE THE KNOT PROPERLY.

IT SEEMS THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES FOR AFTER PROVIDING FOR MY END OF THE WEDDING, MY CLOTHES AND A HONEYMOON IN ATLANTIC CITY AND TWO MONTHS OFFICE RENT MY BANK ACCOUNT WAS COMPLETELY BARE. THAT SITUATION DIDN'T SEEM TO BOTHER ME TOO MUCH AND AS TIME WENT ON I KEPT DOING BETTER AND DIDN'T STARVE. IN JUNE 1924 RUTH WAS BORN AND MIMI CAME AT END OF 1925. MY PRACTICE AT THIS TIME WAS IN ALL FIELDS, RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND SOME INDUSTRIAL. FOLLOWING FATHER'S TEACHING I ESTABLISHED A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND FAIR DEALING ALTHOUGH THAT DIDN'T ALWAYS PAY DIVIDENDS AS THE THEORY OF BUYER BEWARE STILL HELD SWAY.



I ALSO MADE IT MY BUSINESS TO HAVE A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ZONING AND ALL CITY, COUNTY AND STATE CODES THAT WERE APPLICABLE AND COULD TALK THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD TO ENFORCE THE VARIOUS CODES, AS A RESULT I GAINED THE CONFIDENCE AND GOOD WILL OF THE EXAMINERS AND INSPECTORS. ABOUT THIS TIME I RECEIVED THE COMMISSION TO DESIGN THE NEW WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CLUB HOUSE, QUITE A FEATHER IN THE CAP OF A YOUNG ARCHITECT.

I REMAINED A ONE MAN OUTFIT UNTIL 1927 WHEN A CONTRACTOR FRIEND OF MINE AND NATHAN SIEGLER A LITTLE OLDER ARCHITECT, WHO HAD AN ORGANIZATION, SUGGESTED THAT WITH MY BACKGROUND AND SIEGLER'S BUSINESS ABILITY AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS THAT WE WOULD MAKE A GOOD PARTNERSHIP. NATHAN'S BROTHERS WERE LAWYERS, HAD A LOT OF BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CONNECTIONS AND HIS OLDER BROTHER JOE RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR AS A JUDGE IN ESSEX COUNTY. AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION THE FIRM OF SIEGLER AND GREENBERG WAS FORMED WITH MYSELF IN CHARGE OF ALL OFFICE WORK AND NAT TO TAKE CARE OF ALL OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING GETTING BUSINESS. THE OFFICE WAS GETTING STATURE IN THE COMMUNITY, WE DID WELL ENOUGH IN MEETING ALL OBLIGATIONS.

MINNIE WAS MARRIED IN THE LATE TWENTIES TO MICHAEL SILVERMAN AND IDA MARRIED CHARLES COWAN IN THE EARLY THIRTIES. LIFE CONTINUED ON AN EVEN KEEL.

WITH THE TWO DAUGHTERS OUTGROWING THE BABY STAGE A HOME OF MY OWN WAS NOW IN ORDER AND IN JUNE 1929 I MOVED INTO MY OWN ONE FAMILY DWELLING LOCATED ON GRUMMAN AVE, A NICE MIDDLE CLASS RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD. THE HOUSE IN THE MAIN CONSISTED OF SIX ROOMS, SUN PARLOR, EXPANSION ATTIC, TWO CAR GARAGE AND WAS ONE YEAR OLD. WE BECAME GOOD FRIENDS WITH OUR NEIGHBORS WHO WERE GENERALLY IN OUR AGE GROUP. THEN THAT FALL THE ROOF FELL IN, FIRST THE STOCK MARKET CRASH IN OCTOBER 1929, THEN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ALWAYS THE FIRST TO FEEL A RECESSION AND OUR DEVELOPMENT CLIENTS GOING BANKRUPT ALL AROUND US WITH THEM OWING OUR FEES. CONDITIONS WERE GETTING WORSE BY THE DAY AND MY PARTNERS AND I FOOLISHLY TOOK THE ADVICE OF PRESIDENT HOOVER THAT GOOD TIMES WERE AROUND THE CORNER AND KEPT OUR ORGANIZATION INTACT FOR THAT GOLDEN CORNER.

THAT IMPROVEMENT NEVER CAME AND OUR MONEY FINALLY GAVE OUT. THINGS CONTINUED TO WORSEN, THE RECESSION WAS REALLY IN FULL FORCE, SEVERAL OF OUR CLIENTS EVEN COMMITTED SUICIDE. AT THE BEGINNING OF 1932 I DECIDED TO CALL IT QUITS AND SEVERED THE PARTNERSHIP OF SIEGLER AND GREENBERG SINCE THERE WAS NO BUSINESS ANYWAY AND THEREFORE NO REASON FOR MAINTAINING AN OFFICE AND OVERHEAD. THERE WAS NO WAY TO PAY FOR EXPENSES. THE GREAT DEPRESSION WAS IN FULL SWING AND HOOVER IN HIS RE-ELECTION SPEECH GIVEN IN NEWARK IN THE FALL OF 1932 NO SAID THAT UNLESS HE WAS RE-ELECTED GRASS WOULD GROW IN THE STREETS OF MANUFACTURING CITIES LIKE NEWARK.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN NOVEMBER 1932 AND HIS VOICE GAVE US HOPE THAT HE MIGHT LIFT US OUT OF OUR DESPAIR. THERE IS NO NEED TO GO INTO DETAILS OF OUR EXISTENCE IN THE GREATNESS OF DEPRESSIONS OR THE LACK OF EVEN THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE BECAUSE I WAS TOO PROUD TO ASK FOR HELP. WAS ABLE TO HANG ON TO THE HOUSE EVEN THOUGH I WAS BEHIND TWO YEARS IN THE PAYMENT OF TAXES AND INTEREST ON THE MORTGAGE AND FINALLY I COULD NOT STAVE OFF FORECLOSURE ANY LONGER. IN THE FALL OF 1934 THE FEDERAL CIVILIAN WORKS ADMINISTRATION (CWA) STARTED A PROJECT FOR THE STARVING ARCHITECTS UNDER WHICH

