

**“I REMEMBER BORO PARK”
Volume I (1978 — 1987)**

Includes

Historical Items of

“COMMUNITY GUIDANCE”

1976 — 1978

by

Dr. PHILIP J. KIPUST

**BORO PARK
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK
1988**

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PREFACE

The year was 1976, the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence, and of the birth of a new nation. Historical celebrations were going on everywhere. History was taking on a new and more important significance in the American mind.

At about this time Jacque Friedman, the editor and publisher of the Boro Park Community News, asked Philip J. Kipust, a public school guidance counselor, to write a continuing column for the newspaper.

The result, first published October 1, 1976, was a column entitled "Community Guidance", dealing with information and issues relating to education of interest to the entire Boro Park community.

The Boro Park Community News is a monthly newspaper, distributed free of charge to the community and has been published since 1975.

Philip J. Kipust had been a highly regarded guidance counselor in the New York City public high schools and had also been a teacher, guidance counselor and principal in Yeshiva education. Mr. Kipust was born and raised in the community and his family roots go back as early as 1920 in this community. With this type of background, it was only natural that historical items would be included in his forthcoming columns.

The area known as Boro Park, was originally part of the Town of New Utrecht. It remained largely an area of farmland until about 1886, when a small community called Blythebourne and another called West Brooklyn were established. The area could be reached only by a steam railroad, the Brooklyn, Bath and West End, which had been built in 1864, and was considered difficult to reach. The Town of New Utrecht became part of the City of Brooklyn in 1894, and Brooklyn, in turn, became part of the City of New York in 1898.

The year 1898 is significant, because large land developers organized the Boro Park Company with ex-Senator William H. Reynolds as its head. Soon, the Fifth Avenue Elevated reached 36th Street and was connected to the West End surface line. Boro Park was now ripe for development, offering riders a continuous trip from Downtown Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Large-scale row housing offered an escape from the crowded and unhealthy parts of the center city. Soon, institutions such as churches, synagogues, schools, theatres and hospitals followed the new population.

When the new Fourth Avenue subway was built, the West End and Culver surface lines were elevated above the streets and Boro Park became an easy location to reach. Another wave of people came, primarily Jewish, and Boro Park became known as a largely affluent Jewish community. New Utrecht Avenue and Thirteenth Avenue became their thriving commercial centers.

But after World War II, the exodus to the suburbs left a deteriorating community with an older and poorer population, deteriorating buildings and a bleak outlook for the future. This then, was the background of the community of Boro Park at the inception of the "Community Guidance" column.

The historical items included in each column, proved to be very popular and aroused a great deal of community interest. Soon, a continuous stream of letters was received by the columnist, wanting to know more about the interesting but relatively obscure history of Boro Park.

By 1978, it became apparent that the interest shown by the community in the history of Boro Park demanded a column devoted exclusively to that history. A new column entitled, "I Remember Boro Park" by Philip J. Kipust, was the result.

For the past ten years, this column has filled the nostalgic longings of the people by providing information on buildings and institutions; but more importantly on the lives of doctors, lawyers, clergymen and business people who have been the very soul of the community.

Another direct result of the column, has been the founding of the Boro Park Historical Society, with Dr. Philip J. Kipust as its co-founder and current head.

Today, Boro Park, populated by large groups of Chasidic and Orthodox Jews, is a thriving community. The exodus to the suburbs has stopped. Synagogues, yeshivas and other cultural institutions are on the rise. Business along the commercial corridors is good and the housing stock is being improved. This column merits its share of praise for its part in the improvement.

The binding into one volume of the column, as it has appeared in the newspaper since 1976, should be of value to those interested in learning more about the interesting history of the Boro Park community. The column has been photocopied from existing copies, some of which were of poor quality. No attempt has been made to correct typographical errors or errors of fact that have cropped up in the column. The material is being presented exactly as it appeared in the newspaper, including column continuation notations.

At the request of Dr. Kipust, I have provided an index for the convenience of the reader. A Table of Contents and a Chronology, originally made by Mr. B. M. Selevan, have been used in a modified form. These should be of value in providing a better understanding of the history of this area.

Volume I is arbitrarily cut off at the end of 1987, but, of course, the column continues in the Boro Park Community News. Perhaps future volumes will provide the continuation of this valuable and interesting column.

Dario S. Marotta
April, 1988

BORO PARK CHRONOLOGY

- 1657 Establishment of Town of New Utrecht
- 1864 Opening of Brooklyn, Bath & Coney Island R.R.
- 1868 Edgewood Chapel established.
- 1885 Reorganization and improvement of Brooklyn, Bath & West End R.R.
- 1886 West Brooklyn development started.
- 1887 Blythebourne development started.
- 1889 Blythebourne Post Office established.
Electus B. Litchfield, founder of Blythebourne, dies.
- 1891 Edgewood (Dutch) Reformed Church formed from earlier Edgewood Chapel.
- 1892 St. Frances de Chantal R.C. Church started.
- 1894 Town of New Utrecht annexed to City of Brooklyn.
- 1898 William H. Reynolds, ex-State Senator, forms Boro Park Company to develop the area.
- 1890's-1900's Many Protestant Christian churches started in area.
- 1901 Fifth Avenue electric elevated trains began operating on West End surface line.
- 1902 St. Catharine of Alexandria Church started.
First Jewish congregation, Temple Beth-el, started.
- 1904 Temple Emmanuel started.
- 1907 Dedication of Temple Beth-el.
- 1908 Congregation Shomrei Emunah started.
- 1910 Machzikei Talmud Torah started.
Monastery of the Precious Blood opened.
- 1911 New Utrecht Dispensary, forerunner of Maimonides Medical Center, opened.
- 1915 First Congregation Anshe Sfard of Boro Park started.
- 1916 West End elevated above street and connected to new Fourth Avenue subway.

- 1918 Boro Park Y.M.H.A. opened.
- 1919 Israel & Zion Hospital merge to form the new
United Israel-Zion Hospital
- 1920 Boro Park Club becomes Yeshiva Etz Chaim
- 1920's Large-scale construction of apartment houses, schools and
movie theatres.
- 1924 Infants Home of Boro Park opened.
- 1927 Start of construction on massive new Menorah Temple.
- 1928 Franke Uale, famous gangster, gunned down in Boro Park area.
- 1931 Boro Park police station opened.
- 1937 Boro Park Jewish Center opened on former Boro Park Community
Church.
- 1939 Thirteenth Avenue Retail Market opened to eliminate street
pushcarts.
- 1949 New 66th Precinct police station opened.
- 1955 New Boro Park Public Library building opened.
- 1960's Chassidic groups begin to settle in Boro Park.
- 1977 Opening of new Blythebourne Station of the U.S. Postal Service.
- 1978 "I Remember Boro Park" column started.
- 1970's-1980's Chassidic and Orthodox Jewish groups dominate Boro Park area.
Establish a large number of yeshivas and synagogues.
- 1979 Boro Park Historical Society started.

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COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

By Philip J. Kipust,

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

OCTOBER 1, 1976

(The Boro Park Community News is proud to add this new regular feature column "Community Guidance" by Philip J. Kipust. The column will deal with information and issues related to Education and Guidance and will emphasize items of interest to the greater Boro Park community.)

Mr. Kipust currently serves as a licensed guidance counselor in the New York City public high schools. He has more than 25 years of experience in Public Education and 23 years of concurrent experience in Yeshiva education as a teacher, guidance counselor and principal. Mr. Kipust is also President of The Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers of the Public Schools which maintains its office in Boro Park. All correspondence should be addressed to Philip Kipust, c/o Boro Park Community News, Editor.

Introductory column

Well, Boro Park. My wife and I were born and raised in Boro Park. Our children (G.B.T.) were born and raised in Boro Park and our granddaughter Taba Yarmush (G.B.H.) was recently born and is being raised in Boro Park. Our granddaughter is a third generation Boro Park and so a third generation alumnus of Boro Park.

My father, our parents, resided in Boro Park, going back to 1920, then it represents more than three generations and well over a half century of living in Boro Park—and we wouldn't change for any other community in America. We are therefore very pleased with, even grateful to Jacques Friedman, publisher of the Boro Park Community News, for the work that he is doing in trying to bring the people together and help improve the conditions and spirit of our community. The success of the B.P.C.N. in these efforts will benefit all of us and all of us should do our bit to encourage and support the work of our community newspaper.

One very useful service that this newspaper could provide for the community would be to serve as a clearing house for collecting and publishing items relating to the history of Boro Park. Residents should be encouraged to write articles and letters and submit photos or other documents pertaining to interesting highlights or sidelights in the development of our community. Many old timers in the community may have an interesting fact to submit or story to relate which may be of interest to the readers and may help some future author write a definitive history of Boro Park.

Along these lines, and since this column will deal with education, permit me to submit some historical information about the educational institutions in our community from time to time. Today I would like to follow the history of one of the oldest educational institutions in Boro Park, one with which I have been most closely associated as student, teacher and principal—the Yeshiva and Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz. This institution has a respected reputation and a long and varied history of wanderings within our community.

When I first started to attend that Yeshiva in 1937 it was located in an old frame private house on 48th St. between 13 & 14 Ave. (approximately 1949-48 St.) where

an apartment house now stands. About one year later it moved to the building on 13 Ave. near 44 St. which was formerly a private hospital and which is now owned and occupied by the Mesivta B'eer Shmuel. In the late '40s Toras Emes moved to the double building at 1315 43 St. which was formerly occupied by the Machzikei Talmud Toran and which is now occupied by Bais Yakov of Brooklyn High School.

While in this building, Yeshiva Toras Emes gave up its own Mesivta High School in 1955 and supported a separate offshoot called The Mesivta of Boro Park High School. This new school met in the old building of the Agudath Israel (14 Ave. between 45 & 46 Sts.). The Mesivta of Boro Park in 1957 moved to 960 49 St., a building previously started as a center in memory of a young war veteran who died in action, Isaac M. Lobell (A.H.), and enlarged its name to include the name of this veteran and benefactor. A few years later, 1959 or 1960 it combined with the Kamenitzer Yeshiva of America and enlarged its name to Kamenitzer Mesivta of Boro Park H.S. Isaac M. Lobell Institute. After a few more years this institution combined with Yeshiva Toras Emes and changed its name to Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz H.S. Isaac M. Lobell Institute.

About two years ago, the Yeshiva and the Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz moved into common quarters at its present magnificent new large building at 1650 56 St. and added the name Joseph S. Gruss H.S. in honor of its benefactor.

All that are involved would agree that this worthy institution's wanderings have at long last come to an end. The Yeshiva, now houses classes from nursery through high school and also a post-high school Bais Medrash.

We wish it success in its new home and hope that it will continue to serve the community for many more decades.

Readers are invited to submit questions or items related to education, guidance or the history of Boro Park.

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

by Philip Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS •

NOVEMBER 1, 1976

Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.

HISTORICAL ITEM:
The Boro Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, located at 1266 43 St., was built in 1963 on the site of the former Boro Park Mikvah (Ritualarium). The library was previously located on 13 Ave., between 52 and 53 Sts. in the stores now occupied by the Boro Park Furniture and Bedding.

JANUARY 1977

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE by PHILIP J. KIPUST

(Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.)

HISTORICAL ITEMS

Can you help us locate the oldest standing building in Boro Park, either public or private? Perhaps the oldest building in Boro Park would qualify for some historical distinction or landmark status. At the very least, the Boro Park Community News would be happy to publicize this building and help give it proper recognition within this paper and community.

Two old institutions in Boro Park that may be in the running for this title are:

- 1) The Hebrew Institute of Boro Park—5000-13 Ave., which was founded in 1916. It is the second oldest Yeshiva elementary school in the entire U.S.A.
- 2) First Cong. Anshel Sfar of Boro Park at 4502-14 Ave., which celebrated the dedication of its foundation stone in June 1915.

Please let us know if you are aware of any buildings which are older. We will be happy to publish your letters in this column.

DECEMBER 1976

Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.

HISTORICAL ITEMS

Boro Park has been a residential community since 1890; before that it was farmland. Even while the residential areas of Boro Park were developing, some farm sections survived until well into the 1920's.

Does Boro Park have official boundaries? Do you know what they are? In response to these questions, asked of me several times, I would like to indicate that Boro Park does indeed have official boundaries and they are not related to the ethnic

composition of the residents. The official boundaries, in the main, extend from 9th Ave. until 18th Ave; and from 39 St. until 60 St. Technically if you live on the other side of 18th Ave. or the other side of 39th St., you do not live in Boro Park.

FEBRUARY 1, 1977

HISTORICAL ITEMS

We received the following letter in response to our request for information that would help discover the oldest building in Boro Park. The oldest building may be entitled to some form of recognition.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

Referring to your article on historical items in your issue of Jan. 4th. To locate the oldest building in Boro Park would be quite a job. However, being a resident of Boro Park since 1906 I can correct you in regard to the two items you mention.

The building in which the Hebrew Institute is located was originally called the Boro Park Club House. It was a beautiful large mansion in which most all of Boro Park social functions were held. (My sister celebrated her engagement in that building in 1916). It was about half the size it now is. The two wings on either end were later added by the Hebrew Institute.

Secondly — Cong. Beth-El dedicated the original building on 12th Ave. and 41st St. in 1900. The corner stone shows the date. I think that Temple Emanuel building on 14 Ave. & 49 St. was erected before the Cong. Sfar building on 14 Ave. & 45 St.

Respectfully yours,
Irving Siegel

Thank you very much Mr. Siegel for your important contribution to this project. We welcome other items of historical interest, especially from our senior citizens who may have personal memories unavailable in print or to others.

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE

by Philip Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS •

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 1977

MARCH 24 - APRIL 1, 1977

HISTORICAL ITEMS

The following letter was received in response to our request for historical information about our community. We are doubly proud to receive this material from Dr. Egon Mayer, for one thing because it is a very important contribution to our project and secondly because Dr. Mayer was a former outstanding high school student of mine at the Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz H.S. thank you very much.
Dear Mr. Kipust,

I was delighted to see, in a recent issue of BP Community News, that you are sharing your interest in local history with your readers. Since you solicit "brief articles" I thought you might be interested in the enclosed.

On December 8-9 the School of Social Science and our department co-sponsored a conference, believed to be a "first", on Brooklyn, entitled, Brooklyn, 1976. Among the papers presented at that conference was the one enclosed here. It grows out of my doctoral dissertation research, which was completed in 1974. I am also enclosing a more technical paper on the community, which you may find of interest.

Warmest regards, Egon Mayer
Asst. Professor Brooklyn College
Dept. of Sociology

Dr. Mayer's excellent and interesting article "The Jewish Community of Boro Park: From Suburb to Shtetl" will be printed in the B.P.C.N. in two parts.

BORO PARK: FROM SUBURB TO SHTETL By EGON MAYER

Those of us who live and work in Brooklyn rarely look at it as a

stage upon which great historic dramas are enacted. Yet, as I reflect upon the history of this chunk of New York and America, I cannot help but be struck by the realization that Brooklyn has indeed, been the staging area for some important dramas in the life of the people who constitute the city, and even the country. At times these dramas merely reflect the cross-currents of the larger society. But, as often as not, they have set in motion forces which later reverberated throughout the larger American society.

In the spirit of these preliminary thoughts, I wish to focus upon the Jewish community of Boro Park as the staging area of an important social and cultural drama. This drama is the story of the rebirth and transformation of a way of life which was thought to have disappeared amidst the ashes and rubble of war-torn Eastern Europe more than thirty years ago. Although the title of this paper suggests two terminal points, the drama I shall describe really has no simple determinable beginning, and certainly no determinable end. It is a story of development and change, which continues. Now, to the drama itself. (to be continued)

HISTORICAL ITEMS

Look for the interesting article "The Jewish Community of Boro Park" by Dr. Egon Mayer, serialized elsewhere.

We're still inviting information from readers pertaining to some of our oldest buildings in Boro Park.

The last remnant of the Culver Line, The Culver Shuttle, connecting Ditmas Ave. and 9th Ave. was closed down on May 11, 1976. Many oldtimers will recall the Culver Line train that travelled along the tracks currently used by the F train, from Manhattan until Coney Island. Some may recall the open cars on this line during the Summer months, filled with people on the way to the Coney Island beaches. Others may recall when the historical link was built between the Ditmas Ave. and Church Ave. stations, connecting the BMT and IND lines.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF BORO PARK: FROM SUBURB TO SHTETL BY EGON MAYER

continued

Sombody once remarked that the story of America's Jews can be summarized as, "From Poland to polo in three generations." Let us see the game in Boro Park, Brooklyn. This playful formula captures the struggles, aspirations, and successes of generations of Jews who began to migrate to America in the 1800's. In its playfulness, however, it glosses over the cultural costs that generations of Jews have paid for succeeding in American society. What the costs involved can not be understood without reference to the "shtetl" the small, quasi-autonomous, Jewish community of Eastern Europe. These communities ranged in size from 1,000 - 20,000. They were more or less homogeneously Jewish, and were the home of the vast majority of Jews who in the twentieth century became Americans.

What was significant about the "shtetl" that, perhaps because of its homogeneity, it was fundamentally religion and tradition centered. Human values were synonymous with Jewish values; pleasure was "nachas" and pain was "tsuris." In other words, the basic human experience was mediated and experienced through Jewish values and symbols. Space was defined by the location of the "shul" (synagogue), the "beis hamedresh" (the house of study), the "mikvah" (ritual bath), and the like. Similarly, time was punctuated by the calendar of holidays and prescribed times for daily prayer. Last you think that I am trying to paint a nostalgic portrait, let me reassure you that all was not well in Eden. As in any tightly knit and culturally homogeneous community, the other side of solidarity was personal repression and

suppression. Anyone familiar with the literature of Nineteenth Century Eastern European Jewry is well aware that their social fabric was shot through with the tension between communal solidarity and the quest for personal freedom. The migration to America intensified these tensions while, at the same time, it left behind the communities whose institutional structures made the Jewish way of life meaningful and desirable in spite of them.

The Lower East Side, which was the home of the successive waves of immigrants from the "shtetl" finally erupted shattering the communal and family structures of previous generations. The "push" factor of an impoverished community, coupled with the "pull" factor of an open and attractive American society made the Lower East Side community little more than a way station towards acculturation and upward social mobility. The pattern of this mobility has been described by the Sociologist, Seymour Lantzman, as the transition from "shtetl to suburb." It is at this juncture that Brooklyn and Jewish history meet.

Although the Lower East Side is commonly thought of as the quintessential Jewish community, what is less frequently recognized is that the Jewish population of the Lower East Side changed

nearly every ten years between the 1890s and 1930s. To be sure, the community was densely Jewish. But it was not necessarily populated by the same Jews. Those who could, rapidly moved uptown to more desirable areas of the city. Since the turn of the century, and through the 1920s and 30s, the farms of Brooklyn were subdivided to make way for suburban residents. It was during this era of development that Boro Park emerged as a community proper. According to a retrospective account appearing in the Brooklyn Eagle (July 27, 1952)

About the turn of the century trolleys were running on New Utrecht Avenue from 39th Street to Bath Beach.

McDougall's farm with its mansion and windmill stood on the hill west of the West Brooklyn Station on 44th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. A new station was added at 49th Street... and at 55th Street. The space in between (these stations), and between New Utrecht Ave. and 15th Avenue became

FOROUGH PARK

A former state senator, one William H. Reynolds, in collaboration with one Edward Johnson, a builder and land developer, created Boro Park. In retrospect it appears that the name of the community itself may have been adopted from advertising materials which featured the park-like quality of the area.

The allure and the quality of the area, as it was perceived by the aspiring Jews of the Lower East Side, is captured vividly though not without some sarcasm

by Michael Gold, a Socialist-Jewish novelist of the period, in his book, *Jews Without Money*:

One Sunday we travelled to Borough Park to see the house and lot Zechariah was persuading my father to buy. . . The suburb was a place of half-finished houses and piles of lumber and brick. Paved streets ran in rows between empty fields where only the weeds rattled. Real estate signs were stuck everywhere. In the midst of some rusty cans and much would be a sign, "Why Pay Rent? Build Your House in God's Country."

We came at last to Zechariah's.

It was a large green house bulging with bay windows and pretentious cupolas. As we entered, there whined from within a petulant female voice, "Have they wiped their feet, Zechariah?" Mrs. Cohen, a fat, middle-aged woman, lay on a sofa. She glittered like an ice-cream parlor. . . Her bleached yellow hair blazed with diamond combs and rested on a pillow of green velvet.

She wore a purple silk waist, hung with yards of tapestry and lace. Diamonds shone from her

ears; diamond rings sparkled from every finger. She looked like some vulgar, pretentious prostitute, but was only the typical wife of a Jewish nouveau riche.

If we can ignore, for the moment, the acidity of the author's adjectives, what we find in this passage is an accurate ethnographic account of the values and aspirations of the Jewish immigrants and their children. In a subsequent passage we find the fictional Zechariah urging the author's father to stake his claim to a piece of Boro Park real estate:

Look, Herman (it is) the best piece of real estate in Brooklyn! In five years it will be worth double the price! It is because you are my foreman, and I want to make a 'merch' out of you, that I am giving you this chance. All the refined businessmen are moving here.

Zechariah was, of course, correct. A great many of the successful businessmen did move to Boro Park. By 1930 the Jewish population of Boro Park was approximately 60,000 constituting a little over 50% of the neighborhood. The other half of the neighborhood was made of Irish at one end and Italians at the other. However, more important than the "Jewish density" of the area was its cultural ambience. Both the Jewish and the other ethnic residents of the area were on the beginning rungs of the American ladder of success.

(to be continued)

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS •

MAY 12, 1977

JUNE 14, 1977

JULY - AUGUST 1977

(Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist, c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.)

HISTORICAL ITEM

18 Avenue Retail Market

Do you remember when 13 Ave. was lined with pushcarts? These pushcarts extended, as I recall, from 39 St. to 41 St. and lined both sides of the avenue.

The current 13 Ave. Retail Market, between 39th and 40th Sts., was built in 1935 under the LaGuardia Administration to replace these pushcarts. The market helped to clean the streets and provide indoor facilities for the vendors.

I recall, as a very young child, being one of many youngsters selling shopping bags along the pushcarts and in the market to earn a few pennies during the summer vacation. Today's job market is a little brighter.

HISTORICAL ITEMS

The following interesting letter was submitted by one of our readers:

Dear Sir:

I am a resident of Boro Park forty eight years and reading your column in the issue of May 12th brought back countless memories, particularly of the day when pushcarts on 13th Ave. were no more, and only a memory. Business was suspended for the day within the area of 39th St. to 45th St. preparatory to, the ceremony that opened the 13th Ave. retail indoor Market that afternoon.

Banners reading "Welcome to Boro Park Butch" were on the front of store windows and from apartment houses. Upon the arrival of Mayor LaGuardia who officiated at the ceremony, the ovation tendered him seem unending.

The conclusion of the Mayor's address was interrupted by the youngsters yelling, "Don't forget to read the 'Funnies' next Sunday morning. We will be at our radios, all set to hear you read the 'Funnies'."

Walter Basso

HISTORICAL ITEMS

The following letter, submitted by one of our interesting and interested readers, brings back fond memories of a past era in Boro Park History:

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I am a senior citizen and a resident of Boro Park 48 years and feel my nostalgic contribution to your column will be enjoyed by your many readers.

In the 1930's, "Day Care Nurseries" were far and far between and out of the financial reach of the mothers of Boro Park. But Boro Park had its own form of Day Nursery, "The Royal Movie Theater" at 13th Avenue between 41st and 42nd Streets, which was actually referred to as "The Nursery." At 9 A.M. every morning the place was filled to capacity by the youngsters brought there by their mothers. The kiddies brought their lunches in paper bags and boxes, and their mothers paid the stupendous admission price of 15 cents for the kiddies to enter. The mothers then went on their merry ways. The kiddies never seemed to get tired of the cartoons that were shown over and over. At 4 P.M. the youngsters were picked up by their mothers and taken home. The theater was a bonn to the mothers of the locality for many years and it was a sad day when "The

Nursery" was no more.

Walter Basso

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS • SEPTEMBER 2, 1977 ISSUE

(Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.)

HISTORICAL ITEMS

The Boro Park Community has indeed gone through many changes during the past few decades, which reflect changes in population, technology, culture and interests. One important area of change, that newcomers may be unable to notice and about which old timers may enjoy reminiscing, is in the number of movie theatres in Boro Park.

How many of the movie theatres that once operated in and entertained this community can you recall? The number you can remember may be an indication of the number of years you live in this community.

According to my recollection, the following eight movie houses operated in Boro Park proper or on its borders and are no longer in existence. Next to each is indicated the establishment which can now be found on that location.

1. Windsor Theatre - 40 St. corner 15 Ave. - now an empty lot.
2. Elton Theatre - New Utrecht Ave. corner 43 St. - now a factory.
3. Garden Theatre - New Utrecht Ave. corner 46 St. - now remains of Bohacks Supermarket.
4. Radio [Royal] Theatre - on 13 Ave. between 41 and 42 Sts. - now

Discount Luggage Store.

5. Culver Theatre - 18 Ave. corner McDonald Ave. - now Chase Manhattan Bank.

6. Loews 46 - on New Utrecht Ave., near 46 St. - now Rubinstein and Klein furniture dealers.

7. Loews Boro Park - on New Utrecht Ave. corner 51 St. - now new Post Office under construction.

8. Ritz Theatre - 8th Ave. between 45 and 46 Sts. - now Dan's Supreme Super Market.

Jack Verschleissler, who came to Boro Park in 1920, and can recall numerous interesting facts about its history, informed me of three additional movie theatres of which I was not aware.

9. West End Theatre - New Utrecht Ave. corner 52 St. - now Armon Terrace Catering Hall.

10. Eagle Theatre - on 16 Ave. and 43 St., across from Montauk J.H.S. - now an apartment house.

11. Nicholson Movie - on 13 Ave. corner 54 St. now Glickman's Shoe Store, A.B. Jerusalem French Dry Cleaners, and Brauners Bakery.

Although this community had so many movie theatres, and as many as eight or nine of them in operation at the same time, there is not a single one within the official boundary of Boro Park today. What caused this great change?

The two most important factors responsible for the disappearance of the movie industry from Boro Park are probably the change of

population and the competition of T.V.

POPULATION

The population of Chasidic and other devout Jews has grown rapidly and steadily in Boro Park over the past two decades or more.

This population generally does not attend movie theatres. In addition, many others have cut down or completely eliminated movies as a form of family entertainment in opposition to the trend in movies that they consider offensive.

The growing T.V. industry has been a tremendous competitor to the movie industry nationwide and perhaps worldwide. This has resulted in the closing of movie houses throughout the country, and explains some of the closings in this community.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS •

• OCTOBER 3, 1977 ISSUE

• NOVEMBER 2, 1977 •

(Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist, c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.)

HISTORICAL ITEM

The Temple Beth-El building, on 15th Ave. and 48 Street was built in 1920. The relatively new Jewish community at that time built the synagogue in the popular eclectic style combining Byzantine and Romanesque elements. The structure with its huge domed hall became the popular style for synagogues in Europe in 1910.

Temple Beth-El, the largest synagogue in Boro Park; (seats about 1400 in main sanctuary) is featured in the new special exhibit at the Yeshivah University Museum, "The Changing Face of New York's Synagogues. 1730-1970."

Each public and religious building in our community has a history. If we receive appropriate information about the history of such buildings or organizations we will try to publish them. Why not send us some information - date established, past and present officers, special programs or services offered or anything that may be of interest. Photos will also be welcome and reproduced when possible.

HISTORICAL ITEM PARK SURGICAL - 3 GENERATIONS IN BORO PARK:

The history of any community is intricately interwoven with its business establishments and industry. Boro Park is no exception.

One of the outstanding business establishments in our area, spanning three generations (almost 50 years) of significant service to the community, is the Park Surgical Supply Co. now located at 5001 New Utrecht Ave.

Park Surgical was started by the late Mr. Newman Dube in 1930 (after the stock market crash) in a small store located at 4804-13th Ave. The business later moved to 4903-12th Ave. in 1934. This enterprise was a pioneering venture in the concept of personalized service to physicians and their patients. Today Park Surgical is one of the largest and most active businesses of its kind in the entire New York Metropolitan area.

Newman Dube immigrated to the U.S.A. from Russia in 1886 at the age of 20. He moved to the then "new" lovely community of Boro Park in 1906, and became one of the important civic minded citizens and leaders in this community. He was one of the founders of Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides) in 1919, and president of the hospital for six years. He was one of the founders of the Boro Park YMHA in 1914, president of Machzikei Talmud Torah in 1916 and a trustee in the Infants Home of Boro Park and Temple Emanuel.

In 1943 Park Surgical moved to its present larger quarters. Newman and his oldest son Joseph were joined in the business by his other two sons Daniel and Herbert following their discharge from the army after World War II. With renewed vigor, the Dube family stimulated sales by personal detailing to doctors, hospitals and medical institutions. A unique mail-order business was developed dealing with schools, factories, prisons, visiting nurse associations and many other facilities which use medical, infirmary and first-aid supplies.

In order to satisfy the increasing demand of the disabled for wheel chairs, walkers, patient lifters, feeding lifts and all kinds of self help aids and physiotherapy equipment, the Park Surgical Co. recently opened a branch, the Park Rehabilitation Equipment Center at 5011 - Ft. Hamilton Parkway.

Now the third generation has entered the business. James, the son of Herbert, is learning the skills and technical knowledge from his family elders and masters in the field.

Newman Dube was active in the business until his death in 1966, reaching his 101st birthday. Large reproductions of Newman and his sons and of the early business are on display in the Park showroom.

The Park Surgical will soon be celebrating its 50th anniversary in Boro Park. The family and the business have made an important contribution to the development of this community.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

* BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS *

DECEMBER 1, 1977

JANUARY 4, 1978

(Readers are invited to submit historical items of interest about Boro Park. Photos, letters, brief articles or important dates should be sent to this columnist, c/o The Boro Park Community News. The names of those submitting these items will be listed unless we are requested otherwise.)

HISTORICAL ITEM

Do you remember the trolley cars in Boro Park? The trolleys, or street cars, were later replaced by buses as a means of public transportation. The trolleys traveled on rail tracks embedded in the streets and were powered by electricity through overhead cables. A long metal extension from the top of the trolley made contact with the overhead electric cable as the trolley rode along. Every once in a while, you may recall, the trolley stopped because the antenna-like extension slipped off the cable. While the irritated passengers and vehicles behind the trolley waited, the driver had to go out to the back of the trolley and guide the extension back on to the cable.

There were several trolley lines in Boro Park. One ran along New Utrecht Ave. another ran along 39 St., where the bus now runs, from 13 Ave. and down. Then there was the Church Ave. trolley line which started on 39th St. and followed a route similar to the present Church Ave. bus. There was a trolley line along 8th Ave. and there was one along McDonald Ave. The McDonald and New Utrecht Ave. lines

extended all the way to Coney Island and were used a great deal by the beach going public during the Summer months.

Along 16th Ave. we had an electric bus route. The trolley bus was powered by an overhead electric cable but it didn't have any tracks. The electric bus had the advantage of being able to maneuver around cars that may have been double parked or stalled. Since it rode on air filled tires it gave a smoother ride than the metal wheeled trolleys on metal tracks.

In some areas the trolley tracks were completely removed by excavating the streets, in other places the tracks were covered with asphalt. When riding along some of the old trolley routes where the tracks had been covered with asphalt, you may sometimes see patches of the old tracks under the eroded asphalt covering. Along McDonald Ave., under the "F" train you still find the old tracks completely exposed and annoying to drivers.

There are some old trolleys and tracks on display at the Transportation Dept. Museum, as well as old train cars, for those interested in seeing them and finding out more about them.

Of course we must yield to progress and wouldn't want to bring back the trolleys for public transportation. But I'll bet there are many old timers who wish they had an opportunity to take one more trolley ride now, just for old times sake.

HISTORICAL ITEM

Several people have indicated their recollections of farm areas in Boro Park.

Oscar Kipust, my uncle who now lives in Los Angeles recalls that in 1920 a farm covered the area between 49th St. and McDonald Ave. from 18th Avenue until the Long Island Railroad tracks (19th Ave.).

Elaine Wollman points out that the large variety of fruit trees still found in many backyards in Boro Park are remnants of the old farms that existed here.

Jack Verschleiser remembers the farm land that covered the area between what is now 16th Ave. to 18th Ave.

Although Boro Park has been a residential area since 1890 (before that it was all farmland) many farms survived until the 1920's.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS •

• MARCH 7, 1978

• FEBRUARY 3, 1978

Historical Items

The Maimonides Medical Center, on 10th Ave. and 48th St., is today the largest voluntary hospital in Brooklyn. In fact it is continuing its further development and expansion at this very time with construction of new units.

The roots of this hospital go back to 1911 when a women's group in Boro Park established the New Utrecht Dispensary for the Poor. The dispensary became the Israel Hospital of Brooklyn and in 1920 became the United Israel Zion Hospital.

Beth Moses, another hospital in Brooklyn, was founded in 1916 by a group of Orthodox Jews. In 1947 the Israel Zion and Beth Moses Hospitals merged into the Maimonides Hospital and more recently the Maimonides Medical Center.

HISTORICAL ITEM

The following interesting letter we received adds some very useful information about our community. We are grateful for this contribution to the history of Boro Park and urge others to send in information, especially personal memories (first or second hand) for inclusion in this column.

"Dear Mr. Kipust,

In your article in the January issue you state: 'Although Boro Park has been a residential area since 1890 (before that it was all farmland) many farms survived until the 1920's.'

I think you are in error. Since there are many dozens of buildings in Boro Park that are well over 100 years old, some of them row houses, surely it could not have been all farmland prior to 1890. The fact that the majority of buildings in Boro Park a decade ago were built prior to the 1920 change in the building code, tells the story.

The daughter of the man whose idea it was to found the Shomer Shabas Shul (now on 13th Ave. next to the typewriter store) told me three years ago, how her father started the movement when her parents moved here sixty years before that, meaning the Shul was started sixty three years ago. There were a number of other Shuls, but her father wanted a Shul for Shomer Shabas people only.

I know that a cousin of my father had a grocery store in Boro Park in 1920, and that they lived in an apartment house not far from the store. I recall that when this cousin passed away more than a quarter of a century ago, I learned how hard he had worked to try to get all the Jewish grocers to close on Shabas, without success. Unfortunately, I lost my father also, so I cannot get more details.

I recall that a dentist I used to go to when I lived in Bensonhurst told me that when he opened his office there, right after the turn of

the century, the West End Line was not an elevated line, but ran a three-car train on road level, on the same tracks that were later altered to be used for the trolley car.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Daniel Friedman"

I tried to obtain more information regarding the question raised by Mrs. Friedman, whether or not Boro Park was all farmland before 1890. The source of that information was an old newspaper article. But I believe the words "all farmland" should be interpreted to include scattered homes; After all, even farms have homes.

However, after some research, I didn't find any evidence of "row houses" being 100 years old, and would appreciate hearing from Mrs. Friedman or any other readers with specific information about any houses in Boro Park that are 100 years old. If we find any, perhaps one of them could qualify for Landmark preservation status.

Incidentally, Boro Park did not become part of the City of Brooklyn until 1894. Before that it was the town of New Utrecht in Kings County. Brooklyn became a city in 1834 and the city of Brooklyn became part of the city of New York in 1898.

13th AVE. MARKET IN N.Y. POST

An interesting article about the 13th Ave. Retail Market appeared as a photo news feature in the New York Post on Wednesday, January 18, 1978. The illustrated article, written and photographed by Harris Webberman, a resident of Boro Park, points to the decline of this 39 year old market in recent years. He indicates that although the market "prices are fantastic" business there continues to decrease, and now only a fraction of the building's space is being utilized. This market is one of the memorable historic sites for old timers of this community.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS • APRIL 6, 1978

HISTORICAL ITEMS

Mrs. R. (wishes to remain anonymous) came to Boro Park with her late husband in 1926 and still lives here. Living in Boro Park for 52 years, (may she continue in

good health for many more years) certainly qualifies her for the category of "one of the old timers" of our community.

She recalls nostalgically, and with great detail, many of the old Boro Park scenes and people. A few of the items she related to me follow.

She used to walk with her son to the live chicken market on 11th avenue near 61 street to shop for chickens. In 1929, she recalls, the area near 11th avenue and 60 street was still farm land. Her son enjoyed watching the cows and chickens on the farm.

She remembers "the hill" in Boro Park which was situated between 52 and 53 street between Fort Hamilton Parkway and 9th Ave. There was no thoroughfare between Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 9th Ave. because of "the hill". There was also a police booth on the hill. She remembers the WPA workers cutting down "the Hill," building the streets (52 & 53) and building the playground in the area. If you drive in the area you may notice some remnants of those changes.

She remembers when the Synagogue situated on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy and 49th St. was a Protestant Church. The church building, she added, was purchased by Rabbi Herbert Port and sold to the father of the present owner, Rabbi Bialik.

She remembers when the Kings County Lighting Co. (Gas Co.) was situated in the corner store on New Utrecht Ave. corner 48th St. This store is now part of the G & Sons Department Store.

There are many old timers, and not such old timers in the Boro Park Community who enjoy reminiscing about our community. Recalling and sharing experiences about the history and development of our community, I

believe, will help people develop greater interest and pride in the Boro Park community. Increased pride in our community, should benefit the community. Why not share your recollections with others by writing to me C/O the Boro Park Community News.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS • MAY 8, 1978

HISTORICAL ITEM

The following interesting letter demonstrates an appreciation for the history of Boro Park:

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I just received a copy of the Boro Park Community News and read your article and think it was a very interesting column and very vital. Because of your column I have ordered every back issue of the Boro Park News so I would not miss one of your columns; however, if your column did not run an ongoing series documenting the history of Boro Park I would request that from here on that you do indeed continue a series on the history of Boro Park from its very beginning till today which probably is not more than twenty five years or so — If you would have an on going column as I described, it would be the only formal documentation of the history of Boro Park and it is vital because so much of our history of other communities is lost because no one recorded it for posterity.

The best way to obtain the history of Boro Park is to make a public announcement that you welcome all those who have lived in Boro Park and recall its development to send you in a written account that you will publish. People that lived in Boro Park since its beginning definitely have a lot to tell. If each person writes in about his own block I am sure each block has its own story, and development and history.

I have many questions and you have permission to publish my whole letter if you wish. Where were the original boundaries and where are the boundaries now? Can you publish a map of Boro Park even showing a panoramic or symbolic map showing each house? How many houses are there in Boro Park? What makes the boundaries of Boro Park, Boro Park? Did Boro Park begin as a gentile neighborhood? When did the Jews move there and why and from where? Were the first Jews

Orthodox? Was there ever a movement from Boro Park and why? When did it begin to develop substantially as a Jewish neighborhood? Where was the center and did it eventually shift and why? I would also like to read more personal accounts of people that saw Boro Park develop. Even if the accounts conflict, for sometimes everyone is correct. I once asked many people about a certain section. One person would say that twenty years ago the Jews started moving out and another would say twenty years ago the Jews started moving in. I found out both were right — some people were moving out and at the same time some were moving in. I found out that that section was constantly in movement and there was never a stable period of time in which people were remaining. No one lived longer than a few years in that section.

Wishing you success and hoping to see the history of Boro Park come alive in your column. It would be the only time capsule of the history of Boro Park and the only record of the history of Boro Park.

ZECHARIA HERZBERG

P.S. The history of how your newspaper started or how each person in Boro Park started his business is also history — everyone likes to read personal accounts of the life of individuals.

