

BUTTER AND GUNS

Henach Horvitz and his relatives left a strong imprint in the Pittsburgh area. It all began in the Hill District in Pittsburgh, where Henach and his family started a dairy farm in 1903. The family — originally from a Jewish Russian village named Schedrin — stabled their cows and a horse in a barn on LaPlace Street. In front of the barn on 2323 Reed St. was their home. I was born in my grandfather's house in 1915.

I recall riding on the milk wagon with Uncle Sam, Henach's youngest son, delivering milk to customers. I recall the cows grazing on the hillside behind a large mansion on Centre Avenue at the foot of Herron Avenue. And I recall the motorman of the trolley car impatiently clanging his bell to hasten the cows being herded to the barn.

The mansion on Centre Avenue had been converted into Montefiore Hospital. I remember my brother Alvin Katz, getting his tonsils removed there. He recuperated in the children's ward, a closed-in back porch. A driving force in organizing the hospital was the secretary, Esther Friedman, a Schedrin relative.

Grandfather was active in synagogue on Erin Street and he helped organize the Ohave Zedek Cemetery in Shaler Township.

Many of his children went into business and were also involved with Israel and the Jewish community.

I recall Uncle Sam Horvitz's Crescent Pharmacy on Centre Avenue near Dinwiddie Street and my Uncle David Horvitz's Nash automobile agency on Centre Avenue near Erin Street. Later Dave moved to the Morrowfield apartment building where he had a Dodge agency. When Hillel Academy was just getting started and had no funds for a building, Dave allowed Hillel to get started using his showroom.

Recently, an Israeli kibbutznik said he found a wood box in a storage room marked "Auto parts from Horvitz Motors, Pittsburgh Pa." Dave, a strong Zionist, was active in getting guns and ammunition to the beleaguered settlers when they were attacked by four Arab armies after Ben Gurion declared statehood for Israel.

David married Esther Widom and had two daughters: Siema Horvitz and Nicky Gordon, who was murdered by an anti-Semite, Richard Baumhammers, in Mt. Lebanon.

My Aunt Esther married Sam Oklin who had a cleaning shop on Walnut Street. From the cleaning shop, I recall watching society ladies driving battery operated autos into a garage for overnight charging. (So what's new?)

My Aunt Bessie married Emil Winograd who had a theater in Rochester, Pa. Their children were Selma Cohen, Rabbi Leonard and Kenneth.

My Uncle Sam married Julie Pachtman and their four sons, Lee, Robert, Harvey and Fred, operated Pool City.

My Aunt Belle married Alex Portnoy. Their children were Natalie and Melvin Portnoy. Uncle Morris, the oldest son married Mary Weiner. They had one daughter, Sarah. Her daughter, Gerry, married Dr. Marv Teitelbaum.

My mother, Fannie, was Henach's oldest daughter. She married Jacob Katz. I am the oldest son and was known in Pittsburgh as "Killer Katz." (Sam Creeger has since taken over the name.)

My brothers, William and Alvin, retired from a long-time hardware store in Canonsburg. William and Sylvia (Altman) live in Mt. Lebanon. Their daughters are Nancy Malkin and Marilyn Spinner. Alvin and Bea (Fischman) live in Pittsburgh. They have three children: Jay, who is a professor, Barbara and Robert. Our youngest



Pictured (from left) are Harry Katz's father, David T. Horvitz, his mother Fanny Katz, grandmother, Frieda Horvitz; Morris and Samuel Horvitz; Belle Portnov with grandfather, Henry Horvitz; Esther Oklin and Bess Winograd.

brother, Dr. David Katz, died on a visit to Israel eight years ago. His wife Lucille lives in Mt. Lebanon. Her son Jerry lives in Pittsburgh and Howard (Haim) lives in Israel.

I recall hanging around Matey Leff's garage on Dinwiddie Street. Matey was a nephew of Henach Horvitz. Matey's sister was Esther Smith, mother of three children, Herbie, Avsholom and Marian, who made aliya when Israel was born.

Many prominent Pittsburghers are Schedriners, who are related in some way to the Horvitz clan.

By Harry L. Katz

M'Dor L'Dor

"A thread runs through our programs from generation to generation."



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