WE UNDERTOOK THE MEASURE AND MADE A RECORD OF ALL PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN THE CITY. I QUALIFIED FOR A JOB AS A DRAFTSMAN, WORKING THREE DAYS A WEEK FOR EIGHTEEN DOLLARS, THAT AT PROVIDED GROCERIES FOR THE FAMILY. NOW AND AGAIN I STARTED TO RECEIVE INQUIRIES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR PLANS IN CONSTRUCTION FIELD. ONE CALL THAT I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER WAS TO GO TO MONTICELLO, N Y RIGHT AFTER NEW YEARS DAY 1934 TO MEASURE AND PREPARE PLANS FOR THE ALTERATION OF A HOTEL. IT WAS THE COLDEST WINTER EVER WITH THE TEMPERATURE IN NEWARK READING FOURTEEN BELOW AND IN MONTICELLO FALLSBURG AREA REACHING FORTY BELOW. GOING UP BY TRAIN AND LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW ONE COULD SEE THAT THE HUDSON RIVER WAS FROZEN SOLID AND AUTOS CROSSING FROM N Y TO N J OVER THE ICE. LAKE KIAMESHA ACROSS FROM THE HOTEL WAS FROZEN WITH AUTOS OF THE SPECTATORS WATCHING A HOCKEY GAME PARKED ON THE ICE.

BEGINNING WITH 1935 I WAS ABLE TO SCROUNGE ENOUGH WORK SO THAT I COULD HAVE FEDERAL OR STATE MADE WORK PROJECTS. I NOW RECEIVED A FEDERAL HOME LOAN ON MY HOUSE IN THE AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE MORTGAGE AND ALL OUTSTANDING LIENS OR CLAIMS. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE NEW MORTGAGE ADDED UP TO ONLY ONE-HALF OF WHAT THE HOUSE ORIGINALLY COST BUT THE NEW MONTHLY PAYMENTS WERE STILL BEYOND MY EARNING CAPACITY. I FINALLY MADE A DEAL WITH THE HOME LOAN ADMINISTRATION THAT I WOULD SIGN OVER THE DEED TO THE PROPERTY IF THEY WOULD RELEASE ME FROM THE MORTGAGE BOND. THEY ACCEPTED THE OFFER AND IN SEPTEMBER 1938 I RENTED A FIVE ROOM AND SUN PARLOR APARTMENT IN A TWO FAMILY DWELLING AT 133 LEHIGH AVE, NEWARK.

WE WERE CRAWLING OUT OF THE DEPRESSION AND I WAS SLOWLY RECOVERING AND BEGINNING TO EARN ENOUGH FOR SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY AND MAKE SOME PAYMENTS ON THE ACCUMULATED DEBTS. IN 1939 I RENTED A SMALL OFFICE IN THE SUITE OF A LAWYER FRIEND, ABE ALAUM, IN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING AND LIFE WAS RETURNING TO NORMAL. THE GIRLS GRADUATED GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND WERE NOW IN HIGH SCHOOL. NEWARK AND VICINITY ALWAYS HAD A LARGE NUMBER OF GERMANS OR PEOPLE OF GERMAN DESCENT AND WITH THE TAKEOVER OF GERMANY BY HITLER AND HIS NAZIS, THE GERMAN ETHNICS CAME OUT OF THE WAINSCOT. THIS GROUP FORMED THE GERMAN BUND, APED THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN GERMANY, FORMED THEMSELVES INTO SEMI MILITARY COMPANIES AND SPOUTED THE NAZI HATRED OF THE JEWS. WITH THEIR HEIL HITLERS REALLY BECAME A THREAT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. FORTUNATELY THERE WERE ENOUGH YOUNG AND ALE JEWS AROUND WHOE WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT UNHEALTHY FOR THE NAZIS. THE NAZIS WERE FORCED FROM ESSEX COUNTY AND INTO BERGEN COUNTY AWAY FROM THE CENTER OF POPULATION AND INTO CAMPS FOR THEIR TRAINING. AS IT TURNED OUT THIS WAS JUST ABOUT THE TIME WHEN WAR ENTRY WAS A POSSIBILITY AND THE FBI TOOK OVER.

IN SEPTEMBER 1939 THE WAR CLOUDS BROKE AND HITLER ATTACHED POLAND. I WILL NOT GO INTO DETAILS OF HITLER'S ATROCITIES, THE DEATH CAMPS, CREMATORIALS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLCAUST HISTORY HAS ALREADY WELL DOCUMENTED THEM. MOTHER'S THREE SISTER AND THEIR FAMILIES IN POLAND WERE OBLITERATED AND LOST FOREVER. THE PRESIDENT AND THE U S LENT ALL POSSIBLE AID TO THE ALLIES. IN THE FALL OF 1940 ROOSEVELT RAN FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED THIRD TERM AND WAS ELECTED IN SPITE OF MANY WHO WERE AGAINST HIM BECAUSE, AS THEY SAID, HE WAS LEADING US INTO A JEW-WAR.

SELELECTIVE SERVICE LASWS WERE ENACTED AND I HAD TO REGISTER BECAUSE I WAS STILL SHY OF THE FORTY-FIVE HEAR CUT-OFF DAY, BUT LITTLE CHANCE OF BEING CALLED FOR ACTIVE DUTY. AS THE GIRLS WERE GROWING INTO YOUNG LADIES AND WITH TIME ON LEAH'S HANDS I MADE HER DO VOLUNTEER WORK WITH THE DRAFT BOARD OR ANY WORTH WHILE PROJECT THAT NEEDED HANDS. WE WERE FINALLY FORCED INTO THE WAR IN DECEMBER 7, 1941 ON THAT DAY OF INFAMY AND NOW A REAL CHANGE-OVER TO A WAR EFFORT ONLY.