* * *

We certainly welcome contributions and invite residents and former residents of the Boro Park Community to submit letters, photos, articles or other items of historical interest, for publication in this newspaper. If we receive sufficient responses we plan to devote a full separate column each month to the history of our community.

Community Guidance

By Philip J. Kipust

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS • JUNE 15, 1978

HISTORICAL ITEMS

The following response from Mrs. Friedman needs further attention and research. We would appreciate receiving accurate information from our readers on the ages of the buildings mentioned. I plan to do some further research myself at the various government agencies and hope to bring to your attention some verified accurate answers about the ages of these buildings in the next issue.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I'm sorry I didn't have a chance to write you sooner, in answer to your remark in the March 7th issue.

A little more than a quarter of a century ago, a real estate man told me that all those high-stoop houses with the basement and parlor-floor were 19th century houses. I think he pointed out, in particular, the rows of houses along 45th Street between 17th and 18th Avenues. I haven't been in that area for many years, but I presume those houses still stand.

In addition, there are numerous other 19th century houses, to judge by what this man told me, viz. those just across the street from me, nearer 14th Avenue. Several of these type houses appear along 11th Avenue and also on 55th Street between 11th and 12th Avenues. On 44th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues, those yellow brick 6-family houses (I haven't been down there for years, but presume they still stand) were built toward the end of the 19th century. I recall that in 1960, we were looking for an apartment and someone told me of a vacant one on that block. It was a sad joke. The house was getting steam and hot water, to meet the deadline set by the city to require all multiple dwellings to have central heat and hot water. The owner told me he had inherited the house, bought by a grandfather, who passed away before World War I. So, I believe the house is pretty old. All those houses had

been up-dated over the years. I'm sure there are many more such houses. Yeshiva Eitz Chaim on 13th Avenue and 60th Street is more than 75 years old, and it takes time to collect money to build a Yeshiva.

Sometimes I wish that Brooklyn had not become part of New York City. But the way things are, I would not like to revert to the former status.

Sincerely yours,

- Mrs. Daniel Friedman
(Silvia Friedman)

One of the buildings mentioned in Mrs. Friedman's letter was where my family lived for several years when I was a young child. We lived in that 6 family yellow brick house at 1358 - 44th St. from approximately 1935-1939. At that time there was no central heating in the building but there was central hot water. Each apartment had a coal stove in the kitchen which was used to heat the entire apartment during the winter months. When the stove was burning we saved fuel by using it for cooking and baking purposes as well. During the winter months we also saved money on ice by keeping the food requiring refrigeration in metal window boxes attached outside the kitchen window. The ice man would usually sell coal during the winter months, as his business was seasonal. As children, one of our daily joyous pastimes on that block was to wait for the ice man to approach on horse and wagon, watch him cut the ice to the size requested by the customer, and then hurriedly grab and eat the small chips that often fell during the cutting, after the ice man went to deliver the ice. Our family usually purchased a 10 cent piece which probably measured about 6x12x12 inches (according to my childhood recollections) and it lasted for a full day and night. On very hot summer days there were sometimes two ice deliveries in one day.

(How about sharing some of your recollections?)

New Column

Due to the interest of many readers in discovering and reminiscing about the history and development of Boro Park a new feature column will appear in the BPCN with this issue. The column entitled, "I REMEMBER BORO PARK" by Philip J. Kipust will continue and expand upon the interesting historical items discussed until now in his column, "Community Guidance." Both columns will now be published separately each month.

Your letters, photos, comments and other items related to your personal memories of Boro Park will be welcome, appreciated and properly credited. All such items should be sent to the attention of Philip J. Kipust c/o B.P.C.N.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Due to the demonstrated interest by readers and others in the history of Boro Park, and in order to avoid confusion with other columns, we are introducing in this issue a separate feature column dealing with this topic.

Your columnist has a special interest in and love for the Boro Park Community having been born and bred in the community and belonging to a family which has seen more than three generations born and bred in Boro Park.

The material published in this column may eventually be incorporated into a little booklet for distribution to our readers.

We therefore welcome and urge our readers to submit letters for this column describing personal memories of people, events, institutions, businesses, buildings, and community changes noted. We would especially welcome photographs which may include people, places and buildings of the community. Such photographs would be especially interesting if they showed scenes that have since changed, or people during and before World War II. Photographs and other documents will be returned upon request.

Names of contributors will be withheld upon request but we reserve the right to use any material submitted in future publications unless specifically requested not to do so.

OLD CONTROVERSY

We'd like to finally clear up an old controversy about the age of the old buildings in Boro Park, that has been discussed in our column "Community Guidance" during the past few months.

In January of this year, I state in my column "Although Boro Park has been a residential area since 1890 (before that it was all farm land) many farms survived until the 1920's."

One very active, civic minded resident and reader took exception to that statement claiming that, "there are many dozens of buildings in Boro Park that are well over 100 years old, some of them row houses, surely it could not have been all farmland prior to 1890."

I asked the reader if she could indicate which buildings in Boro Park might be 100 years old. She replied that "more than a quarter of a century ago, a real estate man told me that all those high stoop houses with the basement and parlor-floor were 19th century houses. I think he pointed out in particular, the rows of houses along 45th Street between 17th and 18th Avenues...on 44th St. between 13th and 14th Avenue,

those yellow brick 6 family houses...were built toward the end of the 19th century."

In order to clear up this question it was necessary to obtain accurate technical information, we couldn't depend upon memory or hearsay. Therefore I visited one of the specialized libraries in New York and did some research on the subject.

I consulted and compared two street atlases of the Boro Park area, one of 1899 and one of 1909. The 1899 atlas showed most of Boro Park to have been undeveloped at that time. Many of the blocks had not yet been designated. In many areas although the blocks had already been numbered the lots had not yet been designated. Of course where there were no lot designations there certainly were no buildings yet. The area from 13th to 16th Ave. from 41st St. to 46th St. had no lots designated although it did have block numbers. This whole area was owned by M.C. Rodriguez.

The area on 45th St. between 17th and 18th Avenues also did not yet have any lot numbers designated, although there were a few lots designated on 17th Avenue proper.

There were some scattered individual homes shown on the 1899 map, in some sections of Boro Park, but none in rows I

don't know if any of those houses are still in existence today. Most of the area however looked like farmland or large estates. Certainly if we went back to 1890 or 1878 we would find even less in the way of houses.

On the other hand the 1909 atlas indicated that a great deal of building had taken place during those ten years. Among the houses built during that period were those from 1301 to 1335 - 44th St. None of the yellow brick houses on that block had been built yet. Some of the houses on 45th St. between 17th and 18th Ave. were built then. The houses

numbered 4712 to 4736 on that block and the houses 743 and 1757 until the auto lot were already built then.

We must conclude then that prior to 1890 there were few scattered houses built in Boro Park. Of these very few if any are still in existence today. If anyone knows of a building in Boro Park built prior to 1890 and still in existence, please notify us. Such a building should receive special recognition by this newspaper and the community. Perhaps we might even be able to have it declared a historical sight and help it obtain landmark status.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

BY PHILIP J. KIPUST

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Considerable interest in the history of the Boro Park Community has clearly been demonstrated by the mail, calls and comments we have received and by the discussions in which we have participated. One reason for this interest it seems, is that Boro Park is a unique community in many ways. Long time residents and even former residents, by and large, seem to have a special feeling for the community. We are therefore excited about this project of collecting information, especially personal memories of Boro Parkers, and bringing it to your attention. Eventually perhaps we can combine it all into a little booklet for the benefit of interested Boro Parkers.

The history of Boro Park, however, is more than buildings and dates. It is the story of the people—the families, and businesses of the community. In line with this we have been interviewing several of the old time families in order to bring their stories to your attention. We also invite our readers to submit their own family histories related to Boro Park.

THE GOLDSTEIN FAMILY

One of the famous old time families in Boro Park, well known to many past and present residents, is the Goldstein family.

I can still vividly recall the scene, in the Sfardishe Shule (45th St. & 14th Ave.), in the old downstairs synagogue, before the renovations. Many middle aged and elderly men, few young ones, were sitting around the very long, worn, shak; ~~same~~ benches and chairs, eating pieces of plain schmaltz herring and challah for the Saturday evening Shalosh Seudos meal. As the singing of zmiros continued past sunset and subsided, many faces turned to Mr. Moshe Goldstein, as if to signal him that they were waiting. Mr. Goldstein summoned his six sons, lined them up, and started them off. They stood there like little soldiers, respectful, obedient, and serious, and sang

the appropriate zmiros (songs), to the delight of all the congregants and the undisplayed pride of their father. Many old time residents still reminisce about this familiar scene and activity that went on for many years in the Sfardishe Shule during the late 1930's and early 40's.

Moshe Yehuda Goldstein immigrated to this country with his parents at the turn of the century when he was 6 years old. He moved to Providence Rhode Island and lived there until 1930 working as a printer. He then realized that in order to raise his children in a religious environment and provide them with a thorough and proper Hebrew education it would be necessary for his family to move to New York City. After this decision was made, he sold his printing shop, left relatives and friends and re-established his roots in Boro Park.

Those were depression years and making a living was difficult, especially for a Sabbath Observer. After struggling for a few years he was finally able to re-establish his printing business in the basement of his home at 1443 45th Street in 1940. There, Shmuel (son number five) began to take an interest in the printing business and Mr. Goldstein taught him various aspects of the trade.

After many years, Mr. Goldstein learned that the building regulations did not permit him to operate the printing plant in his home basement. Because of that and with the help of his expanding business, he was able to relocate his business to the present quarters at 4604 16th Avenue in 1956.

In 1962, Mr. Goldstein retired and he and his wife moved to Kiryat Sanz, Israel, where they currently live. His son, Shmuel, took over the business in 1961, just before his father's retirement. Now Shmuel's married son, Aron, is in the business and is his star pressman.

The Goldstein Printing business probably also has the distinction of being the first Shomer Shabbos

(Sabbath observing) printing shop in Boro Park, as well as one of the oldest still in existence in this community.

However, Moshe Yehuda and Chaya (Ida) Goldstein left more than a printing shop in Boro Park. They left a large, very respected, religiously comm. and communally active family of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The oldest son, Israel, was the owner of the Elegante shoppe on 13th Avenue for many years. He is now the proprietor of India Galleries on New Utrecht Avenue and 65th Street.

Daniel, the second son, lives in Squaretown, New York, where he serves both as County Clerk and as Principal of the Girls Yeshivah. He has three married daughters and families currently living in Boro Park. He has also served as Cantor for Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur in the Agudah Synagogue, 16th Avenue near 50th Street, for many years.

The third son, Shlomo, resides in Boro Park with his wife, Frieda, and one daughter; his other children and grandchildren live in Baltimore. Shlomo is a Cantor (Reverend) and also a salesman of Hebrew books. Frieda works in Yeshivah Bals Sarah on 58th Street and 16th Avenue.

Rabbi Yosef Goldstein, the fourth son, is Assistant Principal in Bais Yaakov elementary school on 14th Avenue and 46th Street.

Shmuel, the fifth son, who now runs the printing business, lives with his wife, Toby and children in Boro Park. Their married son, Aron, wife and grandchild, also live in Boro Park.

The youngest son, David, (number six) and wife and children, reside in Israel.

Their only daughter, Dina, is married to Rabbi Rosengarten. He is a Rebbe (teacher) in Yeshivah Toras Emes Kamenitz, and she is a Hebrew teacher in Yeshivah Bais Yaakov elementary school, both in Boro Park. One of their married children lives in Boro Park as well.

Of course the story doesn't end here because most of the children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren are still living and working in the Boro Park Community and are active in various communal and charitable organizations.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

BY PHILIP J. KIPUST
HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

This column has aroused considerable interest in the community. Many individuals have related to me their own interesting childhood memories and suggested other old time Boro Park families to write about. Most of these comments, however, are mentioned off the cuff and in passing. In order for me to remember them, or include them in this column I would need to have the information in writing. You are therefore respectfully invited again to submit information in writing. Dates, addresses and other factual information must be accurate. All material will be properly credited.

The following letter includes much interesting and informative material.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter in reference to your article (I Remember Boro Park) requesting information regarding Boro Park. In 1976 my father purchased a book named, The New Brooklyn Business Directory and Buying Guide. This book has brief but informing articles referring to all the neighborhoods in Brooklyn and states "Borough Park still rural at the turn of the century, the area began taking shape in the 1920's, as a good residential community of two and four family structures, then the population, largely Jewish families."

My father in fact was born in 1921, his home address then was 1351-44th St. It was a six family, yellow brick house, just as you mentioned in your July-August article. They were four room apartments, with very large size kitchens, and bathrooms not big enough for one person, and no clothes closets. Credit is due to those who lived in those houses fifty years ago, with wall to wall families.

My grandparents bought a house (row house-railroad rooms) a two family on 42nd Street between 12 and 13 avenues,

which sold for \$9000.00, when it was purchased in 1922. My father recalls when the side streets were dirt and open to two way traffic; also gas lamps along the curbs were lit by hand and turned out just by a turn of a key. If your reporter has visited 44th Street, 13 and 14 Avenues, you should make note of the garage that used to house horse's and wagon's, and served as stables, for feeding and grooming the horses.

In fact the very apartment house I live in (opposite my grandparents house)-my father recalls when it was a vacant lot, until 1930-was known as The Borough Park DeLux Apts. There was a red rug from the lobby door covered with a like canopy.

Also, my father became a victim of Cerebral Palsy, in 1923, and remembers going to a house (1248-42 St.) known as Israel Zion Clinic until 1937, when a bigger building was built at 48th St. and 10th Ave. Its name was changed to Maimonides Hospital in 1939. Please make note, that the house I mentioned above could, very well, be a hundred years old.)

I'm very pleased to write this letter, hoping its a helping hand to continue your column. Your paper is very informing and its wonderful to know about the neighborhood in which you live. Thank you.

Happy in Boro Park.

L.J. Scarlotta

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The following letter offers some constructive suggestion and criticism. The reader also raises a few interesting questions and submits some useful information. Dear Mr. Kipust:

Ask your readership for a title. Bet no one will settle for the present title "I Remember," except Arnold Fine.

The present title sounds very cornbread and grits and sounds like the column is based on memory, hearsay and musings rather than accurate technical

fact. The present title doesn't have a ring of importance to it and sounds rather comical comparable to someone writing a column about fatal diseases and calling it "For he was a jolly good fellow". As of now the title should be "The History of the Buildings and Streets of Boro Park" and I hope that title changes since I have read your column all I have read about are buildings and their locations and how streets and buildings have developed. Doesn't history include people also? I would suggest "The history of Boro Park", in all its phases and aspects, encompassing people and buildings.

I had once written to your column and had asked, "Who were the first Jews to come to Boro Park and when and from where and why? I had also asked the Jewish population of Boro Park, "How many streets, how many blocks, how many houses, how many families, how many people, how many Yeshivas?" Since no one has written in, then I will at least answer some things: If we consider the concentrated Jewish populace of Boro Park to be from 18th Ave. to 10th Ave. (8 straight blocks) and from 41st Street to 63rd Street (22 Straight blocks) excluding the pockets of gentile streets, that would be 8 x 22, which would give us 176 blocks that comprise the concentrated Jewish populace. Each block has four sides. I sent a friend to count the houses on many differing blocks and we found approximately an average of seventeen houses on one side of a street and there are four such sides to a square block and there are two families to a house, most of the houses being two family houses, and an average of four to a family - would be 176 times four times seventeen times eight. This would give you a Jewish population which comprises the largest Jewish community by itself as contrasted to all other single Jewish communities considered separately. Then you have to take into account beyond 18th Ave. and also the fact that this is a way to figure, which did not count the exact amount of

the houses on a street atlas or take the actual count of the populace and a lot of other considerations. At least it is a way to count the populace without counting the people, counting them according to the amount of houses. Also if the average of a family in Boro Park is more than four, it would at least increase the number by 11,939 and if the average amount of houses on one side is more by one that increases the amount of houses to 12,632 and the amount of people by more. Anyway, the Jews are the sands of the sea and are not to be counted by the person or head.

Does anyone know who made the first Yeshiva in Boro Park and who was the first Rabbi in Boro Park? Where can a street atlas marking off each house be obtained and can you publish it as a service to the community. I heard there is a directory of Boro Park coming out soon where can it be obtained. Also I heard there is a second directory coming out with a map and statistics such as the amount of the houses the amount of Yeshivas, wedding halls, Mikvas, Shuls, Halls, libraries, buildings or anything else, where can this be gotten?

By the way, can some one write about Parnesses Minyon. I heard it is the oldest ongoing minyon in Boro Park. What is the story of that minyon.

ZACHARIAH HERZBERG

We shall attempt to respond to the above items. In the order in which they were mentioned.

The column title is "I remember Boro Park - Historical Highlights" Unfortunately it

wasn't printed properly in the previous issues. This title was

selected after consultation with several people and considering about eight different titles. One of the titles considered at that time was the one you suggested "The History of Boro Park." Most felt that the column and newspaper cater to a general audience and should be on a popular level. It isn't meant to be on a professional journal level although the information will hopefully be accurate. However, we do invite comments and suggestions for titles from our readers.

Although we devoted a few columns to discussing the ages of houses in Boro Park and attempted to clear up some controversies, we certainly did plan to include the history of families, businesses, institutions and organizations. In last month's column we wrote about the Goldstein family and have been interviewing members of other families including the Parness family which you mentioned.

According to your estimated calculations the population of Boro Park would be approximately 96,000. I don't know what percentage of that would be Jewish, Italian, Spanish, etc. I suspect that the real population is considerably greater than that but that information would have to be researched.

To research all the information you request will take a long time. We only write one column a month and much of that is devoted to letters and comments contributed by our readers. Please have patience and continue to make your very worthwhile contributions.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS

We've heard much talk about neighborhood patrols in recent years. The concept and use of such patrols, under various titles, for the purpose of protecting communities is probably as old as civilization.

I vividly remember a personal incident, related to this concept, which occurred during 1943-44. World War II was raging at that time and most of the young adult men were serving in the armed forces. I was a 16 year old teenager then, and like others was feeling strong and feeling strongly about anti-semitism and other forms of discrimination and intolerance.

During that time there were several incidents of Friday night window breakings in the local synagogues. With what was going on in Europe under the Nazis at that time, this understandably became a subject of concern to the local residents.

Being young and impressionable and concerned, I and Irving Fried, a good friend and classmate of mine (He is now the principal of a Day School in Columbus, Ohio) decided that since we usually enjoyed taking long walks together on Friday evenings, perhaps we should form our own unofficial patrol to help safeguard the synagogues. If it proved effective, we reasoned, or if it was more than we could handle, perhaps we could enlist the help of other teenagers in the family, school or the community. Irving was the oldest child in a large, well known oldtime Boro Park family, and lived next door to his cousins, the Kleins and Friedmans also well known, large, oldtime Boro Park families. They all lived at 1321 and 1323 - 44th Street. Many of the Kleins, Friedmans and Frieds still reside in Boro Park, and their family history in Boro Park will hopefully be told one day.

Anyway in preparation, we stepped up our own programs of physical fitness by spending more time at exercise such as chinning, push ups and parallel bar push ups. For parallel bars we used two high backed synagogue benches which stood back to back in the rear of the synagogues of the yeshiva we attended; Mesivta Toras Emes, which was then located at 4407 - 12 Ave. the site of the present Mesivta Beer Shmuel. For a chinning bar we hung on to the top of a door post which had an extended piece of wood, and for push ups we used the floor of the classroom during recess and lunch periods.

We went through this increased program of trying to develop our muscles in addition to our long walks on weekends.

We decided to walk the streets in the vicinity of the large synagogues. In those days there were very few small synagogues or "Shibboleth" in Boro Park. One Friday night as we were walking in the vicinity of the "Sfardische Shule", First Cong. Anshei Sfard on 14 Ave. corner 45 St., we heard the sound of glass breaking, as if being hit by stones. We were caught by surprise. Irving suddenly let out a shriek and shouted with all his strength, "There's our meat". We both began running towards the synagogue and shouting, "Get them, Get them!". As we approached we saw a small group of boys, probably about 10 or 11 year olds, throwing stones at the windows and glass lights on the outside of the synagogue. When they saw and heard us approaching along 14 Ave. they started running up 45 St. towards 13 Ave. We chased them in the dark. Several of them ducked off unnoticed by us into dark alleys and one we chased until 13 Ave. where we lost him.

In a sense we were relieved that we didn't catch them because if

we did we wouldn't have known what to do with them. However, we probably frightened those kids and they must have spread the word because we didn't hear of any Synagogue window breaking incidents after that.

Another incident occurred one Friday night while we were strolling together through Prospect Park. We suddenly heard some screams a little distance from us and we again started running and shouting, with more nerve than brains, until we approached two couples of teenagers who seemed very upset. They told us that they had been strolling through the park when a group of teenagers had accosted them, knocking one of the girls down. When the perpetrators heard us approaching they became frightened and ran away. The couples thanked us and we continued on our way. We never reported these incidents to anyone, or the fact that we were patrolling, except perhaps to a few friends in passing.

I'm relating these stories for several reasons. First to give our readers a glimpse of Boro Park history in the early 40's, secondly, to point out that patrols even simple ones, can be an effective deterrent to crime and finally to illustrate, how the time and community have changed.

What are some of the changes we can notice? First of all we felt perfectly safe, as did so many others, walking the streets of Boro Park alone, late at night. We even felt safe walking to Prospect Park along Greenwood cemetery in the dark and through the entire Park. How different it is today.

Secondly we note that the level and form of crime, violence and delinquency on the streets then was different than it is today. We weren't afraid of being confronted by guns, knives or bombs. We patrolled at that time without any weapons or Walkie Talkies, not even a piece of wood. It was Friday night, The Jewish Sabbath, and we couldn't carry anything. We didn't even have a nickel for a phone call (it was 5 cents then) or a handkerchief in our pockets. We intended to defend ourselves, if necessary, by using our fists or legs. How different it is today.

Finally, I think that the feelings of patriotism and pride in the welfare of the community may have been more visible in those days than they are today. This may have been due to the war or perhaps to our viewing the community then through teen age eyes.

NAME THE COLUMN

We received a letter from Mr. Yitzhak Smith in which he included a list of about 30 suggested titles for this column. He himself favored the name "Boro Park and History" with a sub title, "Historical Accounts of Boro Park." he selected his choice "Boro Park and History" because it suggests that Boro Park has become a part of History," and "Historical Accounts of Boro Park" because "that is exactly what it is, each edition of your

column records another historical account of Boro Park." He also suggests as a second sub title "The Present Largest Jewish Community in the World," because "that is an outstanding historical fact."

It wouldn't be practical to list all 30 suggestions but the following are several that seem to offer the most promise. "Historical profiles of Boro Park." "Boro Park Recorded." "Boro Park Log." "A collected History of Boro Park." "The Community of Every Spice." "Files of Boro Park."

We would appreciate hearing reader's comments regarding the above suggestions or other titles for this column. The suggested titles and comments are also interesting and, in a sense, part of the Boro Park story.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Trudy Vertucci, a Boro Park resident, wrote a paper about Boro Park for one of her college graduate courses in Social Work. Her professor commented that the paper "Reads like a labor of love," and it also points out that while there has been considerable change in the community there is also a real sense of continuity.

Trudy has been a volunteer worker and staff member in Maimonides Community Mental Health Center and a volunteer worker in St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, working in various capacities to help adults and children in the community.

The paper is a welcome and worthwhile contribution to the history of Boro Park and is interesting reading. Technically, however, I would have to disagree with one part of the report, that is the described physical boundaries of Boro Park. Trudy's described boundaries are too large and include parts of other neighborhoods in addition to Boro Park and for this reason some of the statistics she quoted may not be accurate. Technically, the boundaries of Boro Park extend in the main from 39 Street to 60 Street and from 9 Ave. to 18 Ave.

Socially or culturally of course neighborhoods cut across physical boundaries and in that respect Boro Park may extend beyond its formal borders. However it's necessary for such a distinction to be clarified and for us to realize that many may not agree with the boundaries she uses even as social or cultural ones.

Nonetheless, read on, and enjoy.

Historically, New York is a changing city. In 1856 Harper's Monthly reported that New York "is never the same city for a dozen years." A century later Le Corbusier wrote "New York is not a finished, or a completed city. It

gushes up. On my next trip it will be different."

In a city in flux, New York's neighborhoods provide a much needed source of continuity. Although their boundaries are imprecise and shifting they are the physical manifestations of shared social values, shared culture, and shared institutions.

Neighborhoods achieve their identities in a variety of ways. Some neighborhoods are identified by precise topographical features, others are characterized by their architectural styles. Some areas like Coney Island derive their identity from unique activities. Some neighborhoods are defined by their social composition (e.g. Chinatown). Other neighborhoods' character can arise from their social function: for example Greenwich Village has traditionally been an artistic haven.

Whatever its particular nature, residents judge their neighborhoods by strikingly similar standards of physical and social condition. Residents of the Boro Park section of Brooklyn view their neighborhood as a good residential community serving upwardly mobile families and a substantial elderly population. (The aged population of this community is almost 20% or double that of the national average). Although many younger families are moving out to the suburbs, the area remains stable, with good transportation, convenient shopping and housing that is for the most part old but sound. Overall this is a highly organized and well-served community. Community organizers from the local mental health center for purposes of getting funding often describe the neighborhood as being in an extreme state of flux. This is not the feeling tone at the core of this community.

Having lived here all my life, I feel there is a strong sense of continuity and solidity about this neighborhood. For me, Boro Park is characterized by

neighborliness. I feel this is due to the low population density caused by the high proportion of private homes. Here people actually know their neighbors and the sense of community is easily evidenced. The sound of a nearby siren quickly sends everyone to their windows or out into the street. In the summer one can just follow the music from one block party to the next. This promotes a feeling of security and safety. Boro Park has one of the lowest crime rates in the city.

Boro Park is the newest of a group of very similar communities including Bensonhurst and Bath Beach, stretching from Greenwood Cemetery to Gravesend Bay. The district also includes the Kensington neighborhood.

The land is fairly flat with a ridge at the center rising to a peak at Greenwood Cemetery, which with Caton Avenue forms the northern boundary. The district is bounded on the east by Coney Island Avenue, on the South by Avenue P, 65 Street, Bay Parkway, 63 Street, 14th Avenue and the Long Island Rail Road, and on the west by Eighth Avenue.

This is the area immortalized by Thomas Wolfe in "Only The Dead Know Brooklyn." The man who wants to find "Bensonholat" because he likes the sound of the name, is instructed to "take duh Fourt Avenue express, get off at Fifty-nint' Street, change to a Sea Beach local deh, get off at Eighteen' Avenue an' Sixty-told, an den walk ... Many of these exponents of Brooklynese could be found making book from the stalls in the city-owned 13th Avenue Retail Market, in between selling fruits and vegetables. But the installation of 2 OTB Parlours in the neighborhood forced these denizens above ground. Occasionally under the el of the B train you can still find an honest to goodness candy store (complete with broken red leather swivel stools) and in the back at the pay phones you can still hear the nasal Brooklynese of some sharper placing a bet, and while you're waiting you might still be able to get a real egg cream!! But outside this holdover from the past the air is so full of European accents that a transplanted 17th century Dutch settler wouldn't recognize the old town of New Utrecht.

As late as the turn of the century the district was still rural.

with small farms and some scattered settlements. The block on which I now live was once part of Cowenhaven Farms. Blythebourne, at the intersection of New Utrecht Avenue and 55th Street, was started in the late 1880's by Eleetus B. Litchfield as a residential development with one- and two-family houses and a series of Queen Anne cottages. It is remembered today only in the name of the local post office, Blythebourne Station. The name of another small village from that time, Mapleton is still used to refer to the area from Fort Hamilton Parkway to New Utrecht Avenue.

Construction after World War I of the Brooklyn, Bath Beach, and West End Railroad (now the BMT West End Line) along New Utrecht Avenue on to Coney Island helped spur the district's growth. My mother recalls prior to this, a trolley running the same route that would take you to Coney Island (then Lunar Park) for a nickel. The construction of the railroad was followed by a real estate boom in the 1920's, which brought many walk-up apartment buildings as well as one and two family dwellings.

These new units were largely occupied by Jewish immigrants or their children, who had moved from older, less desirable neighborhoods such as Williamsburg. Their principal livelihood came from the garment industry or small businesses. These residents now constitute the majority of the growing number of elderly in the district.

In the 1930's Italian families started moving to Borough Park and are still concentrated in the north around Greenwood Cemetery. The area from 16th Avenue through Bay Parkway, from 57th Street through the 10's has fast become New York's Second Little Italy. In the past 10 years over 20,000 Italian immigrants have settled in this area. On 18th Avenue, the main shopping strip, characterized by a pizzeria on every other corner, one can hear Italian being spoken in most of the stores. While young mama's push baby carriages

covered with grandma-crocheted baby blankets, their mothers are inside the many salumerias selecting the finest imported provolone and prosciutto. Across the street in the melo-dominated cafes ringed fingered dons in perfectly tailored Italian mado suits sip their cappuccino to the strains of Little Tony on the juke box, while their wives are home preparing the fettucini. One must not be fooled by this relaxed ambience. This is an extremely industrious, hard-working group of people. The local library's statistics state that out of the 20,000 new arrivals only one person has applied for public assistance.

Living as I do on 16th Avenue and 57th Street is much like being the Colossus of Rhodes with a foot in each land. The other side of 16th Avenue is predominantly Jewish. As conditions have deteriorated in Williamsburg the Boro Park community has seen a large influx of Hasidic Jews. The ties between these two communities are shown by the special express buses that connect them. The Hasidim have been buying old one family houses and constructing sometimes up to eight homes on the same lot. Throughout the center of the established Jewish community from about 12 to 17 Avenues and about 44 to 56th Streets one can see this flat box-like brick homes all equipped with balconies to be transformed into Sukkot for the Sukkoth holidays. This group is becoming increasingly influential in the neighborhood, as evidenced by the growing number of Yeshivas in every available store front and in the changes in the types of merchandise and hours of the shop keepers along 13th Avenue. To protect themselves against the harassment they first encountered here, this has become a very solidified and politically well-organized group. They have their own citizen patrol groups equipped with walkie-talkies and C.B. radios. In times of crisis I have seen a show of hundreds of men assemble in front of the 68th Precinct within 5 to 10 minutes notice.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

This month we would like to share with you several letters and other short items of interest from readers. The first letter carries an important message for all the residents of Boro Park.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

Least what I have to say be misconstrued I think I should preface this letter by saying that I am, and have always been, orthodox and I am affiliated with many orthodox-based organizations, including the First Congregation Anshe Sfard.

I too remember Boro Park. (My memory goes back to World War I.) I remember when this was a beautiful neighborhood, a place to be proud of. I remember when storekeepers swept the walks in front of their stores and cleared away the snow as soon as it fell. I remember when householders did likewise. I remember when garbage cans had covers that fit tightly and were placed inside the building lines. I remember when people cared not only about the insides of their homes but about the outsides too. Most gardens and yards, big or small, were cared for and this community was truly a park.

I remember when children were taught not to litter the streets with food wrappers and sundry, and adults thought it undignified to eat in the streets (and also litter!)

Is civic pride and conscience too much to ask for the residents of Boro Park? Why can't this neighborhood be made a place to be proud of? Boro Park has too many positive aspects to allow it to become identified as the "new East Side."

Yours Sincerely,

Adele Weinstock
(Mrs. Leon Weinstock)

Name the Column Suggestions

The following letters suggest some titles for this column.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I suggest the titles: 1) "The Boro Park Site!" 2) "Kehillas Boro Park" 3) "Little Israel"

I.L.K.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

My suggestions for "Name the Column" are: Boro Park Memorabilia; or Down The Boro Park Memory Lane.

Mr. Yitzchak Smith's suggestion, "Boro Park Log," is a good one. Also, his choice, "Boro Park and History," is good.

Yours truly,
Samuel Dyen

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I received a copy of your paper from a friend and would like to suggest a few titles for your series.

Rabbis' Valley; Torah Valley; Torah City; Vilna in Exile; Vilna Number Two; The Replica of Vilna.

When will you be publishing a book because I like to collect books about Jewish life (Historical and Authentic).

I do not wish to state my name but I am an interested party.

Thank you.

We appreciate the letters and suggestions, from our readers and hope they will continue. However, we must remind our readers that this column is devoted to the history of Boro Park. The Boro Park community is and always has been made up of many religious and ethnic groups. Therefore the column title and contents should reflect the history of all the groups in the community and not be restricted to any single one.

Brief Reader Items

Sol Deutsch, a long time resident of Boro Park and owner of "Chatham Clothes" on the Lower East Side in Manhattan informs us of the following items.

He remembers when the Martense Railroad Station was on the site where the Yeshiva Etz Chaim now stands. The Martense railroad connected Manhattan with Boro Park before the City

Transit Lines were built.

He remembers the first location of the Boro Park library branch on 56 Street between New Utrecht and 14 Ave. It was in a store with a high stoop leading up to it. The wooden building has since been thrown down.

He remembers when the 66th Police Station was located on 15 Ave. between 50 and 51 Street.

He remembers when 15 Ave. had a center paved road and side dirt roads for horses.

He remembers when the famous author and poet Chaim

Nachman Bialik came to Yeshiva Etz Chaim to address the student body in 1927, while Sol was a young student there.

Jack Verschleiser, a resident of Boro Park since 1920 recalls some of these items. His first residence in Boro Park was at 1460-44 St.

He recalls when the Lubavitcher Rebbe (ZTZL), father-in-law of the current Lubavitcher Rebbe, lived in the former corner wooden frame house on 14th Ave. and 46th St. next to the current Agudath Israel

of Boro Park.

He remembers the first Rabbi of Cong. Bnei Yehuda Synagogue on 16th Ave. and 53rd St., Rabbi Mordechai Yehuda Kaplan.

He believes that Abe Pharmacy (Feinstein) on 44th St. and 14th Ave., N.W. corner, was the first pharmacist in Boro Park. He later moved to 45th St. and 14th Ave. where the butcher is now and then to 44th St. & 14th Ave. S.E. corner.

Please continue to send us some of your fond memories of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Mrs. Leah Friedman, a senior citizen in our community, with a very good memory, recalls many people, places, and incidents of Boro Park long ago. Mrs. Friedman is the daughter of Rabbi Ellyahu Mordechai Finkelstein (R.I.P.), who she said served as unpaid Rabbi in Cong. Anshel Sfard (46 St. & 14 Ave.) on special occasions, such as Shabbos Hagedol for many years. He sat in the left front corner with other prominent members. She (Leah) married Dr. Samuel Friedman M.D. (R.I.P.) in 1932 and moved into the Seville, 47 St. & 15 Ave. Dr. Friedman was a medical examiner for a large insurance company. Later he also worked at Brooklyn Hospital. Dr. Friedman was the oldest of 12 children of Rabbi Mrs. Menachem Zev Friedman; whose family lived on 12 Ave. and 64 St.

The Seville (470135 Ave.) in those days was a very fancy building. It had day and night doorman in the lobby all year around. Many prominent people lived in that building including Irving Bugim, Cantor Yoske Rosenblatt, the Waldmans, the Herman Cohens and the Lipchitz and Feiner families.

Mrs. Friedman remembers many of the medical doctors and offices in Boro Park. In those days doctors were friends, almost like members of the family in many instances. They shared in happy as well as sad occasions, and were often looked up to with great respect and awe. The doctors were usually well known in the community and their offices were communal landmarks.

How many of these doctors did you know or hear about? Dr. Sparbel, eye doctor, in the Seville 47th Ave. & 15 Ave.; Dr. Dymally (D.S.) (R.I.P.) on 43 St. between 11 & 12 Ave. His wife Molly is now residing in Temple Emanuel; Dr. Shiansky (R.I.P.) on 48 St. & 15 Ave.; Dr. Ered

Margaret (G.P.) on 13 Ave. between 51 and 52 St., in a cottage. His brother was an eye doctor on 49 St. between 14 and 15 Ave. Dr. Israel Friedman (brother of Mrs. Leah Friedman) a pediatrician for the Public School System in Boro Park, Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst and for Yeshivos and Parochial school in those areas. Dr. Nemiroff (G.P.) office on 50 St. between 13 and 14 Ave. Mrs. Belle Toras-Emer. The Nemiroffs have now settled in Israel. Dr. Louis Bunim Obstetrical and Gynecologist (brother of Irving Bunim) Dr. Ephraim Sharfman, Obs. & Gyn., came up from Atlanta, Georgia and took over Dr. Bunim's practice. Dr. Nathan Gross, Obs. & Gyn., office on 48 St. between 15 & 16 Ave. Dr. Levine, eye, ear, nose and throat; on 51 St. and 14 Ave. Dr. Mayer 15 Ave. between 50 and 51 St.

Mrs. Friedman contributes a few more items from her memories. "I remember when Temple Beth El was built, bringing in Italian marble from Italy.

"I remember the well known sexton (Shammus) of Cong. Anshel Sfard, Rev. Moshe Finkelstein (R.I.P.) and relation. His son is a dentist on corner of 49 St. & 14 Ave. His son-in-law, Herman Winter, (R.I.P.) was president of the Young Israel of Boro Park and now his wife (Mrs. Bess Winter) is president of the sisterhood of Young Israel of Boro Park."

"I remember when Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides) was in a wooden cottage on 42 St. between 12 and 13 Ave."

"I remember Groveman Jewelry and watch store on 13 Ave. between 43 and 44 St. (even side) with the very large street clock high on a metal post. The clock would be seen for blocks along 13 Ave. When Groveman moved his store to the even side

between 45 and 46 St. the clock was not moved.

"I remember the Church, below ground, on 13th Ave., and 61 St. where Waldbaums Supermarket now stands. Only windows on top of the Church showed above ground."

We appreciate these worthy contributions of Mrs. Friedman and look forward to additional items which we plan to publish in future issues.

Mrs. Elaine Wollman, past president of Ilans Chapter (Emanah Women of America), Director of Dorchester Senior Citizens Center, and past contributor, submits a few more interesting items.

She recalls the numerous and elaborate block parties in Boro Park right after World War II. One such memorable party took the form of a giant barn fire on a large open lot on 19 Ave. and 48 St., alongside the L.I. railroad which could be seen all the way down to 9th Ave. That empty lot was used as a baseball field for many years until Foster Lumber and private homes were built on it.

Elaine's grandfather, Mrs. Schlesinger (R.I.P.) had a butcher store on New Utrecht Ave. and 47 St.; now owned by Mr. Sam Friedman. Elaine recalls the numerous Victory gardens in Boro Park; during World War II. Many families were moved by patriotic considerations to plant their own vegetables (Victory gardens). She especially remembers the Victory gardens along the L.I. Railroad on 17 Ave. and 55 St.

She also recalls walking along old New Utrecht Road from 18 Ave. and 63 St. all the way to Montauk J.H.S. Many parts of this road have since been taken away for buildings. However, some of the houses and lots built on angles along the way are reminders of this road.

We invite readers comments and additions to the above items as well as the other Boro Park memories.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

FIRST CHASSIDIC RABBI IN BORO PARK

Do you know who the first Chassidic Rebbe or Grand Rabbi in Boro Park was? Several people I've spoken to claim that it was the Trisker Rebbe, Rabbi Sholom Yoseph Twersky (ZTZL).

It is true that Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Farnes came to Boro Park earlier but he wasn't a Chassidic Rabbi. A separate article about Rabbi Farnes is being prepared.

Rabbi Twersky came to Boro Park in 1925 (26) from the Lower East Side in Manhattan. He established his residence and Synagogue in a private home at 1269 - 47 St., next to the Chase Manhattan Bank. The Rebbe attracted all kinds of people, from all walks of life, to his Synagogue. All felt comfortable, at home, with the Rebbe and in his Synagogue.

This Synagogue became famous for the Simchas Torah celebrations that took place there. Many will recall the annual spirited dancing and singing in the street in front of the synagogue during this holiday. The street was blocked off to traffic and hundreds of young people gathered there to dance. The Shomer Hadati, Zirei Hapoel Hamizrachi, later the Bnei Akiva and other Zionist groups met there annually and organized Hakofof, singing and group dancing. Numerous adults and children assembled there to observe and participate in the celebration. This was the first experience in Boro Park of street dancing on Simchas Torah.

Rabbi Twersky passed away in 1948. His wife Rebelein Zaida Twersky (RIP) - second marriage -

activities until her demise in 1976.

Rabbi Twersky had one son who is a Hebrew teacher in Philadelphia. Reb. Zaida Twersky's son who was born in Boro Park in 1919, (same name by coincidence) Rabbi Norman Twersky, helped her maintain the synagogue and activities in his spare time. He is currently the Registrar of the Graduate Division at the Brookdale Center of Yeshiva University. His older sister Mrs. Shendel Fishman now resides in Queens. Reb. Zaida Twersky was one of the founders of the Guardians of the Sick, Inc. (Bikur Cholim) of Boro Park and served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary for seven years.

In 1978 the Bikur Cholim Society and the Twersky family established a life saving crib in the neonatology section of Maimonides Hospital in her memory.

The synagogue which served the community for over 50 years, was sold soon after Mrs. Twersky's passing. It was later torn down and two new houses built in its place. The money of the Free Loan Fund of the synagogue was sent to Israel to serve as a gemilut chessed fund for yeshiva students.

I have a personal reason for remembering fondly the Trisker shule. It was there during the Simchas Torah celebrations that I met my wife and started our courtship. Many other courtships began there as well.

Do you have any memories of this synagogue to share with us?

Correction

In last month's column, Mrs. Leah Friedman had reported that Dr. Sidney Finkelstein, the prominent dentist on 14 Ave. and 49 St. was a son to Reverend Reverend Moshe Finkelstein (RIP).

the former sexton of Cong. Anshe Sfard. Many people informed us that the two were not related.

Rev. Joseph Fischman, current Sexton (Shammos) of Cong. Anshe Sfard notified us that the former sexton's son is an M'D in the Washington, D.C. area.

Our apologies for carrying this error and thanks to all those who brought this error to your attention. At least now we know that there are some people reading this column.

Incidentally we received a beautiful letter from one of Rev. Finkelstein's sons relating interesting and moving episodes in the Reverend's life and career. We hope to reprint it in this column in the near future.

Please contribute to
Boro Park History

Almost every resident and former resident of this community can contribute to the recorded history of Boro Park. A number of individuals have already been interviewed and valuable information about their families collected. Most of that information will appear in this column.

Every family has a history, every house has a history, every business, school, synagogue, church, organization, and block have a history. You can contribute information about yourself, people and places mentioned in these columns or your knowledge of any of the above categories. Hopefully all this information will eventually be put together so that the full story of our community may be written. Every bit of information serves as another piece in the puzzle.

Please include accurate dates for all the information you submit; that is very important. Most valuable would be any old photographs you can locate of people, buildings, stores, institutions etc. in the community.

More Doctors and Families
- As we indicated in the last

column, we have a good deal more information submitted by Mrs. Leah Friedman. The following are the names of more well-known Boro Park doctors and families of past years that she sent in: Dr. Nathaniel Nelson, eye doctor is a legend in Boro Park. His son Dr. Elliot Nelson has now been practicing with him in the same office on the corner of 15 Ave. and 49 St. for many years. "They restored the vision for reading to my cataract eyes, as they did for so many others," Dr. Darabaner (RIP), Optometrist on 18 Ave. near Dahill Rd. The store is still there under new owners. Gynecologists: Dr. Merriam (RIP); Dr. Gergly (RIP) and Dr. Marvin Sentnor.

Dentists: Dr. Smolin (RIP) 51 St. corner 14 Ave.; Dr. Celia Stern 55 St. and 15 Ave.; Dr. Aronowitz (RIP) 49 St. between 15 and 16 Ave.; Dr. Harold Z. Levine 50 St. and 14 Ave.

General Practice M.D.'s: Dr. Abraham Schwartz (RIP), he was also a Hebrew Poet and son-in-law of the "Matli Leumi" orator, Rev. Masliansky. Dr. Heinrich, 47 St. between 15 & 16 Ave., real oldtimer.

Dr. Smithline 46 St. between 12 & 13 Ave., a strong advocate of Mikveh.

Dr. Chaim Agus, recently retired 48 St. between 13 & 14 Ave.

Dr. Shapin and Dr. Lubin - 50 St. between 13 & 14 Ave., old timers.

Dr. Trachtenberg - on 55 St. and 15 Ave. many years ago.

Prominent Families

Active in Maimonides Hospital development: Jacob Neinkin, Tartakov, Wolsk, Newnan, Dube, Shlensky and Harris families. The former was an early settler and grower of Orange groves in the then Palestine. The latter daughter, Hanna taught Hebrew kindergarten and authored many books and songs for kindergarten use. Others include the Greenfields, Jungreis, Krumbein, Neustalder, Feder (Sam Feder's son

Dr. Walter Feder head of Cardiology at Maimonides and now in private practice.)

Rev. Levi Horowitz of Horowitz Margareten matzoh firm, lived on 50 St. between 13 and 14 Ave.

More of Mrs. Friedman's contributions will appear in future columns.

Please The Column

The following letter was received recently: Dear Sir:

I should like to suggest the following titles for your column: "The Boro Park Melting Pot" or "Nostalgia Notes," or "Multi-Ethnic Memories."

S.S.

We thank the contributor for these sound suggestions. Very soon we will be making a decision about the Title of this column and invite any other suggestions or comments.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Dear Editor,

Reading Mrs. Friedman's interesting article mentioning my Father, Rev. Morris G. Finkelstein, who was the Shammes of the First Cong. Anshe Sfard for over 30 years, fanned the embers of the album of my memory.

I remember the Yeshiva Etz Chaim when it was on 46th St. and 14th Ave. where the present Aguda shul is, and I remember the beating my father gave me because of the Yeshiva.

My twin brother Yisly, now a pediatrician in Silver Springs, Md., and I attended P.S. 164 our first year of school. When it was time to go into the 2 A, Pop decided that he wanted us to go to the Yeshiva which started a week earlier than public school.

We were not very happy that first week, as all the other kids had had a year of Hebrew, and when public school opened up I told my brother that the Yeshiva wasn't for us, and we decided to go back to our 2A class in PS164. About a month later my Pop went to the Yeshiva, to inquire how his twins were doing. "What twins? They were here for a few days only."

When we got home from school that afternoon, I knew from the look in my Pop's eye that he KNEW. "You want to be a bum, it's OK with me, but why do you fahrlar Yisly?" I must have been a real chutzpahnik, deciding that I know better than my folks at the age of 7, which school I should go to.

When we were in the 4A, we were transferred again to the

Yeshiva, which we graduated in 1927, but this time Pop escorted us every day for the first month, to make certain that the transfer took.

Incidentally we had a 50th reunion of our class, and it was interesting to note that the 3 smartest kids in the class, came by subway as they did not have cars, one a librarian, one an advisor in Toreh Umoseh, and one a music teacher. The 3 dumbest guys came in a Lincoln, Cadillac, and Rolls Royce with a chauffeur. (The enclosed photo was taken by Herb Dube of Park Surgical).

My pop was one of the most popular personalities in Boro Park, beloved by all for good cause. When he died at the age of 90, it took a motorcycle police escort to control the nearly thousand people present at the funeral.

I would like to suggest that you award my Pop the GOOD NEIGHBOR award posthumously. I feel certain that he is the only Shammes that was the topic of a sermon delivered by the priest of the Catholic church on 12th Ave. around 43rd St.

The shul had a janitor who served for many years. Actually it was his wife who did most of the cleaning as her husband was an alcoholic. When he died from a drunken fall down stairs, my Pop prevailed on the Baale Batlim, to hire her as the janitor rather than look for a replacement, as she had small children and welfare did not exist at that time. They were reluctant to agree as she couldn't possibly cope with the ashes, but my Pop said that he would take care of bringing the ash cans to the street. She told the story to her Priest who visited my Pop to tell him he was the subject of last

weeks Sunday Sermon, whom he wanted to meet in person.

I was in Australia last year and visited the Lubavocher Yeshiva in Sydney. The Rabbi turned out to be the grandson of Rabbi Simpson who lived on 46th St. between 16 and 16 Ave. I remember seeing the venerable Rabbi visiting my Pop regularly either borrowing a few dollars or repaying a loan, as my Pop believed that Gemilas Chesed. I remember Pop approaching a 14 year old sneying Kaddish, and asked him how he was getting along in the Yeshiva. "I'm no longer in the Yeshiva since I had to get a job since my Pop died." "What kind of job do you have?" my Pop asked. "I work as a delivery boy in the grocery." "And how much do you make?" \$14.00 a week."

"Will you work for me for

\$14.00 a week," my Pop asked. "What kind of work?" "Go back to the Yeshiva and study, and I'll give you \$14.00 a week." Rabbi William Cohen of Hartford, Conn. went back to the Yeshiva, but the point of my father's greatness was that when Willie was 16 years old, my Pop went to the dozen or so baale batlim who were contributing \$1.00 each to the scholarship fund, and told them that they have to give an increase to \$16.00 a week, as he was old enough to date.

I remember my Pop coming to me and asked for a check for \$100.00. There was a refugee doctor coming to shul every day who worked as a shipping clerk for \$35.00 a week. When Papa asked him why he didn't take the test to practice here, he said it would require a years study and in the meantime he had to make a

living. My pop went to a few dozen people including his sons, and collected the necessary money to send the doctor to school to take refresher courses to enable him to pass the local tests. At the end of the year the man came to my Pop bitter with defeat as he failed the exam. My Pop comforted him and told him not to worry, and go back to study and we all came thru with another \$100.00 check. Several years later my Pop came to me with a check for \$200.00 which he received from the now successful practicing doctor. As I was about to put the check in my wallet, my Pop nimbly took it from me commenting "I know someone who could use it more than you."

Just recently Ben Lifton, father of Francine Klagsburn the famous author and editor, told me

I Remember Boro Park continued

a story of my Pop that I had never heard.

A woman came to my Pop full of tears and disconsolate as her husband disinherited and would have nothing to do with their only son who became a Michael Shabbos. Since she knew that her husband had respect for my father whom he saw at services every morning, she implored my Pop to do something about it. At an appropriate time, my Pop mentioned to the father that he looked terrible, at which the husband unburdened himself and told my Pop of his problem with his son, and that it caused him sleepless nights and a wife full of tears.

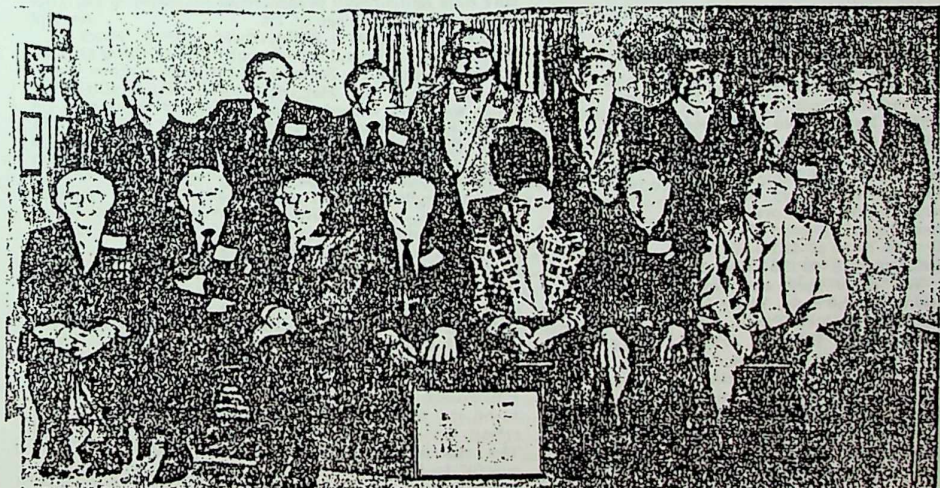
Aside from his not observing the Sabbath, what kind of man was the son? The father replied, a wonderful son, honest, industrious, intelligent, with many virtues, except for his desecrating the Sabbath, he was a model son." So, man to man, (ben udome le odome) you find no fault with him. Your only complaint is his relationship to G, which caused you to disclaim him. Since you say he does go to shul on occasion, and does perform some mitzvahs, he certainly wouldn't be rejected by G. Since he has more than passing marks in his relationship to mand & G. If G doesn't reject him, how do you have the nerve to reject your son.

A visit by a happy wife and mother was testimony to my father's influence.

I remember when we were kids Pop said he would take us to the circus. When Mom vetoed the plans, we told him that he was supposed to be the head of the family, and we should go despite Mom's objection.

"It is true that I am the head of the family, but Momma is the neck and the head has to go the way the neck turns." That took care of the circus plans.

He loved to learn and he loved to teach. There was a nine year



50th Anniversary Reunion of Class of '27 above, in March 1977. Front L to R - Meier Dreher, Seymour Smithline (son of M.D.), Ben Millians, Amron Whiteman (librarian), Harry Appelman (Engineer), Bernie Feinberg, Willie Sherman.
Back L to R - David Able (Music Teacher), Ben Kimmelman (Business), Bernie Klebanow (Business), Yudy Finkelstein (Business), Moe Brazen (Class teacher), Yishy Finck (M.D.), Sol Garter, Mickey Zizmor.

old fatherless boy on his block whom my Pop was specially fond of. Since the boy's mother had no Jewish background the boy never learned how to read Hebrew. My father asked him on Shabbos why he's not in shule. He said he can't read Hebrew. My father volunteered to teach him. His mother came around to find out what my father would charge. When Pop said there was no fee, she immediately gave her consent, and my Pop influenced this youngster who today he is a Hebrew teacher in the city school system.

I still remember his 14 year old great grandson Richard Kalikow, now a very successful lawyer, visiting with him every week from Long Island, to learn a blatt gemorrah with him.

Everybody loved and respected him.

I interviewed Yudy Finkelstein after receiving his letter and obtained additional information about the family.

Rev. Moshe (Morris) Finkelstein (RIP) wife Sara (RIP) and family arrived in Boro Park in 1916 when he received the position as Shammos (sexton) in Cong. Anshei Sfard. He replaced Rev. Wolf Nadler who had been sexton for about 6 months. Rev. Finkelstein was born in Slusk, Minsk, Russia and emigrated to Jersey City, New Jersey where he served as shammos before coming to Boro Park. In Boro Park the family first lived at 4315-15 Ave. and later moved to 1533-44 St. They had three sons and three daughters. Of the sons, Yishy is a medical doctor, Jack Finck, who was president of Hillcrest Jewish Center, is now in business, and Yudy is a partner in Kalikow Bros., manufacturers of men's slacks. Of the daughters, Judith Finck is now in Israel, Bess Winter lives in Boro Park and Leah Kalikow (RIP) has passed away.

Yudy Finkelstein married Eleanor Leibowitz (of Colonial

Decorators, 4618-18 Ave) in 1940 and lived at 5200-15 Ave. before moving to Flatbush. Jack married in 1941 and moved to Queens.

Rev. Moshe Finkelstein left 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. Many have been successful in different areas. Due to the deep love for education instilled in them, most have been motivated to high scholastic accomplishments. Ten of his grandchildren have received Ph.D. degrees, 8 have won Phi beta Kappas and together they have won over \$400,000 worth of scholarships and fellowships.

One great granddaughter, Dena Cohen, recently won the National Bible Contest. Dena Cohen is a granddaughter of Bess Winter who still resides in Boro Park and the late Herman Winter (RIP) who was the well known principal of Yeshiva Rabbi Jacob Joseph and popular lecturer and president at the Young Israel of Boro Park. Rev. Finkelstein passed away in January 1965 at the age of 90. His wife Sara had already passed away in June 1957 at the age of 79.

I remember, as a child, Rev. Finkelstein's dynamic leadership of the children on Purim during the reading of the Megillah. The shule was very crowded and very noisy. The children were enthused with their groggers and other noisemakers and might have interfered with the proper reading of the Megillah. Rev. Finkelstein stood very tall and erect, with black suit and black beard. Like a choir leader, he used a flag as a baton and carefully instructed all the children to make as much noise as they wished when he raised the flag at the mention of Haman's name, but to be sure to be quiet when the flag was down. The children obeyed. Rev. Finkelstein beamed with delight as he led them and kept the flag raised for long periods of time. The children followed and were careful to be quiet when the flag was down assuring uninterrupted services.

! REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

In Mid-March I happened to pass the synagogue on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. corner 49th St. It was an imposing stone building with wood and shingle pitched roof. What I saw was heartbreaking and caused me to stop. The building was in ruins. All the windows and frames in the building were broken or missing, many had been stain glass windows. All the doors were smashed or broken down. There was glass and wooden rubble strewn all around. I walked closer and looked in through the broken down wooden doors. The floors inside were strewn with glass and other debris. Electric wires and cables were dangling in several places. The debris and floors were drenched with water, probably from the heavy rains in the past days. It was a saddening sight. I decided to venture inside to satisfy my curiosity and also to look for information of historical interest.

I found only one sign left hanging inside amidst all the ruins. It was above a door and read "All wall lights donated in memory of my beloved wife Annie Fogel Dec. 11, 1944". It was sad to see this sign and the sadness was magnified as I looked around at all the missing wall lights, the hanging chain from which a chandelier once hung and the general appearance of what was once a proud synagogue. I wondered who this Annie Fogel was and if she had any family still living in Boro Park. Maybe one our readers would know.

As I walked out a woman approached the door and asked me. "Whats happening with the building?" After I explained my interest in the building and lack of knowledge about it she said she and her husband were former members. She identified herself as Mrs. Jack Fidel and said she and her husband have been worshippers in the synagogue since 1957, about 22 years. She said her husband attended classes and lectures regularly on Saturdays and holidays and they were both saddened by the sight of the damaged building and concerned about its future.

Mrs. Fidel volunteered further that the synagogue was owned originally by Rabbi Chaim Avrohom Bialik. After he passed away his son Rabbi Nosson Bialik took care of the synagogue and also established a yeshivah there in memory of his father, called Yeshivah Chaim Avrohom.

I looked around for a corner stone and noticed one partly covered by the concrete stoop. It had the first three digits of a date 191 , the last digit was not accessible. This puts the date somewhere between 1910 and 1919. It also had a symbol which looked like the letter A surrounded by an incomplete circular line which cut across the top of the A.

As we were talking a gentleman approached who identified himself as Frank Magrini. He said he lives in the neighborhood, at 4816 -11th Ave. since 1922. He asked us what happened to the building and what it was going to be used for. We just shrugged our shoulders. "The rumors have it", he said, "that it was sold to the hospital." Mr. Magrini reminisced a little about the building. He said it was formerly a Protestant Church but he didn't know which denomination. He remembers as a child each year on Brooklyn Anniversary Day "We used to march in a parade along Ft. Hamilton Parkway and after the parade all the children were taken

inside the church in the basement for ice cream and cookies. He said its been a synagogue about 48 years now, since about 1930.

Mr. Magrini remembers also when Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. was an unpaved dirt road. Every Saturday morning a horse drawn oil truck came along the road and sprayed oil on it to keep the dust down. He recalls that in 1927 the city installed a water line from the Catskill water supply, under Ft. Hamilton Parkway and then paved the road.

Mr. Magrini remembered that there was a small house or booth on Ft. Hamilton and 53rd St. where a police officer was stationed regularly. The policeman would arrive and leave on a bicycle. When it started getting dark each day the policeman would bring a red lantern and place it at the intersection of New Utrecht Ave. and Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and bring it back in the morning.

As we were standing there looking at the damaged building, a personal memory flashed across my mind connected with this synagogue.

It was on Sept. 16, 1954 when my first child Rena (Yarnush) was born at Maimonides. My wife was in labor all night at Maimonides with serious complications. After having spent the night in the waiting room I decided to say my morning prayers while waiting. I walked over to this synagogue, the closest one there at the time and asked Itabbi Chaim Bialik if I could borrow a pair of Phylacteries (Tephillin). No one else was in the synagogue at the time. He loaned me the Tephillin and when he noticed my obvious state of anguish asked me what was troubling me. When I explained the situation he tried to console me and recited a special prayer on my wife's behalf. Thank Heaven all turned well for us.

As I stood there I thought there were probably hundreds of other such stories of people who came from the hospital in those

days to use this synagogue.

More About This Synagogue
Whenever I go places now, and meet people, I usually look for old time Boro-Parkers and ask questions relating to the history of our community.

On March 20, a few days after the above incident, I attended a wedding (Drebin-Praeger) and met an old friend, a former resident of B.P. His name is Rabbi Joseph (Yussie) Katz and he now lives in Kingstons, Pa. just outside Wilkes Barre. While questioning him, he mentioned that when he moved to Boro Park, the first Synagogue the family prayed in was the one on Ft. Hamilton and 49 St. I thought that was an interesting coincidence and inquired further.

Rabbi Katz related that he came to B.P. in 1941 on Labor Day when he was 9 years old. He came from Germany and fortunately escaped on the next to last train (through Portugal) that was permitted to leave. This was before the U.S. was officially in the war. He was able to leave because his family had fortunately obtained a Visa to the U.S. As a youngster he attended Yeshivah Toras Emes which was then located at 4405-12 Ave.

The Synagogue under discussion was then owned and led by Rabbi Herbert Port (later owner of Camp Monroe) who sold it to Rabbi Balik in 1943 or 1944. Rabbi Katz recalls that he was Bar Mitzvah in that Synagogue in 1945. He recalls that Mr. Harry D. Lobell of the Isaac M. Lobell Institute (of 964-49 St.) was then President of that Synagogue. (Mr. Lobell's story will also, hopefully one day be told.)

Rabbi Katz moved to Wilkes Barre in 1957 and became principal of the Day school and a psychology instructor at a local college.

Two days later I attended another wedding at Menorah Hall (Twersky-Wadler-Deblinger) and met another old time Boro Park friend, Rabbi Nison Shulman, who is currently the Rabbi of the prestigious Fifth Avenue

Synagogue in Manhattan. Rabbi Shulman's father was Hebrew principal of Yeshivah Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) 50 St. & 13 Ave. for many years. He also informed me that his uncle, (mother's brother) was Rabbi Herbert Port of the Ft. Hamilton Synagogue discussed above, another interesting coincidence. (The full story of Rabbi Shulman will also, hopefully, some day be told.)

As little bits of information are gathered from here and there, we see the pieces fitting into the puzzle that is the magnificent story of Boro Park. Won't you send in your pieces of the story and photographs.

CORRECTIONS

Several technical errors and omissions have occurred in this column at the printers when the paper was put together. With apologies to our readers, especially the parties involved, we note, the following corrections for the past two issues.

March 1979 issue: Rabbi Norman Twersky, date of birth should be 1929 instead of 1919.

April 1979 issue: omitted was the introductory statement indicating that the letter was submitted by Mr. Yudy Finkelstein son of Rev. Moshe Finkelstein. Also omitted was the indication "article cont., page 18".

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Several people commented about the article pertaining to Rev. M. Finkelstein. Shmully Goldstein (printer 16 Ave. & 46 St.) remembered that as a child Rev. Finkelstein would pay him 5c each week to pick up \$2 from a man and deliver it to a poor family. He said he loved the letter submitted and reminisced about old times.

Mr. George Chiteman called to reminisce a little. He said that as a small boy after his public school hours he attended a Hebrew class given by Rev. Finkelstein daily in the downstairs ladies section of the synagogue.

Mr. Chiteman was born on the East Side and moved to B.P.,

Continued on Page 6

1459-45 St., in 1919, when he was 10 years old. His father Nathan Chiteman was a good friend of Rev. Finkelstein and also a "lansman."

As a young boy, Mr. Chiteman remembers delivering Passover packages to the poor and needy for Rev. Finkelstein.

Mr. Chiteman remembers Dr. Smithline, and said his son, shown in last month's photograph of the 50th graduation reunion, looks just like his father.

Mr. Chiteman graduated from P.S. 164 in 1923 (8th grade) and then went to New Utrecht H.S. There was no Junior H.S. in those days, students completed 8th grade in public schools and then went to high school, similar to the current arrangements in most yeshivahs. New Utrecht H.S. was then located on 18 Ave. & 86 St. The present New Utrecht H.S. building was opened in 1924. Mr. Chiteman became ill with Multiple Sclerosis in 1927 at the age of 18 and has been disabled since. His brother Irving Chiteman, M.D. of 1225-48 St. was a member of Cong. Anshe Sfard.

Mr. Chiteman recalls that his two sisters Leah (Lena) Woolf and Sally (Sura) were both married in the Boro Park Mansion corner of 16 Ave. and 45 St. now the Marvel Package Plant. His father made his own whiskey, and made a bottle as a gift for each invited guest to the wedding.

George recalls, "Up and I used to take a walk on 15 Ave. and could look straight ahead to 60 St. - all open land." He recalls that MacDonald Ave. was open and used as a short cut from 15 Ave. & 39 St. to the Gravesend Library

on MacDonald Ave., between 18th and Webster Ave. - all around were open fields. On Sundays these fields were used for baseball by local teams. He remembers the Eagle theatre on 16 Ave. & 42 St., across the Ave. from present Montauk J.H.S. where they showed open air movies. George recalls, "I used to hand out circulars to get free passes."

More from Mrs. Friedman

Mrs. Leah Friedman submitted some additional names of doctors for the records. Listing some of these names may remind readers of incidents, stories or other people related to the history of B.P. All contributions of such information and photos are welcome. Doctors

Dr. Fritz Neuberger (RIP) office at 1676-46 St. He was among the last to be saved from the Nazis. He lost a son to them. In B.P. many years and very much esteemed.

Dr. Morris Levine (RIP), Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat corner 51 St. and 14 Ave.

Dr. Mayer (RIP) Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat on 15 Ave. between 51 & 52 Sts.

Dr. Jacob Finkelstein, surgeon, practicing in New Rochelle & Westchester county, is the son of Dr. Israel Finkelstein (RIP) Pediatrician. Jacob spent his youth in B.P., studied in Yeshivah Etz Chaim and Flatbush Yeshivah. He remained strictly orthodox in religious observance. Dr. Jacob Finkelstein's mother, Miriam, at one time taught Hebrew and her classes were known and used as model lessons for young aspiring Hebrew teachers.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

READERS RESPONSES

The following responses were received relating to last month's article about the Bialik Synagogue on 49 St. and Ft. Hamilton Parkway. The building has since been demolished. Dear Mr. Kipust:

I read your article on Historical Highlights. I too get a heartbreaking pain every time I pass 49th Street and Ft. Hamilton Parkway.

I was a member of the Church which later became a Synagogue. My parents bought a home on 62 St. between 9th and 10th Ave. In 1919. We were the second family to own a house on that block. I used to sit on my back porch look all the way to "Greenwood Cemetery" I watched the section grow — use to sled ride on 53rd St. Hill — watched the hospital on 10th Ave. built now called Maimonides. My son was born there forty one years ago. As the neighborhood grew and I went to school with all my Jewish friends very few people were aware that the tall reddish blonde girl was not Jewish but of Irish French Spanish origin.

I "Thank You" for your article because of my childhood memories — nothing can replace them. You will note I am still in the neighborhood, it will be a very unhappy day when I may have to move due to the changing element. Irene Gomez (40 St. near 11th Ave.)

Thank you very much for your beautiful letter Mrs. Gomez. Perhaps you can give us more information about the Church, since you were a member there. What denomination was it? What year was it built, and when sold? and why? What communal activities was it involved in?

Dr. Egon Mayer was sorry to learn of the demolition of the Synagogue. He remembers as a student in Kamenitzer Mesivta of Boro Park High School — (then at 960-49 St.) how he used to pass that Synagogue daily on the way to school and admire it. He said it was a beautiful and impressive looking building, unique for Boro Park architecture.

Mrs. Rebecca Lobell called to tell us who Annie Fogel was. In last month's column we mentioned one sign we found in the Synagogue, saying "All wall lights donated in memory of my beloved wife Annie Fogel Dec. 11, 1944." Mrs. Lobell said Annie Fogel ran the grocery section, with her husband, in the old Ft. Hamilton Market. The Market was located between 48 St. & 49 St. on Ft. Hamilton, Parkway, a restaurant is there now. However, she doesn't know anything about the family of Annie Fogel.

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lobell moved to Boro Park in 1927 and first lived at 861 - 43 St. In 1935 they moved to 864 - 49 St. and from there in 1942 moved to their current address at 964 - 49 St.

Mr. Lobell became President of the Synagogue under discussion in 1935, when Rabbi Bialik first came to Boro Park and acquired the building. He was President for about ten years.

Mrs. Lobell, organized and was president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Synagogue.

During World War II the Lobell's lost their only child, Lt. Isaac M. Lobell (RIP), who made the supreme sacrifice for his country. In January 1946, Lt. Lobell lost his life at the age of 22, while on a mission over the Philippines, as an aerial photographer. He had enlisted at

the age of 19, in 1942, prior to his graduation from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"In order to pay tribute to his memory, and to the memory of the other boys in the neighborhood who gave their all for their country, a group of dedicated and hard working citizens of the community under the inspiring leadership of Attorney Jacob H. Goldsheim, erected a Memorial Building to perpetuate this war hero's ideals for brotherly love, unselfish devotion, loyalty and charity," reads a dedication message.

The Lobell's and the community members purchased a lot from the City at 960 - 49 St. on which they erected this memorial building, with blood, sweat and tears — and love. Funds ran out, and they couldn't complete the building. In 1957 the Lobell Memorial Fund decided to donate the building to the fledgling Mesivta of Boro Park H.S. then under the leadership of

Rabbi Simcha Z. Levovitz and Rabbi Mordechai Yoffe. "In order to perpetuate the memory and ideals of our fallen heroes through the training of boys in the study of Torah, secular subjects and good citizenship."

In June 1959, the first high school graduation class of the Mesivta of Boro Park — Isaac M. Lobell Institute, dedicated its Yearbook to the late Lt. Isaac M. Lobell.

The Mesivta of Boro Park, the following year, combined with Kamenitzer Yeshiva, under the leadership of Rabbi Levi Krupenia and Rabbi Simon Segal, and a few years later with Yeshiva Toras Emes. The combined Yeshiva and Mesivta Toras Emes Kamenitz — Isaac M. Lobell Institute moved to a large beautiful new building at 1650 - 56 St. a few years ago and sold the building at 960 - 49 St. to another Yeshiva.

OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IN BORO PARK

In recent years, four large

Synagogues in Boro Park celebrated their 75th Anniversary, Cong. Shomrei Emunah — 14 Ave. and 52 St.; Temple Beth-El 15 Ave. and 48 St.; Temple Emanuel - 14 Ave. and 49 St. and Cong. Anshel Lubawitz 4024 12 Ave. The publicity surrounding these events, indicated that it was unclear which was the oldest and which the youngest of these four.

The news items describing the 75th Anniversary of Cong. Anshel Lubawitz claim that it was the first Synagogue built in Boro Park and "In 1902 the present Temple Beth El occupied this Boro Park landmark." It also points out that Temple Beth-El sold the building in 1914 to the present Cong. Anshel Lubawitz. Temple Emanuel's news item indicates, "The year was 1904 when the first brick was laid in place." The news item describing the 75th Anniversary of Cong. Shomrei Emunah claims that "Some of its former members helped start Congs. Anshel Sfard, Bnai Yehuda and Beth-El."

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

(first from 1942)

In attempting some preliminary research on this subject I came across a book, recommended by Dr. Egon Mayer, in our local library, entitled "History of Brooklyn Jewry" by Samuel Abelow written in 1937. That book included these three sentences about the Synagogues in Boro Park. "Temple Beth-El was organized on August 28, 1902. Its house of worship on 12 Ave. and 41 St. was built in 1906. Cong.

Shomrei Emunah began in the Masonic Hall on 56 St. and New Utrecht Ave. in 1908." There are several apparent discrepancies between the statements in the book and the news items about the Synagogues. 1) Was the Cong. Anshei Lubawitz' present building built in 1902 or 1906. 2) Was Shomrei Emunah or Beth-El organized first? 3) Is Shomrei Emunah 75 or 71 years old. 4) If Temple Emanuel was built in 1904 was it the first built? Why wasn't it mentioned in the book?

One might expect a history book written in 1937 to be more

reliable than the memories of people in 1979 or even calculations based upon the Synagogues literature of previous years. However, it's not necessarily so. It depends on the sources of Mr. Abelow's information. For us to obtain accurate information now would require considerable research in old newspapers, building department records or other official documents. We must also keep in mind that the dates indicating when the Synagogues were first organized and when their buildings were first built

may be different.

We bring this to your attention to point out some of the problems involved in historical research and in obtaining accurate information. We hope that our community project and research on the history of Boro Park will provide accurate and interesting information about our community. We invite our readers to join us by submitting information and photos and taking the extra time to make sure that all dates and addresses and other information are as accurate as possible.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

WRITING THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

Considerable interest in the history of Boro Park has been generated recently. Numerous people have approached me to relate some memories or to comment on this column. Articles and stories about Boro Park are beginning to appear.

In order to utilize that interest and energy for constructive purposes, I recommended to Jacques Friedman, the publisher of this paper, that we undertake a community project. That project would include thorough research leading to a written comprehensive history of Boro Park.

Mr. Friedman, always community minded, immediately recognized the usefulness and merits of such a project and suggested that it be sponsored by the Boro Park Community Council, Inc., of which he is President. He invited me to present my plans to the Council shortly thereafter.

In my presentation at the general meeting (incidentally all this is also part of current Boro Park history), I indicated that our plans were to develop this history in a unique way, making it all the more useful. We would attempt to gather a great deal of the historical information from the residents and former residents of the community rather than rely mainly on library research. We would interview individuals, encourage people to submit personal information by mail and encourage others to write about organizations or incidents, about which they possess personal information. In that way we would hope to capture individual impressions and opinions besides factual information about the community, and enable numer-

ous individuals to participate in this exciting project.

At the presentation I also pointed out what I envisioned as the purposes of this project:

1. To help residents develop greater interest and pride in their community.

2. To help bring about better understanding and improved relations between the various ethnic and religious groups in the community.

3. To permit many individuals in the community, especially older members, to channel their energies, knowledge and time into constructive work.

4. To attempt to learn from the examples and stories of the past and hopefully be encouraged to emulate some traditional values such as civic pride, patriotism, honesty, good neighborliness, and concern for the property, rights and welfare of others.

5. To bring a little joy to present and former residents as they read and reminisce about Boro Park.

In answer to several questions I tried to emphasize that it wasn't just another history book that we were attempting to write. If that was the purpose I could research and write such a book myself. Rather, we were attempting to involve all the people in the community in a joint project that would hopefully bring them together and improve the community in the process. Such a goal could be fulfilled only "by getting the cooperation and participation of numerous individuals, organizations and leaders in the community."

The council approved the plan and formed an active committee of volunteers who have been working on the project. You will be hearing more about this as the work progresses. Meantime, try to

jot down some of your own memories and personal history in the community and try to locate any old photos of family, places and events of Boro Park.

Response from Mrs. Gomez

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I was delighted to read my letter printed in the Boro Park News.

The information about the Church on 49th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, is that it was a non-sectarian Church. It was formed by some of the residents, who felt the children should have some religious training. Those who attended were from every denomination. The training was only from the "Bible," stories acted out by the older children or parents. If at the end of the training period any child didn't know any parts of the Bible, it wasn't the fault of the instructor.

The reason the Church was sold was the changing times. Many of the older people moved or passed on. The children growing up went to or followed their own denominations.

At the time I attended the 49th Street Church, the other nearest Church was on 49th Street and 7th Avenue (Catholic).

Most of the homes built before 1919 were built by a Holland Dutch man. The residents who occupied the "homes," on 52nd Street between 9th and 10th Avenue were Swedish, Norwegian and Holland Dutch. There was one Italian, one Jewish, one West Indian and my family. The block remained that way for over twenty-five years. Most of us married and moved away. I don't believe there is or will ever be in any neighborhood today, the friendship or family awareness between neighbors as there was then.

I "Thank You" again for your beautiful article, bringing back my happy childhood memories. I wouldn't trade or sell them for a million dollars.

Gold Bless You,

Irene E. Gomez

Thank you, Mrs. Gomez, for

your beautiful letter and valuable information.

Another reader called, didn't want to be identified, and said he heard the Church in question had been "Unitarian." The description given by Mrs. Gomez seems to fit that denomination.

Prominent Families of Boro Park
A history of the community wouldn't be complete without mention of the stories and contributions of the many prominent families of Boro Park—past and present.

Mrs. Leah Friedman has submitted names of some old-time families she remembers and considers to be well known or prominent in the history of Boro Park:

Deutsch family—had a cottage on 15th Avenue between 57th and 58th Street. Joseph Deutsch had a coal business and Jesse Deutsch was Executive Director of Shul-mith School.

Pearlstein family—son Moshe was killed in the Israel War of Independence in 1948.

David & Mae (RIP) Jotkowitz—active in Yeshivah—Toras Emes and several other Yeshivahs.

Sam Feder family—12th Avenue, corner 56th Street, diagonally across the street from Dr. Louis Bunim's office. Son, Dr. Walter Feder, was head of the Cardiology Department at Maimonides Medical Center but is now in private practice.

Aaron Schreiber family—once lived in the Seville, 4701 15th Avenue. Also Getzler family; **Pincus Family**; **Kwestel family**; **Louise Cohen family**; **Salwin family**; **Abraham Kubusky family** (now Kubis, residing in Miami Beach, Florida); **Derebowitz family**, son now law professor at Harvard; **Marcus Diamond family**; **Chrein family**; **Machlis family**; **Henry & Charlotte Wechsler family**.

The above are only a few of the names she has submitted. Additional names will be mentioned from time to time.

You may wish to suggest other names of families you considered to be well known or prominent in the community. The names and information you submit will be helpful in preparing a comprehensive list of prominent families in the history of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

WRITING THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

It's surprising how many former Boro Parkers one can meet while traveling outside of New York City. I met and briefly interviewed a few during my recent trip to Israel and hope to write about them in a future article. I have met former Boro Parkers while attending conventions in the mountains, meetings in Manhattan and weddings in Queens. It seems that there are numerous former Boro Parkers spread throughout the country and the world. If only we could obtain more information about the history of our community from former residents.

In order to help gather and record information about Boro Park history the Boro Park Historical Society was formed as a community service project of the Boro Park Community Council, Inc. This society has prepared survey questionnaire forms for 1) residents 2) business/professionals and 3) organizations. Copies of these survey questionnaires will be sent upon request to individuals who wish to contribute their personal memories and family histories to the historical project undertaken. Please write to me, c/o this paper.

LETTER FROM READER

It's also interesting to note how this local newspaper gets around. The following important letter and photos from a former Boro Parker are valuable contributions to our project.

Dear Mr. Kipust,

Recently a friend sent me two copies of the Boro Park News and I read with interest your Historical Highlights column.

I am 94 years of age and grew up in Blythebourne when Borough Park was farm land. Where

Meimounides Hospital now stands was a pond called Webster's Pond where as a boy I skated in the winter and fished in the summer.

I am enclosing two pictures. An old newspaper clipping showing Kowenhoven Lane at the turn of the century and the other of the Borough Park Club House.