RUTH GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND WAS ANXIOUS TO GO TO COLLEGE. AS MUCH AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY SINCE SHE WAS COLLEGE MATERIAL, JUST DID NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS. SHE GOT A JOB WITH THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE CO. ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS A SCARCITY OF HEL AND THE JEWISH QUOTA SYSTEM HAD TO BE IGNORED. SIX MONTHS LATER MIMI WAS GRADUATED. SHE HAD HOPED TO STUDY MEDICINE, BUT THE SAME FINANCIAL SITUATION PREVENTED HER FROM REACHING HER GOAL. SHE TOO WENT TO WORK FOR THE PRUDENTIAL. THIS EMPLOYMENT WAS DOUBLY UNUSUAL NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE JEWISH BACKGROUND, BUT THEY WERE OF THE SAME FAMILY.

BOTH GIRLS WERE BORED WITH THE CLERICAL WORK. MIMI AS SOON AS HER AGE PERMITTED JOINED THE NURSES TRAINING SCHOOL AT THE BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL. RUTH AS SOON AS SHE TURNED TWENTY ENLISTED IN THE WAVES IN SPITE OF SOME OBJECTIONS THAT SHE HAD NO OBLIGATION TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES.

RUTH RECEIVED HER BASIC TRAINING AT HUNTER COLLEGE IN NEW YORK CITY AND AS A RESULT OF TESTS SHOWING AN ABILITY IN MATH AND SCIENCE SHE WAS SHIPPED TO VERO BEACH, FLORIDA. THIS NAVAL STATION WAS WHERE NAVY FLYING OFFICERS WERE TRAINED IN NIGHT FLYING BY RADAR GUIDANCE WHICH WAS A NEW DEVELOPMENT. THE WAVES WERE USED TO MAN THE DIRECTIONAL TOWERS. WHEN RUTH GOT THE ASSIGNMENT SHE WAS VERY MUCH UPSET FOR SHE HAD NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM HOME. IN TIME SHE GOT TO LIKE THE DUTY, RECEIVED A RATING AND EVEN TOOK SOME JOY RIDES IN THE PLANES.

MIMI DID WELL IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM AND WHEN THE BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL SIGNED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WAS TRANSFERRED CORPS AND PUT INTO UNIFORM. THE BETH REALLY GOT A BREAK BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT PAID THEM FOR ALL TRAINING EXPENSES AND PAY TO THE STUDENTS.

LEAH TOOK A VOLUNTEER JOB WITH THE OPA AND WAS QUICKLY INDUCED TO JOIN THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE AND MAKE THE JOB PERMANENT. WITH CIVILIAN WORK OUTLAWED I ENDED UP DOING INDUSTRIAL WORK FOR OUTFITS HOLDING WAR CONTRACTS.

AT THE OPA OFFICE LEAH WAS IN CHARGE OF GAS ALLOTMENT STAMPS AND RATIONING AT WHICH SHE DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB. SHE DECIDED TO VISIT DAUGHTER RUTH IN FLORIDA TO SEE FOR HERSELF THAT EVERYTHING WAS O. K. UPON RETURNING FROM HER VISIT THE CHIEF OF THE OFFICE INFORMED LEAH THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED A PROMOTION, OR KICKED UP-STAIRS, THAT WAS ONLY THAT SHE WAS TOO SINCERE IN HER WORK AND WOULD NOT PLAY POLITICS.

LEAH RESIGNED HER JOB AND WENT TO WORK FOR THE NAVY IN THE NEWARK OFFICE OF THE NAVY PROCUREMENT FACILITY. THIS WAS A BUSY OFFICE BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF WAR CONTRACTORS IN NORTH JERSEY. LEAH REMAINED AT THIS JOB UNTIL HER RETIREMENT IN 1964 AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS WITH FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE.

MIMI FINISHED HER THREE YEAR TRAINING COURSE, WAS CERTIFIED AS A REGISTERED NURSE AND JOINED THE STAFF OF THE BETH THE WAR NOW BEING OVER.

RUTH REMAINED IN SERVICE FOR TWO YEARS PLUS, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED. UPON HER DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE, RUTH MATRICULATED AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, UNDER THE G I BILL OF RIGHTS, HER TERM OF ENLISTMENT, MADE HER ELIGIBLE FOR A FULL FOUR YEAR COURSE WITH THE GOVERNMENT PICKING UP THE TAB.

TO TURN THE PAGE OF TIME BACK A BIT THE FOLKS LIVED ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE THREE FAMILY SWELLING THAT THEY OWNED AND MINNIE AND MICKEY LIVED ON THE SECOND FLOOR. THIS WAS A GOOD ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE IT RELIEVED FATHER OF PHYSICAL EFFORT SUCH AS MAKING ANY MINOR REPAIRS, CARE OF THE HEATING SYSTEM, SHOVELING SNOW, ETC.

IN 1940 FATHER STARTED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH AND IN 1941 HAD A HEART ATTACK, AS A RESULT WE MADE HIM RETIRE FROM WORK. THE FOLKS DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING BY FINANCIALLY, THEIR WANTS WERE FEW AND WITH SOCIAL SECURITY AND NO RENT TO PAY THEY MANAGED. I CONTINUED TO SHUTTLE FATHER FROM HOME TO HOSPITAL AND BACK. MINNIE KEPT A WATCHFUL EYE ON BOTH FATHER AND MOTHER. ON SUNDAYS I MANAGED TO DRIVE THE GOLKS AROUND IN MY CAR AND FATHER PARTICULARLY ENJOYED THE VISITS TO HIS SISTERS.

APRIL 1943 JUST AFTER LEAVING FATHER AT THE HOSPITAL HE PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY-SIX. I MISSED FATHER VERY MUCH NOT ONLY AS A PARENT BUT AS A WONDERFUL TACHER. WAS AMAZED AT THE NUMBER OF EXPRESSIONS OF SORROW RECEIVED FROM PEOPLE WHO KNEW HIM AND HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM.

MINNIE MOVED IN WITH MOTHER SO AS TO BE ABLE TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF HER. MOTHER HAD ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM WITH HER LEGS AND FOR YEARS I TOOK HER TO VARIOUS CLINICS FOR TREATMENT. AS THE YEARS WENT BY, MOTHER WAS BECOMING SENILE AND THERE WAS NOTHING THAT COULD BE DONE TO HELP HER CONDITION. SHE WENT INTO HER TERMINAL ILLNESS AND DIED ABOUT NINE YEARS AFTER FATHER.