The Koehler farm on Kowenhoven Lane, now 56th Street, was one of the largest farms in the area. When 12th Avenue was cut through the Koehler farmhouse was moved to the S.E. corner of 61st Street and 12th Avenue where it stands today. Another old house, owned by the Snodens, was about 64th Street and Kowenhoven Lane. It was moved to the S.E. corner of 57th Street and 18th Avenue where, I believe, it still stands.

The Borough Park Club House faced 13th Avenue about 51st Street. A Mr. Reynolds was the president of the Club and he also played on the Borough Park baseball team. Their ball field was in the rear of the Club House. When the roads were cut through Borough Park, Mr. Reynolds and a Mr. Johnson built many big houses in the neighborhood. The Club House was eventually sold and, if I remember correctly, part of it was used when a large building was built around it to become the Hebrew School.

Sincerely,

Sam Andersen
269 Smithtown Blvd.
Neaconsset, N.Y. 11767

It should be pointed out that the photo of the Borough Park Clubhouse is on a picture post card that was postmarked in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Sept. 1, 1906. The Clubhouse was later converted into The Hebrew Institute of Boro Park (Yeshiva Ets

Chaim Isaacson 28 135 Ave.

Unfortunately, this historical building, probably one of the oldest standing buildings in Boro Park today, is slated for demolition in the near future. It might have earned historical landmark status.

The other photo of Kowenhoven Lane is a newspaper clipping which was published in Aug. 1940. The name of the paper is not indicated.

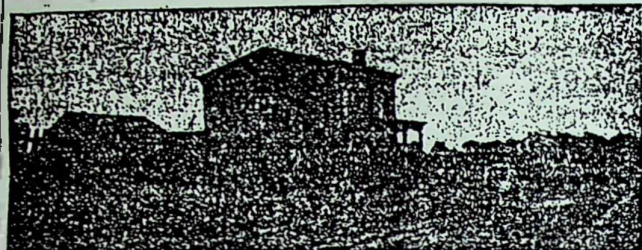
MIRIAM DICKMAN AND
CONG. BNEI YEHUDAH

Sitting at a session on the lawn of the Pineview Hotel during the Convention of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, in June 1979, I was talking to Miriam Dickman about our Boro Park History project. Lo and behold, she indicated that she's a former Boro Parker and began to reminisce about some of the important historical contributions made by her family.

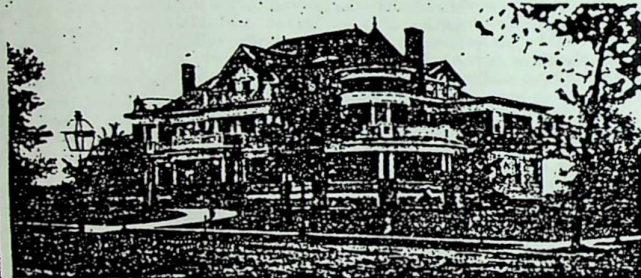
She said that her grandfather, Mr. Solomon Hollander, started the Cong. Bnei Yehudah (Sons of Judah) Synagogue (16 Ave., bet. 53 & 54 St.) in his basement on 51 St. between 16 and 17 Ave. in the early 1920's. The Synagogue was named after her grandmother Yehudith (Judith) Hollander and was moved to the present building, then new, from her grandfather's basement. Her grandparents, the Hollanders, moved to Boro Park in 1922 (approx.) from Williamsburg.

Miriam (Cohen) Dickman's grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Cohen & Family, moved to Boro Park in 1922 (approx.) from Williamsburg, to 1517 43rd St. Montauk J.H.S. was not yet built on their block. The grandparents lived in that house until about 1950. Miriam and parents moved from there to Brownsville in 1936. She was married in 1941 and moved back to Boro Park in 1943.

Miriam said her father, David B. Cohen and uncles Samuel and Irwin Hollander and Charles Koch, were officers and on the Board of Directors of the Bnei Yehudah Synagogue. Her father, according to Miriam, was one of the organizers and one of the first presidents of Yeshiva Toras Emes. She vividly recalls the financial difficulties of the Yeshiva and the many demands on her father. Her father was in the textile jobbing business and later became an accountant. Her maternal family, the Hollanders, were in the bridal veil business. She recalls that her wealthy grandfather Hollander had a chauffeur-driven car at a time



In the days before asphalt pavements came to Borough Park—This is a section of historic Kowenhoven Lane, now 56th St., between 11th and 12th Aves., and in the background the Jacob Koehler farmhouse can be plainly seen. The house in the foreground, which was occupied by Jacob Koehler's father, is still standing, and is now occupied by "Young Jake Koehler, now 71 years of age. The Koehler farm some 40 or 50 years ago was one of the largest farms in this part of the borough. The planks used in front of the houses were put there to help pedestrians keep out of the mud in the rainy season. This picture was brought to the office of the Bay Ridge section by Charles Leib. The Leib family settled in Borough Park many years ago and Charles remembers faintly the days when the section was far different from what it is today. The picture here was taken in the early part of the century by Miss Mamie Commors, who many years ago lived on Kowanhoven Lane near the houses pictured above.



Borough Park Club House, Borough Park, L.I.

when it was highly unusual for a family to own a car at all. She remembers feeling important and proud sitting on her grandfather's lap and driving around the community.

Miriam pointed out that her father was one of the founders of the National Council of Young Israel, together with Louis Cohen, Harry Fromberg and Moshe Krumbain. She also recalls that her father was the only child in the family who went to college. Attending college was most un-

usual in those days, and the other children worked in order to help put him through Columbia Teachers College.

Miriam still has ties to Boro Park. Her son, Dr. Bernard Dickman, Math Professor, and family now live in Boro Park at 1885 49 St. Her 2 grandchildren are fifth generation residents of B.P. (not continuously).

Miriam and her husband Lou, a retired public school teacher, now reside in Brooklyn.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

WRITING THE HISTORY OF BORO PARK

The following is another interesting letter from Mr. Sam Anderson of Nesconset, N.Y. In the last issue we published his valuable contribution of photos and letters. Dear Mr. Kipust,

Here are a few more memories. Perhaps you could use these, also. I will try to write more later.

Steam trains ran from 3rd Ave. to Bath Beach along New Utrecht Avenue and then, in the early part of this century, the West End line trains used the same tracks on the ground while the elevated structure was being built.

The first stores on New Utrecht Ave. were built on the north side between 58th Street and 80th Street. There was a dry good's store, a candy and paper store (operated by a Mrs. Aaron and her son, Abe. Also a beer saloon, barber shop, ice cream parlor, bakery, butcher, and a Rouletton's grocery store. Mr. Brophy, the undertaker, lived above one of the stores. Steven's Drug Store occupied the corner of 58th Street and New Utrecht Ave.

The Blythebourne Water Company was on the east side of 56th Street, a short distance from 15th Avenue. It was a large, square water tower with a windmill on top. Water mains were installed to supply the area and the company operated until the City took over the district.

When I started school about 1890, I attended P.S. 103 at 54th Street and 14th Avenue. It was a small, wooden building with large trees on one side where we used to play at recess time. When a new school was to be built, some children had classes in a house at 56th Street between 15th and 18th Avenue and some in a little

church on 60th Street north of 12th Avenue until P.S. 106 was built on 59th Street.

Sincerely,
Sam Anderson

GUY GRANATO

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Guy Granato President of Music Is Therapy (M.I.T.) at his home. Guy is an old time B.P. resident who remembers some interesting historical sidelights.

Guy was born in Italy, moved to Chicago and came to B.P. in 1928 at the age of 14. He first lived on Gravesand Ave. (now McDonald Ave.) near Ave. F. He attended Montauk J.H.S. which was then located in the Public School on 18th Ave. and 48th Street (P.S. 192). Following that he attended and graduated from Brooklyn Tech. H.S., became a musician and then an orchestra leader.

Guy has lived in, and owned a number of different houses in Boro Park. He moved to 1315 42nd Street in 1929. This columnist, incidentally, lived in that same two-family house in 1940. In 1930, Guy moved to 1314 40th Street, then to 1329 48th Street in 1948. He moved to Long Island in 1962 and returned to B.P. in 1972 to his current residence at 1324 49th Street.

Guy says his current home was built in 1917 and was one of the first houses on the block. The two photographs show his current home the way it looked in 1917 and the way it looks now. The auto, the tree and the empty space to the left of the house, in the older photo, are of historical interest as well. The recent photo includes the house to the left and the apartment house in the rear.

During a recent tour of the house, escorted by Guy and his wife, Mildred, I was impressed with the elaborate alterations and modernization of the interior of the house, as well as the exterior. In addition to everything else, Guy built a small 3-passenger elevator, with his own two hands between the first floor and his finished basement. His basement contains some very interesting collections of antiques and other historical memorabilia as well as examples of his talented handicrafts.

BORO PARK MEMORIES

Guy shared several of his Boro Park memories. He remembers when 13th Avenue was a very fancy and classy shopping area which included exclusive clothing stores and boutiques. Wealthy people came from far away to shop there. He recalls when the current Koshier Pizza store at 4810 13th Avenue was Meyers Ice Cream Parlor, one of a chain of such stores. Many famous personalities, who lived in Boro Park then, used to hang out there. These include Buddy Hackett who lived on 47th Street near 14th Avenue; Sandy Kolaf who lived on 48th Street near 14th Avenue;

Jack Eagle who lived on 40th Street just across the street from Guy. Also Pat Cooper and Sonny Sands were in that group.

Guy said one his early life ambitions was to be able to move to the rich exclusive section of Boro Park which was above 46th Street. That ambition, at least, has been fulfilled.

Music Is Therapy (M.I.T.) is a non-profit charitable organization which performs in hospitals, nursing homes and similar places free, as long as the funds hold out.

Guy happens to be active in the community in other ways as well. He is an elected member of the Maimonides Mental Health Advisory Board; a member of the Boro Park Community Council and a member of Amos Foundation which helps research and prevent infant crib death.



Guy Granato's house, 1324 49th Street. Left - as it appeared in 1917 when first built. Right - as it appears today.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

BIEGELEISEN FAMILY

The Biegeleisen family is well known in the community primarily because of their Hebrew book business, selling Hebrew and Judaica. At one time this business was carried on from their home in Boro Park, but eventually moved to larger commercial quarters on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

In those days, carrying on a business from one's home, especially from the same apartment in which one lived, was not as common a practice in Boro Park as it is today. We also note that in those years, people moved to new apartments much more frequently than is true today. The reason may be that there were more vacant apartments in those days and it was a tenant's market. Thus, if one needed larger quarter or a different location or wanted some concession from a landlord, it was relatively easy to accomplish this by moving.

Mr. Yakir Biegeleisen first moved to Boro Park, together with his parents, Yosef Chaim and Chana Shayndel, two sisters and one brother in 1920. The family was brought to these shores by Yakir's uncle Alter Shimon Reitor. Their first residence was at 1475 47th Street. It was a common practice in those years for relatives to help bring their families to America to escape from persecution and hardship in the European countries.

Mr. Y. Biegeleisen recalls that in 1920 there was only one elevated apartment building in Boro Park located on 14th Avenue and 49th Street, across from Temple Emanuel.

In 1922, he moved to 4513 13th Avenue, above a store and in 1924 moved to 1146 47th Street. He started his business in his apartment in 1923.

He returned to Galicia, Poland in 1926 to marry his cousin Leah Zilbiger and returned to live at 1222 45th Street, where their first son, Shlomo, was born. In 1932, the family moved to 1216 51st Street and in 1933 they moved to 1427 53rd Street, where their second son, Moshe, was born.

The Biegeleisens carried on their Hebrew Book business from their home until 1950 when they opened a store on the lower East Side of Manhattan. They lived on 53rd Street for 23 years, until their children were married, and then moved to their current address at 1358 47th Street.

There are currently four generations of this family living in Boro Park. The oldest son, Shlomo and his wife Gina (formerly Rosenmund also from Boro Park) have three children. The oldest child, Shelley, married to attorney Ezra Berger, and grandson Chaim Moshe Zvi, also reside in Boro Park.

The younger son, Moshe, and wife Brucha (formerly Singer) have six children. Their two sons, the oldest daughter married to Hertzka Engel (of Boro Park) and grandchild, reside in Israel.

Moshe is active in the community. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Council of Jewish organizations (C.O.J.O.) of Boro Park and President of the Yeshiva Belz of Boro Park.

Yakir is Honorary President of

the Belzer Institutions. He was an active officer in Yeshiva Toras Emes during its founding years. It was in that capacity that he influenced my father to transfer me from Machzikai Talmud Torah to Yeshiva Toras Emes in the 4th grade.

Moshe remembers many scenes and incidents of old Boro Park and he shares a few with us. He recalls the scene when Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt conducted services at Cong. Anshe Sfard, in the early 30's. The street was filled with people about 2 a.m., after Shichos, around the shul. He remembers that Boro Park attracted the world's greatest cantors during the 30's.

He recalls the giant piece of coal in the window of Deutsch Coal & Coke Company on 14th Avenue near 45th Street, where the Agudath Israel Synagogue stands today.

He remembers the Cohen residence, with the tremendous garden and back yard, on 53rd Street between 14th and 16th Avenue, where he played as a child. The three-story garden apartments are there now.

He remembers when they planted a tree in front of Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute) inside the gate, in memory of the Jewish War Veterans (by the Marcus Smolowitz Post). The tree is now very large, and will unfortunately go with the building.

He remembers as a child, the very large fire in the Washington Paint Store (New Utrecht Avenue) and all the families in the vicinity had to be evacuated for fear of explosions from the drums of paints and chemicals. He lived around the corner on 51st Street at that time.

He remembers when all the streets in Boro Park were two-way streets. In those days the few cars and horses and wagons could travel in both directions on every street.

Gina remembers the large 16th Avenue Market between 51st and 52nd Street, where the Lakewood

Synagogue is now located.

Other members of the Biegeisen, Rosenmund, Singer, Berger, and Engel Families currently also reside in Boro Park.

LOWER 40's HOUSING CHANGES

We've seen some important housing changes in the lower 40's recently. Many four-story walk-up apartment buildings have been boarded up or demolished. One group of such walk ups were renovated into beautiful modern apartments on 43rd Street between 14th and 15th Avenues, across from P.S. 164. Another group of walk-ups are now being renovated into modern condominiums on 44th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues.

It was, therefore, very interesting to come across this old newspaper clipping, which seems to be dated May 1, 1918 (not clear), related to the above, which reads:

ACTIVE BUILDING IN BOROUGH PARK

Improved Transit in Locality Has Created Demand for More Apartments. Cantor & Dorfman architects are preparing plans for two four-story apartment houses to be erected by the Sherman Building Corporation at the cost of \$75,000 on the southeast corner of 15th Avenue and 44th Street. These buildings will be modern. They will contain forty four apartments, arranged in suits of three, four and five rooms. This operation call attention to the remarkable development of 15th Avenue from 37th Street to 45th Street. Within the last two years, the same bulders have erected 47 apartment houses on this avenue, of which 38 have been sold. The builders attribute the increasing demand for apart-

ments in the section to the improved transit provided by the new subway link from Manhattan to Coney Island.

The four-story apartment houses are actually on the Southwest corner of 44th Street and 15th Avenue and not on the Southeast as mentioned in the article. What they call apartment houses probably include six-family houses otherwise it would be difficult to find 47 buildings in the area described, even before some buildings were demolished.

WEISS STUDIO

Mr. Weiss of The Weiss Photo Studio first came to Boro Park in 1923. He opened his store in 1928 on 48th Street corner of 13th Avenue (now Lanes Drugs).

Many may recall the very attractive feature in the store window during the 30's. Still movies were shown on a small screen right in the store window.

People stood around in the street in front of the window, even on cold winter nights to watch Charlie Chaplin, Mickey Mouse and other famous still movies, which were a novelty then.

In 1942, the Weiss Studio moved to 4603 13th Avenue (now Bartons) then to 1273 43rd Street in 1966 and to its current site at 4307 13th Avenue in 1966.

PRESSMAN

Rabbi Yaakov (Jerry) Pressman moved to Boro Park in 1949 and lived at 4609 16th Avenue, currently the Stoliner Synagogue. The store downstairs was occupied then by Davidson's Decorators now at 4704 16th Avenue.

We invite our readers to participate in the project of writing the history of Boro Park. Please send us your memories, photos and other memorabilia.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Agudath Israel

The Agudath Israel is not one of the oldest organizations or synagogues in Boro Park but it is one of the most active, today.

The Zeirei Agudath Israel started as a small synagogue in Boro Park in 1937. It was a branch of the national organization. Its first location was the apartment above the Shomrei Shabbos Synagogue on 13th Avenue and 53rd Street, and the rental was \$20 per month.

The first members of this branch included only a handful of young men, barely a minyon, among whom were Moshe Yehudah Gleicher, Charlie Young, Yosef Weizer, Joe Fogel (R.I.P.), Yechiel Plotzker (R.I.P.), Moshe Eichenthal, Max Oestreicher (R.I.P.), Irving Pachman and Max Schreiber. Mr. Gleicher was probably the first president.

When the Shomrei Shabbos Synagogue decided to convert the upstairs into a women's gallery, the Zeirei Agudath Israel moved in 1939 to 54th Street and 15th Avenue. They rented a room in a private house owned and used by a family circle.

After Stalin signed a treaty with Hitler in 1939, the communists in the U.S.A. were embarrassed and had to hide, especially those in Boro Park. One of the vacated communist party headquarters at 1211 60th Street above a store (now it's a Chinese hand laundry) was then rented by the Agudath Israel in 1940.

I remember as a young teenager, attending meetings of the Pirchei (Agudath Youth Group) and some Sabbath services at this location. More vivid in my mind is the ping pong table and the lively ping

pong games that took place there after or instead of the meetings. Since the premises were very close to the BMT elevated line on New Utrecht Avenue, services and meetings were sometimes interrupted while the trains were passing.

Several of the other teenagers I recall who belonged to the Pirchei group at that time were Yisroel Indich (Rabbi in Cincinnati), Max Lerner (diamond business), Irving Fried (day school principal in Columbus, Ohio), Willie Weisner (clothing business), Shmuel Blech (chemist and judge in U.S. Patent office), Chaim Hartman, Bezalel Harbater, Shlomo Biegeleisen (Hebrew Book business) and Shmuly Goldstein (printer).

My wife Ruth remembers attending Bnos Youth group sessions there with Edna England Brody and others.

In 1945, the Agudath Israel purchased a building at 4511 14th Avenue for \$10,500. The building had previously been owned by Getzel Deutsch (R.I.P.), coal and coke business which was known for its display of a large piece of coal in the window. The Agudath also purchased the small adjoining lot for \$3500. The building was renovated in 1946 to make it larger, nicer and more comfortable.

As the membership continued to grow steadily, the quarters soon became too small. In 1969 the present new large and beautiful building was constructed on the same site encompassing both the old building and the vacant lot.

With the steady and rapid growth of the membership and expansion of activities three other

branches of the Agudath Israel were started in Boro Park. The first branch, a younger group, rented quarters for many years until it purchased its present building at 4911-16th Avenue, the second branch is located at 5413 18th Avenue, and the third branch on 9th Avenue.

In addition, coinciding with the phenomenal growth of the national organization in membership, activities and influence during the past two decades, Boro Park gained a number of new programs and services which are run under the auspices of the national Agudath Israel.

The Boro Park Senior Citizens Center at 4511 14th Avenue runs a rich program of important activities for the Senior Citizens right in the Agudath building.

Project Cops (Career Opportunities and Preparation for Employment) has a branch on 16th Avenue near 53rd Street which helps supply jobs and training for members of the community.

The Southern Brooklyn Community Organization (SBCO) located at 4620 18th Avenue has been very active and successful in improving the physical neighborhood. It helped organize block associations, 13th Avenue Merchants Association and programs of housing and development and rehabilitation.

The Agudath Israel has been active in many other projects (such as the Hebrew Library) directly or indirectly, to help the Boro Park Community. In addition, the internationally known Executive President of Agudath Israel of America, Rabbi Moshe Sherer and Rabbi Nissan Wolpin, the Editor of its national publication, *The Jewish Observer*, as well as other prominent officers of this movement are long-time residents of the Boro Park Community.

Undoubtedly, many chapters in the history of Boro Park can be written about the growth, activities and influence of the Agudath Israel, from the handful in 1937 to the present time.

We welcome additional information and impressions from our readers.

The above information was supplied in the main by Mr. Irving Pachtman.

Pachtman
Mr. Irving Pachtman came to Boro Park in 1937 from Williamsburg, in search of better housing, and first lived at 1236 46th Street. He moved to 1250 44th Street in 1940 until he was married to Ruth Bodzin in 1955. He then moved to 989 47th Street until 1956 when he purchased his present home at 1615 45th Street.

Savatsky Cleaners Closing
The "Original French Cleaners" at 4923 12th Avenue, owned and operated by Moe Savatsky, closed December 31, 1979. One of the old customers commented "Savatsky is not closing, a legend is closing."

The legend began when Moe arrived in Boro Park in 1917, at the age of one year, with his family. They came from Williamsburg to take advantage of the "golden opportunity" to move into a brand new tenement house at 1470 44th Street which had just been built. (We discussed these buildings in last month's column.)

Moe said that the rental was about \$12 a month. He recalls that each apartment had a black coal stove in the kitchen which heated the entire apartment in the winter. Each tenant was given a coal bin in the basement for storage. He recalls as a young boy going with his brother to search for coal. They took a peach basket on a homemade wagon to the train tracks on 38th Street between 14th and 15th Avenue. When deliveries of coal were made to Rubel Ice and Coal Company

located there, individual coals would spill on the ground. Moe and his brother would search for these coals on the ground and bring them home. He also recalls that each home had a homemade wooden box which was used to feed coal into the oven.

In 1928, Moe's father, Samuel Savatsky, opened the first tailor and dry cleaning store in Boro Park at 1279 49th Street. Moe remembers delivering orders as a boy and in those years 13th Avenue was mostly open land. The pushcart markets on 13th Avenue between 39th and 41st Streets were the main shopping center. Moe remembers the hitching posts along 13th Avenue in those years used for tying horses.

A few years later, in 1937, his family moved to 1381 49th Street

above his father's store and in 1939 he married, Edna Weiss, a Brighton girl.

"Sam Savatsky and Son," tailor and cleaner, opened at 1311 48th Street in 1938. Moe was in business there with his father until 1953. For five years after that Moe worked in the line. In 1958 he opened the business there for 22 years. The Savatsky's have 3 married sons and 6 grandchildren.

During his 62 years in Boro Park, Moe has accumulated many fond memories and items of historical interest, which he hopes to share with our readers from time to time.

One more item he contributes now is his memory of the first bank in Boro Park. It was located in two stores on 13th Avenue and 49th Street in the same location as the present West Side Federal Bank. However, it was the Manufacturers Trust Co.

Continued on Page 18

I Remember Boro Park

(Continued from Page 1)

As the community grew and the bank needed to expand, it purchased the house across the street from Mr. and Mrs. Kalt and built the beautiful and impressive building it now occupies.

Fred Goodman
Dr. Fred Goodman (Biologist) of 1559 56th Street remembers the very old Edgewood Dutch Reformed Church on 14th Avenue and 53rd Street opposite P.S. 103. He remembers living next door and playing in the small graveyard as a child. While living at 1285 52nd Street, above the stores, Fred recalls the office of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company which was directly across the street from him—also above the stores. (Munkatch Yeshivah is located at these premises now.) He recalls during World War II (1942-43) one of the Metropolitan workers arrived daily on a large tricycle chained to the wooden lamp post during working hours.

Correction on Biegeleisen Story
In gathering the information about the Biegeleisen family, I interviewed Shlomo, the older son. Shlomo was also the one who furnished the memories of old Boro Park. Inadvertently, however, the article incorrectly quoted Moshe as supplying the information. My apologies for the error.

Shlomo adds that his grandfather Yosef Chaim Biegeleisen (R.I.P.) was one of the founders of the Cong. Sfas Emes at 1337 42nd Street in the 1920's. The family has maintained membership in that synagogue to this day. Shlomo recalls the fire that demolished the synagogue in the 1940's and the renovations and modernization that followed.

Gina Biegeleisen was active in the Shalomith School for Girls while their daughter attended and was Chairman of the Board of the Shalomith Womens Organization.

Readers are invited to submit comments, memories and photos.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

MORE ON AGUDATH ISRAEL By READER

Last month we discussed the history of Boro Park's Agudath Israel. One of the purposes for these articles is to encourage our readers to contribute additional information about the particular organization, family or business under discussion.

Very little of the history of Boro Park can be found in books or newspapers. A major and essential part of that history is recorded in the memories of individuals who have lived through it. The contributions of present and past residents is therefore very valuable and much appreciated.

The following letter by Mr. Joseph Wechsler is a prize contribution to our project. It contains much valuable information not available in print. We are therefore very grateful to him for his time, efforts and memory. It reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

Following are some additional highlights on Agudath Israel activities in Boro Park.

(1) The first regular Minyan was held Parshat Balak, 26 June 1937, (Tamus 5697). I happened to be the "Baal Koreh"—Reader of the Torah.

(2) A week later, Rabbi Buni-movitz (RIP) started his regular Talmud Class.

(3) By the end of the summer, the first Pirchei groups had been established. Jewish boys were literally taken off the streets and Pirchei leaders were "imported" from Williamsburg, then the center of Agudist activities.

(4) Early in 1941 the Zeisel (as it was called then), temporarily placed its quarters at the disposal of Hagoon Reb Avrohom Yofem (RIP) to enable him to re-establish his famed Beth Joseph Yeshivah, now located at 1427-49th Street.

(5) Subsequently Charles Klein (one of our charter members not mentioned by you), Rabbi Anshel Fink, and other young married Agudists who had moved to Boro Park, took a leading hand in organizing Beth Jacob of Boro Park, now located at 1371 46th Street. Indeed the first Beth Jacob classes were held in the Agudath "local."

(6) During World War II Joe Klein, Manfred Norman, Irving Pachtman, the writer of these lines and others were enlisted into the Army of the United States. We greatly appreciated the Kosher Food Packages sent us by our Caaverim back home and after V-E day we distributed scores of them to the D-P Camp survivors that had been liberated by our respective U.S. Army units.

(7) Pirchei activities were considerably increased after the Agudath moved to its new quarters at 4511-14th Avenue. In 1948 the first regular Pirchei Minyan was established and it provided the nucleus for the present 16th Ave. branch.

(8) For the next 20 years the Agudath premises were frequently used as temporary classrooms by Beth Jacob of Boro Park, Yeshiva Toras Emei, Yeshiva Torah Oh, Tomar Dvora School and others. Beth Jacob of Boro Park showed its appreciation by permitting the Agudath to use its Assembly hall after the old building had been demolished and the new building was under construction.

(9) Since the Fall of 1975 the 14th Ave. branch has provided a dignified home for the Central Torah Library whose 12,000 volumes have been used extensively by thousands of students, teachers and scholars under the supervision and expert guidance of Rabbi Moshe Lipsitz.

(10) Just for the record, please note the correct spelling of my name.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Wechsler, Secretary
Agudath Israel of Boro Park,
14th Avenue branch.

MORE PROMINENT

FAMILIES

Several months ago we began listing names of prominent individuals and families in the history of Boro Park. Readers were asked to suggest other names for this listing and perhaps some information about them. The following letters were received in response to this request.

Gentlemen:

Att. "I Remember Boro Park"
In your Aug.-Sept. issue, you had the above column on Page 2 ending with "You may suggest other names—etc."

I feel that my family helped to make Boro Park. "The Doff's" were my Grandparents, in other words, my mother's Parents. Also her Brother, and of course my beloved Father the late Jacob W. Mauer (RIP) has been known to this community for a very long time. He was past organizer and President of Farband No. 405. Also was the organizer of Israel Bonds back in the very beginning when it originated. Also, he was very active with Jewish National Fund.

In fact in Israel (Modon) there is a forest dedicated in his name. Last but not least, he is buried in Israel, in Kfar Saba, where he had (in 1950) a sewing and knitting plant under the name Sargun Ltd. It is now in the hands of the Government. The plant was also located in Kfar Saba. He left behind his wife (my mother) Basia, 2 (two) sons, Dr. Irving Mauer and Leonard Mauer and myself Cor-

stance M. Lazarus. We were all proud of him.

Cordially,

Constance M. Lazarus
Mrs. Benson M. Lazarus

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I believe mention should be made of a great man in the annals of Boro Park. That man is Dr. Joseph Datt, who once was the Principal of The Hebrew Department of the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park known as the Yeshiva Etz Chaim D'Boro Park.

Yours truly,

Samuel Dyes

Mrs. Leah Friedman has submitted the following additional names of prominent families in the history of Boro Park.

Moshe Krumbein, Mordechai Krumbein, Anshel Greenfield,

David & Samuel Greenfield, Israel Young, Louis Cohen, Pincus Family, Paul Kwetzel and Getzler family.

She recalls that when she was a young girl of 8 all the buildings were already built on the odd side of 13 Ave. as far as she could remember.

However on the even side of 13 Ave., from 43 St. until 60 St. where the Yeshiva Etz Chaim stands (once stood), each block had two wooden cottages with a nice lawn between them. The cottages were gradually thrown down and the present stores (tax-payers) were built on these sites.

Do you have any information or memories about Boro Park to share with our readers?

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Interest in the history of Boro Park has been growing steadily. Evidence for this is manifest not only by the increase in responses to this column but also by the individual projects undertaken to write histories about local institutions or individuals. If copies of these individual histories are forwarded to us we may be able to include all or parts in this column and in the proposed three volume history of Boro Park now being undertaken by the Boro Park Historical Society, a public service project of the Boro Park Community Council Inc.

One such project was recently undertaken by Temple Emanuel (49 St. & 14 Ave.) in conjunction with its 75th Anniversary celebration.

The Temple commissioned Alan J. Gerber, member of the Community School Board 20, to write the history of the Temple, which was incorporated into its 75th Annual Dinner Journal. Mr. Gerber did a masterful job, incorporating photos, documents, and greetings by past and present leaders, in the historical report covering over 50 pages of the Journal. This research is also a very valuable contribution to the history of Boro Park.

The following are a few excerpts from these greetings and history:

Irving H. Fine, President

In 1904-1905, when Temple Emanuel came into being, Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States, the first New York City subway was opened, the first baseball World Series began, and "from the high collar of her shirtwaist to the ground—the woman of that time was amply enveloped in material." During its first 50 years, the syn-

agogue was expanded to its present structure. In 1960 the Samuel Fine Center and Religious School Building was constructed adjacent to the existing synagogue. Our synagogue has the distinction of being one of the few in New York City which has had a continuous and uninterrupted existence of 75 years on the same site.

Max Krantz,

Chairman of the Board

We are proud of our clergy. Our distinguished Rabbi, Dr. Baruch Silverstein, through years of dedicated and devoted service as preacher, teacher, spiritual leader, and as President of the New York Board of Rabbis, brought dignity and prestige to our temple. He has earned the love and respect of the entire congregation. Our world-renowned Cantor, David Kusevitsky, is an artist without peer in the rendition of synagogue prayer and cantorial music. His many years of conducting the liturgy has won for him the admiration and acclaim of all who know him. Our learned Sexton, Rev. Aaron Gorbaty, upholds the tradition by his study, his reading and interpretation of our Torah and Bible.

We are proud of our Congregation. Age has made its inroads but the spirit is timeless. Our programs, sponsored by the Temple and its affiliates, Sisterhood and Mr. and Mrs. Club, cover a huge spectrum of communal, cultural, and social activities dedicated to the tradition of Judaism. Our members have always been actively involved in every institution and organization in the development of our community.

Down The Corridors Of Time

By Alan Jay Gerber

The city of New York, as we know it today, was barely half a decade old. It was a growing metropolis. With this growth came population boom that was to change forever the rural and pastoral nature of southern Brooklyn. By 1904, the early Jewish settlers of Manhattan (of the class of 1890), had become Americanized to the point of being ready to join the exodus from the slums of the lower East Side to the fresh air of Brooklyn. To the average person, 1904 was an uneventful year. Only a few insignificant events occurred during that year. Yet, upon closer examination, we find that 1904 was a watershed era in American history. Many of the institutions and utilities we take for granted today, were established in that era—75 years ago. Change was in the air. Mass transit and the recent completion of the Williamsburgh Bridge made all of Brooklyn easily accessible.

George B. McClellan was Mayor of New York City in 1904. Benjamin Odell was Governor of New York. Theodore Roosevelt was President. The New York Times moved from Park Row to Times Square. Ellis Island was breaking all records. Other related and significant facts: The first World Series; the first trafficlight regulations; the first double-decker bus on Fifth Avenue; the first New York City subway; the Hudson Tubes; the General Slocum disaster; the first Yiddish theatre, built by Jacob Adler; the death of Theodor Herzl.

At the turn of the last century, Boro Park wasn't more than mere farm land. The start of the 20th century witnessed a realty development in a section of the old village of New Utrecht. Farm lands were cut into building lots and pasture lanes were designated as streets, and the euphonious title of "Borough Park" was bestowed on this subdivided territory.

When, 75 years ago, the few Jews then living in this community organized Temple Emanuel, in their wildest expectations little did they dream of the actual

consummation of their hopes; nor in the realization of what now we take for granted in our neighborhood. The secluded little village has become a city in itself. Its residents are among some of the most recognized leaders in American Jewry.

The High Holy Days of 1904 found the several Jewish families of Boro Park without a synagogue. At a meeting convened soon thereafter, it was decided to form a religious corporation. Accordingly, a certificate of incorporation was filed under the name of Temple Emanu-El of Borough Park. The first meeting of this small group was on October 13, 1904. The corporate papers were signed at the home of Max Baron on November 17, 1904. In less than a year, on March 1, 1905, the ground on which the Temple now stands was purchased and the cornerstone was laid June, 1906. The erection of the first Temple building was completed in September, 1908, and the dedication was held in December, 1909, for what was then a one-floor structure.

The first group of officers was led for a short time by Max Baron. He was succeeded by Simon Frank (1906-1919), who was president for the next fourteen years. Simon Frank was responsible for the construction of the first one-story Temple structure as well as the augmented building with the super-structure on 14th Avenue and 49th Street. He was followed for the next eight years by Isaac Ipp (1919-28). Under the Ipp administration more land was acquired, with Newman Dube as

chairman, and the sanctuary was rebuilt and enlarged to its present dimensions. This renovation and expansion cost, at that time (1919-20), the grand total of \$160,000, making this Temple the largest such building in our community. The building com-

mittee for this reconstruction was under the leadership of Max Helman and Sam Lakow. Other members of the action were Herman Rabbino, R.A. Bonime, I. M. Barnett and S. J. Kasindorf.

Following the reconstruction, the Temple engaged Cantor Zavel Kwartin—the premier Cantor in America at that time—to lead in the services. Augmented by a choir under the direction of Zavel Zilberts, the Services were attended by capacity crowds. Temple Emanu-El gained the reputation of having the most dignified services in our community, a reputation still adhered to this very day. Cantor Nathan Cantor preceded Cantor Kwartin.

Additional excerpts will be included in future columns.

We encourage the leaders of all organizations and institutions in Boro Park to undertake the research and writing of the history of their respective organization. Perhaps one person can be designated in each such organization to gather the information and put it together. Such a history would be valuable and interesting for use in connection with the organization's annual Journal or paper. If forwarded to us it can also be utilized in connection with this column and with our proposed history of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Last month we mentioned the new and increased interest in Boro Park which was developed, in recent years. This interest it was pointed out is evidenced in part by the various projects undertaken such as individual histories about institutions. We hope to be able to bring more of them to the attention of our readers in this and future columns. We again urge all organizations and institutions to prepare summaries of their own historical highlights and to submit them to this column for inclusion here and in the future History of Boro Park now in preparation.

One very significant project recently completed and published was a book entitled "From Suburb to Shtetl, the Jews of Boro Park," by Dr. Egon Mayer. (Temple University Press). Dr. Mayer, a sociologist at Brooklyn College, was brought up in Boro Park. He was a former student of this columnist at Kamenitzer Mesivta of Boro Park H.S. I am proud to say, and has contributed to this column in the past.

Two recent reviews of this book came to our attention. One by many esteemed friend Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, of Torah Umesorah fame, appeared in Kol Boro Park last month. He states, "Egon Mayer's book, however, must be considered an orthodox classic of our times. For beyond his sometimes brilliant flashes, his probing analysis of sociological trends and theories, and his broad knowledge of the Jewish scene, his book is a dynamic presentation of the Orthodox way of life—through an all-inclusive in-depth portrait of a vital Jewish community."

The second review was sent in recently by the reader Mrs. Rosalind Jamesse, clipped from the Jewish Week and, written by Fern Allen. Mr. Allen indicates that the book was meticulously researched and "outlines the way of life of the 55,000 Orthodox Jews who cling to their religious heritage while integrating themselves into the mainstream of American life."

We hope to bring the attention of our readers interesting information and excerpts from this book about the Boro Park community.

Some Changes In Boro Park

Mrs. Rosalind Jamesse came to Boro Park in 1940 with her parents from Mapleton—Bay Parkway and 61 St. to be near relatives. She was born on the Lower East Side. Mrs. Jamesse mentioned some of the changes she observed in this community during the past 40 years. Some of the sad changes she noticed were the loss of pretty gardens and spaces between the buildings. Many beautiful houses with gardens and lawns were thrown down and, in the space of one house, two three or four new attached houses were built. Little by little the Park is being eliminated from Boro Park. She is also saddened by the fact that the large beautiful synagogues have lost many members and much influence and importance in the community as numerous small "shtiblech" spring up. Finally, she was saddened to see the Yeshivah Eitz Chaim, an old Boro Park landmark, being thrown down, especially since her children attended there.

She also noticed some happy changes in the community. The community seems to be better

organized to bring about improvements. Some of the improvements we were able to obtain, such as additional traffic lights, extension of the bus route and safety patrols, were due to this better organization and communal awareness. She recalls how difficult it was in the past to get traffic lights installed. How much Assemblyman Philip Schupler (RIP) for example worked then in order to try to get one traffic light installed. Although there is some crime in the community she thinks it is less prevalent here than elsewhere.

More by Samuel Dyen

Dear Mr. Kipust;

Years ago there were 3 movie theaters on New Utrecht Avenue—Loew's Boro Park, Loew's 46th Street and Elton. Loew's Boro Park was on 51st Street. A bike store was on New Utrecht Avenue near 52nd Street. There was a Kresge 5 cents and 10 cents store across the street from Woolworth on 13th Avenue where Ripleys now stands. There was an A & P on New Utrecht Avenue near 62nd Street. Bankers Trust Company in Boro Park was once the Public National Bank.

The following are some of the teachers of the English Department of the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park (Yeshiva Etz Chaim).

Mrs. T. Brener—1A Teacher, Most of the time, but also taught 2A. (Feb. '36).

Mrs. C. Blackman—2B Teacher, September 1937.

Mrs. A. Winer—3A Teacher, February 1937.

Mrs. J.S. Wolf—3B Teacher, September 1937.

Mrs. J.S. Wolf—3B Teacher, September 1937.

Mrs. S. Braverman—4A Teacher, September 1938.

Mrs. B.R. Nemiroff—4B Teacher, September 1938.

Mrs. C. Feiberg—5A Teacher, February 1929.

Mrs. C.S. Epstein—5B Teacher, September 1939.

Mrs. C.S. Epstein—6A Teacher, February 1940.

Mrs. A.R. Maskel—6B Teacher, September 1940.

Mrs. M. Wiseman—7A Teacher, September 1941.

Mr. A. Klein—8A Teacher, February 1942.

Mr. S. Saltzman—8B Teacher, September 1942.

Mr. Bragan was the usual 8B Teacher, but as soon as he started the term he had to leave; I believe to his farm in Iowa. So Mr. Saltzman took over.

Miss Ludens was the art teacher. She was called the drawing teacher.

Mr. Charry (not sure of the spelling of his name) was the music teacher. He was a music teacher in New Utrecht High School. I believe Mrs. Epstein was the sister of Mr. Saltzman. If my memory is correct. Possibly Mrs. Nemiroff and Mrs. Epstein were cousins. Mrs. Epstein started the term as Miss Saltzman and got married and became

Mrs. Epstein. Mrs. Wolf started the term as Miss Samuels and got married and became Mrs. Wolff.

Yours Truly,
Samuel Dyen

Mr. Dyen also included a photocopy of a group photo-

graph which included Dr. Joseph Datt, principal of the Hebrew dept. of the Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) with many students at the famous platform outside the main center entrance of the Yeshivah taken over 40 years ago. Unfortunately, the photocopy could not be reproduced in the newspaper. Many thanks to Mr. Dyen for his valuable contribution and for his time and effort.

All contributions of memories, photos, literature and information about your own family, organization or Boro Park in general will be appreciated.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

COHEN FAMILY

At a recent condolence call to one of the earliest families in Boro Park, I gathered some interesting information. In March, Saul Cohen and Emmanuel Cohen lost their older brother, Jay, who had settled in Florida. During this visit, Emmanuel related a few old B.P. memories. He came to B.P. with his family in 1905 at the age of 8 months and moved to 1114 39th Street. His father, Samuel Louis Cohen (RIP), brought in the first Kosher butcher to Boro Park—Kabatsky—whose store was located at approximately 1215 40th Street.

He remembers the Polinsky fish store on 13th Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets where OTB is now located. The Polinsky sons were owners of The Brill Bros. Surgical Supplies on New Utrecht Avenue and 49th Street. One son was a medical doctor in Boro Park.

He remembers the first Turkish Bath in Boro Park located at 13th Avenue between 40th and 41st Streets in the basement of the store recently occupied by the Wonder Store. The Turkish Bath later moved to the site of the current Boro Park library on 43rd Street near 13th Avenue. Emmanuel doesn't think that this Turkish Bath was ever used as a Mikvah as some people claim.

He says that the Machzikel Talmud Torah started in 1909 in a loft above the store adjoining Polinsky's fish store on 13th Avenue and later moved to 1316 43rd Street.

Emmanuel says his father also brought in the first Kosher bakery to Boro Park—Goldsteins—located at 1137 39th Street. The bakery later moved to the site where Bankers Trust is now located at 4410 13th Avenue (no relation to the other Goldstein Bakery on 13th Avenue and 50th Street) Mr. Morris Schertz (or Schertz' Bakery) worked for Goldstein's Bakery at 4410 13th Avenue and later

opened his own very successful bakery on 43rd Street near New Utrecht Avenue. Mrs. Schertz was related to Mr. Goldstein.

Emmanuel showed me a very interesting item of historical value. It was the inscription on the inside of a book he received as a gift, for a recitation, from Machzikel Talmud Torah. The book, "Sun and Shield" by Rev. Dr. Gustav Gatheil was published in 1896. The inscription read "At 5th Anniversary Banquet of Machzikel Talmud Torah on December 27, 1914 to Emmanuel Cohen."

More information about this family related to the history of Boro Park is planned for future columns.

More from Leah Friedman
Dear Mr. Kipust,

I have sent in other names of well-known families to you in the past which were not included in your columns. Since you stated that I have a good memory, the omission of some of these names places me in an embarrassing position. Please add the following names to your list of prominent families—names sent in previously—in order to avoid slighting anyone.

Mr. Wolf Ain, on 45th Street between 13th and 14th Avenue. His grandson is Dr. Harold Z. Levine, D.D.S., whose office is on 14th Avenue and 50th Street, opposite the YMHA. Dr. Levine's mother, Welly Ain Levine, has been a wonderful pianist and teacher of piano. His aunt, Leah Ain Globe, was a Hebrew teacher and head of Mizrahi Cultural Activities.

Mr. Harris—47th Street, between 14th and 15th Avenue. His daughter Hannah was an A-1 Hebrew kindergarten teacher and writer of kindergarten songs and plays, in collaboration with Miss Peikes, Rabbi Peikes, grandfather

of Miss Harris was a prominent Rabbi. His daughter-in-law, Bella Peikes, was an active community worker and Current Events reviewer.

Mr. Shimensky—45th Street, between 14th and 15th Avenues—was among the early Boro Parkers to go to Israel on Aliya, where he started an orange grove. His son Charles and wife also went to Israel on Aliya. Some of his grandchildren live in Boro Park.

Jungreis family, Bertha (RIP) and Estelle.

Levine and Kalikow-builders. Daniels and Moe Perlberg families.

Gedalia Bublick, Editor of the Tageblatt (a Yiddish paper). Mr. Bublick went to Germany before the holocaust, trying to warn Jews to leave Germany before it was too late. Mr. Bublick's son-in-law was Edward Silver (RIP) former Brooklyn District Attorney.

Mr. Irving Bunim, well-known philanthropist and teacher of Perek class (Ethics of Fathers) lived on 63rd Street and 15th Avenue.

Daniel Adolman was active in the young Israel of Boro Park. His sisters Sylvia (RIP) married Jack Feinzeit (RIP). His parents were members of a very revered Orthodox family on 40th Street between 12th and 13th Avenue.

Rabbi Baruch Silverstein of Temple Emanuel. His father was a very learned orthodox man, Reverend Silverstein. The Silverstein house on 65th Street was a gathering place for chachamin (learned people), and Bertha Silverstein raised large sums of money for UJA, Israel Bonds, Hadassah and other charities.

Reb. Levi Horowitz (RIP) of Horowitz-Margaret Matzah Co. lived on 50th Street between 13th and 14th Avenue. His daughter Belle Goldstein was National President of American Mizrahi Women.

Samuel Borowsky was a great Hebraist and Zionist. He was principal of Machzikei Talmud Torah at one time. That school was then equal to any Ivrit B'Ivrit Yeshiva of today.

of Deutsch Coal Company. He was very active in Etz Chaim, Shulamith and Young Israel of Boro Park.

Chill Family. Their daughter Martha Kamerman was a leader in American Mizrahi Woman. Louis L. Cohen was an accountant and active in Etz Chaim, Shulamith and Young Israel of Boro Park.

Ira Eisenstadt (RIP) Insurance broker, was active in Y.I. of Boro Park.

I.L. Marrow was a prominent businessman (Men's collar wear) and fine person.

Lesser and Dressler families. Mrs. Lesser's sister was Frances Krumbein (RIP) wife of Moshe Krumbein (RIP).

Mux Kufeld—Principal of Etz Chaim, Shulamith and Yeshiva of Flatbush.

Philip Levine, Insurance Broker, and wife Minnie Rapoport Levine (RIP). Her parents had a dry goods store on 13th Avenue.

Please publish these names in your column, otherwise it puts me in the light of either not having

such a good memory or wishing deliberately slight people.

I tell you, there are great people in Boro Park.

Leah Friedman P.S. There was a zoning regulation for a long time which prevented the building of apartment houses on 16th Avenue except for the one already built on 16th Avenue and 63rd Street.

Our thanks to Mrs. Leah Friedman, one of our old-time Boro Parkers, for her many contributions to this column. If some of the material was left out in the past it was either because we had difficulty reading the script or we were limited in space. We hope no one will feel slighted.

We need old photographs of Boro Park people and scenes for publication and would appreciate any such contributions.

How about jotting down some of your own B.P. and family memories and submitting them for use in connection with this column and the history of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK DIRECTORY

We previously discussed the increased interest in Boro Park which is evidenced by the various projects undertaken about this community. One such project recently completed is the "Borough Park Community Guide and Directory" which was compiled and distributed by the Boro Park Coordinating Committee. The project was funded by a CETA grant and completed under the direction of Rabbi Luzer Weiss and administration of Rabbi Burton Jaffe. The comprehensive guide lists and describes the community's institutions and public services very effectively.

One category listed on the last page, which we would like to discuss further, is that of the churches and church schools in the neighborhood.

BORO PARK CHURCHES

There are only three churches and their related parochial schools listed in the Borough Park Directory. Although we have, in addition, several small storefront churches, these three represent the large, old, established churches of the community.

1. Church of the Holy Ghost at 1712, 45th St.; 2. St. Catherine of Alexandria at 1119, 41 St.; and 3. St. Frances de Chantal at 5612-12 Ave.

There was a time when Boro Park could list many more large established churches but as the neighborhood population changed the new houses of worship reflected that change.

Similar changes have occurred in other neighborhoods of this city. Many Boro Parkers who came to this community from other neighborhoods such as Brownsville, Lower East Side, South Bronx, Crown Heights, Harlem and others, members the numerous

synagogues that were converted to churches or replaced by churches as the ethnic populations of those neighborhoods changed. In Boro Park there were reverse examples of churches being replaced by Synagogues or other establishments, as Jews from other neighborhoods.

Many Boro Parkers remember the Christian Science Church on 12 Ave. corner 45 St. which was purchased and converted into a Synagogue by the Sfarid Jewish Community. Other old timers will recall the Synagogue on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and 49 St. (recently demolished) which had originally been a Church. Other old timers will remember the Edgewood Dutch Reformed Church on 14 Ave. & 64 St., replaced by private homes and the former Church on 13 Ave. and 51 St. where Waldbaums supermarket now stands.

However, old timers may be as surprised as I was to learn that there had been a number of additional churches in old Boro Park. In an article in the Brooklyn Eagle written May 25, 1919, some additional churches are mentioned in addition to other information of interest. The following are a few excerpts of that article.

BOROUGH PARK

"Borough Park was in its glory yesterday when a mammoth welcome home was given to its 1,500 sons who served with the colors in the World War. A parade in which 3,000 persons participated was held in the afternoon, and in the evening a reception was held in the Borough Park Clubhouse on 13 Ave. and 50 St. while a block party was held on the clubhouse block."

"The affair was held under the auspices of the Borough Park welcoming Home Committee, composed of that section of Borough Park between 36th and 60th Sts. and 10th and 18th Aves. Most of the members of the committee are members of the various churches in that section."

More than 600 soldiers and sailors were in line. Every civic, fraternal, political and social organization in this section was well represented. The entire line of march was gay with American flags, welcome home signs, Knights of Columbus emblems and red, white and blue bunting."

"It was shortly after 4 o'clock when the procession left the Borough Park clubhouse. The line of march was 13 Ave. to 56 St., to 11th Ave., to 58 St., to 13 Ave., to 57 St., to 14th Ave., to 46th St., to 15th Ave., to 45th St., to 12th Ave., to 40th St., to Ft. Hamilton Parkway, to 49th St., to 11th Ave., to 50th St. to New Utrecht Ave. to the clubhouse."

ORGANIZATIONS IN LINE

"Representatives of the other organizations and churches in line included the following: Knights of Columbus, Motor Corps. of America, Catholic Women's Society and Civic League, Boy Scouts, St. Francis De Chantal Church, St. Jude Church, Borough Park Methodist Church, Shomrei Emunah, Edgewood Dutch Reformed Church, Temple Emanuel, Borough Park Baptist Church, Borough Park Presbyterian Church, Borough Park Congregational Church, American Lutheran Church, Borough Park Hebrew Civic Association, New Utrecht Democratic Club, Borough Park Republican Club and a number of other social organizations."

"At the conclusion of the parade the boys were taken into the Borough Park Clubhouse where they were served with refreshments which were furnished by the various organizations that participated in the celebration."

PASTORS WELCOME BOYS HOME

"This was followed by short addresses by the Rev. William Ludwig, pastor of the Borough Park Baptist Church; Rabbi

David Levin of the Temple Emanuel; the Rev. J.P. O'Laughlin, rector of St. Francis de Chantel and the Rev. Alexander Wouters, pastor of the Edgewood Reformed Church."

"The addresses were all of a patriotic nature and of praise for the lads who took part in the war. Dr. Wouters spoke highly of the work of the various organizations that looked after our boys while they were over there."

Although the above article included more detailed information about the event and the people involved, the above excerpts give us a sufficient summary of the activities, the spirit of unity and patriotism that prevailed and an idea about the ethnic composition of the community at that time.

What is of interest in reference to the churches that we were talking about is that only one of the current churches, St. Francis de Chantel, was mentioned in the article. The others were probably not in existence then. In addition

it mentioned seven other churches which are not in existence today and most of which were unfamiliar to me. Does anyone have information about these churches? Finally only two synagogues were mentioned as participating in the program although there were probably several more in existence. Certainly, however the number of Synagogues were much fewer then than now, and fewer then than churches in the community.

A side issue comes to mind in response to this article. Similar ceremonies and block parties took place after World War II which many more people can recall. It is interesting to note how wars can help unite people and stimulate feelings of civic pride, cooperation, unity and patriotism. This should prompt us to ask ourselves another question. Is it necessary to have a war or other tragic event to motivate people to work together for the common good, for the welfare of the community?

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

The Boro Park Community is composed of many diverse ethnic groups and groups within these groups. Old time Boro Parkers can also glance back over the years and recall the gradual but steady changes in the ethnic composition of the community. These changes reflect the waves of immigrants—religious, national and racial—who came to the American shores from different countries as well as those individuals who moved to Boro Park from other communities within this city and country.

Each group and subgroup has a history of its own. We would like to bring to your attention the stories of these various ethnic groups as well as those of individuals, organizations and buildings. Articles or information about them are invited.

The following interesting article about one such group, the Yemenite Jewish Community, was contributed by Mrs. Dina Dabbany-Miraglia, who is a member of the Executive Board of the Boro Park Historical Society.

The Yemenite Jewish Community
a guest article by
Dina Dabbany-Miraglia

Probably one of the least known facts about Boro Park's history is that, since 1938 it has been the center of one of the smallest and least known Jewish populations in the United States: Yemenite Jews.

Two Yemenite families, four adults and three children, emigrated from Turkish Palestine to the United States between 1906 and 1907. However, it was not until 1917 that a small, but steady stream of Yemenite Jews began arriving from British Mandate Palestine. Between 1922 and 1931 nearly 120 men, women and children, the oldtimers and their

offspring, founded the American Yemenite Jewish community in New York City.

About half this number chose to remain on the lower East Side. The rest preferred a quieter neighborhood. They began moving to Boro Park early in 1928, establishing Congregation Ohel Shalom (now on 12th Avenue and 45th Street) that same year. For nearly two years the synagogue's services were held daily on Sabbath and holidays in a rented room two floors above the Sun Shai Kai, Boro Park's oldest Chinese restaurant.

The Yemenite women of the community founded a branch of their 'Ezrat Nashim, or, The Yemenite Ladies Aid Society, at the same time. By 1947, Congregation Ohel Shalom had a Ladies Auxiliary as well.

Boro Park's Yemenite Community grew twice more through immigration. The first increase came from within, between 1935 and 1947. Most Yemenites living on the Lower East Side moved to Boro Park. The second swell began in 1959, and has not yet ended. In that year, a few Yemenite Jews, visiting from Israel, decided to remain. Of the approximately 4,500 Yemenites from Israel now in the United States, the newcomers, about 500, live in Boro Park.

The newcomers founded two more synagogues. Following the Yemenite custom, both are owned and run by individuals. The most recently established is 'Ateret Avot, on 51st Street near 14th Avenue. The older of the two, now on 46th Street near 13th Avenue is Yeshiva and Bet Knesset Yehudey Telman. This synagogue opened its doors in 1960 on 47th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. The oldest of the three, Congregation Ohel Shalom, is community-owned.

As did their predecessors, the oldtimers and the offspring, the newcomers quickly established businesses in Boro Park. However, they introduced a novel enterprise. Although many were jewelers and in construction, two traditional Yemenite occupations, a few newcomers decided to open fast food restaurants. Nearly all the falafel and kosher pizza shops in Boro Park were opened and run by Yemenites.

Oldtimers, offspring and newcomers, all of Boro Park's Yemenite community maintain close ties with Israel. Over four years ago a cultural committee was formed, a branch of the Aquedah LiTpuah haHevrah, originating in Netanya, Israel. Their major goal is promoting and maintaining the distinctive Yemenite heritage.

Another link with Israel is the strong financial and moral support Yemenites in Boro Park give to Or Hadash, a boarding school in the Galilee, founded by Rabbi Yihyeh Tan'ami, for deprived children. The children cared for and educated by this organization constitute a cross-section of Israel's Middle Eastern Jews.

Boro Park's Yemenite community is only one of a great many other culturally distinctive groups living in our neighborhood. Boro Park can be likened to a mosaic, in which each chip is unique, yet together, the chips create a totality: our neighborhood.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipurst

Attending Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, Conventions and Meetings has become more interesting, now that I look for and interview present and former Boro Park residents. Even salesmen and contractors, professionals and senior citizens that pass my way are subject to questioning about any past affiliations with the Boro Park community. I am repeatedly surprised at the number of former Boro Parkers I meet and at the interesting stories they recall. A few of them are listed below.

BITETTI & PASCO

Mario Bitetti visited my home representing a business firm and was more than happy to respond to my inquiries and share some of his Boro Park memories. Bitetti came to Boro Park in 1936 and lived at 1726 58th Street until 1950, except for the years 1942-46 when he was in the armed forces. He attended P.S. 180 (56th St. and 16th Ave.), Shallow JHS (16th Ave. & 64th St.), New Utrecht H.S. and Brooklyn College, and married a local girl, Mildred Pasco, at 17th Ave. & 54th St.

Bitetti was eager and proud to discuss his famous father-in-law Joe Pasco (stage name) who was a world champion bag puncher and prize fighter. Pasco was one of the old-time bare-knuckle fighters. He was listed in Ripley's "Believe it or Not" for his record of punching a bag continuously, at the age of 69, at Raven Hall in Coney Island. (The old timers remember that place.) Joe had a punching bag concession in Raven Hall for about 30 years and taught many people punching skills.

Joe Pasco lived in B.P. from 1936-50 and then moved to Bay Ridge. He travelled for the

U.S.O. over 100,000 miles with Mickey Walker, Arthur Donovan and Jack Redmond.

Bitetti remembers the stick ball games on the lots and gutters of Boro Park. There were many empty lots in those days and few cars on the streets. He was married at the Holy Ghost Church on 46th St. and 17th Ave. in 1949. His son Stephen was born in 1957 at Sister Elizabeth Hospital on 44th St. near 6th Ave. and is now a Computer Systems Analyst.

Bitetti remembers Petty McCormick, the actress of "Bad Seed" who lived on his block, 17th Ave. between 57th & 58th St. and remembers when her grandmother took her as a small child for dancing lessons.

DEUTSCH & SELENGUT

A recent wedding reception took place in Menorah Hall (14th Ave. & 50th St.) and brought together two prominent Boro Park families (Deutsch & Selengut). Some interesting data was gathered there about Boro Park. The wedding itself was historically significant for Boro Park: The Menorah Hall, an old institution, was sold and was soon to be converted into a Yeshiva; two important Boro Park families were united in marriage; the Deutsch family and many guests present were old time Boro Parkers who played a significant role in its growth and development.

Murray Weber—uncle to Sol Deutsch and partner in Chatham Clothes, remembers when Shulamith School for Girls first started. He says the school began on 13th Avenue, corner of 50th St. in the loft above the present appetizing store in 1929. It later moved into the YMHA of Boro Park and held classes there until the present building was

completed. He adds that his daughter was one of the first students in Shulamith.

Irving Deutsch said his father Jacob (Yaakov Leib) Deutsch was in the parave oil business. He manufactured a product called Parfat which was the forerunner of all current vegetable fats. The family lived at 5614 15th Ave. in a private house. Now an apartment building is located on that site.

Irving recalls that on the corner of 57th St. and 16th Ave., right next to his house was a miniature golf course.

He also indicated that the Congregation of B'nei Yehuda (Sons of Judah) shule used to meet in his father's home for some time during the construction of the Synagogue building now located on 16th Ave. and 63rd St.

Harold Cohen recalls that he and his twin brother Melvin, were among the six students in the first graduating class of Yeshiva Toras Emes, in 1929. The Yeshiva Toras Emes started in 1927 in the Synagogue on 12 Ave., corner 41st St. The others in that graduation class were Joe Erenreich (RIP), Zevy Harris, Abe Cohen (no relation) and Lavina.

David Deutsch said he was in the first kindergarten class of Yeshiva Toras Emes together with Phil Hendel and others.

Other members of the Deutsch family indicated that they would submit additional historical information for our project.

THE JEWS OF BORO PARK

The recently published book, *From Suburb to Shtetl, The Jews of Boro Park* by Dr. Egon Mayer, a Sociology Professor at Brooklyn College, includes some valuable historical information. The following is an excerpt:

"It is noteworthy that, as late as 1867, Henry Stiles makes no mention of any Jewish organizations in his survey of 'Hospitals, Dispensaries, Asylums, Benevolent and Religious Institutions and Associations.' And there seems to have been no Jewish school or

synagogue in Boro Park until 1881. Farms were bought and sub-divided as early as 1891, and it was during this era that the neighborhood came to be known as Boro (or Borough) Park. It was also during this period that Jewish residents make their appearance!

In many respects, Boro Park is typical of the neighborhoods that came to be settled by upwardly mobile immigrants following the extending ganglia of the New York City subway system in the 1920s. Rows of modest single-family and multi-family homes face one another across tree-lined streets and avenues. Here and there a six-story apartment house breaks the suburban landscape, reminding the visitor that this, after all, is the city and not the suburbs. Or, perhaps more correctly, the landscape reminds us that communities like Boro

Park were indeed the suburbs for eagerly Americanizing immigrants of the turn of the century. The name of the community itself appears to have been the invention of one of the many real estate speculators operating in the area at the time. The name has no legal status even today as there are no boundaries recognized by the State or City of New York that would define Boro Park per se. The allure of the name was obviously intended to attract Manhattanites to the "country-like" ambience of newly developing neighborhood....

"By coincidence, the name Boro Park surfaced in popular usage and newspaper articles at about the same time Jews began to settle there. Perhaps for this reason Boro Park has always been considered, at least by Jews, as a Jewish neighborhood."

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

Zweiback Family

Alexander Zweiback was interviewed in one of Boro Park's historical Synagogues known as Rabbi Simpson's Shule (1546-46 St.). He was born on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and moved to the Bronx. In 1917, as a young child, he moved to Boro park with his family. When asked why his family decided to move to Boro Park at that time he responded that they needed a home for the children and the landlords in those days didn't want to take families with children. Have times really changed?

Zweiback attended P.S. 164 (14 Ave. & 43rd St.) and Machzikei Talmud Torah for his Hebrew education. The Machzikei Talmud Torah, then located at 1316 43 St. was one of the largest Hebrew schools in the country. In the 1920's according to Zweiback, about 950 students were on register there. He remembers the principal Mr. Borowsky and the principal before him Mr. Hyman E. Goldin, famous for translating the Code of Jewish Law into English in 1927. The principal following Mr. Borowsky was Dr. Asher Ginsberg. Zweiback vividly remembers the parade that he marched in as a small boy in 1919. The parade started from the Machzikei Talmud Torah and continued until the Hebrew Institute of Boro Park (Yeshiva Etz Chaim) 50th St. & 13th Ave. It was in honor of Nachum Sokolow, President of the Zionist Organization of America who came to visit Boro Park in order to raise money.

Zweiback continued to reminisce excitedly, "The Machzikei Talmud Torah published its own monthly magazine in Hebrew, called 'Bikurim,' and I was on the Editorial Board." Mr. Elyahu

Persky was the supervising teacher of the magazine. Another interesting item he remembered was that Mr. Sliominsky, a teacher at Machzikei Talmud Torah, (later changed his name to Sam Sloan), was a member of the Olympic Committee.

One of the first Rabbis in Boro Park was Rabbi Shapiro of Machzikei Talmud Torah Synagogue. Perhaps the first Vaad Hakashruth (Kosher Super

Supervising Committee) in Boro Park was organized in 1920 by Rabbi Peikes.

Did you ever wonder about the corner building on 16 Ave. and 40 St. which appears to be partially underground. In recent years it has been used as a clothing factory and a food processing plant. Zweiback remembers when it was the headquarters of the Elk's Club and stated that this site previously housed the Beth-El Christian Orphanage. He doesn't know why the building was built partially underground. Could any of our readers explain that?

Zweiback remembers when Boro park was much smaller, with the garbage dumps located at 60 Street and a horse stable on 38th Street.

He remembers the construction of Temple Beth-El especially when the wall on 48 Street side fell in and had to be rebuilt. Also the dedication of the Temple and the presence of Gov. Al Smith at the ceremonies. In connection with this Temple he said nostalgically, "I remember when Chaim Weizman came to Temple Beth-El and I was introduced to him, as a reward, because I collected a great amount of money for the Jewish National Fund."

He remembers singing in Leo Low's choir in Cong. Anshei Sfard (45 St. and 14 Ave.) together with Cantor Yosselle Rosenblatt.

Zweiback has a son Shlomo who is a Rabbi in Mountdale, New York and whose wife is the principal of a Yeshiva-English Dept. Zweiback's daughter is married to Rabbi Stale who teaches in a Hebrew school in Los Angeles. His sister, Lillian Krakow, played and taught piano many years at the Y.M.H.A. of Boro Park. His nephew Ira Krakow was soloist and violinist for the city orchestra.

There are many additional bits of interesting information about the history of Boro Park that are stored in the mind of Alexander Zweiback and we hope he will submit them to this column for future publication.

Port Family

The readers may recall the few articles published a while back dealing with the Synagogue on Ft. Hamilton Parkway corner 49 St. which was demolished last year. In connection with that I met and interviewed Rabbi Herbert Port, one of the early owners of that Synagogue.

Rabbi Port said he purchased that building in 1938 and sold it in 1941 to Rabbi Chaim Bialik. It had previously been known as the Edgwood Church.

It was in 1931 that Rabbi Port first came to Boro Park from South Brooklyn. His father was a Rabbi in the Synagogue on 8th Ave. and 14 St. and died in 1919. He moved to Boro Park, he said, because the population of the area was changing; there were few Jews left. Rabbi Port left Boro Park in 1979 when he retired and moved near the beach in Brighton.

While in Boro park Rabbi Port had been active in the Yeshiva Etz Chaim, Cong. Shomrei Emunah and Shulamith School. His late wife Pearl (R.I.P.) who died in 1972 was President of Mizrahi Women, Tova Chapter. Rabbi Port has two children: David who is now a Psychiatrist.

In Manhattan, and Gilda who is married to Dr. Richard is married to Dr. Richard Josephson and lives in Tampa, Florida.

In response to my questions about his memories of Boro Park, Rabbi Port recalled the following.

Israel Zion hospital (now Maimonides) was built on a lake and he remembers the lake.

He remembers when the "D" train ran on the ground. He used to visit Boro Park before he moved here and was a member of the Zetzel Hapoel Hamizrachi which had a meeting place on 13 Ave. and 46 St. over a store.

Rabbi Port volunteered that he was born in 1904 and remembers

when he was approximately 19 years old that Temple Beth-El was being built. During the construction the entire roof caved in and had to be rebuilt. He said he became a member of Cong. Shomrei Emunah in 1929 when Rabbi Gold was the spiritual leader.

Our readers may have noted that in the two interviews above, mention was made of the construction mishap of Temple Beth-El. One remembered the wall collapsing and the other remembered the roof collapsing. Are they both correct or are they giving different interpretations of the same incident? Can any one of our readers fill us in?

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

LOOKING BACK FROM JERUSALEM

The following letter was sent by Mrs. Bella R. Nemiroff of Jerusalem, Israel. Mrs. Nemiroff was born in Boro Park and lived in the community until she and her late husband, Dr. Israel Nemiroff (R.I.P.) retired and moved to Jerusalem in 1972. The letter includes many interesting flashbacks, important historical information and personal views on the changing community.

NEMIROFF-DUBOWSKY FAMILIES

Dear Mr. Kipust:

Greetings to my friend Mrs. Leah Friedman who contributed historically to "I Remember Boro Park." Compliments on a job well done. However, I would like to expand on the Boro Park of my day having been born and bred in Boro Park. My parents, Rev. Jonah B. and Ida Dubowsky (R.I.P.), came on the scene soon after their marriage. My father was the "first" shochet (kosher slaughter) for the area. Passon & Co. was the market to obtain fresh killed chickens and it was located at 41st Street and 9th Avenue. To avoid attacks of the hoodlums, my father would carry an iron club for protection. Anyone was able to hide and jump out of the tall weeds in all the vacant lots on route from his home on 41st Street near 12th Avenue. Police were a very rare sight at the time.

How beautiful Boro Park was then with Temple Beth El then located on 41st Street and 12th Avenue where we prayed and my father was Chazan Shainee (Second Cantor) and on the High Holidays blew a clear sounding Shofar. Even when Temple Beth El finally moved to 48th Street and 15th Avenue, he continued to pray and blow Shofar downstairs in the Beit Knesset for many years. His closest friend was Rabbi Greenberg (R.I.P.).

Magnificent mansions were seen

on 14th and 15th Avenues. Some stood on plots a block square and even had private police stations on their premises.

The really old time doctors were Dr. Wallfield Sr., and Dr. Schwartz, who practiced on 46th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues; Dr. Kresky, Dr. Rosa Prigosen and Dr. Levine (ear, nose and eye specialist).

Who can forget the train that did not run overhead at 36th Street and also the open air trolleys that ran from 39th and New Utrecht Avenue to Coney Island for 5c a ride.

As for movies, there were two movie houses on Ft. Hamilton Parkway, one opposite the other on 39th Street and 40th Street. One of which was called the Half-Moon. The Royal (movie house) was located on 13th Avenue between 43rd and 42nd Streets. Best of all was the Garden Theater at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue where one could see at least 3 or 4 films during one sitting and be seated outdoors under the stars. Of course, this was popular as no air-conditioning was in existence at the time. Later at the Loew's Boro Park at 51st Street and New Utrecht Avenue, the movie house at 52nd Street and New Utrecht and the Loew's 46th Street, with its vaudeville were part of the entertainment scene.

Above or past the trolley tracks of New Utrecht Avenue were glorious hills for us children to use for sleigh riding. Sometimes my father would take out a horse drawn sleigh in the winter and would permit me to hold the horse's reins. In summer we'd drive along in a fringed top buggy. Those were the days of a real "Park" in Boro Park.

Thirteenth Avenue had its shops from 38th Street to almost 46th Street and from there onward were majestic, well-kept homes. My grandfather, B. Morris Siller (R.I.P.) had a Dry Goods and

Notions store at the 42nd Street corner of 13th Avenue. When Sabbath was approaching he would discontinue sales before 3 P.M. and all customers had to leave. People thought this queer, but his business was about the only one closed for the entire weekend.

The Hebrew Institute was originally the Boro Park Club House and very exclusive. My Aunt Esther, and Uncle Harry Rubin (R.I.P.) were married there and drove up the rounded driveway in a horse and buggy, that was still in existence before the building was dismantled. It should have been declared a protected monument to Boro Park's past glory.

The Public Library was originally on 56th Street near New Utrecht Avenue; then moved to a store between 52nd and 53rd Streets on 43th Avenue before finally reaching its present quarters on 43rd Street near 13th Avenue. It replaced the old Mikveh (ritual bath) which was then relocated at 52nd Street near New Utrecht Avenue. I'm happy to say that I was one of its officers to help achieve a more modern facility.

Who can forget the horse drawn fire engines coming from the firehouse between 42nd and 43rd Streets on 12th Avenue? What a thrill it was to watch the galloping, well-trained steeds.

Although I taught at P.S. 164 until 3 P.M., I then continued to Yeshiva Toras Emeth to teach from 3:30-6:30 P.M. where I taught 3 grades in one room and sometimes more grades when a teacher was absent. Incidentally, my father (R.I.P.), was one of the founders of Yeshiva Toras Emeth and my brothers, Cantor Avrum DuBow and Harold DuBow were amongst the first graduates.

Then in 1936, when Toras Emeth was about to merge with the Hebrew Institute, I was contacted by Mr. Max Kufeld (R.I.P.), the Principal of the Hebrew Institute to see him. Mr. Kufeld persuaded me to teach at the H.I. where I taught for 36 years. This I did because I desired that my son, Elihu, receive a good Hebrew Education. At that time, my husband, Dr. Israel Nemiroff (R.I.P.), was studying

medicine at the American University of Beirut. He had been one of five men to be selected from the U.S. to obtain a medical degree at an English speaking school and supported by Rockefeller Center. So, instead of considering the greater remuneration from the Public School System, I decided that my son's education was worth more than money and I could thus learn more from him than if I were to teach in this school that he would be attending. I taught at the H.I. for 36 years. During these years my grades varied from the 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th grades. Then finally besides teaching the 8th grade, I became the Assistant Principal in the English Department to two of my ex-yeshivah students: Rabbi Benjamin Stepansky who now resides in Jerusalem and then to Rabbi Jerry Karlin.

Machzikei Talmud Torah was on 43rd Street between 13th and 14th Avenues.

P.S. 131 on Ft. Hamilton Parkway between 43rd and 44th Streets was overcrowded and a row of wooden huts looking like a railroad train was built to accommodate more children. It was called "the chicken coop." In order to get to the main building, we would have to put on coats, hats and rubbers (during bad weather) in order to go to the laboratories or deliver messages to the principal's office.

To reminisce: When my husband was accepted to medical school, it was a dream of a lifetime. I encouraged him to close our drug store in order to fulfill his ambition. After finally completing his studies, and returning home by almost journeying around the world to reach New York, he interned and then opened his office. Then when the U.S. Army of World War II needed doctors, he decided to enlist for military service which lasted for more than 3 years. During his

travels, he had seen the plight of Jews fleeing from the holocaust. How could he not help? He was amongst the first volunteers. He truly dealt justly with everyone, loved mercy, and walked humbly with G-d.

When he retired in 1972 we came on Aliyah to Jerusalem, Israel, where he gave his free time to Hadassah Hospital.

As for myself: I belong to the American Mizrahi; am a Board Member of Mizrahi; belong to B'nai B'rith—The National Religious Women; belong to the Organization for Special Children and help raise funds for Keren Yaldenu (to save our children from the missionaries in Israel) which is my pet project.

Oh yes, I almost forgot. The Israel Zion Hospital was in a small wooden 2-family house on either 42nd or 43rd Street between 12th and 13th Avenue where we went when in need of help.

Mrs. Rosalind Jamesse came to Boro Park several decades after my appearance on the scene. My grandmother, my father's mother, Miriam Fagel (R.I.P.) lamented when brought to Boro Park, "Vou must do mir farfieri, auf an Insle? (Where did you mislead me, to an Island?) This comment because everything seemed isolated with mud everywhere. Eggs and milk were bought on nearby farms. Those were the beautiful days of yesteryear. It is really sad to see what has been lost in the demolishing of beautiful, grandiose homes to be replaced by unappealing, unimaginative brick structures. —Bella R. Nemiroff

We are thankful to Mrs. Nemiroff and appreciative of her contribution. Permit me a personal note. Mrs. Nemiroff was my teacher, and one of my favorites at that, in Yeshivah Toras Emes, just before she changed to the Hebrew

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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Institute (etz Chaim).

The following are a few more tidbits of information about the Nemiroffs. Her first addresses in Boro Park were 1362, 1337 and 1314 41st Street. She moved to 4402 12th Avenue about 1920 where she and her family lived most of, if not all, her remaining years in Boro Park. The Nemiroffs had four children born in Boro Park. Two sons, Elihu and Ashley both working on Wall Street, and two daughters, Meryl F. Cohen, a teacher, and Rochelle Lewis, Rehabilitation of Handicapped Teacher. The boys attended Yeshiva Etz Chaim and the girls attended Shulamith Institute. The children no longer reside in Boro Park.

The drug store the Nemiroffs owned at one time was situated on the corner of 44th Street and 12th Avenue, across the street from their home.

If any of our readers wish to comment or add any information, please feel free to do so by sending information to this columnist, c/o The Boro Park Community News.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip I. Epstein

YOUNG ISRAEL OF BORO PARK

The Young Israel Synagogue of Boro Park (YIBP) at 1353 50th Street has had a significant influence on the development and history of Boro Park. It served as a pivotal institution in many ways, connecting the old and the new Boro Park.

The story of the YIBP does indeed represent an important chapter in the history of this community. To write this chapter however would require many interviews and many articles; dealing with the activities, the personalities and the influences of this Synagogue. We will attempt in this article to capture a small part of that story, through an interview with one of its influential past presidents, Max Epstein.

MAX EPSTEIN

The Epsteins moved to Boro Park in 1925 from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The family — Max, his parents and brothers — first moved to 10th Avenue, corner of 45th Street then to 45th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues then to 45th Street between New Utrecht and 11th Avenues and then to 12th Avenue between 55th and 56th Streets. Max was married from there in 1938 to the former Celia Saltzman, a Flatbush girl, who was then teaching in the Yeshivah Etz Chaim. Max says, Celia came to one Boro meeting of the Yeshivah and heard him speaking in Yiddish and fighting for the teachers. That started their romance and life together. Max and Celia have lived in Boro Park at the same address 1236 49th Street since their marriage.

When asked why his family moved to B.P., Max said that the East Side was becoming rundown and deteriorated and B.P. was a more exclusive community to which orthodox Jewish families were beginning to move. In addition he said, "My family moved to B.P. due mostly to the irrefutable fact that B.P. back in the twenties had be-

come the Cantorial Mecca of the world's greatest cantors to wit: Herschman, Quartin and Rosenblatt (RIP). So how could anyone with a musical and religious inclination resist the pull of B.P.?"

YOUNG ISRAEL IN THE 30'S

The interview then gravitated to a discussion of his role in the development of the Young Israel of Boro Park. Max Epstein was one of the prime movers of Young Israel of yesteryear. He was president for four consecutive terms, 1935-38, and in that role was able to accomplish a few highlights and decided benefits to the Boro Park community.

Max pointed out that it was a common sight to see harassed pushcart peddlers on 13th Avenue and side streets shifting from spot to spot, being ticketed, coming to Young Israel asking him to intercede with City Hall. The Public Market erected on 13th Avenue and 39th Street solved this vexing problem.

Kashrut in Boro Park had reached its lowest ebb of "anything goes". So, Max Epstein called a conclave of the presidents of all the Synagogues of Boro Park, including the representatives of the Yiddish newspapers then in existence including Senator Phil Kleinfeld. This conclave met at the old Young Israel building and ordered the independent sho'chtim, ritual slaughterers, to appear at the meeting. After a stormy session, the independent sho'chtim were forced to give up their practice after being guaranteed their former stipend earned formerly. Thus the Vad Hakashrut and Kehilah of Boro Park were formed. The Kehilah gave Young Israel the clout to get other communal projects on the right track and off dead center, as for example, aforementioned the Public Market project.

Young Israel's hallmark of importance has always been its focus on the youth of the neighborhood, attracting Jewish children off the

street, providing them with Jewishly oriented clubs, gym privileges, and lots more. Since Max Epstein was on the Executive Board of The Jewish Teachers Association, he arranged \$500 out of their allocations and equipped a wood-working shop for the children as an extra inducement for joining. As an aside, he had \$300 allocated to the National Council of Young Israel for youth group activities for 30 consecutive years. One greatest satisfaction, points Max Epstein, lies in the fact that many of our present leaders had cut their eye teeth on the Young Israel youth group's pebbling at a

The former old mikvah or ritualarium for women in Boro Park had been a disgrace of the first magnitude. So The Kehilah decided to build a modern showplace structure on 52nd Street attracting even the most fastidious women. Max Epstein, as president of Young Israel, got his brothers, the famous international Twin Cantors to conduct a Mincha service concomitant with a concert at the Shomrei Eumnah Synagogue, free of charge for their services. The seed money raised helped launch the successful modern mikvah project. Incidentally, Max Epstein got the Twin Cantors to contribute their solo musical talents gratis, a gala concert sponsored by the National Council of Young Israel at the old Madison Square Garden.