AGAIN, AS AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR, APARTMENT BECAME SCARCE AND UPON RECEIVING NOTICE TO VACATE OUR APARTMENT BECAUSE THE DWELLING WAS SOLD AND THE NEW OWNER DESIRED OUR FLAT, HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BUY ANOTHER DWELLING, THAT IS IF WE WANTED A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS, BOUGHT A ONE FAMILY DWELLING ON BAILYE AVENUE, HILLSIDE, ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM WHERE WE FORMERLY LIVED. WE WERE NOT STRANGERS IN THIS AREA, MEETING OLD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND PICKING UP WHERE WE HAD LEFT OFF A FEW YEARS AGO.

IN 1947 MIMI BECAME ENGAGED TO SHERWIN GOODMAN, A NEIGHBOR, AND IN JUNE 1948 ON OUR TWENTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MIMI'S WEDDING TOOK PLACE. IT WAS A SOLEMN AND BEAUTIFUL AFFAIR HELD IN THE B'NAI ABRAHAM TEMPLE IN NEWARK, JOACHIM PRINZ, THE FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF BERLIN, GERMANY PERFORMED THE CEREMONY ACCOMPANIED BY THE CANTOR AND ORGAN.

UP TILL NOW I DID NOT HAVE MORE THAN THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF ILLNESS THAT A MAN OF MY AGE IS HEIR TO BUT NOW THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN. A TUMOR HAD DEVELOPED ON THE LYMPH GLAND UNDER THE TONGUE ON THE RIGHT SIDE AND AFTER SOME MONTHS OF DOCTORING THE SURGEON INSISTED THAT I HAVE SAME REMOVED IMMEDIATELY. I WAS OPERATED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1949 WHILE MIMI AND WEWIN WERE ON VACATION IN FLORIDA AND HER FORMER CLASSMATES WHO WERE STILL ON STAFF OF THE BETH ACTED AS MY ROUND THE CLOCK NURSES AND TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME. THE TUMOR WAS CANCEROUS AND THE SUGERON, A VERY ABLE MAN IN HIS FIELD, COULD ONLY PREDICT A YEAR OR TWO AT MOST AHEAD FOR ME AND WAS GIVEN A COMPLETE SET OF RADIUM THEROPY. I NEED NOT GO INTO A DISCRPTION OF THE STATE OF MIND I WAS IN AFTER SECURING THIS DEATH SENTENCE OR THE TIME IT TOOK FOR ME TO GET BACK TO SOME SEMBLANCE OF NORMALITY. I WAS IN NO MOOD FOR BUSINESS OR WORK IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE AND DECIDED TO SELL SAME AND MOVE INTO AN APARTMENT. THIS I DID AND NOW RENTED AN APARTMENT AT ELIZABETH AND RENNER AVES, NEWARK IN 1952. IN 1956 I WAS BACK IN THE BETH FOR PROSTATE GLAND TREATMENT AND FOR DUODENAL ULCER CHECK-UPS.

AFTER MARRIAGE MIMI AND SHERWIN LIVED LIVED IN APARTMENT BUILDING IN EAST ORANGE OWNED BY SHERWIN'S FATHER. IN MAY 1951 WE BECAME THE PROUD GRAND-PARENTS OF OUR FIRST GRANDSON MIKE AND SHORTLY AFTER THIS EVENT, MIMI AND SHERWIN BOUGHT A ONE FAMILY DWELLING IN CAMBRIDGE TER, SPRINGFIELD, A NEW DEVELOPMENT. APRIL 1954 WAS ANOTHER LANDMARK FOR OUR SECOND GRANDSON ROBERT WAS BORN.

I WAS SLOWLY GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF THINGS AND TRYING TO FORGET MY HEALTH PROBLEMS. RUTH AFTER GRADUATION FROM RUTGERS WORKED WITH RONSON MANUFACTURING IN NEWARK, THEN WITH MERRILL LYNCH AND FINALLY WITH SOCIAL SECURITY IN NEW YORK.



AT THE END OF 1957 OR 1958 SHERWIN GOT ITCHY FEET, SOLD HIS BUSINESS AND HOME AND INSISTED ON MOVING TO FLORIDA INSPITE OF OBJECTIONS RAISED BY BOTH SETS OF PARENTS BUT TO NO AVAIL. THE YOUNG FAMILY MOVED TO CORAL GABLES WHERE SHERWIN BOUGHT A BRAND NEW ONE FAMILY HOME IN A BEAUTIFUL COATION IN THE LAND OF SUNSHINE. LEAH AND I SPENT CHRISTMAS WEEK 1958 IN CORAL GABLES VISITING WITH MIMI, SHER AND GRANDSONS. EVERYTHING WAS JUST FINE WITH THE GOODMAN'S EXCEPT THAT SHERWIN COULD NOT FIND BUSINESS TO FIT HIS LIMITED FINANCIAL MEANS OR A JOB. SO AFTER A YEARS STAY SHER AND FAMILY RETURNED TO SPRINGFIELD WHERE HE AGAIN BOUGHT A HOUSE AND A PARTNERSHIP IN A COMMERCIAL BLOOD BANK.

BUSINESS CONTINUE TO IMPORVE, I MAINTAINED MY CONNECTIONS WITH THE WAR CLIENTS IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT WERE NOW IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SUCH AS THE MONTROSE CHEMICAL CO AND CHASE CHEMICAL CO. THE LATTER COMPANY WAS OWNED BY BROTHERS SIDNEY AND RANDOLPH CHASMAN INVOLVED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PHARMACEUTICALS, MAINLY VITAMINS, VERY MUCH IN DEMAND AT THIS TIME. THEY NOW EMBARKED ON A PROGRAM OF EXPANSION WITH MYSELF AS THEIR ARCHITECT. AT THE SAME TIME I ALSO RENEWED OR RATHER MADE USE OF FRIENDLY CONTACTS AT CITY HALL AT ESSEX COUNTY LEVEL.