Max Epstein is justifiably proud of the creation of the Welfare Group in Young Israel. He remembers vividly the many winter Sundays that he together with Philip Reiss (RIP) spent visiting different cemeteries, haggling over prices, before purchase was consummated.

The Epstein family (there are 7 doctorates among the offspring) has lived in Boro Park for the past 55 years. Father, Jacob Michael (RIP) donated his High-Holiday services to worthwhile organizations. The four brothers have all been cantors. Brother Henry has retired from the N.Y.C. Board of Education. Brothers Maurice and Bernard (RIP), as the Twin Cantors, have officiated and concertized all over the world. Brother Max Epstein retired 14 years ago, after having taught Chemistry and Physics, lately

at New Utrecht High School. He has also taught at Etz Chaim, Torah Emes, Shulamith, Rabbi Jacob Joseph and Flatbush Yeshiva. Max Epstein was, for 10 years, the associate cantor at the Concord Hotel and worked with such famous cantors as Barkin, Malamid, Richard Tucker (RIP) and Conductor Shulam Secunda (RIP). He has since been doing cantorial work and acting as religious director aboard religious ocean liners.

At one time or another Max Epstein has served on the Educational Board of Shulamith, Etz Chaim, the Community Council, the former Israel Zion Hospital, and is still serving (52 years) on the Executive Board of the Jewish Teachers Association. He has served as Editor of their publication. He is also Vice President of the New York Convalescent Home.

Max Epstein's helpmate, Ceil, is currently teaching at Pershing Jr. H.S. in Boro Park. She has been one of the founders of the Mizrahi Women's Organization, Tova Chapter, and served as its president and contributor in every facet of the organization. She is a "Life Member" of Mizrahi Women's Tova Chapter, Hebrew Institute for The Deaf, Hadassah, Shulamith Women's Organization, Beth-El Temple Sisterhood, Etz Chaim Women's Organization. Max Epstein feels that her greatest accomplishment was to have born two outstanding children, Jacob Michael a Jr. H.S. teacher and camp director happily married to teacher Lynne Liebman, and to Dr. Lynne E. Heller happily married to Rabbi Zachary I. Heller of Temple Emanuel in Bayonne. Ceil's brother, Sam Saltzman, taught at Etz Chaim and recently retired from his Jr. H.S. principalship. He is now teaching at Kingsboro Community College.

Verily, a paradigm of commitment and service to the community pays off. Thus, Max Epstein was

awarded the coveted Shofar award from the National Council of Young Israel and the "Man of the Year" award by the Jewish Teachers Association of N.Y. Max Epstein firmly believes that service to the community remains the linchpin of the Young Israel.

When asked for some additional memories and thoughts about the B.P. community, Max added the following items. He remembers

when Temple Beth-El had standing room only by YIP and AMCHA on Shabbat days, especially when one of the famous cantors was leading services. The Young Israel Synagogue also had standing room only on Saturday mornings for many years. In both the old and new buildings.

He remembers the beautiful mansion on 48th Street corner 13th Avenue, across the street from Temple Beth-El, which later became Happy

Town kindergarden and then thrown down. While he was president of YIBP in 1936 the Menorah Temple was offered for sale to the YIP for \$25,000.

It was a keen delight in Rabbi L. Schorr, dressed in formal tilling frock and high-stove pipe hat, come on Holidays to Beth-El accompanied by some elected officers.

Some of the most beautiful homes were surrounded by meticulous manicured lawns, flowers and trees. All streets were clean and lined with imposing trees.

In contrast, today the greedy developers buy a home, tear it down with the fruit trees in the back yard and construct two homes, some even without garages, thereby eliminating valuable street parking space. They hate grass and trees.

Most new home owners rarely clean their sidewalks after a snowfall and let refuse accumulate in front of their property.

Unfortunately many of the 13th Avenue merchants are just interested in amassing money so they don't

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I Remember Boro Park

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care a whit about their filthy sidewalks. They have no civic pride.

The Avenue is often blocked by merchandise and parked carriages which obstruct the sidewalks and don't permit passage by pedestrians. On the other hand Boro Park is

now blessed with numerous organizations which provide emergency first aid and all types of welfare and assistance.

We thank Max, one of the longtime residents of this community for his valuable contribution to the history of Boro Park. We also invite our readers to submit information, photos or articles about Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

MARCUS SMOLOWITZ POST

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

After World War II, patriotism was high in this country. Returning veterans, proud of the U.S. victories abroad and of their service to the country, were joining veterans organizations in large numbers. Many branches of these organizations often reflected the composition and views of the local communities.

In Boro Park many returning war veterans were orthodox Jews. A handful of these veterans thought of the idea of forming a Jewish War Veterans Post in Boro Park which would be composed in the main of observant Jews. Such a post would be able to cater to the religious requirements of the observant Jews and protect Jewish values at the same time.

Perhaps the first of its kind, such a post was organized in the Young Israel Synagogue of Boro Park and received a charter from the National Headquarters of Jewish War Veterans in March 1946. The Post No. 218 was named in memory and honor of two young Orthodox Jewish men who lost their lives on the battlefield of Europe during World War II—Stanley Marcus and Herbert Smolowitz.

A total of forty-six men signed up as charter members at that time but the post membership grew to more than two hundred.

This month the post will be celebrating its 35th anniversary. During the years, some of the charter members moved to other areas and some were deceased. The following however are seventeen charter members who still belong and have paid their dues all these years: Phil Tanenbaum, Meyer Neufeld, Max Levine, Sam Lesser, Harold Dubow, Seymour Pearlstein, Abe Katz, Philip Heudel, Joe Aaron, Harry Geller, Milton Ehrenreich, David Deutsch,

Ernest Aaron, Jerry Schleiffer, Milton Feller, Albert Sherman and Ben Gross.

The first Post Commander was Phil Tanenbaum. Some other commanders were Harold Dubow, Gus Weinberger, Julius Berger, Isidore Salch, Dave Friedman, Joseph Eisenback, Harry Levenglick, Abe Orlian, Irving Finkelstein and currently, Joe Silver.

Among its many activities the Marcus Smolowitz post throughout the years has distributed packages to the poor for Passover, visited the sick and disabled veterans, held Synagogue services for Memorial Day, provided contributions to many Yeshivahs and other charitable institutions, was active in helping to protect cemeteries, opposed anti-semitism and other forms of racism and discrimination and supported the State of Israel. As an organization the laws of Sabbath, holidays and kashruth are observed and protected. Yours truly, although not a charter member, has been a proud paid member of this post for most of the years of its fine history.

LETTER FROM A READER

Dear Mr. Friedman:

The "I Remember" column was very interesting in last month's edition researched by Mrs. Nemiroff who did a remarkable job.

However, inadvertently, she overlooked the landmark of the Windsor Theatre which was located on the corner of 40th Street and 15th Avenue during the 40's. I remember my husband baby-sitting on Wednesday nights to allow my friends and I to go there and collect dishes at the same time. Every week a different piece of china was given to the patrons. "Those were the days!"

And today it's just a fenced in empty lot defacing the neighborhood especially the tree-lined block of lovely homes on 40th Street between 15th and 16th Avenue.

Etta Klein

• BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS • MARCH 12, 1961.

ST. CATHARINE OF ALEXANDRIA CHURCH

St. Catharine of Alexandria Church, situated on Fort Hamilton Parkway and 41st Street, celebrated its 79th Anniversary in January 1981. In 1977, to commemorate its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary, a hardcoverd well-illustrated and illustrated book was published which included the history of the church and a summary of the history of Catholic America. This magnificent Jubilee Yearbook was put together, in the main, to understand, by a committee headed by Priscilla Celano. There is no mention in the book of its author, editor or committee; these workers in all humility omitted any credits for themselves.

This Jubilee Journal provides valuable information about the history of the Boro Park community. A more detailed article is planned for the future, but for now the following are the opening paragraphs:

"In The Beginning"

"Seventy-five years ago the parish of St. Catharine's did not exist. The Catholic residents of this section of Boro Park were forced to go some distance to attend Mass, and to receive the Sacraments."

"Available to them were St. Frances de Chantal at Fifty-Eighth Street and Thirteenth Avenue, Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Fifty-Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue, Immaculate Heart of Mary at East Fifth Street, and Ft. Hamilton Parkway and St. Michael at Fort Second Street and Fourth Avenue."

"It was inconvenient and difficult to attend Mass, to have their children properly instructed in their faith, to receive the Sacraments. So in 1901, a group of about one hundred families sent a letter to Right Reverend Charles E. McDonnell, then Bishop of Brooklyn, asking that he please send a priest to establish a parish to care for their spiritual needs and to educate their children."

"The reply of Bishop McDonnell to the letter of petition of the residents of Boro Park was the appointment of Reverend John O'Neill, a young and vigorous Irish-born priest, in early January of the year 1902, as the first resident

pastor of St. Catharine of Alexandria."

Readers are urged to submit personal information and photographs about the history of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kupst

A number of years ago, Brooklyn had its own full-sized newspaper called the Brooklyn Eagle. Old copies of this paper will provide important historical information about Boro Park and will be used in our research work.

The following interesting article that recently came to my attention was printed on June 24, 1916 in the Brooklyn Eagle. Old times and even newcomers to the community should appreciate getting a glimpse of Boro Park and of the times sixty-five years ago.

Brooklyn Eagle, June 24, 1916
Headline reads: **TRANSIT ACCOMMODATIONS—WAITED LONG AND PATIENTLY FOR NEEDED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BOROUGHIS. RUNNING TIME TO BUSINESS CENTERS CUT IN HALF. MARVELOUS GROWTH OF HISTORICAL DISTRICT DUE TO NATURAL ADVANTAGES.**

Boro Park enjoys the distinction today of being one of the most favored sections of the Greater City, in respect to transit accommodations. The busy residential locality has waited long and patiently for the facilities that shortened the distance in railroad time to and from the business centers of Manhattan. Nothing stands in the way now to prevent Borough Park from building up solidly in the business sections and with proper limitation in the residential neighborhoods. The Brooklyn Rapid Transit is providing satisfactory transfer arrangements between the section and Manhattan.

Only a single five-cent fare will be charged for the entire route which will extend from Coney Island direct to Fifty-ninth Street, Manhattan by way of Manhattan Bridge, Canal Street, Broadway to Forty-second Street, and then up Broadway to and through Fifty-ninth Street to Queensboro Bridge.

The stations on the Culver line will be: Fort Hamilton Parkway, Thirteenth Avenue, Ditmas Avenue, Eighteenth Avenue, Avenue I, Twenty-Second Avenue, Avenue N, Avenue P, Kings Highway, Avenue U, Avenue X, Van Sicken Avenue, Surf Avenue (Coney Island). At present the Culver line operates across the

Brooklyn Bridge, up Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn, then from Thirty-Sixth Street it runs on grade the same as above. The elimination of the grade transit and the installation of the new three-door steel subway cars will cut in half the present running time of forty minutes to Borough Park from Manhattan and will more than triple the passenger carrying capacity.

The Tax Department records indicate that the total assessment valuation for Borough Park in 1904 was approximately \$5,500,000, while the estimated aggregate for 1915 exceeds \$19,500,000, an increase in a decade of nearly 300 PERCENT.

Marvelous Growth of Section

One of the oldest and most historical localities in Brooklyn, Borough Park, is particularly favored in its natural advantages being supplied with beautiful trees in abundance. It is one of the highest spots in the borough, and is developed from farmlands that supplied the people of old Brooklyn with vegetables and fruit. The soil of this locality was famous for its productiveness and many farmers reaped substantial fortunes in the days when New Utrecht was a plank road over which ran Mayor Gunter's steam railroad, a single track line running from Fifth Avenue and Twenty-fifth street to Coney Island. There were just seven houses in Borough Park at that time.

The growth of this section since

that time is astonishing to those who have watched the various stages of development. There are today about 200,000 persons living within a radius of a mile. The development and character of the district may be judged from the fact that there are six big public schools and several churches in Borough Park half of which were erected within the past twelve years. The school at Fort Hamilton Parkway and Forty-Fourth Street is the second largest public school in Brooklyn. It was built at a cost of \$265,000 and covers the entire block. There is another school of this size at Fort Hamilton Parkway and Fifty-Fourth Street. Modern buildings of every type may be found in the district. The detached, semi-detached, one and two family

and apartment houses in Borough Park compare with the best designs to be found in the city. They have been built in abundance and are located convenient to the new transit lines. The demand for homes there is increasing every day as indicated in the reports of rentals supplied by real estate brokers doing business in the district.

The elevated road running through New Utrecht Avenue is in operation. It started today and Borough Park citizens are celebrating the event with appropriate ceremonies terminating tonight with a banquet at Sandalphon Hall, Forty Sixth Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, at which city officials and prominent citizens of the section will make speeches.

The opening of the New Utrecht Avenue Line from Thirty-Eighth Street to Sixty-Eighth Street inaugurates a three track branch of the Fourth Avenue Subway which connects as an elevated railroad over New Utrecht Avenue, Eighty Sixth Street and Stillwell Avenue to Surf Avenue, Coney Island.

Construction of the New Utrecht Avenue route from Sixty-Second Street to Coney Island is progressing rapidly, but much of the track laying is yet to be done before trains can be run over the entire line.

Under the dual system contracts

the B.R.T. agreed to build at its own expense elevated extensions in great part over the routes of the old West End line and the old Culver line, which in the past have been operated as extensions of the Fifth Avenue "I" to Coney Island. Hereafter these lines will be known as the New Utrecht line and the Culver line. They are held by the New York Municipal Railway Corporation under a forty-nine year lease from the city.

A departure from the old route of the West End line is made near Thirty-Sixth Street, where the tracks are carried through an open cut west to Fourth Avenue. The city

owns the trackage rights through this cut. At Seventy-Ninth Street the new line leaves the old route and goes over private property for some distance, thence through Eighty-Sixth Street and Stillwell Avenue to Surf Avenue.

The part of the line running through Bath Beach and Ulmer Park, formerly operated as a part of the West End line, will in the future be operated as a trolley line and the tracks on the surface of New Utrecht Avenue will be located beneath the elevated structure so as to give better vehicular traffic facilities to the street.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

by Philip J. Kipust

RABBI WIESNER MEMORIAL

About three hundred people were privileged to attend the Inspiring Dedication Dinner for the Shmaya School in Israel, which took place on January 18, 1981, at Beth Israel Center in Boro Park. The Shmaya School for children born with defective hearing, was established in Israel and named in memory of Rabbi Shmaya Wiesner (RIP).

Rabbi Shmaya Wiesner, one of the former Jewish leaders of Boro Park, came to the U.S. with his wife Sara and four children in 1939, barely escaping the clutches of the Nazis. Before his departure he was the Rabbi of the Linas Zedek Shul in Munich, Germany, the only Synagogue which survived the holocaust and still stands on Reichenbach Street.

In Boro Park he opened a Synagogue next door to the old 66th Precinct station at 1424 49th Street (in a private house) named Cong. Geulah Vysliua. This Synagogue, although small in size, attracted a large congregation including many prominent people of the community such as Dr. Ernest Bodenheimer, Alex Herman, Henry Spira, Morris Rakowsky, Max Finkel, Mr. Elefant, Label Bistrisky, Theodore Katzenstein and Dr. Richard Offenbacher. Through his efforts and personality Rabbi Wiesner attracted many young boys to the Synagogue, which was novel in those days. Rabbi Wiesner also worked for Tomchei Torah, a charity organization that helps poor families.

Thursday, June 4, 1981 (2 Sivan) will be the 20th Yartzelt (Memorial Anniversary) of his departure. His wife Sara was deceased two years later in 1963.

The four married children still reside in Boro Park. Leah the oldest is married to Mickey Schiffer, a retired businessman who is very active in Guardians of the Sick (Bikur Cholim) of Boro Park. Judy

is married to Samuel Friedman and lives in and maintains the Synagogue. Their son, Meir, is assistant principal in Yeshiva Torah Emes Kamenitz. Miriam is married to Rabbi Lezer Perlow who conducts daily shulrim (classes) at the Synagogue. Willie, the only son, is married to Ulma. He is a businessman and prominent philanthropist in the community. He is also chairman of the Board of Yeshiva Torah Temimah. It is mainly through his efforts and financing that the Shmaya School was developed and established as a memorial to his father.

The Shmaya School is under the professional supervision of the Hebrew Institute for the Deaf, a school which started in Boro Park and is now located in Bensonhurst.

DOMINIC SUPLINA

Dominic Suplina is a member of the Boro Park Historical Society committee and an old-time resident of Boro Park.

His parents immigrated to these shores in 1908 from Yugoslavia (Austria-Hungary at that time) and settled in Brooklyn (Sunset area). Suplina was born in 1911 in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. He moved to Boro Park with his family as a young boy in 1924 to 4907 11th Avenue. Their primary reason for moving to Boro Park and purchasing the two-family house was that they were looking for suburban living.

In 1937, Dominic married Rose Belsito who lived around the corner at 1124 49th Street. She was born in Greenwidge Village. Some time later, when his in-laws passed away, Suplina and his wife moved into his in-law's house where they live to this day.

Suplina attended Sacred Heart Parochial School in Red Hook and then Brooklyn Tech High School. When he graduated he obtained a job in Continental Bank which was later taken over by the

Chemical Bank, where he continued working until his retirement. He retired from Chemical Bank in 1972 as Assistant Vice President. The Suplina's have a son Dennis and daughter Eileen, both of whom are married.

The following are a few of the memories of old Boro Park that Suplina shared with us. He remembers fondly the empty lot from 11th Avenue to Ft. Hamilton, from 50 to 51st Streets where the boys played ball—mostly baseball. He remembers the tennis courts which were frozen in the winter and used for an ice skating rink. The location for this was New Utrecht Avenue near 56th Street. He believes the Infants Home is there now.

Suplina has noticed the population change in the area. At one time there were many Irish and Italian families living on his block. Now there are more Jewish families. Also his block contains all the original houses, no rebuilding was done there.

He remembers Ft. Hamilton Parkway in 1924, with the center of the gutter paved while the two sides were dirt roads which were used for horse and carriage paths.

MOVEMENT TO BORO PARK

The following excerpt from Dr. Egon Mayer's book, *From Suburb to Shit, The Jews of Boro Park*, discusses one of the factors involved in the migration of Jews into Boro Park.

"Boro Park was never an area of first settlement, or a typical immigrant enclave. The Jews who moved in and made their homes here were not 'just off the boat' or greeners. Boro Park was, and largely continues to be, an area of second and third settlement. A move to Boro Park was, from the start, a move up. The first Jewish residents in the area were the successful, upwardly mobile immigrants, who had settled some years earlier in either the Lower East Side of Manhattan or in other Jewish ghettos, such as Brownsville (in Brooklyn) or Newark (in New Jersey)...They, and many others like them, saw in the Boro Park community the first signs of the fulfillment of America's promise: a home one could proudly call his own, a neighborhood in which one could take pride and feel secure, and neighbors with whom one

shared some common fate and interests."

Our readers are invited to submit information about Boro Park.

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NEW YORK 112

REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

—Community History—

TEMPLE JOURNAL IS HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

Another document has been developed which will be a contribution to the History of Boro Park Project. The recently-published Journal of Temple Emanuel of Boro Park, commemorating its 77th anniversary and celebrating the 35th Anniversary of continuous community service of its spiritual leader, Rabbi Boruch Silverstein, contains much information about the honoree and the community.

In truth every organization journal and publication is a historical document, and contains valuable information for the historian. In this case, however, the editor, Alan Jay Gerber, who has a special appreciation for history, has included additional historical information. This Journal serves as an addition to the 75th Anniversary Journal published by this Temple under the same editor. That first Journal was very rich in historical information and several excerpts of it were included in this column in the past. The following information in this column has been gathered from the most recent publication.

RABBI BORUCH SILVERSTEIN

Rabbi Boruch Silverstein was engaged as spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel, the only conservative Temple in Boro Park, in 1946, soon after World War II. He has served in this position continuously for over 35 years, longer than any other Rabbi at Temple Emanuel. He has held the pulpit in Boro Park longer than any other Rabbi, with the possible exception of one other, about whom we hope to write in a future column.

Rabbi Silverstein arrived in America from Stawinsk, near Bialystok, Poland, in the late 1920's as a mere teenager. He had studied at the Mirrer Yeshivah in Europe and continued his education here at Yeshivah College, City University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. After graduation he entered the armed forces as a Chaplain during World War II. Many remember his first visit to the Temple, in full army dress uniform.

After being engaged as spiritual leader, Rabbi Silverstein plunged into numerous Temple and communal endeavors. He was the fulcrum and prime mover in the construction plans for a new adjoining center. He writes in the 1948 Souvenir Journal, "...in order to meet these and many more pressing demands of the large Jewish community of Boro Park we, at Temple Emanuel, must begin to think of ways and means of expanding our facilities. The plan which has been gathering much momentum of late is the erection of a Center which would contain modern accommodations for recreational and social activities." He named President Samuel Fine as the ardent advocate of the Center project.

Rabbi Silverstein occupied many important positions of leadership in the community, including such organizations as United Synagogue of America, Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbinical Assembly, Zionist Organization of America, United HIAS Service, the Infants Home of Brooklyn, B'Nai Brith and the YMHA of Boro Park. He was also President of the New York Board of Rabbis.

The Rabbi's wife, Edith Bukspan Silverstein was born in New York City, but her family roots stem

from the city of Jerusalem. She has been active in many organizations. She served as National Vice-President of Junior Hadassah, and as Hadassah Vice President. Although a graduated and experienced social worker, she has also excelled in various dramatic presentations and Book Reviews at Temple functions. The Silversteins are the parents of Deena and Mark Scobliencko, Ira and Sandy Silverstein, and Sheera and Steven Schachter.

GREETINGS FROM GOV. CAREY

The following letter of Greetings, one of many included in the Journal contains some additional historical information.

April 8, 1981

Dear Rabbi Silverstein:

It gives me great pleasure to offer my personal best wishes and congratulations as Temple Emanuel of Boro Park celebrates its thirty-fifth year of spiritual and community leadership.

My personal friendship with you extends over many years, going back to the days when I was a Congressman in your district. Many times I attended functions at Temple Emanuel and had the privilege to participate in several richly-deserved honors which were bestowed upon you.

I was deeply honored to be a guest speaker at your Installation as President of the New York Board of Rabbis, and I was delighted when you accepted my invitation to deliver the Invocation at my second Inauguration.

You have been an effective spiritual force in the State of New York and I extend to you and Mrs. Silverstein my good wishes, as well as the best wishes of all the citizens of our State.

Sincerely,
Hugh L. Carey

We invite other institutions to send us copies of Journals and other literature which includes historical information.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

The guest writer this month is Dominic Suplina, a member of the Boro Park Historical Society's Executive Board. Now retired, Mr. Suplina was Assistant Vice-President of Chemical Bank's International Division.

BORO PARK'S "B" (West End)

By Dominic Suplina

As a long-time resident of Boro Park (56 years), I have often wondered about the origins of that railway system running through Boro Park, now called the West End or "B" Line.

In 1864, a line called the Brooklyn, Bath and Coney Island Railroad, began running trains. This private corporation officially began on February 19, 1862 by a group of Brooklynites headed by Alfred H. Partridge. This line ran from the then-east border of the City of Brooklyn, 36th Street and 5th Avenue to Bath (65th and New Utrecht Avenue). The line was a single-track railroad, and its tracks ran on the Greenwood Road, the street now running alongside the south end of Greenwood Cemetery (37th Street), and then on the Bath Plank Road (now New Utrecht Avenue) to 65th and New Utrecht. It should be remembered that all the tracks were "on grade," that is to say, on the ground. In 1864, the line was extended from 36th Street and 5th Avenue to 27th Street and 5th Avenue. This extension connected with the horse car trolleys running along 5th Avenue from downtown Brooklyn. This new single-track line used very small engines called "dummy" engines.

In 1867 the line was extended from Bath to Coney Island, becoming the first steam engine to reach that resort. The rolling stock consisted of about 30 cars and 8 tiny locomotives. The round-trip

fare was 25¢. Sixteen years later, in 1883, the line began using regular steam engines which were able to maintain speeds of 18 to 20 miles an hour between stations.

The stops beginning at 27th Street and 5th Avenue were: Union Depot (36th St. & 5th Ave.); Toll Gate (9th Ave. & New Utrecht Ave.); West Brooklyn Ft. Hamilton Parkway; Kay's Hall (50th St.); Blythebourne (55th St.); Bath Junction (62nd St.).

The Brooklyn Bath and Coney Island Railroad changed its name to the Brooklyn, Bath and West End Railroad in 1885. Two years later the line was granted permission by the State of New York to change part of the single-track to a double-track. To allow for the increase in riders from Manhattan to Coney Island via the 39th Street Ferry, a branch line connected at West Brooklyn (Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 44th Street). There the lines coupled for the trip to Coney Island. There were only seven houses in Boro Park at that time.

In 1893 the company was authorized by the State of New York to change the motive power from steam to overhead electricity. Installation was completed in November 1893, and the first trolley trains were run. These trains consisted of one motor car and three "trailers" and ran from the 39th Street Ferry to Coney Island.

The elevated "B" West End Line we use today began running on June 24, 1916, along New Utrecht Avenue. The route ran from 38th Street to 62nd Street along a triple-track. Then the West End was called The New Utrecht Line, owned by the Municipal Railway Corporation. Your attention is called to the northeast steps of the 50th Street station where a sign reads "Municipal Railway."

In the same year that the West End opened, the below-ground cut from the 9th Avenue Station to 36th Street and Fourth Avenue was also in operation. An additional elevated section, from 62nd Street to 25th Avenue, opened on July 29, 1916, the final portion to Coney Island on July 21, 1917. These different sections now compose the current trackage of the West End Line.

The following recent correspondence is self explanatory. Dear Mr. Kipust,

Our community is beholden to you for sharing with us fascinating historical information about our beloved Borough Park. Your most recent column spotlighted the lengthy service to the community rendered by Temple Emanuel led by Rabbi Silverstein who "has held the pulpit in Boro Park longer than any other Rabbi, with the possible exception of one other."

Without detracting from the important long-term leadership rendered by Rabbi Silverstein, your readers may be interested in knowing that at least two other Rabbis have served with distinction in leading Orthodox synagogues in Borough Park for even longer durations. One is Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr, the noted religious mentor and orator of Temple Beth-El. The other is Rabbi Dr. Aaron Wertheim, the venerable spiritual leader of Bnai Israel of Linden Heights Jewish Center (4502 Ninth Avenue) who is on the very threshold of his jubilee (50th anniversary) exclusively in the pulpit of this congregation starting way back in 1932. A casual conversation with Rabbi Dr. Wertheim will reveal that he is a veritable walking wellspring of historical information on neighborhood names, places and faces.

The Jewish Center itself is approaching its 60th anniversary. In the name of our community, we extend our gratitude to the conscientious publisher of the *Boro Park Community News*, Mr. Jacques Friedman, for being the only media manager to encourage a continuing column which explores the fascinating history of our neighborhood, as professionally presented by you.

Yours In Sincerity,
Joseph B. Fuchs, Vice President
Bnai Israel of Linden Heights
Jewish Center

Many thanks to Dominick Suplina and Joseph B. Fuchs for their valuable contributions. On a

personal note I would like to point out that Rabbi Dr. Wertheim was the clergyman who married my wife and myself and was therefore very pleased to receive this correspondence.

We invite your letters, comments and photos pertaining to Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Longest Serving Rabbi

Considerable interest has been raised about the question of who is the longest serving pulpit Rabbi in Boro Park, which was discussed in the previous two issues of this column. In one article based upon the Temple's recent Journal it was stated that Rabbi Boruch Silverstein of Temple Emanuel "has held the pulpit in Boro Park longer than any other Rabbi, with the possible exception of one other, about whom we hope to write in a future column." Rabbi Dr. Silverstein was first appointed to his position in Boro Park in 1946.

Subsequently we received a letter from Joseph Fuchs who correctly pointed out that there are two Rabbis in Boro Park who have served for longer periods, Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr of Temple Beth-El and Rabbi Dr. Aaron Wertheim of Bnei Israel of Linden Heights Jewish Center who has served in this position since 1932.

"In order to help resolve this issue, which is an important one in terms of the history of Boro Park, I interviewed Rabbi Schorr briefly and obtained the following information.

Rabbi Schorr came to Boro Park in 1927 from Kocov in Galicia, Poland. He had been a Dayan (Rabbinical Judge) in that City. He had been a student of the world famous Rabbinical scholar Rabbi Meir Arak (ZT'L). His first position in Boro Park started in 1927 as Rabbi in Congregation Tiferes Yisroel on Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 57th St. That congregation brought Rabbi Schorr to this country.

He was next appointed as Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel on 11th Ave. & 56 St. in 1931. His current position as Rabbi of Temple Beth-El started in 1937.

In conclusion then we find that Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr is currently the longest serving pulpit Rabbi in Boro Park, having

served continuously for 54 years. However, Rabbi Dr. Aaron Wertheim has served continuously in the same Synagogue for the longest period of time, over 49 years. We might add that they are also most probably the longest serving of any current clergyman of any religious denomination in the Boro Park community.

OTHER RECOLLECTIONS

During the brief interview with Rabbi Schorr we obtained some additional information. Some of the early Rabbis in Boro Park were Rabbi Teitelbaum (R.I.P.) in Cong. Anshei Sfard 45 St. & 14 Ave., but he was an unofficial Rabbi there, Rabbi Peikes (R.I.P.) of Congregation Shomrei Emunah, 14th Ave. & 15 Ave., and Rabbi Shapiro of Congregation Machzikei Talmud Torah there at 1315 - 43 St.

His impression of Boro Park during his early years here were that the community was aristocratic, suburban, a community where many wealthy and prominent figures resided. He also recalls that the distinction between Boro Park then and now was in the observance of Orthodox Jews. In those days Rabbi Schorr

recalls that it was very difficult for a Sabbath observing Jew to obtain a job. Most business was conducted seven days a week, later it became reduced to six days a week. He recalls many religiously observant Jews who came crying to him because they had to work on Shabbos or starve. There was no Welfare or other government aid to the poor in those days. Many men would pray with Tails and Tephillin daily in Synagogue and work on Shabbos. Some elder folks would cry because they had to wake their children on Shabbos in order to get to work on time. To be a Sabbath observer was a real sacrifice in those days. That is a far cry from Boro Park today where an open Jewish business on Saturday in the community is the rare exception.

We hope to have an opportunity to interview Rabbi Schorr again and Rabbi Wertheim in the future in order to obtain additional valuable information about the history of Boro Park.

JACK FOGEL

At a recent wedding (Sept. 16, 1981) of a Boro Park girl, Miriam Teitelbaum to Heshy Blumstein, 1

was seated next to Jack Fogel, an old time Boro Park resident, and didn't miss the opportunity to interview him. We bring this information at this time because some of it is related to our discussion above.

Jack Fogel's parents Louis (R.I.P.) and Gertrude (R.I.P.) first moved to Boro Park in 1920 from the Bronx. They purchased the house at 965-46 St. which was one of the first houses on the block. Jack, the second of four boys, was born in Israel Zion Hospital (Now Maimonides) in 1924.

Jack remembers the old building of P.S. 131, Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 43 St. where he was a student. It had a row of wooden shacks in the yard, lined up in a row. These shacks were used as individual classrooms. He also remembers attending the New Utrecht H.S. Annex at P.S. 105, Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and 58 St. in a wooden building in the school yard. After one half year he attended the New Utrecht H.S. Annex at P.S. 180 on 16 Ave. & 56 St. top floor for 1 1/2 years. After school hours he attended the main building of New Utrecht H.S. to take trumpet lessons, and

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walked both ways daily. His last two years of high school were completed at the main building of New Utrecht H.S.

Jack also recalls the Annex of New Utrecht H.S. which was housed at P.S. 192, 18 Ave. and 48 St., on the top floor. His older brother Murray attended there.

His family purchased a house and moved there, 1427-46 St., in 1945. His father was deceased there in 1949. In 1950 Jack married the former Jeanette Eider, a Bensonhurst girl, and they are the proud parents of 5 boys and 1 girl. Then in 1951 his mother was deceased. In 1960 he purchased and moved to his current home at 1665-53 St.

Jack's youngest brother Jerry and wife Rozzy (nee Feller) of A-Z Luggage were both born and continue to reside in Boro Park as well.

Jack remembers the Bnei Israel of Linden Heights Synagogue in the Old building which was a one floor taxpayer style structure. One had to walk down several steps to enter. He remembers Rabbi Rabinowitz who preceded Rabbi Wertheim. Mr. Charnev was Principal of the Talmud Torah in that Synagogue where Jack received his Hebrew education. Rabbi Wertheim was subsequently appointed to the position of Principal of the Talmud Torah as well as the Rabbi of the Synagogue.

The Linden Heights Synagogue, which had a tremendous capacity. Jack thinks about 1500 on the holidays, was completely destroyed by fire in 1939. The Sifsei Torah which were burned in the fire are buried in the old Montefiore Cemetery. During the construction of the new building the congregation used the Linden Heights Center building, next door, which is now occupied by the Tomer Dvora School for Girls.

Jack also recalls that the corner of 60 St. and Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. now occupied by the Rotter Derby and previously for many years by Rogers Pontiac, was once the site of the Bordens Milk Company plant. He remembers the horses and wagons lined up there that were used to deliver the cans of milk.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

A very interesting article about Boro Park was recently brought to my attention. It was written by Dr. Joseph Kaminsky, then National Director of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, and currently National Director Emeritus. The article entitled Boro Park was published in Jewish Life in Oct. 1953.

Although the article was undoubtedly of interest and significance when it was published exactly 28 years ago, to my mind it is far more interesting and significant today than it was then. It describes and captures the mood and essence of the Jewish community in Boro Park at the time, as viewed by one of its noted and esteemed residents. More than that it gives us an opportunity to behold the many substantial changes that have taken place within our community during these years. The following excerpts represent the major parts of the article. It was difficult to exclude much because all of it seemed so relevant.

"Local Patriotism" is no idle term. Many Jews in Boro Park are no doubt constantly tempted to move "out on the island" (at least to Far Rockaway), to the greener pastures of Forest Hills or its environs, or similar new communities being invaded by our brethren. Yet, they cannot seem to leave what even the coldly objective demographer would have to designate as the most constant Jewish community in New York City. For, in point of fact, Boro Park has remained primarily a Jewish neighborhood for close to forty years or more. Sections like the East Side and Brownsville once enjoyed their

heyday, had their share of glamour and were each designated at certain periods as the "Yerushalayim d'Amerika"; but Boro Park has continued to hold its own throughout population shifts, economic vicissitudes and the like. Even today, in the face of so many alluring new Jewish neighborhoods, it maintains its vitality with an uncommon and uncanny steadfastness....

"Boro Park, the old residents tell me, received its name by virtue of the fact that it was once the park of Brooklyn. Almost all of its streets - stretching in orderly fashion from 9th to 18th Avenues and 40th to 60th Streets in the southern part of Brooklyn - are lined with trees and contain private residences; and the neighborhood still maintains its park-like appearance. Its close to 70,000 Jewish families have been there - in the main - for years, staying on despite the rising barometer of their economic fortunes ("b'li eyin harah"). Fairly well-to-do "baalebatsche" Jews dwell shoulder to shoulder (alleys between the houses of course) with their poorer brethren in a spirit of unity and democracy which would please any lover of America. Many of the homes have been changed: new wings have been added for married children and grand-children. But, essentially, Boro Park has remained as constant in its appearance, by and large, as its indomitable spirit.

"Where does this spirit come from, and how is it nurtured? Following the wise words of the poet laureate of modern Jewry, Chaim Nachman Bialik, let us go first to the Beth Hamidrash, or to the synagogue.

Very few of the larger synagogues in the central part of Boro Park - from 45th to 52nd Streets between 13th and 15th Avenues - seem to be worried as to regular worshippers on the Sabbath and Holidays.... If anything, some of the centrally located synagogues are bursting at the seams. The well-known Shomrei Emenah Congregation - to many the aristocrat of synagogues in the community - would hardly be able to cater to all its members if it were not for its famous "Hashkumah - First Minyan" on the Sabbath and Festivals, which takes care of at least 200 regular attendants. The Young Israel of Boro Park has "standing room only" every Shabbath, and cannot wait for the day that its new building, now only a steel shell, will take on "bones and flesh." And one must fairly fight for breathing space in the synagogue of the Agudath Israel - still fondly referred to as "the Zeirel," since it started out as a youth center. Boro Park's major synagogues, spiritually led by the finest types of America's orthodox Rabbinate, are still as vital as they were decades ago, if not more so.

"In this realm of synagogue activity, one cannot help but be impressed once again by the spirit of unity which prevails among the congregants. Perhaps in no other community in America (and I am a travelling man) have I seen all of the major orthodox synagogues getting together on a

common project. The "Joint Friday Night Forums," sponsored by the four major synagogues - Shomrei Emunah, the Sephardische Shul, Young Israel and Temple Beth-El (a "temple" only by virtue of its gala physical appearance; it is 100% orthodox) - are a tribute to the spirit of cooperation which permeates our Boro Park."

"In discussing our synagogues, it is interesting to indicate, too, that in our community of 70,000 Jewish families, there is but one Conservative Congregation and one Reform temple..."

"A few words, first, as to some of our communal establishments and activities. Besides the YMHA on 14th Avenue, Boro Park has a Zion Center of its own, now located in a new building on 45th Street, which houses among other organizations a "Beth Knesseth Ivri" - a synagogue where all announcements are made in Hebrew, which sponsors a Jewish hospital - the Malmonides, Israel Zion Hospital - an Infant's Home and a number of large Kosher catering emporia. Even our public library has a fairly good selection of Judaica for young and old."

"Every major Jewish-national organization has its branch or group of branches in Boro Park. The Zionists, as mentioned, have their Zion Center. Mizrahi and Mizrahi Women play an active role in the community. Hapoel Hamizrachi has various types of groups - for single people, for

married couples, for women and for "oldtimers" - forming a council of their own for common activity. We have B'nai Akiva, Young Israel and Agudath Israel youth groups and Habonim too. (There are rumors, though, that the last group finds the neighborhood too "frum" and is considering selling its building to Hapoel Hamizrachi.) Our special pride and joy, however, are our institutions of Torah."

"Higher Jewish learning is represented by the Beth Yosef or "Navarodoker" Yeshivah on 49th Street, which carries on in this country a rich heritage, combining Jewish learning with "ustuh" - communal endeavor."

"Jewish education is sponsored by a few still thriving intensive Talmud-Torahs and an impressive group of Yeshivoh Ketanoh. The latter merit an article all their own - so rich and varied are they in their approaches. The Eytz Chaim Yeshivah, fronting an entire block on 13th Avenue (the Main St. of Boro Park) from 50th to 51st Streets, is still one of the most impressive Yeshivah buildings I have ever seen. It has an old and rich history; and its graduates have contributed to Jewish life throughout the world. Its friendly competitor in the field of "kinath sofrim," the Yeshivath Torah Emeth, has just acquired a new building - and keeps growing in scope and stature. Between the two, Boro Park's young males do not go wanting for intensive Jewish education. Our two girls' schools - the Shulamith School for Girls and the Beth Jacob of Boro Park - are both doing a tremendous job for the distaff side of our younger generation."

Our Chassidic neighbors, too, have just bought a new building for their own type of Yeshivah - The Yeshivah and Mesivta Be'er Shmuel - which attracts the

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I Remember Boro Park

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comparatively new arrivals to our community. All in all, we parents in Boro Park are enriched by a galaxy of Day schools which is the envy of Jewish communities the world-over.

"We must interrupt this bright picture, however, to record a grave blot on our escutcheon. Our fine Shulamith School has been endeavoring for years to complete its new building - together with the Young Israel - but does not seem to be able to arouse the larger community to its great need. It is carrying on heroically, nonetheless, in three separate buildings. Perfection, it seems, is unattainable even in Boro Park."

"The study of Torah is not limited to our Torah institutions, however. Far from it. Our synagogues are not merely Houses of Worship; they are veritable Houses of Study. The Young Israel of Boro Park is one of the few synagogues in the country which sponsors the "Daf Yomi" - the daily study of a "blat Gemorah" instituted by the late Lubliner Rav. The Beth Hamidrash of Shomrei Emunah is world-famous for its "chevroth" (small circles of students) and regular "chevroth," groups studying various portions of Jewish lore....

Add to those the myriad of small groups studying day and night in the Shomrei Emunah Beth Midrash, in the "Shomer Shabbos" shabbos on 13th Avenue and 53rd St., and in the many other

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

shitlach and, Batley Midrash which stud almost every street in Boro Park. Is there any wonder, then, that our streets have a "ruach," a spirit of Torah?

"Yes, walk the streets of Boro Park on a Friday night, on a Yom Tov, and even early on a Shabbath morning - and the sights you will see will remind you of Betz, of Meah Shearim, of Krakow and Warsaw - as you have seen or imagined them. There is so much to see that only a kaleidoscopic picture can suffice."

"On a Shabbath, you will find grocery stores, barbers, bakers, tailors, sporting "Shomer Shabbos" signs in droves along 13th and 16th Avenues, our main business thoroughfares. Early Sabbath morning - as you rush to the First Mitzvah - you will see rebbeysim (we have the best of them) and their chassidim coming out of the mikvah with the very spirit of the Shechinah on their shining countenances. On Simchat Torah night, you will find that our cooperative police have closed off traffic, on 47th Street from 13th to 14th Avenues, to allow our B'nei Akiva, Pirchei Agudah, Young Israel Juniors - and adults too - to cavort to their hearts' desires. Before Shabbath, you will see Chassidim in long kattan and shitbel officers with tan sport shoes running to greet the Sabbath. On Shavuoth night, you can make a 4:00 a.m. minyan in any one of a few places. During Selichoth week, you can take your choice of a 10:00 p.m., midnight, or early morning minyan. On Rosh Hashonah, you, need a

traffic policeman to keep the mobs in line on their way to Prospect Park for Tashlich. On Sukkoth, you need more than a week to inspect all of the kinds of sukkoth and their decorations which line our streets. And here, there, and almost everywhere, you can spot "eruv-wires" strung across alley-ways to allow for Sabbath carrying."

"Despite this intensity of Jewish living, however, the Boro Park Jewish Community is far from a ghetto - in the strict sense of the term. It represents no mere transplantation of foreign ways to the park-like climes of South Brooklyn. It is totally American in appearance and outlook."

Most of the Jewish inhabitants of Boro Park have been in this country for many years. A large proportion of them were born here. All the synagogues feature sermons or classes in English. The Jewish institutions and organizations sponsor ball games, picnics and card-games (sometimes even square dances). The fine ultra-modern dress-shops, beauty parlors and haberdasheries on 13th Avenue do a thriving business. Boro Park is, indeed, as fine a representation of an American-Jewish community as you can find on these shores."

"As indicated, Boro Park is essentially a middle-class community. It has many fine private homes and new apartment buildings. Its Jews are active in the textile, dress and "ready-to-wear" trades. It boasts a goodly number of professionals - especially lawyers, accountants and teachers, as well. Yet, the

well-known spirit of "keeping up with the Joneses" (or should we say Goldbergs?) seems to have bypassed this democratic little community. The spirit of neighborliness is everywhere evident. A Friday night walk on 13th Avenue is not even a stroll. Walk a few steps and you are greeted by a neighbor, a friend or an acquaintance. Everybody just seems to know everyone else. On a Yom Tov or Shabbath, house visits are made all around town. It is even difficult to get home on

time for Shabbath lunch. You just have to stop here and there, for Kiddush with your neighbors. Neighborliness thrives in Boro Park like its Jewish spirit."

"All this and more - much more - is our Boro Park. Is it any wonder, then, that the hardy among us prefer to stay there?"

We would be interested to hear your comments and descriptions of the changes that have taken place since 1953 and hope to present them in future issues."

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

ASSEMBLYMAN SAMUEL GREEN

The late Assemblyman Samuel Green is one of the earliest residents of Boro Park about whom we have received information. Our thanks to School Board Member Alan J. Gerber for submitting this information.

Adele Kanstoran, retired Guidance Counselor of John Jay H.S. and still active, alongside her husband David, in Temple Emanuel, is a daughter of the late Assemblyman Samuel Green.

The following article was obtained from an undated newspaper clipping in the Inquirer.

PROMINENT CITIZENS OF THE 16TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

"Samuel R. Green, born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 25th, 1877, received a public school education in the City of New York, served in Company H 14th regiment, Brooklyn Volunteers during the Spanish American war and with the Medical Department of the United States Army during the Philippine Insurrection, and although still being a young man, has served during two wars. He was married in 1904 to Miss Ray Shapiro, and now has three children, the eldest, Sydney, being 8 years old; the second a daughter, Adele, 5 years old; and the youngest, Nathaniel, a boy 3 years of age.

"He is in the wholesale drug business situated at the Bush Terminals, being the secretary and treasurer of the Hudson Zundel Co. He was elected to the Assembly from the 16th Assembly District in 1913 by a large popular vote; has introduced and fought for an 80-cent Gas bill for the 30th and 31st Wards, a Greater City Street Telephone

measure, and a very popular 20-year Installment Assessment bill on improved property, which Mayor Mitchell Vetoed, on account of his independent stand against the Mayor's Police bills.

"He resides at 1454-45th Street, Borough Park, is a member of the Manufacturers and Business Men's Association of Brooklyn, Menora Lodge F. and A.M., Blythebourne Council Royal Arcanum, 3rd Vice President of the 16th Assembly District Republican club, a member of the Kings County Republican committee, the Spanish American War Veteran Association, Temple Emanuel of Borough Park, Young Men's Hebrew Association, New Utrecht Dispensary, Machzike Talmud Torah school, and other Charitable Institutions. He was the first secretary of Temple Emanuel of Borough Park and served on its Board of Trustees for five years, and was one of the Founders of that Institution."

Another clipping points out, "Assemblyman Samuel R. Green who on Tuesday introduced a bill at Albany having its object the reduction of the price of gas in the Thirtieth Ward of Brooklyn to eighty cents, is new to the legislature.... In serving at Albany he is really making a personal financial sacrifice. His election over Democratic and Progressive candidates was by a substantial majority."

In two letters dated May, 1917 and Oct. 1918, Assemblyman Green's address is listed as 1446-46 St. In the previous clipping his address was listed as 1454-45 St. In another clipping his address is indicated as 45 St. and 12th Ave. Undoubtedly he lived at

those three addresses and probably others as well. Previous Boro Parker's have indicated that families moved to new apartments frequently in those years.

Three other newspaper clipping excerpts which tell about his fight for the Coney Island boardwalk are of interest and follow.

"Assemblyman Samuel R. Green of Brooklyn introduced a bill in the lower House at Albany yesterday to pave the way for the building of a municipal boardwalk and recreation piers along the Coney Island waterfront. Green is a Republican from the Sixteenth Assembly District, which includes Coney and he is therefore greatly interested in the boardwalk project."

"It is seldom we get the opportunity to praise deserving office holders for their efforts in behalf of the people they represent, but surely, the aggressive and untiring energy of our Assemblyman, Samuel R. Green should not go unnoticed at this time.

"Mr. Green has introduced a bill authorizing the Commissioners of the Land Office to grant, the New York those lands necessary to acquire before a boardwalk can be built at Coney Island. The bill has been advanced to the third reading calendar, and will undoubtedly become a law sometime the latter part of this month."

(SPECIAL TO THE EAGLE)

Albany, May 9 - Assemblyman Green's bill paving the way for the erection of boardwalk at Coney Island, went to Governor Whitman for signature or veto late today. It went through the Assembly sometime ago and early this morning it was passed in the Senate. The bill gives the Commissioners of the Land Office, the power to deed to the City of New York land under water along the Coney Island waterfront for the purpose of erecting the walk.

The bill provides that if the concession is not taken advantage of within three years after the land is ceded, title to it shall revert to the State."

MICHEL-SECTO

A number of people have asked how we select the people to write about and why we didn't write about them. The answer is simple. Priority is given to materials and information that are sent in to us. Next priority is given to interviews of individuals that we chance to meet and who volunteer information. We also include occasional material researched from newspapers, books and magazines. If you have some information about the history of Boro Park or your own family in Boro Park, why not send it in. If you don't like to write you can tape it on a Cassette and submit it.

We chanced to meet and obtained a brief interview from Edward Michel, owner of Secto Exterminators, in Bay Ridge. Michel said he lived in Boro Park with his mother and family on 16th Ave., between 44 and 45th Sts. from 1920-1927. The family moved out of the community for about ten years. They moved back in 1937 to 4223 14th Ave. until about 1961.

Michel remembers a few old Boro Park scenes. He recalls very vividly the cops who rode the streets on bicycles and also the street lamp lighters who walked around each evening lighting the street gas lights. He remembers the Eagle Theatre which was across 16th Ave. from the present Montauk J.H.S. and 42 St. There was an open air theatre adjacent to the closed theatre where the apartment house now stands. He fondly recalls how he and his friends played as children by pushing each other around the streets in the grocery push carts. Finally, he still remembers the trolley cars which ran along 16th Ave. on the trolley tracks. He remembers the trolleys having to turn on the tracks when they came to Dahill Rd. following the same path as the current bus. Edward Michel ended a little philosophically when he said, "We knew what hard times were and appreciated life much more then, than young people do today."

Remember to send in your information, photos or clippings about Boro Park. We also have several vacancies on the Boro Park Historical Society. Write or call me at Ge 6-7729 if you are interested in joining.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky

In November we printed parts of an article entitled *Boro Park* which was written by Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, and published in *Jewish Life* in 1953. At that time we indicated that it would be interesting to compare the Boro Park of 1953 and 1981. Before we do that let's catch a few glimpses of the author himself as a Boro Parker.

Dr. Kaminetsky first moved to B.P. in 1941 when he married a Boro Park girl, Shulamith Lebowitz. Since then except for a short period of time when they lived on the West Side of Manhattan, they have lived in this community continuously. Their first address was 40 Fehama St. then they moved to 1218A-55 St. and finally to their current address at 1466-54 St.

Of their five children born in B.P. only Nechama who is married to Melvin Steinhardt still lives and is active in this community. Daughter Felgy married a Boro Park boy Joseph Hochberg and daughter Symle lives in Israel with her husband Eliezer Liff. Son David married Suri Hochberg, a B.P. girl, and son Judah married the former Esther Weinstein.

Dr. Kaminetsky's activities were in the main centered around his monumental work as National Director of Torah Umesorah and Editor of the *Jewish Parent*. However, in addition he has been an active member of Hapuel Hanizrachti, program chairman at the Y.M.I.A., member of Shomrei Emenah Synagogue and member of Radziner Shitel. He was also one of the founders and president of Tevunah Synagogue on 53 St. between 13 and 14 Ave. where the Satmar Yeshiva is now located. Rabbi Chaim Zimmerman lectured regularly at one time at that Synagogue. Dr. Kaminetsky is most proud of the small study group he has participated in regularly at Shomrei Emenah for the past 35 years along with Sol Deutsch,

Noah Daniels, Dr. Robert Blau and others. He is also considering the invitation to do a brief sequel to his article on Boro Park which he would contribute to this column when completed.

BORO PARK THEN and NOW

The following are some of the differences noted between Boro Park 1953 as described in that article and Boro Park 1981. The article and the comments refer mainly to the Jewish community.

Many of the residents in Boro Park in 1953 have moved away. This includes many Italians and many Jews, including Orthodox Jews. The incoming residents of Boro Park during these years were in the main Hasidic Jews and, Yeshiva Rebbes and students. There has also been an increase in Hispanic residents in the community and in immigrants from Hungary and Russia.

The community lost its park like appearance with the disappearance of lawns empty land and spaces between buildings. This was due to the active new construction of attached houses on smaller parcels of land.

There are so many new houses in B.P. that some blocks are not recognizable to old timers of the community. Although the new buildings modernize and enhance

the community in some ways they have at the same time taken away some of the charm of the old community.

The large Synagogues which were "bursting at the seams" then, are relatively empty nowadays on Sabbath mornings. This is so even though the population and numbers of worshippers has increased substantially. It is due primarily to the fact that numerous small Synagogues have opened up throughout the community. There aren't many square blocks in Boro Park which doesn't have at least one Synagogue.

The number of Hebrew Day Schools or Yeshivas in the community has increased tremendously. In 1953 there were five such schools and one Yeshiva Seminary (Beth Joseph). This year there are forty one Day Schools and about a dozen Seminaries. In addition there were several thriving Talmud Torahs then and none today in the community. The five Day Schools of 1953 have new locations or new buildings today. Yeshiva Eliz Chaim is closed and the building, a Boro Park landmark, thrown down.

In 1953 a number of stores were closed on Saturdays and few were open on Sundays. If one walks along 13 Ave. today on Saturday it would be very difficult to find any stores open, even non-Jewish stores. On the other hand on Sundays, 13 Ave. has become a major shopping area today and so busy that police have to direct

traffic. No left turns are permitted on many streets on Sunday and women have difficulties maneuvering baby carriages because of the crowds.

Due to the changing population there are fewer large churches in Boro Park today. However, a few small store front churches serving the Hispanic community have been opened. Also the large Holy Ghost Catholic parochial school on 17 Ave. and 46 St. has been built since then.

Maimonides Hospital has been greatly expanded and several new buildings added since then. Also the Maimonides Mental Health Center and the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center are new additions to the community. In addition we now have many new organizations, a local hotel, two new wedding halls and several councils helping to unite organizations and the community.

Many changes in business have also taken place. We have no more movie theatres, we have lost almost all of our candy stores and have witnessed changes in the types of many other retail stores.

Although the changes indicated are numerous and significant we have by no means included all the changes that have taken place in this 28 year period. If you have any comments about the changes in the community during this period please write to us. Your memories and remarks should be interesting to others.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Boro Park, and this column which describes it, continue to attract the attention of individuals outside of the community. Several students working on reports, masters thesis and doctoral dissertations have contacted us to obtain information and interviews in order to help them in their study of the Boro Park community. We've had students from Brooklyn College, Bernard College, Wurzelweil School of Social Work of Yeshiva University, and even Cornell University, making such contacts. There is considerable interest in this community and very little published about it. All those contemplated studies plus the work of this column and the Boro Park Historical Society, will hopefully provide more printed information about Boro Park for future historians and researchers.

ANCESTRAL ART IN

BORO PARK

We have also had several contacts of a different nature. The following one is an appeal to some real old timers for help in discovering some old art work.

Chaim Hack moved into Boro Park only a few months ago. He said that his great, great grandfather, Shmuel Leib GOK, was an artist for Synagogues in Chum, Russia. During the 1920's there were "progroms" in Russia and some friends who emigrated from Russia during those years brought some of Mr. Gok's art work to America in order to save it from the marauders. They left his art work, paintings and artifacts, in one of the Synagogues in Boro Park. The great grandson would like to see his ancestral art work and would

appreciate any information that may help him locate it. If anyone has information about such art work being brought to a Synagogue in Boro Park during the 1920's kindly contact me or the newspaper and we'll put the two parties together. We would also like to include the results of this search in this column.

PARK SURGICAL THREE GENERATIONS IN BORO PARK

When a business establishment touches the lives of multitudes of people, it's of importance and of interest. But when it touches the life of the newborn baby who can't live without an apnea respirator monitor, the Boy Scout who needs a snake bite kit for a camping trip, the heart patient who needs emergency oxygen service, the fire squad that needs resuscitator equipment, the manufacturer who needs safety and disaster equipment to bring it up to OSHA standards, and so on ad infinitum...a business that not only sells merchandise but ~~saves~~ ^{saves} lives...it's of interest to all of us.

Such an establishment is Park Surgical Company, which spans three generations in Boro Park, now located at 5001 New Utrecht Avenue in Brooklyn, New York. Park Surgical was started by the late Newman Dube more than five decades ago. This enterprise was a pioneering venture in the concept of personalized service to the medical field and to patients. Today Park Surgical is one of the largest and most active businesses of its kind in the entire New York metropolitan area.

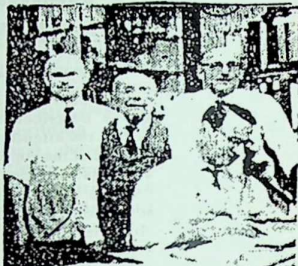
How does a man of 65, who immigrated from Russia when he was 20, and who worked for seven

years as a peddler and then as a manufacturer, come to establish a surgical supply business? A strong personal tragedy made Newman realize the need for a local hospital in the growing Boro Park community in Brooklyn. When his 15-year-old daughter, Lillian, contracted influenza in the pandemic of 1919 and died, Newman invited community leaders to his home at 1225 - 48th Street and founded the Israel Hospital, where he served as president for 6 years. Israel Hospital joined with Zion Hospital of Bensonhurst to become Israel Zion Hospital. In 1943 it merged with Beth Moses Hospital, under the aegis of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, and became the famous Maimonides Medical Center. Working closely with these

hospitals, Newman became aware of the necessity for efficient hospital equipment and surgical supplies. As a health-oriented, community-minded citizen, he saw no alternative but to personally seek out manufacturers and become a distributor of their products. And then to services as many hospitals, physicians and patients as he could. Thus was founded Park Surgical Company where Newman remained active until his death in 1966 at 101.

Park Surgical was started by Newman Dube in 1930 (after the stock market crash) in a small store located at 4804-13 Ave. The business later moved to 4902-12 Ave. In 1934 and to its present larger quarters in 1943.

During the restricted war years, Newman and his son



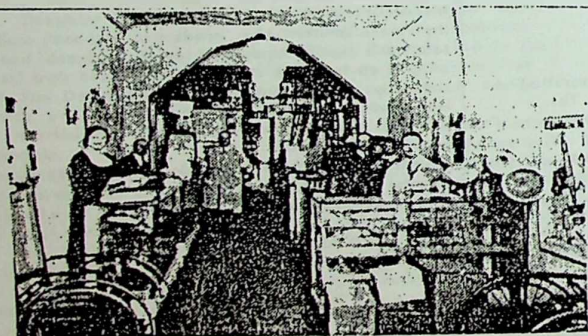
Daniel Dube, Newman Dube, Joseph Dube, Herbert Dube.

Joseph alone continued to supply the growing medical profession until 1946, when they were re-joined by Newman's other two sons, Daniel and Herbert, upon their discharge from the Army. Father and his three sons intensified their efforts and expanded the business to include multiple departments and a mail order subdivision, which distributes the comprehensive Park Surgical catalog throughout the United States. Now Park services not only hospital, physicians and patients but industrial factories, schools, prisons, visiting nurses' associations and other facilities as well.

New blood entered the business as Herbert's sons, James and Peter, joined the company, contributing their own talents, education and ability, and following in the footsteps of their family elders to provide selfless service to the community.

With new advances in science and technology coming to the fore, Park Surgical looks forward to an ever-increasing contribution to better health and safety and to serving the community and country with more enlightenment.

We invite other business establishments to submit information about their history in Boro Park. Photos will be especially useful, old or new.



Ann Cohen, Newman Dube, Theodore Weiss, Joseph Dube, Daniel Dube.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Former Boro Parkers seem to be spread around the globe. I've had opportunities to meet some residing in different states and in different countries and have had opportunities to meet them at various occasions.

Very recently on January 31, 1982 to be exact, the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers (AOJT) of the New York Public Schools, honored five outstanding individuals at its Sixteenth Annual Dinner. The AOJT, incidentally, is an organization which was started in Boro Park in 1963 and maintained its office in this community until 1977 when it moved to Flatbush. It was a pleasant surprise to learn, after speaking to the awardees, that three of the five awardees are past or present residents of Boro Park. Our readers may be interested in learning a little about these awardees and their connections to Boro Park.

ASSEMBLYMAN STANLEY FINK

Assemblyman Stanley Fink, Speaker of the New York State Assembly, was presented with the Outstanding Legislator Award. Due to the fact that I was to make the presentation to him, I was seated next to him during the Dinner. Upon learning that he was a former Boro Parker I obviously could not resist the opportunity and temptation to interview him for this column. The Assemblyman was very cordial and cooperative in trying to answer my questions in between the numerous visitors who came to greet him.

Mr. Fink was born in Israel Zion Hospital (now Mainmonides) in Feb. 1936, (this month is also his birthday). His parents lived at

944-44 St. at the time. His mother, Gussie, still lives on the block at 940-44 St. His father Harry was a retail salesman. The schools he attended were P.S. 131 on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and 43 St.; Parshling J.H.S. on 9th Ave. and 48th St.; New Utrecht H.S. and Brooklyn College where he majored in Economics. He continued his professional training leading to a degree from N.Y.U. Law School.

Fink married the former Judy Mandel in 1958. She, surprisingly enough was also born and raised in Boro Park, at 840-46 St., only two blocks from him. Following their marriage they set up home on Ocean Parkway for about one year and then moved to England. As an officer in the U.S. Air Force, Fink was stationed in England and served with the Judge Advocate General's office for three years until 1962. Election to the New York State Assembly first came in 1968. His appointment as Assembly Majority Leader came in 1977 and his election as Speaker of the Assembly came in 1979.

The Assemblyman spoke warmly of his Hebrew education and Bar Mitzvah at Bnai Israel of Linden Heights under the guidance of Rabbi Aaron Wertheim. He also remembers his youth in Boro Park with fondness. He spoke of the warm communal life with neighbors, friends and family. His eyes lit up when he reminisced about the trolley cars on New Utrecht Ave. that took him to Coney Island in the Summers. In fact he indicated that he still keeps in friendly contact with neighbors and friends he grew up with in Boro Park.

SAMUEL KOSTMAN

Another awardee was Samuel Kostman, Principal of George Washington High School. He is a noted educator, author, editor and lecturer and has served in public education for nearly thirty years. Kostman was presented with the Educator of the Year award. He is the only Orthodox Jewish high school Principal in the New York City school system. He was very happy to talk about his Boro Park experiences.

Kostman first came to Boro Park when he was three years old. He was born on the ship Il de France on Sept. 23, 1928, Yom Kippur eve, while his parents were immigrating to America from Poland. When the ship docked three days later, his Uncle and Aunt, Mr. & Mrs. Morris Schacter took his family to live with them in Boro Park. They owned a mattress store on 13 Ave. between 53rd and 54th St. (Crescentum store later), and lived above the store. After a few weeks the Kostman's were able to obtain their own apartment, the top floor (attic) of 1345-54 St. Two years later they moved to the corner of 13 Ave. & 54 St., above the Big George Fruit Store and Samuel lived there for twenty two years until he was married.

Kostman attended P.S. 103 for Kindergarten then attended and graduated from Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) with his brother Ben. He remembers the olive wood dreidles they gave out for Hanukkah and the Purim post office.

During his early years he remembers vividly the fond experience of eating in the Succah inside his uncles mattress store. His uncle would open the skylight and hang up bed sheets and quilt covers to serve as walls.

His interest in youth was manifested early in life. He served as Summer camp counselor at Camp Monroe and was active in the Young Israel of Boro Park as a club member, club leader, dance organizer, House chairman and member of the Board of Directors.

Some of his memories of Boro Park include attending services at Cong. Shomrei Emunah, Young Israel and Etz Chaim. There were also memories of Simchat Torah parties at Shomrei Emunah, Friday night walks on 13 Ave. and Simchat Torah dancing on 47 St. near 13 Ave. on the street in front of Rabbi Tweraky's shule, and home. Finally, in his own prosaic style, Kostman describes a memory and a mood, "the silence and the solemnity of Boro Park on Friday night...The hustle and bustle comes to an almost miraculous halt...along with Vilna the Jerusalem of exile."

ALAN JAY GERBER

The third awardee from Boro Park, Alan Jay Gerber, still resides in the community and is well known to our readers. He was presented with the School Board Award for his impressive accomplishments as a member and Treasurer of Community School Board 20. Gerber is also a member of the Board of Directors

and Vice President of the YMHA of Boro Park and was a National chairman of the InterCollegiate Council and a Vice President of the National Council of Young Israel.

The readers of the Boro Park Community News will remember Gerber for his articles in this paper, for his contributions to this column and for his work in the founding and maintenance of the annual Andrew Maresca Memorial Brotherhood Award. He is also the author of an Anthology of Prominent Italian Jewish Personalities and the editor of the 75th Anniversary Journal, full of valuable historical information, of Temple Emanu'el of Boro Park.

Gerber the youngest of the three awardees first moved to Boro Park in 1970. Unlike the other two who moved out of Boro Park when they were married, Gerber moved into Boro Park when he was married. His wife, the former Helene Berkman, who was born and raised in Chicago, had been living in Boro Park for

several years before their marriage. Their first apartment together was at 5718 - 11 Ave., next door to the Andrew Maresca family in whose name the Andrew Maresca Brotherhood Memorial Award was established. In 1973 the Gerbers moved to their current apartment at 1069 - 54 St.

Gerber has more credits in Boro Park. He is a founding member of the 54 St. 1000 Block Association. He was the treasurer and Vice President of Cong. Beth Israel (11 Ave. & 56 St.) and is the newly elected president of the Herbert H. Lehman-Clitzons Democratic Club of Boro Park. Many will remember him when he was running for the State Assembly in 1972 on the Republican and Conservative ticket to represent Boro Park. He has since become a Democrat.

Born and raised on the Lower East Side, from where he moved to Boro Park, Gerber attended

and graduated from R.J.J. Yeshiva, elementary and high school. He also graduated from Yeshiva University majoring in Political Science. Currently he is teaching in Manhattan Vocational high school and Yeshiva Chasan Sofer, 1875 50th St. in the afternoons. The Gerbers have three daughters born in Boro Park, Maimonides Hospital. Esther 8 and Aviva 4 attend Bais Yakov of Brooklyn while Devora 1 helps take care of the home.

Many Boro Parkers will feel a measure of pride when they read about the positive accomplishments of members and former members of our community. Over the years numerous residents of this community have been successful in life, become famous and made important contributions to society. Publicizing those honors and accomplishments serves a useful purpose. It helps

to develop pride in the community and it encourages others towards positive activities. If you have such information about past or present residents of Boro Park why not share them with us. Photos are also very welcome.

There are several vacancies now on the Boro Park Historical Society committee. If you have an interest in the history of the community; in researching, writing about or photographing it, please call me at GE 6-7729.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Anniversary Celebrations

As this community advances in age we will be witnessing more and higher anniversary commemorations. We have had several 75th anniversary celebrations during the past few years which were discussed in this column or in this newspaper. One wonders if there are any buildings or organizations in this community that will be ready to celebrate their 100th anniversary within the next few years. If there are, we would like to hear about them and perhaps help plan something meaningful for the community. In the meantime we should participate fully in any other 50th or 75th anniversary celebrations that come along. The following letter offers us one such opportunity.

"Dear Mr. Kipust:"

It was a pleasure speaking with you on the phone the other evening concerning the Heritage Exploration Program at Public School 160 and the development of the Borough Park Historical Society.

Public School 160, the William T. Sampson School, will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 1983. Its student body, faculty, staff and alumni are very proud of its academic and cultural contributions to generations of children of virtually every ethnic background. In making this contribution, the school has of course been a positive factor to the entire community.

To commemorate this anniversary, the school has embarked upon a research project relative to its history. As part of this project, the community and former students are being asked to

contribute memorabilia (old report cards, photographs, news clippings, etc.) and memories.

Anyone having materials or information to loan or contribute should contact: Mrs. Wanda Carlson, Public School 160, 5p05 Ft. Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 or phone 438-0337.

Yours very truly,

Wanda E. Carlson

ORTHODOX ARCHIVES

In the last column we discussed the fact that individuals doing research work have approached us for assistance and information about Boro Park. The following letter from the Agudath Israel of America speaks of a more organized and ambitious project interested in material about Boro Park. We include it here to point out again the interest and importance that this community is generating as well as to encourage individuals to begin contributing old documents, letters, photos, articles etc. about Boro Park to the interested parties or to the Boro Park Historical Society.

Dear Mr. Kipust,

Agudath Israel created an Archives in 1978, to preserve the history of Agudath Israel and Orthodox Jewry in America. Since then, we have supplemented our own holdings with acquisitions of various individuals and organizations. Rabbi David Grossman, who is indirectly involved with our Archives recommended strongly that I write to you for historical material.

As a former president of the A.O.J.T., and writer of a series of articles on the history of the Boro Park Jewish Community, including the Agudath of Boro Park, you must have in your possession many documents.

I would appreciate if you can send me any historical documents you have and all the articles you wrote for the Boro Park Community News. If you prefer, we will make photostats and send back the originals.

Our Archives is the only repository which gathers and preserves the history of Orthodox Jewry in the United States. It is open to the public and used by scholars and students alike.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi Moshe Kolodny
Director of Archives
Agudath Israel of America
ST. CATHERINE OF
ALEXANDRIA CHURCH

One of the first 75th Anniversary celebrations that came to our attention was the St. Catherine of Alexandria Church on 41 St. and Ft. Hamilton Parkway. This celebration took place in 1977. A commemorative journal containing a full history of that church and the history of Catholic America was published at that time. The following quotations from the journal point to some of the beginnings of that church and at the same time some of the history of Boro Park.

Meantime, plans progressed. During the first week of June, 1902, the first land was bought on the northeast corner of Fort Hamilton Parkway and 41 St., and one hundred and thirty-three feet on 41 St., at a cost of five thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars. Subsequently, two more

plots were brought adding one hundred twenty five feet at a cost of thirty-three hundred dollars. The excavation began; the foundation started. On Thanksgiving Day, 1902, the cornerstone was laid.

In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful flight in a heavier-than air, mechanically propelled airplane, rising from the base of Kill Devil Hill, a few miles south of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The same year some five months before - the fifth of July to be exact - the first flight of the Redgling Parish of St. Catherine took place when Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new "lower church." Three weeks later Bishop McF Donnell formally dedicated the new structure, preached the sermon - a eulogy on Pope Leo XIII who had died a few days before - and afterwards administered Confirmation in St. Catherine's for the first time. The cost of the church was about twenty-six thousand dollars.

While a suitable rectory was being constructed, a piece of land between Fortieth and Forty-First Sts. opposite the church was bought for seventeen thousand, five hundred dollars. The dream included a school. A few years later in 1909 - an Academy was established at a cost of about ten thousand dollars. The Academy opened in September, 1909, with a registration of about forty pupils, under the capable direction of the Religious of the Sacred

Heart of Mary, Reverend Mother St. Joseph was the Superior.

Please send us your own recollections as well as old photos, letters, announcements and other materials pertaining to Boro Park.

Odd Street

We received a telephone call from Mr. P. Kupezyk who inquired about the block on 13 Ave. between 53 and 54 St. He wanted to know why the houses and stores are so deeply recessed on the block making the sidewalk so wide. My first thought was that they may have had or planned for an outdoor market there or for outdoor stands or displays in front of the stores. When I consulted Jack Verschleiser, one of the old timers of Boro Park who happens to remember people and places with unusual clarity and detail, he indicated that there was no market on that block. There was a market on the next block between 54 and 55 St. He indicated that nothing occupied that sidewalk space and he doesn't know if there was any special reason for those recessed buildings. Do any of our readers have information or explanations for that unusual block?

There are several vacancies now on the Boro Park Historical Society committee. If you have an interest in the history of the community; in researching, writing about or photographing it, please call me at GE 6-7729.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

RESPONSE ON ODD STREET

Last month we carried an inquiry and discussion about the very wide sidewalk on 13 Ave. between 53rd and 54th Sts. The following important letter from Mr. Frank Radden gives an informed response. We thank him and hope he will share more historical information about Boro Park with us.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

In regard to your inquiry, in the Borough Park Community News, about the recessed houses on 13th Avenue between 53rd and 54th Streets, I am not sure but I may have your answer. I have lived in Borough Park for 65 years and I know this block well, passing it daily on my way to and from school, The Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

Thirteenth Avenue has an incline from 54th Street to 53rd and the builder of these houses, in order to avoid staggering the houses to match the street level, constructed a series of steps up to the houses. These steps started with one, up near 53rd Street, and increased in number to five or six at the 54th Street end. They originally came down to the last building and then circled around, in a large loop, but this has since been removed so that the existing store is at street level. If the houses had been constructed on the building line, as on adjacent streets, the steps would have intruded on the sidewalk making for a difficult problem for pedestrians. Settling them back slightly solved the problem but also necessitated settling the houses back. This enabled the builder to keep his houses all at one level.

Hope I have been of some assistance. I am familiar with a number of the historical items you have mentioned in your columns. They bring back memories.

Very truly yours,
Frank Radden

KRAMER FAMILY

Rabbi Emanuel Kramer, a former Boro Parker, currently lives in York, Pa. He is a recently retired Rabbi of that community. During a recent interview he related a wealth of historical information about his family and the Boro Park community.

His parents Abraham and Yetta and family were affluent and moved to Boro Park in 1925 from the Lower East Side. Like many other families they moved to this community in order to get away from the poor congested conditions of the Lower East Side and to live in the more residential and suburban area of Boro Park. Their first residence in Boro Park was a purchased two family home at 1533 - 39 St. in partnership with Mrs. Kramer's sister and brother-in-law, Hyman and Tillie Herman.

Rabbi Kramer recalls, as a boy in 1925, that the Culver Line train (now the F train) ran on the ground. He thinks it was elevated in 1925 or 1926. From his recollection the residents in Boro Park at that time were mostly Jewish until 16 Avenue and mostly Italian from 16 Ave. to 18 Ave.

The family first prayed at the Yeshiva Yavneh Synagogue at Dallill Road and 40 St. Later they attended Sfas Emes of Boro Park Synagogue at 1337 - 42 St. where his father became the Torah reader (Ba'al Koreh). His father owned a successful knitwear manufacturing business during those years.

In 1925 there was only one Yeshiva in Boro Park, Yeshiva Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park). At that time this school was more cultural than religious in its curriculum and orientation. (In later years Yeshiva Etz-Chaim

did become religiously oriented.) Rabbi Kramer remembers several discussions and meetings in which his father participated along with his good friends David Daniel, Harry Roth and Joseph Deutsch for the purpose of start-

ing a new Yeshiva that was more religiously oriented to service the orthodox families in the community. The Yeshiva Toras Emes was the final outcome of those discussions, and started in 1926 or 1927.

When he was 15 years old, Emanuel (Manny) volunteered his services to blow the Shofar at Israel Zion Hospital (now Maimonides) during the Rosh Hashana holiday. He continued to do so for each of the next eight years, going from floor to floor to fulfill the requests of the ill patients.

ILLNESS

A short while after, probably in

1928, A. Kramer became gravely ill with Spinal Meningitis and was hospitalized at Israel Zion Hospital. His doctor, Dr. Stegmeyer, a prominent specialist in Manhattan notified the family that his illness was very grave and he didn't have much hope for him. He already lost his eyesight. His wife Yetta went to the Novominskier Rebbe, (Grand Rabbi) Rabbi Yehudah Perlow of Williamsburg, an Uncle of the present Novominskier Rebbe, Rabbi Yakov Perlow of Boro Park. The Rebbe listened to her distraught pleas and sobs and advised her to go home and to bring her husband to visit the Rebbe when he was well again. A. Kramer remained hospitalized for about 6 weeks before and during Passover. His wife remained at his bedside while the children cleaned and prepared for Passover. During that period they

were notified by the police that his factory burned down and all was lost. During Chol Hamood (intermediate days) of Passover Dr. Stegmeyer suffered a heart attack and died. A. Kramer's fever started to go down, his sight on one eye began to come back and about a week after Passover he was dismissed from the hospital. Yetta fulfilled the Rebbe's request and brought her husband to visit him. They spent about 3 hours together in learned discussion. The Rebbe stated that a doctor's obligation was to heal the ill, not to make decisions about life and death. They became very close friends after this and visited each other regularly.

When A. Kramer became a little stronger, Rabbi M. Kaplan his boyhood friend who had

Continued On page 10

Phillip Stern appointed to Cong. Beth Israel 16 Ave. & 53 St. recommended that he take the position of Sexton at Cong. Beth Israel of Linden Heights, on 9th Ave. and 46 St. He accepted this position in 1930 and served with distinction. In that position he also taught adult classes and participated in many charitable and communal projects. He was also instrumental in bringing Rabbi A. Wertheim, to his present position at the Congregation in 1932.

In 1935 A. Kramer left his position to enter the underwear manufacturing business but returned to his old position as Sexton in 1939. He remained in this position as Sexton until his demise on Sept. 22, 1949. His wife Yetta then moved to 5225 - 14 Ave. where she lived until her demise on Jan. 1, 1956.

Rabbi E. Kramer was almost 14 years old when he moved to Boro Park. He attended Rabbi Jacob Joseph Yeshiva on the Lower East Side, and later attended Yeshiva Isaac Elchanan, (Yeshiva College) and then Yeshiva Yavneh on Dahill Road. He was married in 1936 to Ruth Earnstein of Williamsburg. For several years he worked with his father in the business. Then in 1940 he moved to Plymouth, Pa. where he accepted his first position as Rabbi. In previous years he had taught in several Talmud Torah's on a part time basis; in the Beth Israel T.T. under Mr. Weisberg and in the Linden Heights T.T. under Rabbi Charney.

Rabbi E. Kramer's sister Ida attended P.S. 179 and New Utrecht H.S. She married a Boro Park boy Jack Verschleiser in 1940 and they still reside in Boro Park. The Verschleisers have been mentioned in this column several times as a source of information about Boro Park history. His other sister Ruth attended Pershing J.H.S. and New Utrecht H.S. She married Rabbi Fishel Goldfeder in 1945. He served as Rabbi in Cincinnati, Ohio for over 35 years and passed away in 1981.

The following are a few of the people that Rabbi E. Kramer remembers. Richard (Reuven) Tucker, famous opera singer, lived at 902-45 St. with his parents. His father was gabbai of the Linden Heights Synagogue. Herman Yablokoff, famous yiddish actor, lived at 825 - 47 St. His son Jack operates the Kingsway Funeral Home in Brooklyn. Several other childhood friends were Harry Goller who lived at 902 - 45 St., Phillip Elias 934 - 43 St. now Principal of a Hebrew School in Miami, Florida, and A.H. Kahn President of the Linden Heights Synagogue.

Some of the prominent members of the Cong. Sfai Enies he remembers included Mr. Israel Meir Slupsky, Pres.; Jakir Biegliesian and his father Elyahu Verschleiser (father of Jack); Zindel Hendels who operated a small grocery store for many years at approximately 1314 - 44 St.