IN 1959 ERWIN GERBER WHO I HAD BEFRIENDED YEARS AGO AS A DRAFTSMAN, NOW A VERY SUCCESSFUL ARCHITECT AND DEVELOPER WAS ELECTED A FREEHOLDER OF ESSEX COUNTY. WITH THAT ELECTION A CHANGE-OVER TO THE DEMOCRATIVE PARTY IN THE COUNTY GOERNMENT TOOK PLACE. GERBERER AND HIS SHADOW CAREY THE ESSEX COUNTY DEMORATIC CHAIRMAN HAD CLOSE TIES WITH MEYNER THE THEN GOVERNER OF NEW JERSEY AND AS A DEMOCRAT OF LONG STANDING THIS SET P DID NOT HURT ME.

GERBER ON HIS ELECTION BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL POWERFUL PUBLIC WORK COMMITTEE AND I WAS APPOINTED ARCHITECT FOR THE PROPOSED BUILDING PROGRAM.

AT THE 1960 DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION GERBER LED THE NEW JERSEY DELEGATION TO J F KENNEDY AND THAT STARTED THE SWING TO KENNEDY AND HIS NOMINATION. I WAS A HEAVY CONTRIBUTO TO KENNEDY'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND IN RETURN RECEIVED ONE OF THE FEW SPECIALLY ENGRAVED INVITATIONS ISSUED IN NEW JERSEY TO THE INAUGURATION.

ABOUT 1962 WHILE HAVING A DRINK WITH CAREY IN HIS OFFICE AND HARY LERNER THE COUNTY TREASURER I WAS TOLD BY CAREY OF PLANS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A LARGE ADDITION TO THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE AND ALSO THE BUILDING OF A NEW MODERN JAIL. IT WAS INTENDED TO SPEND ABOUT TWENTY MILLION ON THE PROJECT AND WAS ASKED IF I WOULD CONSIDER AN APPOINTMENT AS AN ARCHITECT AND TO WORK WITH AN ASSOCIATE. I SAID THAT I WAS INTERESTED, WHAT ARCHITECT WOULD TURN DOWN SUCH AN INVITATION WHICH COMES PERHAPS ONLY ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME. CAREY AS DEMOCRATIC BOSS AND WITH A MAJORITY OF THE NIE MEMBER FREHOLDER COMMISSION WAS CERTAINLY ABLE TO DELIVER. INCIDENTALLY CAREY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELECTION OF CONGRESSMAN PETER RADINO AND HUGH ADDONIZIO.

I GAVE A LOT OF THOUGHT TO THIS OPPORTUNITY BUT WHAT BOTHERED ME WAS THAT I WAS APPROACHING SIXTY FIVE AND AFRAID THAT MY HEALTH MIGH NOT STAND UP IN ASSUMING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SETTING UP AN ORGANIZATION TO PROCESS SUCH A LONG TERM UNDERTAKING.

I MUST HAVE HAD SOME FOREBODING OF EVENTS TO COME FOR IN THE YEAR END 1963 I STARTED TO HAVE PERIODS OF VERY BAD EARACHES AND THE WHOLE LEFT SIDE OF HEAD AND FACE ACHED. THE PAINS WERE GETTING PROGRSSSIVELY WORSE IN SPITE OF VISITS TO DOCTORS I WAS UNABLE TO GET RELIE . FINALLY WENT TO AN EAR AND THROAT SPECIALIST, WAS CHECKED BY THE NURSE

AND WENT INTO SEE THE SPECIALIST. THE BIG MAN AFTER READING THE NURSES REPORTS WITH-  
OUT EVEN EXAMINING ME, TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG WITH ME, THAT AT MY AGE  
IT WAS JUST HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES AND TO PAY THE NURSE ON THE WAY OUT. HAD THE  
SPECIALIST EVEN TAKEN A LOOK AT MY THROAT HE WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY SEEN WHAT WAS  
WRONG AND WOULD HAVE SAVED ME A LOT OF AGONY. I SHOULD HAVE SUED HIM FOR MALPRACTICE  
OR NEGLIGENCE.

AFTER TWENTY-TWO YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE NAVY, LEAH DECIDED TO RETIRE IN 1964. I'LL  
NEVER KNOW HOW SHE MANAGED FORTY-EIGHT HOUR JOB AT THE OFFICE, ACTING AS MY TYPIST  
CARE OF HOME AND HOMEMAKER. IN ADDITION TO A COMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SHE  
DESERVED ONE FROM ME. IN MAY THE HAPPY EVENT OF MIKE'S BAR MITZVAH, MAZELTOV.

IN THE BEGINNING OF 1966 I WENT TO SEE COUSIN BEN COLTON, A DENTIST, TOLD HIM OF MY  
HEAD AND EAR PROBLEM AND ASKED HIM TO PULL SOME TEETH. WHILE IN THE CHAIR WAITING  
FOR THE NOVOCAIN TO TAKE EFFECT, MENTIONED THAT I WAS HAVING TROUBLE SWALLOWING.  
BEN EXAMINED MY THROAT AND SAID THAT THE TEETH WERE NOT THE PROBLEM AND MADE AN AP-  
POINTMENT FOR AN IMMEDIATE EXAMINATION BY DR MYRON J SHAPIRO AN EMINENT THROAT SPE-  
CIALIST AND SURGEON. DR SHAPIRO AND HIS PARTNER, DR YEATER, BOTH DIAGNOSED A CANCER  
AND SENT ME TO THE BETH FOR BIOPSY. THE BIOPSY PERFORMED ON JULY 27TH CONFIRMED THE  
DIAGNOSIS. AN OPERATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE CANCER WAS RECOMMENDED, BUT BEFORE  
THE OPERATION I WENT THROUGH A COMPLETE SERIES OF COBALT TREATMENTS.

IN SEPTEMBER I CLOSED THE OFFICE AND WAS OPERATED ON OCTOBER 6, 1966. RADICAL NECK  
SURGERY, A MEDICAL TEXT-BOOK CASE. WAS VERY LUCKY IN THE CHOICE OF DRS SHAPIRO AND  
YEAGER, THEY WERE THE BEST, ABLE AND DEDICATED SURGEONS AND PERFORMED A MIRACLE ON  
ME. WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL AND EARLY IN NOVEMBER I WAS OPERATED ON FOR THE REMOVAL  
OF THE PROSTATE GLAND WHICH HAD BEEN BOTHERING ME.

TO DIGRESS A BIT REGARDING SAM AND HIS IDA WHO WERE REGULAR COMMUTERS FROM JERSEY  
TO FLORIDA, FINALLY SETTLED IN FREEHOLD. IN 1963 IDA DIED AND SAM CONTINUE TO LIVE  
ALONE IN THE BEILINSON'S ONE FAMILY HOUSE AND OCCASIONAL VISITS BY MINNIE AND MY-  
SELF.

IN 1967 AFTER SOME DIABETIC AND ASTHMA BLACKOUTS, SAM CAME TO MINNIE'S PLACE IN  
IRVINGTON AND FROM THERE TO THE BETH FOR COMPLETE CHECK-UPS AND ALSO PROSTATE  
GLAND OPERATION. UPON RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL SAM WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE LIZMORE  
NURSING HOME IN ELIZABETH FOR TREATMENT. AFTER A STAY OF SOME WEEKS, SAM DECIDED  
THAT THE SUNSHINE STATE OF FLORIDA WAS THE PLACE FOR HIS ASTHMATIC CONDITION AND  
WENT TO THE BOULEVARD HOTEL IN MIAMI BEACH.

I WAS MAKING A SLOW RECOVERY AND IN MARCH 1967 LEAH AND RUTH DECIDED THAT NEWARK  
WAS GETTING TO BE A PROBLEM ESPECIALLY FOR JEWS, DUE MAINLY TO THE BLACK MAJORITY  
AND THE BIG INFLUX OF PUERTO RICANS. IT WAS BECOMING UNSAFE IN THE STREET AND EVEN  
AT HOME, IN SHORT WE WERE BECOMING SECOND CLASS CITIZENS. WE MOVED TO ABERDEEN RD  
ELIZABETH TO A GARDEN APARTMENT, AFTER THREE YEARS WE MOVED TO A LARGER APARTMENT  
IN A HIGH RISE BUILDING AT 1380 NORTH AVE.

BEFORE MOVING I WAS AGAIN HIT WITH A HEALTH PROBLEM, HAD A HISTORY OF DUODENAL  
ULCERS, THAT CONDITION NOW TURNED REAL BAD. ENTERED THE BETH AGAIN AT THE END OF  
MAY 1969 AND AFTER A SERIES OF TESTS, DOCTORS ADVISED A STOMACH OPERATION TO COR-  
RECT THE NOW ACTIVE BLEEDING ULCERS. WAS OPERATED ON JUNE 8TH, AFTER A STAY IN  
THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WAS TRANSFERRED TO SEMI-PRIVATE ROOM ON FATHER'S DAY JUNE 15TH.

AFTER A FEW HOURS STAY IN THE ROOM, EARLY IN THE EVENING I SUDDENLY WENT INTO SHOCK AND WAS RUSHED BACK TO INTENSIVE CARE UNIT. NATURE HAS MANY WAYS OF HELPING ONE TO BEAR INTENSE PAIN FOR WHEN THE PRESSURE BECOMES TOO GREAT TO BEAR WE JUST BLACK-OUT.

I WAS BLEEDING PROFUSELY, DONT KNOW HOW MANY DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER MEDICAL PERSONNEL WERE WORKING ON ME AND PUMPING BLOOD AND PLASMA INTO MY SYSTEM. DURING LUCID MOMENTS I HEARD MYSELF ASKING FOR DOCTOR KAPLAN MY INTERNIST AND DOCTOR DIENER MY SURGEON OR COMPLAINING THAT I COULDN'T SEE.

LATER THAT NIGHT I HAD A MOST UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE, I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF FLOATING HIGH IN THE AIR, FEELING NO PAIN AND LOOKING DOWN ON A GROUP OF MEN DRESSED IN BLUE OPERATING ROOM SMOCKS, WEARING FACE MASKS AND VERY BUSY AND INTENTLY WORKING ON SOMETHING ON A TABLE, WHICH THEY COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. COULDN'T MAKE OUT THE OBJECT THAT HELD THEIR ATTENTION. THEN I HEARD MYSELF SAY TO SOMEBODY THAT I COULDN'T COME NOW BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST TELL LEAH FIRST AND THEN I BLACKED OUT. LATE MONDAY MORNING I WOKE UP IN THE RECOVERY ROOM AND WAS INFORMED THAT I WAS OPERATED ON AT SIX O'CLOCK THAT MORNING WHEN ANOTHER CHUNK OF MY STOMACH WAS REMOVED AND ONLY ONE THIRD REMAINED. I HOPE THAT I AM NOT TOO BORING WITH THE RECITAL OF MY HEALTH PROBLEMS. DO WANT TO MAKE A POINT THAT WILL POWER CERTAINLY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.

MY ADVICE TO ONE IN NEED OF HOSPITAL CARE IS NOT TO GO TO A TEACHING HOSPITAL, WHEN SICK, THE EXCEPTION BEING WHEN YOU MUST HAVE THE SERVICES OF SPECIALIST WHO ARE AVAILABLE ONLY AT PARTICULAR TEACHING HOSPITAL.

AFTER MY REMOVAL FROM THE ICU CENTER I STARTED A CAMPAIGN FOR RELEASE FROM THE HOSPITAL BY INSISTING THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT I COULD RECOVER WAS BY GOING HOME AND ABSORBING THE MEDICINE OF LEAH'S CHICKEN SOUP, IT WORKED.

RECOVERY THIS TIME WAS REALLY SLOW, WAS LISTLESS AND JUST PLAIN TIRED AND NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN FUTURE BUSINESS. MY BANK ACCOUNT AFTER PAYING FOR ALL HOSPITAL AND DOCTOR'S FEES WAS GLAT ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE COSTS, WITH EXCEPTIONS, WAS TAKEN CARE OF BY MEDICARE.

IN 1970 RANDOLPH CHASMAN INSISTED THAT I PREPARE PLANS FOR A VACATION HOME THAT HE INTENDED TO BUILD IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS OF NEW YORK. AFTER THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED THE CHASMAN BROTHERS ENTICED ME INTO PREPARING PLANS FOR ADDITIONS OR NEW BUILDINGS THAT THEY WERE CONTEMPLATING FOR PLANT EXPANSION. AS IT TURNED OUT THAT BY BEING MENTALLY AND MECHANICALLY OCCUPIED WAS THE BEST THERAPY FOR ONE IN MY STATE OF MIND AND CONDITION.

LATE IN 1971 THE CHASMAN BROTHERS RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM ARCHON PRODUCTS CO., A WEST COAST OUTFIT TO BUY CHASE, THIS WAS A PROPOSITION THAT COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE BE TURNED DOWN. BOTH BROTHERS WERE GETTING ON IN YEARS AND THEY HAD NO REAL ISSUE TO TRAIN TO CARRY ON THE BUSINESS.

CHASE NOW BECAME A DIVISION OF ARCHON AND THE DEAL PROVIDED THAT THE NEW MANAGEMENT WOULD KEEP THE OLD TEAM ON AS CONSULTANTS FOR A PERIOD OF YEARS. RANDOLPH WAS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY BECAUSE IN THE PAST HE WAS THE KEY INSIDE MAN.

BECAUSE OF MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHASE PLANT AND CONNECTION WITH CITY AND STATE LEVEL OF ALL SUPERVISORY OUTFITS THE NEW MANAGEMENT INSISTED THAT I REMAIN AS ARCHITECT IN CHARGE OF ALL WORK AND ALSO IN ADVISORY CAPACITY. A PROGRAM OF EXPANSION OF NEW BUILDING AND THE ALTERATION AND MODERNIZATION OF OLDER BUILDINGS WAS STARTED. FINANCES WERE ARRANGED BY ARCHAN WITH NEW YORK CITY BANKS FOR WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR THE PROGRAM.

EVERYTHING WAS NOW NORMAL AND UNDER CONTROL, NOW BEING 1974. I WAS ENJOYING MY WORK, LEAH WAS BUSY WITH HER HADASSAH AND MAH JONG GROUPS AND REGULAR VISITS TO MIMI AND SHERWIN IN SPRINGFIELD.

MIKE GRADUATED FROM PENN STATE AND WAS ENROLLED IN GEORGETOWN MEDICAL SCHOOL. ROBERT WAS AT STAMFORD U IN CALIFORNIA. BOTH BOYS WERE DOING WELL. ROBERT EVENTUALLY ELECTED TO PHI BETA KAPPA AND IN TIME WAS ACCEPTED BY GEORGE WASHINGTON U LAW SCHOOL.

LEAH HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE AND NOW EVINCED AN INTEREST IN RETURNING TO FLORIDA AND I DIDN'T NEED ANY ENCOURAGEMENT IN AGREEING TO SUCH A MOVE, BECAUSE OF MY LONG TIME BRONCHIAL CONDITION AND THE HEAVY INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION OF THE AIR SUCH A MOVE TO FLORIDA HAD BEEN IN THE BACK OF MY MIND FOR A LONG TIME. IN SPITE OF THE WELLPAYING JOB THAT I COULD HOLD AT MY PLEASURE, DECIDED THAT NOW WAS THE TIME FOR A CHANGE.

WE TOOK OFF TO MIAMI BEACH IN JUNE, CONTACTED AN ACQUAINTANCE OF LEAH'S LIVING ON WEST AVE IN SOUTH MIAMI BEACH AND RENTED AN APARTMENT IN THE SAME BUILDING. THE LEASE STARTED AUGUST 1, 1974 AND WE WERE TO MOVE AT END OF AUGUST. WE GAVE NOTICE FOR VACATING OUR ELIZABETH APARTMENT AND MADE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOVING. I MADE SURE THAT NO LOOSE ENDS WOULD BE LEFT AT CHASE FOR BUILDING AND ARCHITECTURAL WORK AND RECOMMENDED AN ARCHITECT TO CALL ON WHEN CHASE NEEDED THE SERVICES. THE THOUGHT OF LEAVING CHASE AFTER YEARS OF REAL UNDERSTANDING WAS A LITTLE HARD TO TAKE.

LEAH HELPED RUTH LOCATE AND RENT AN APARTMENT IN QUEENS NEAR HER OFFICE. NO MATTER HOW WELL YOU PLAN YOUR MOVES AHEAD, AGGRAVATION ALWAYS SETS IN DOWN LINE WHEN YOU HAVE TO DEPEND ON PEOPLE, WE FINALLY MADE IT TO THE SUNSHINE STATE BEFORE LABOR DAY 1974.

WE HAVE NOW BEEN LIVING IN FLORIDA FOR ALMOST FOUR YEARS AND I ADMIT TO BEING ENTIRELY DISENCHANTED. MY LAST VISIT TO FLORIDA WAS IN 1959 AND I WAS IN NO WAY PREPARED FOR THE CHANGE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE SINCE THEN. I WAS NOW A PERMANENT RESIDENT AND DIDN'T WEAR THE SMOKED GLASSES OF A TOURIST OR VISITOR.

FLORIDA IN MY OPINION IS ONE OF THE MOST CORRUPT STATES IN THE UNION WITH THE RED NECK POLITICIANS OF THE PAN HANDLE IN COMPLETE CONTROL. EVERYTHING FROM DOG CATCHER TO SUPREME COURT JUDGE UP FOR A PRICE. A POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH IS ABOUT A HUNDRED YEARS BEHIND TIME. A GOVERNOR WHO IS ONLY A FIGURE HEAD WITH NO POWER OR CLOUT. ALL STATE WIDE OFFICERS INCLUDING THE GOVERNOR'S CABINET ARE ELECTED, AS A RESULT THE AVERAGE CITIZEN ONLY VOTES BUT DOESN'T ELECT ANYBODY. THE ELECTION RESTS IN THE HANDS OF A FEW MANIPULATORS INCLUDING ALL POWERFUL UTILITIES.

MIAMI BEACH WITH A POPULATION OF 90,000, ABOUT 90% JEWISH THE NEAREST TO A JEWISH CITY OUTSIDE OF TEL AVIV, HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THE WORLD GOOD CITY GOVERNMENT, BUT ALAS THE POLITICIANS IN MIAMI BEACH ARE JUST AS CORRUPT AS ANY IN FLORIDA.



MIAMI BEACH HAD ENACTED A RENT CONTROL BILL SOME YEARS AGO, WHICH WAS UPHELD BY ALL THE COURTS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. THE LANDLORDS LEAD THE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A LAW PROIBITING MIAMI BEACH FROM PASSING ANY RENT CONTROL BILL, OF COURSE, SOMEONE GOT PAID OFF. DURING THE DEBATE ON THE BILL ONE OF THE PAN HANDLE LEGISLATORS PASSED A REMARK "YOU JEW BOY MILLINOARES FROM N Y CITY CAN WELL AFFORD IT AND ITS ABOUT TIME THAT WE GOT A PIECE OF THE ACTION". ONE GRAND RIP-OFF.

THEN THERE IS THE CUBAN CONNECTION WHERE ALMOST ONE HALF OF THE MARIJUANA AND HARD DRUGS ENTERING THE COUNTRY DO SO BY WAY OF SOUTH FORIDA FROM MEXICO AND SOUTH AMERICA.

THE SAD PART IS THAT SO FEW RETIREES REALLY CARE ABOUT EXISTING CONDITIONS ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN WHAT GIVES THEM PLEASURE OR FOR THEIR WELFARE.

NOW A MOST SOMBER NOTE. AFTER A HEART BREAKING STRUGGLE OF FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS SAM PASSED AWAY ON SATURDAY AT 12:45 PM, MARCH 11, 1978.

AM NOW GETTING A LITTLE TIRED AND SO WISH TO END MY STORY, BUT BEFORE CLOSING I MUST AGAIN REMIND YOU OF THE EVER PRESENT BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITISM THAT CONFRONTS THE JEW. JUST IN THE PAST MONTH, AFTER THE TELEVISED SHOWING OF THE HOLOCAUST, TWO SYAGOGUES OR TEMPLES IN THE MIAMI BEACH AREA WERE VANDALIZED. NAXI SYMBOLS AND HEIL HITLERS WERE SMEARED ON THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WALLS, LEADED GLASS WINDOWS WERE BROKEN AND ONE TEMPLE WAS SET ON FIRE. AGAIN A REMINDER THAT IT CAN HAPPEN HERE TOO.

WITH THE HOLIDAY APPROACHING LET ME WISH YOU A HAPPY SHAVOUT.

LOUIS P GREENBERG

JUNE 9, 1978  
MIAMI BEACH, FL

TO INTERRUPT MY STORY A BIT, I WISH TO STATE THAT WAS BLESSED, OR SOMETIMES CURSED WITH THE FACILITY OF INSTANT RECALL. I SAY SOMETIMES CURSED, BECAUSE IT IS HEALTHIER AT TIMES TO FORGET CERTAIN THINGS.

THE FIRST RECOLLECTION OF EVENTS THAT I HAVE TOOK PLACE WHEN I WAS ABOUT 3½ YEARS OF AGE AND THE DEATH OF GRANFATHER SHMUEL MEYER COLTON, WHO PASSED AWAY AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF ABOUT FIFTY YEARS. I CAN RECALL THE PICTURE OF GRANFATHER LAID OUT IN WHITE BURIAL SHROUD, CANDLES LIT AND PRAYERS BEING OFFERED. FATHER WAS PRESENT AND SO WAS UNCLE SHLOMEH OR SOLOMON, WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM MILITARY SERVICE IN PSKOF IN DEEP RUSSIA AND HAD BROUGHT HIS NEW BRIDE, AUNT ESTHER, TO MEET THE FAMILY.

AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH OF GRANDFATHER, OUR BELOVED GRANDMOTHER, MALKE RAESEL, BECAME A BREADWINNER IN ORDER TO HELP SUPPORT HERSEL AND TWO UNMARRIED DAUGHTERS. SHE BOUGHT THINGS FROM THE FARMERS AND SOLD THEM TO THE TOWN'S PEOPLE AT THE REGULAR BI-WEEKLY FAIRS. GRANDMA NEVER MISSED BRINGING ME SOMETHING FROM THESE BUSINESS TRIPS EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY A BIG POLISHED APPLE. MY FELLOW STUDENTS IN CHEDER CERTAINLY ENVIED ME.

AT THE TIME OF OUR ARRIVAL IN AMERICA IN 1904, THE MEMBERS OF THE GREENBERG CLAN, ALWAYS A CLOSELY KNIT GROUP, LIVED NEAR EACH OTHER. UNCLE MORRIS RUBIN WITH HIS STORE-FRONT SHOE REPAIR SHOP AT BANK AND RUTGERS ST BETWEEN BANK ST AND THIRTEENTH AVE. GRANDMOTHER AND AUNT GITTEL AND DORA, WHO ARRIVED IN 1903, LIVED ACROSS THE STREET FROM UNCLE HYMAN. THE CEMENTING ELEMENT FOR THE FAMILY WAS GRANDMOTHER. HOW SHE FOUND THE CAPACITY TO LOVE ALL HER CHILDREN AND GRAND-CHILDREN, I'LL NEVER KNOW.

LATER ON AS WE STARTED GROWING UP AND WHENEVER WE MISBEHAVED MOTHER WOULD PROMISE DIRE PUNISHMENT BY FATHER, WE USUALLY TOOK OFF TO GRANDMOTHER'S SANCTUARY FROM PUNISHMENT. SOMEHOW GRANDMOTHER MANAGED TO COOL TEMPER AND AFTER PROMISES TO BEHAVE IN THE FUTURE AND NO PUNISHMENT WE WERE TAKEN HOME.