Some of the Rabbis and Cantors in Boro Park during those years were Rabbi Zev Gold in Cong. Shomrei Emunah. He left to become National President of the Mizrahi and Rabbi Harry Wohlberg was appointed to his position.

Cantor Mordechai Hirschman had a position in Temple Beth-El in the early 1930's. Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt had a position in Cong. Anshei Sfard from approximately 1932-1935. Rabbi Baruch Charney was principal of the Linden Heights Talmud Torah. He later became principal of Yeshivah of Central Queens and now resides in Israel. Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan was appointed to the rabbinical position in Cong. Beth Israel about 1930. He came from Harlem in New York. He was very close friends with Abraham Kramer and family and was deceased approximately the same

year. Rabbi Dr. Israel Schorr was then Rabbi in the Cong. Beth Israel, 5602 - 11 Ave. before he was appointed to Temple Beth-El. Rabbi Dr. Aaron Wertheim was appointed to Cong. Beth Israel of Linden Heights. Mr. Isidore Weisberg was the principal and owner of two private Talmud Torahs, one in the Beth Israel and one in the Cong. Beth Israel of 16 Ave. Mr. Weisberg was also author (1929) of the Shvil Chodosh Siddur (Prayer Book for children with numbered lines).

The Kramer family was well known in this community and played a significant role in the early development of the orthodox Jewish community of Boro Park.

Your comments, corrections or additions to any of the items discussed will be appreciated and utilized. Any other contributions of memories, photos, letters or documents will be appreciated and credited.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

WEBSTER'S POND

The following interesting letter is self explanatory. The copy of the photograph may be too light for reproduction in the paper.

Sir:

Some months ago an "OLD TIMER" wrote to you in which he mentioned having swam and ice skated in Webster's Pond. As he stated, the pond is where Maimonides Medical Center is now.

Enclosed is a photo of Webster's Pond as it appeared in 1903.

On Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. between 52nd & 53rd St. where the playground is was a hilly forest that extended back to 9th Ave. As a youngster in the 1920's, I recall walking through the woods and sled riding down the slopes onto Ft. Hamilton Pkwy.

On the corner of 52nd St. & Ft. Hamilton Pkwy.—just outside the forest—was a police booth. I remember seeing the policeman in the booth answering the telephone and then taking off on his bicycle. He was gone by 1927.

The forest was levelled off I believe with the arrival of WPA and a playground was eventually built. I recall playing some baseball and softball on this levelled off land before the playground was built.

Respectfully,
Jack Sommers

ONE KLEIN FAMILY

There are many Klein families in Boro Park today. The person interviewed, Sidney (Shaya) Klein is an old time Boro Parker. He was born in Boro Park in 1925 and his family had been living here even earlier than that.

Shaya's mother Margaret (Pesel) Fried came to Boro Park with her parents in 1923 when they moved into their newly purchased two family house at

1321 44th Street. A year later Margaret married Max (Mordechai) Klein in that house and continued to live there. Shaya was born a year later and he and his 3 brothers and 2 sisters were all born in Israel Zion Hospital while the family lived in that home. The house next door 1323 44th Street was the home of Shaya's aunts and uncles the Frieds and Friedmans.

Margaret and family moved to Boro Park from Harlem. Although Harlem was then a beautiful neighborhood, mostly Jewish, Shaya's grandparents felt that the neighborhood was declining and they wanted to live in this beautiful suburban area of Boro Park. Shaya's father Max came from the Lower East Side.

Shaya's grandfather Sigmund Fried, was president or secretary of the Chevra Mishnayos of Cong. Anshei Sfard 45 St. & 14 Ave., from 1925 until his demise. He died in 1937 due to a ruptured appendix. Sara Fried, the grandmother, died in 1947.

SOME OLD MEMORIES

Shaya remembers Cantor Yusselle Rosenblatt visiting his home often and eating in his Suceah, the Cantor also gave the family a gift of his old piano in the late 20's. He also remembers when 45th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues was farmland and he recalls seeing the goats, sheep and vegetables in that area in the late 20's as a little child.

The education of Shaya began at Yeshiva Elz Chaim for kindergarten. In first grade he started at Yeshiva Toras Emes which was then located on 48th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. First Toras Emes was housed in two wooden private houses. Later one was abandoned and demolished. He recalls the early Hebrew Principals of Toras

Emes: Rabbi Goldberg, Rabbi Sheinberg and Rabbi Schapiro. Shaya graduated Toras Emes elementary school and was in the first high school class that the Yeshiva started.

Shaya's father was a baker. He worked for Schicks bakery 4610 16th Avenue for many years before his retirement. His mother frequently took the children of the family plus many other children on trips to Prospect Park or Coney Island in order to escape the hot city on Summer days. During these trips, as one activity, the children would walk around in search of wrappers from Cream-sicles and Planter's Peanuts. These wrappers would be mailed to the companies in exchange for free gifts or postage stamps for collectors. Many people visited Prospect Park in those days to enjoy the grass, zoo, ball fields, lake, fresh air and sunshine. The Klein children knew Prospect Park like the palms of their hands. During one of the trips to Coney Island beach Shaya re-

members that his mother's alertness watching all the children in the water helped to save the life of a person. She alerted the life guard to a boy drifting out to sea on a piece of wood. The life guard notified the Coast Guard and the boy was saved and fortunately finally revived.

On the corner of 44th Street and 13 Avenues where, the Dry Cleaning store is now, the Amerling Chevrolet sales and showroom was located. Shaya remembers the cars in 1939 with wooden spokes on the wheels. The new cars were advertised for \$777 in the showroom and silent movies about cars were shown inside. Movies were a novelty then, even silent, and a phonograph record accompanied the movie. Shaya remembers the day he saw a car arriving around the corner when its rim suddenly came off and the car continued to move on the wooden spokes until it stopped.

The Communist Party was active in the USA during the 1930's. Shaya recalls the weekly Friday

night Communist Party speakers on the Northeast corner of 13th Avenue and 44th Street. Several consecutive speakers stood on the platform they put up and spoke to the assembled or passing crowds. They sometimes raised a red flag but when they saw a police officer approaching they quickly pulled it down and put up an American flag. Sometimes they were heckled by the crowd.

During the depression years Shaya remembers numerous vacant stores on 13th Avenue. He also remembers the 3 cents trolley car fare to Coney Island. If some children didn't have 3 cents the conductor sometimes let them accompany gratis a child who paid his own fare.

The people who lived on his block were mostly Italian. As a child Shaya spoke no English only Yiddish and some Italian he picked up from neighbors on the block. When he started school and was told to speak English, Shaya began to speak the non-Jewish words he knew in Italian.

NEW HOME

In 1954 the Kleins moved to their new home at 1265 47th Street. The house at 1321 44th Street remained with the family; Uncle Al Fried lives there now. Shaya was married to Blima Feigenbaum in 1956. They raised 3 sons and a daughter. They still reside in the community in their own home at 1155 47th Street. Shaya's mother passed away in 1970. His father decided to settle in Israel after that and passed away in 1973. Shaya has one brother Yussie who still resides in Boro Park with his family at the Klein home 1265 47th Street. Two married sisters and a brother live in Israel and one brother lives in Flatbush. Many old time Boro Parkers remember the Klein and Fried families.

Please submit information and memories about your own family history in Boro Park.

'REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

BURZUMATO FAMILY

Carmine Burzumato, the person interviewed, is an old time Boro Parker. His grandparents Carmine and Giovanni (Gene) Burzumato purchased a 3 family house in Boro Park (1734-45 St.) in 1923, and his parents Dominick and Lillian and daughter moved into one of the apartments. Carmine was born in that house in 1924 and three sisters after him were also born in that house. They were not born in the hospital; a midwife or doctor came to the house to deliver them.

Carmine attended P.S. 192 (18 Ave. and 47 St.), then Montauk J.H.S., New Utrecht H.S. and Brooklyn College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942-48 and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in 1945. Working in the Probost Marshall's office, he stayed on in Germany until his discharge in 1948.

While in Germany, Carmine married Ruth Faulwasser, from the city of Jena, in 1945. They had a son Richard in 1946 and returned to the states upon Carmine's discharge from the service. They lived with Carmine's parents until 1950, when they purchased a one family house (converted it to a two family) on the same block, at 1764-45 St. People still stop to admire this house and garden.

An active and successful career followed for Carmine after his return to the States. First he studied Journalism at Bklyn College. Then he served in the New York City Police Department from 1950 to 1971, retiring as a detective. He currently works for the Government Employees Insurance Co. (GEICO), in the claims department, doing investigations for possible fraud.

In their chosen careers the family has been actively involved

in serving the country and the Boro Park community for three generations. Carmine's father Dominick served in the U.S. Army in two wars. He was Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army in W.W. I and Master Sergeant in W.W. II. He also worked for the Department of Sanitation until his retirement and serviced the district which included the Boro Park area.

As a detective, Carmine serviced the South Bklyn area which included Boro Park. He assisted in the apprehension and arrest of the perpetrators of a well known robbery and homicide in the Boro Park area. Many residents will remember the robbery of the Boro Park Tobacco Co. on 49 St. near New Utrecht Ave. and the killing of two detectives who appeared on the scene. In connection with this crime Jerry Rosenberg, Baldy Portelli and Anthony De Liernia were arrested and convicted. The first two were convicted for the murder and robbery and the third for assisting the crime. The story was covered in the May 23, 1962 issue of the Journal American.

Richard, Carmine's son, also served in the U.S. armed forces. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Richard attended the same schools as his father in this community. Both of them played football at New Utrecht H.S. and both received scholarships to college for their excellence in football. Richard is now the owner of Sterling-Goetz Moving and Storage Co. at 1239 39 St. for the past five or six years.

Carmine brought his in-laws to this country in 1953 and they have been living in the same house with them since then. His father-in-law was persecuted by the Nazis and sent to a labor camp in Italy because of his union activities.

Dominick, Carmine's father, passed away in 1960 as a result of a lung disease which he believes was connected with his work in the Dept. of Sanitation. Lillian, Carmine's mother, sold her house in 1979 and now lives with one of her daughters on Staten Island.

Early Memories

As a teenager, Carmine recalls a teenage social club for boys he belonged to, called the LaSalle Knights. The club met in a basement on 46 St. between 16 and 17 Ave., near 17 Ave. The rent was \$10 a month for the basement and the club members helped to finish the room. Of the 20 members in that club, 5 were killed in World War II. He remembers attending football rallies at one of the cheerleader's home and victory parties together with club members.

What was uppermost in Carmine's mind was his fond memories of the warmth and closeness of his friends and neighbors in those days. The different religious and ethnic group members, especially the Italians and Jews who were the largest groups, seemed to get along very well. They were friendly and neighborly people. All the people seemed to socialize and get along well with each other, there were no difficulties or group strifes. There were also no robberies, acts of destruction, delinquency or other crimes by teenagers. There was mutual respect for each other and each others properties.

The Culver Theatre on the corner of McDonald and 18 Ave., where the bank is now was there as far back as he could remember. The Garden Theatre on New Utrecht Ave. near 45 St., provided three full movies, 2 cartoons, a serial and news plus a candy bar for 5 cents - five hours of entertainment during the afternoon.

School Days

He recalls his teachers in P.S. 192, Mrs. Hinchey, first grade; Mrs. Blakesburg, 2nd grade; The Downey sisters for 3rd and 4th grades; Mrs. Fink, 5th grade, and Mrs. Moose, 6th grade. Only one teacher ever kept him back, that

was Mrs. Moose in the 6th grade. She did so she said in order to straighten him out and make a man out of him. They developed a friendship after that and he continued to keep in touch with her. While he was in service she sent him many packages. He remembers the principal in Montauk J.H.S., Mr. Ludwig and the Dean of Boys, Mr. McClain.

He remembers the baseball field on McDonald Ave. near Ditmas Ave. where his team, Kelley Kings played. The field between 47 & 48 St. between 19 Ave. and the railroad tracks was the home field for the Blue Jays. He played for them sometimes also. Behind the field was the U.S. Post Office on 47 St. and McDonald Ave. where the plumbing supply store now stands. Only 3 of these players that he knew ever tried out for Major League baseball - Teddy Fiore, Toni Fonti and himself. Teddy Fiore, a pitcher, who lived on 49 St. between 18 Ave. and the railroad tracks was the only one who was hired. He played on a farm team for a while and later became a fireman.

One of the scenes that stands out in Carmine's memories was the yearly burning of the Christmas trees on the vacant lot at 1715 45 St. They also used that vacant lot for shooting firecrackers in celebration of the 4th of July, and for building a wooden club room. Carmine emphasized that the kids in the community were friendly and a closely knit group. None of them were ever in any trouble with the police. He never heard of Juvenile crimes in those days, the doors on homes were often left unlocked. There was a deeply felt respect and fear in those days for Police Officers, teachers, Priests and parents. Carmine recalls that when he was 17 years old he wasn't allowed to smoke and had to be home by 10 p.m. He went into the Army at 18½ years of age and never touched liquor, not even beer.

Cont. on Pg. 12

I Remember Boro Park

Cont. from Pg. 2

until he was in the service. At their club parties the only drink served was soda.

While in the Army in W.W. II Carmine pointed out that during all those years he met only one person he knew from the community. That person was Sol Gerb, who's father, and then Sol, owned the kosher butcher store on 18 Ave. between 46 and 47 St.

Readers are invited to submit information about their own memories and family or organizational histories in Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Boro Park Historical Society, although still in the beginning stages, has already made substantial progress in organizing itself and in planning projects. Several specific interesting projects are prepared to be launched later this year which are designed to benefit the community and to gather information for the planned written history of Boro Park. The community will be invited to participate in the various projects. In the meantime our readers are asked to keep their eyes open for old photos, documents, correspondence, articles and similar items related to Boro Park.

In this column we have dealt with a variety of approaches to the history of Boro Park. We have included articles about individual families, businesses, buildings, organizations, recreation, streets, religion and others. All of these topics and more are part of the interesting story of Boro Park. Residents and former residents can contribute personal memories, records and other memorabilia to this project and are invited to do so.

The following guest article was written by a member of the Boro Park Historical Society who has special expertise and interest in transportation. Other similar articles are scheduled to be included in the future.

WEST END SURFACE LINES

By Steven R. Berger

Most Boro Parkers and others are not aware of the rich transportation history that exists for our area. Nor are people aware that Boro Park is unique in being one of the few sections in Brooklyn that was once served by every type of land transport. You name it, and Boro Park had it:

Surface steam railroad lines, electric trolley, modern streamlined street cars (PCC Cars), trackless trolleys, gasoline and diesel buses, electric trolley freight locomotives, and elevated subway lines.

In this and future articles, I would like to share with you some of this interesting history. We will begin with the West End steam railroad line. It is important to note that some form of rail transport existed in the Boro Park portion of New Utrecht Avenue for at least 118 years, beginning in 1864 and lasting to the present day with the present West End "B" elevated line.

Riders today of the present West End Line on New Utrecht Avenue probably give little thought, as they board 50th and 44th Street stations, as to why the stations are located where they are. Probably fewer ask the profound question of why there is an elevated line on New Utrecht Avenue in the first place. With present day service so bad and fear of crime in everyone's mind, few people have the time or desire to ask questions about transportation on New Utrecht Avenue. For those who are interested, and for others, the story is quite interesting.

On June 8th, 1864 a steam railroad line was opened by the Brooklyn, Bath and Coney Island Railroad. It went from 5th Avenue and 25th Street via 5th Avenue, to 37th Street, then along a Private Right of Way (near the present open cut along 37 to 39th Streets) to 9th Avenue, and then via New Utrecht Avenue on the surface to 65th Street.

A few years later in 1867, the line was extended via New Utrecht Avenue, Plank Road, Bay 19th Street, 25th Avenue, Private Right of Way, to the West End

Terminal in Coney Island. It is important to note that the West End was the first railroad to reach Coney Island. In fact, the terminal in Coney Island was called the West End terminal.

In May, 1887, a branch was opened to 2nd Avenue and 38th Street. This branch was important because by walking one block west to First Avenue and 39th Street, it was possible to board the 39th Street Ferry to Manhattan.

Some side points must be added here. The West End surface line south of 81st Street followed a slightly different path than the West End line follows today. South of 86th Street, the route was quite different than the present route; running on Bay 19th Street PRW, and a PRW between Bath and Harway Avenues to the junction with the Sea Beach Line near Coney Island. It is important to also add that between 1864 and the time that the line was electrified on Nov. 11, 1893, the line passed through four owners. The owner who electrified the line was the Brooklyn, Bath & West End RR.

We must realize that 118 years ago, the area known as Boro Park today and surrounding areas were quite rural in nature and sustained a small population. The purpose of the West End Steam Rail line was probably to transport passengers from Manhattan (after connections with ferries) and built-up areas of Brooklyn to the Coney Island resort area. Horsecars running in older sec-

tions of Brooklyn, such as the Greenwood (Fifth Avenue) Line reached 25th Street and 5th Avenue as early as 1861. Therefore, a passenger could have boarded a horsecar in Downtown Brooklyn in 1864 and travel to the last stop of the Greenwood Line at 25th Street and 5th Avenue as early as 1861. Therefore, a passenger could have boarded a

horsecar in Downtown Brooklyn in 1864 and travel to the last stop of the Greenwood Line at 25th Street and 5th Avenue, transfer to the Brooklyn, Bath & Coney Island RR and travel to Coney Island via New Utrecht Avenue. Along the way, he would see the open fields of what was later named Boro Park. The next article to follow will deal with the electrification of the West End.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

The following article is the second of a series of well researched, excellent and interesting articles on the history of transportation in Boro Park. We look forward to additional articles in this series.

WEST END SURFACE LINE

PART II

By Steven R. Berger
ELECTRIFICATION OF THE
WEST END

By November 11, 1893, electric trolley cars started to roll down New Utrecht Avenue replacing the steam locomotives and coaches. With this change, the line was called 5 Ave-West End. This was the first use of trolley cars on New Utrecht Avenue. Unlike the streetcars in Manhattan which received their power from a third rail buried in an open conduit between the rails, the streetcars on New Utrecht Avenue got their power from an overhead wire—the usual method used by streetcars in Brooklyn.

Between May 5, 1901 and June 24, 1916 elevated trains ran on the surface replacing the streetcars. It must have been some sight to see a wooden, gated elevated train running down the middle of New Utrecht Avenue. You must have thought that it must be dangerous crossing New Utrecht Avenue, trying to avoid the third rail, but we must remember that no third rail existed on the surface of New Utrecht Avenue. How did the cars get power? Again, by trolley pole and wire. Many people do not know that some elevated cars had trolley poles on the roof. The situation on New Utrecht Avenue was not unique; for elevated trains ran also on the surface of Gravesend (McDonald) Avenue and at the end of the Jamaica El in Queens for a period of time.

By running elevated trains on New Utrecht Avenue, it was possible for an early resident of Boro Park to have a more direct path to Manhattan. A person going to work in Boro Park

between 1901 and 1916 could have boarded an elevated platform on the surface at either 58, 54, 49, 44 or 39th Streets. The elevated train would curve to the left and meet tracks of the Culver Line. The train would proceed along a private right of way. Up to 1916, this private right of way was only two tracked and not as deep as the present right of way that the present B trains use. This two tracked route was supplied with overhead trolley wires and poles and was very near to the backyards of houses along 39th Street.

The elevated train would then enter an upward incline and curve sharply to the right. This incline can still be seen at 5th Avenue near 36th Street. The train would thus enter the 36th Street station of the Fifth Avenue Elevated Line. This was a four tracked station where connections could be made to the 3rd Avenue-Bay Ridge elevated or the Culver Line. This station was reconstructed in 1905. Usually, our early Boro Park traveler would have to change for a Culver line train in order to continue his or her trip to Park Row Manhattan because most through service was provided by Culver trains. The two tracked, 5th Avenue Elevated Structure was provided with third-rail power rails, so therefore our West End Line elevated train had to lower its trolley poles along the way and then switch to third rail power via contact shoes

similar to the ones used by present subway cars.

If our hypothetical Boro Park resident of 1915 wanted to go to Midtown Manhattan, he or she would have to change for streetcars at Park Row or transfer for the IRT subway at Brooklyn Bridge or transfer to the City Hall branch of the Third Avenue El after leaving an elevated train at Park Row. Better service was to come in 1916 with the opening of the present elevated structure along New Utrecht Avenue.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thanks to the efforts of Senator Solomon and Jacques Friedman, the Boro Park Historical Society will be receiving some State funding, through the Boro Park Community Council. These funds are earmarked for several specific projects which will help research and preserve historical information about Boro Park. One

of these projects is the development of an archives or library dealing with Boro Park history. The funding will help pay for cabinets, books, photos, photo copying materials, postage and similar items.

These archives will hopefully develop in future years into an important repository of the history of Boro Park. It will be available to historians, sociologists, clergymen and other researchers investigating the story of Boro Park. It is planned to be available also to the general public interested in Boro Park. Finally it will help reserve the history of Boro Park and be used in the development of our planned publication of a multi volume history of our community.

We urge our readers to help in the development of these archives. You can help in the following ways.

1) Place the Boro Park Historical Society on the mailing list of

your schools, organizations, Churches and Synagogues that are situated in this community.

2) Send or drop off any related materials you don't need anymore or photo copies of those you wish to save. Some examples of such documents and materials are: Deeds, Diplomas, contracts, photos, yearbooks, journals, correspondence, invitations, birth and death certificates and advertisements.

3) Send us clippings or copies of any news items, articles or written comments you discover about Boro Park.

Materials you send about yourself will help preserve your place in the history of our community.

Send or drop materials to Boro Park Historical Society, 4810 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

LETTERS FROM READERS

The following two letters were received at different times from the same reader. We appreciate readers participation in this column and hope this column will provide a useful service to the community.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I have lived in Boro Park for a great many years and find your stories of Boro Park fascinating. Do you remember when Maimonides Hospital was called Israel Zion - also, two of the great doctors Dr. Merriam and Dr. Sarnoff? Also, do you remember the West End Bank on 55 St. & 13 Ave. where 2 bank guards were killed in 1924. Are there any books on the old Boro Park. I would very much like to read them. I look forward to your reply.

Dear Mrs. Stein:

Thank you for your interesting letter with information about Boro Park. Unfortunately there are no books about old Boro Park. That is one of the reasons why we provide such information through this column and hope to provide such books in the future through the Boro Park Historical Society. We do need the help of Boro Park residents to contribute information that they possess about old Boro Park.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in the hope you may be able to help me locate any members of the following prominent Jewish families. The Borgenicht family who lived on 14 Ave. & 48 St. The Authlies family on 46 St. & 14 Ave. and the family of Philip and Jennie Diamond of 1445 - 57 St. The first 2 families lived there from 1915 to 1925 - the Diamond family lived there from 1925 to 1950. Also any information about Dr. Henry Kresky who also lived in that area.

Any help or information you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mrs. B. Stein

If any readers can provide information about these families kindly submit such information to this column so that we can forward it to Mrs. Stein and if appropriate include it in this column.

The following article is the third in the series about the history of transportation in Boro Park. These excellent articles by Steven Berger were very well received and we hope that there will be more forthcoming:

WEST END SURFACE LINE PART III

By Steven R. Berger

In this section, I would like to make some clarification of points and to raise some interesting details of operation of railroad trains on New Utrecht Avenue.

To begin with, when the Union Elevated Railroad reached 5th Avenue and 36 Street in 1887, the portion of the West End line along 5th Avenue to 25 Street was abandoned. West End line trains continued to meet steamships at the 39th Street piers. Therefore we can state that the West End Line operated in two branches; one branch to the waterfront and the other branch to the 36 Street-5 Avenue station of the 5th Avenue El. Trains from both destinations were joined together at "West Brooklyn" in Boro Park - which is presently located near New Utrecht Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway. "West Brooklyn" may have been an early train station in what is today called Boro Park.

When elevated trains used the surface of New Utrecht Avenue from 1901 to 1916, Boro Park riders for the first time had a one seat ride to either Sands Street Brooklyn or to Park Row Manhattan. Trains used a special ramp to the 5th Avenue Elevated. Power from overhead trolley to third rail was changed at the 36 Street station.

The junction where the present B trains meet the N trains at 62nd

Street and New Utrecht Avenue is also of historical interest. This junction was called "Bath Junction" and steamtrains owned by the New York and Sea Beach Railroad reached this point by July 18, 1877 from the 64 Street Pier. While the Sea Beach Line has its own history, I would like to say here that by 1903, Elevated trains with trolley poles of the Sea Beach Line were joined and unjoined together with West End Trains at Bath Junction in order

that Sea Beach passengers can reach Sands Street or Park Row via the 5th Avenue Elevated. This physical connection between the West End and Sea Beach Lines was broken by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company in 1913.

To step back a little, I would like to add this interesting point: When the West End-5 Avenue line was electrified with trolley wires in 1893, trolley mail service (R.P.O.) was made available to residents.

Trolleys returned back to New Utrecht Avenue on June 24, 1916 as elevated trains were transferred to the new elevated structure. The route along the surface was from 9th Avenue and 38 Street via New Utrecht Avenue to 81 Street, Private-Right-of Way (PRW), Bay 19th Street, Bath Avenue, PRW, Stillwell Avenue to Coney Island near Surf Avenue.

By November 20, 1938, the route was changed slightly in the Bath Beach-Bensonhurst Area.

The end was near for the West End Surface Line by 1946 because the trolleys were cut back from Coney Island to a loop near 25th Avenue near Harway Avenue.

The end came for the West End

Trolley on June 28, 1947, without even being replaced by buses.

An inspection of a map published by the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company dated 1913 revealed stations along the West End Line in the Boro Park area along the surface as follows: 8th Avenue, 9th Avenue (connection with the Culver Line), 39th Street (connection with the 39th Street

Church Avenue Trolley), 44th Street, 49th Street, 54th Street, 58th Street, 62nd Street, (connection to the Sea Beach Line), 69th Street. A map published by B. Linder of the New York Division ERA Bulletin shows no station at 62nd Street but one at 64th Street. We can see that in the Boro Park section of New Utrecht Avenue, the location of surface stations for streetcars and surface elevated trains were copied on the elevated structure of the West End subway line to some degree.

Therefore, a Boro Parker entering the station at 44th Street and Port Hamilton Parkway of the B train in 1982 can trace back a history of rapid transit along that point to June 8, 1864, a time when huge areas of this country was wild and unexplored, but the area later to be known as Boro Park already had rapid transit service.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

We received a few responses to letters from readers published in this column last month. One letter from Mrs. B. Stein requested information about the whereabouts of several old time Boro Park families. The following responses were received.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

In answer to Mrs. Stein's letter regarding Dr. Kresky, I met him in Long Beach in 1964. He gave up his practice due to blacking out very often. I met him in Sharf's Manor on Riverside Ave. He said that he was staying there for a few days and that he was going to another hotel. Where he went I don't know as I did not question him. As for Dr. Merriam he was a fine man. He was my wife's M.D. when our son was born in 1935. As for the great Dr. Sarnoff, he did surgery on my mother. She went to him thru Dr. Kresky's recommendation. He operated on my mother for gallstones. One stone was left in her, and she had to be operated on once more. I am a nephew of Morris A. Goodman who was one of the sponsors of Israel Zion Hospital and also Menorah Temple and was a member of Temple Emanuel. I lived at 5418 New Utrecht Ave. in 1919 over Sam Rosents candy store next to the Post Office. I remember the open air movie across the street from Schertz's bakery, and a few doors down, a shoemaker by the name of Mr. Glantz. He was Milton Berle's grandfather. I remember there was a Borgennicht family on 15 Ave. & 51 St. It was a 22 room house and he had 14 children. When his children were busy getting married he sold the house to Morris Goodman and Helman. They divided the inside for two apartments. Hoping that the news is what you are after. I remain

Yours truly,
Seymour Goodman

Dear Mr. Kipust,

We're back from Israel. Heaven's Blessings to you from Zion. Regarding the inquiry in the last issue about the Borgennicht family - I met them all when I was at the Jewish Center, 131 W. 86 St., N.Y.C. 10024. You can call or write Rabbi Leo Jung there for more information.

Best regards,
[Dr.] Joseph Kaminetsky

Dear Mrs. Stein,

I am the daughter of Louis Borgenicht. We resided at 1475-52 St. Since there was only one Borgenicht in Boro Park. I assume you were referring to my family.

The descendants live in Manhattan - if you are interested in the family you can reach me at the above address or call me. I am usually at home after 5 p.m.

Yours truly,
Pauline Mack

The following letter was in response to the articles about transportation in Boro Park written by Mr. Steven Berger.

Dear Mr. Berger,

Enjoyed the Community News article on the West End Line. A bit confusing.

Didn't the Greenwood-Coney Line (steam) run through Furman St., Atlantic, Flatbush, 5th Ave. to Greenwood Cemetery - and then onto New Utrecht Ave. I see it on an old map by Drapp, but it is undated. However a "suspension bridge" appears in it, so it must be in the 80's.

Cordially,
John Pyle

We wish to thank all who have taken the time and effort to write to us and share their information about Boro Park with our readers.

REISS FAMILY

Do you remember the well known Gold and Reiss Hardware Store in Boro Park which was situated at 4211-13th Ave. for so many years? I met and interviewed one of the owners, Irving Reiss, at a recent (Sept. '82) wedding of one of his grandsons, Yehudah, son of Bernard and Miriam Reiss, at the Armon Terrace in Boro Park. The bride, Debbie Blech, was a grand daughter of Rabbi & Mrs. Ben Zion Blech, prominent Rabbi and Yeshivah teacher of our community for many years. On November 29, 1982 another grand daughter, Chaya Sara Reiss, daughter of Bernard and Miriam, will be married to Elly Mendlowitz.

Irving and Fannie Reiss moved to Boro Park in 1929 from Williamsburg because they thought Boro Park offered them a better future. Their first apartment was at 1322-44 St. top floor. After that they lived with his mother at 4210-15 Ave. for 5 years.

Reiss first worked as a presser in neckwear, then as an operator in a fur shop. He opened the Gold & Reiss Hardware Store together with his brother-in-law, David Gold (R.I.P.) in 1930. Gold had been a clerk in a hardware store prior to this business venture.

In the beginning Reiss continued working in the fur line all day and worked in the hardware store nights until 11 P.M. and Sundays until 5 P.M. Reiss indicates that Gold & Reiss was probably the first store in Boro Park, certainly on 13 Ave., to be closed on Shabbos (besides butchers). In those years it was not legal to keep a business open on Sundays (blue laws). Gold & Reiss therefore received summonses for this regularly and paid their fines about once a month. After three years Reiss quite the fur line and worked full time in the hardware store. It took about 18 years until the business became very successful. They sold the store with the name in 1960. This year the store on 13 Ave. closed and the business was moved to McDonald Ave.

In 1940 Reiss purchased a one family house (then a new building) in partnership with Gold at 1551 - 45 St. and converted it to a two family house. They lived

there about 12 years and then moved to a purchased one family house at 5302 - 17 Ave. in 1952. They lived there about 25 years and then settled in Jerusalem, Israel in 1976. The Reiss' have three children who are all currently living in Boro Park: Toby Schwartz, Bernard (Dov) Reiss and Esther Drebin. Esther's husband, Kalman, is owner of Certified Alarm Co., 4314-18 Ave. They also have 14 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

The Reiss' were very active members and workers for Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz. They were congregants at Cong. Bnei Yehuda, Young Israel of Boro Park and Cong. Anshel Sfard. he said he remembers when Boro Park didn't look so Jewish, the residents were mostly Italians and non-observant Jews.

Do you have any memories about Boro Park? Wy not share them with others?

NO COLUMN APPEARED IN THE
DECEMBER 22, 1982 ISSUE OF
BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS
DUE TO ABSENCE OF WRITER
DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

SEARCH FOR EARLIEST RESIDENTS AND BUILDINGS

We are looking for the twenty earliest Boro Park residents alive today. They may be living in the community or elsewhere. This search will be in connection with several projects, being undertaken by the Boro Park Historical Society, that are partly funded by a recent state grant made available through the efforts of Senator Martin Solomon. Please submit the name, address, phone number and year of arrival to Boro Park of any early resident you believe may qualify for this category. The year 1910 should be a good cut off date; anyone here before that should be considered.

Another project involves the search for the twenty oldest standing buildings in Boro Park. If you know of any existing building in Boro Park which was built before 1910 please submit the address of the building, the name, address and phone of the owner and the year in which it was built. Recognition will be given to the finders as well as to the people involved in both projects mentioned above.

Recently I have had the privilege of interviewing a prominent resident of Boro Park who I believe will fit into the category of the earliest living residents in Boro Park. He is Dr. Mark J. Wallfield. He may in fact be on top of the list.

DR. MARK J. WALLFIELD

Dr. Mark J. Wallfield is a well known and respected Pediatrician in this community just as his father was before him. His father Jacob M. Wallfield moved to Boro Park with his family in 1904 from East Broadway on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Boro Park was a new suburban development

area then and attracted the young doctor. According to his son Mark, who came to Boro Park as a young child with his parents, Jacob was probably the first Jewish doctor to practice medicine in Boro Park.

The family first moved to 40 St. between 11th and 12th Aves. and then to 4101 - 12 Ave. where his father started his first practice. This was across the street from the oldest Synagogue in Boro Park, now called Anshei Lubawitch but first built as Temple Beth El. Mark remembers as a little boy a neighbor and friend Mr. Prigerson used to take him to Shule with him across the street. Mr. Prigerson's daughter Rosa Prigerson is now an M.D. in Boro Park at 1469 53 St. The family then moved to 1269 46 St. where the Senior Dr. Wallfield had his practice for many years, until his demise.

The current Dr. Wallfield remembers Boro Park in the early years. The streets were not paved, fire engines were pulled by horses and most of the area was occupied by farmlands. He attended P.S. 131, P.S. 164, and graduated from P.S. 160, Boys H.S. and Columbia College.

Dr. Wallfield spoke very proudly of his late father who graduated University and Hospital Bellevue Medical College in 1899. His father was one of the original Physicians in the Israel Hospital and continued later when it was changed to Israel Zion Hospital (currently Maimonides Hospital). The Israel Hospital Dispensary was then located at 1246 - 42 St. He recalls his father visiting patients with his horse and carriage. During the influenza epidemic of 1918 there was a great snow storm and his father used a horse and sleigh to get around to his patients. Dr. Wallfield says his father was an excellent clinician and worked closely with Dr. Koplick who was famous for his work on measles. In fact Koplick spots, named after him, are still referred to in the diagnosis of measles.

Some of the early Jewish doctors who arrived soon after Dr. J. Wallfield were Dr. Henry Kresky (G.P.); Dr. Sol Herman (G.P.) & Dr. Siegermeister (Nose and Throat), father of Bli Siegmeister, Musical Composer.

Dr. Jacob Wallfield retired and was deceased while living in Boro Park, in 1956. His wife was deceased earlier probably in 1939.

In 1925, Dr. Mark Wallfield graduated from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. He intended at United Israel Zion and at Kingston Ave. Hospital and did residence there for a total of six years and then did post graduate work in Berlin and Vienna. He married the late Harriet Polin, a Boro Park girl from 58 St., in 1941 at the St. George Hotel. They lived at 1245 - 50 St. after their marriage. Two daughters were born to them, Rose and Maida. The older daughter Rose Hanson works for the New York City Board of Education in the Readiness Program. Maida Weisman lives in New Jersey and was a Music teacher. She is the mother of Dr. Wallfield's beloved one and only grandchild, Jessica Lynn.

Dr. Wallfield served as an officer in the armed forces during World War II, reaching the rank of Major. He served in North Africa, Sicily and the European Campaign. Following the war he moved to and opened his practice at his current residence 1479 - 50 St. His wife Harriet was deceased in 1966 after 25 years of marriage.

His two sisters were brought up with Dr. Mark Wallfield in Boro Park. The older one, the late Marie Rose was Dean of Girls in Lafayette H.S. Her husband Lazarus D. Ross is the retired principal of Seth Low JHS in Bensonhurst. The other sister, Susan Spool is a public school teacher in a Queens Elementary School.

Dr. Mark Wallfield concluded by stating that he had a great love for the Boro Park Community and could continue talking about it for hours. Hopefully more interviews will be arranged in order to gather more information for our planned history of Boro Park.

RESPONSE TO READER'S QUERY

The following is a response to Mr. Pyle's letter about transportation from Steven Berger. It is self explanatory.

Dear Mr. Kipust:

Thanks for the note dated 11/10/82 from John Pyle concerning his question on the Greenwood-Coney Line (steam). He said this line seemed to run from Greenwood cemetery onto New Utrecht Ave. He saw it on an undated Drupp map but since a suspension bridge appears in it he assumes it to be in the 1880's.

The best way to answer Mr. Pyle's question is as follows: I am not an expert in transportation history but I do have some historical information in my files. I can not give Mr. Pyle a yes or no answer but here are some interesting points:

1. Using the word Greenwood as a keyword, I discovered that there was a short-lived electric street car line called "Greenwood-Subway". This line ran from 1911 to 1913 only from Gravesend (McDonald) Ave. and Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. via 9th Ave., Prospect Park West, Flatbush Avenue to the Flatbush-Atlantic Ave. IRT subway terminal in downtown Brooklyn. This is not the line Mr. Pyle is referring to because it was electric and ran in our century.

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I Remember Boro Park Continued From Page 2

2. A Greenwood Line (horsecar) ran from 1861 to 1893 from Fulton Ferry, Furman Street, Atlantic Ave., Flatbush Ave., 5th Ave. to 25 St. Greenwood Cemetery. In 1863 this line was extended to 5 Ave. & 27 St. Remember that on June 8, 1864, the Brooklyn, Bath & Coney Island R.R. (Steam Railroad (West End Surface Line) began running from this spot: 5 Ave. - 25 St. via 5 Ave. to 37 St., Private Right of way to 9 Avenue and New Utrecht Ave. to 65 St. The Greenwood Horsecar Line covers a portion of the route mentioned by Mr. Pyle, but I don't think he is referring to a horsecar line.

3. A branch of the 5 Ave. Electric streetcar line ran in 1897 from Fulton Ferry via Water St., Washington, Concord, Adams, Boerum Place, Atlantic Ave., 5 Ave., 39 St., New Utrecht Ave. and then via Bath Beach and West End Route to Coney Island. This line doesn't cover the same route as Mr. Pyle suggests in downtown Brooklyn. The name of this line was 5 Ave. and it was an electric trolley.

The route Mr. Pyle suggests does seem possible conceptually but I couldn't confirm it in the historical information that I have at hand. The Greenwood horse car line did follow the route mentioned by Mr. Pyle up to 5 Ave. & 25 St. only. At 25 St. - 5 Ave. one changed for steam railroad trains via New Utrecht Ave. to Coney Island. Mr. Pyle also refers to the fact that the Greenwood-Coney Line was a steam line. Does this mean it was a steam-locomotive line? In 1876, steam street cars operated from January to June on the Coney Island Line on an experimental basis. I think Mr. Pyle is referring to a regular steam operated locomotive train.

I am no expert, but I don't believe a regular steam locomotive line would have operated along the surface on busy streets such as 5 Ave. and Flatbush Ave. in the 2nd half of the 19th Century. Perhaps the Greenwood-Coney Island Line was a summer only line. Another possibility is that the Greenwood-Coney Line operated via the 5th Ave. "B1". The problem is that the 5th Ave. B1 didn't follow the route described by Mr. Pyle in downtown Brooklyn. Perhaps the Greenwood-Coney Island Line predates the 5th Ave. B1.

To sum up, the route mentioned by Mr. Pyle was covered by different types of vehicles (horsecars, electric street cars, steam locomotives) at various times. Usually, the route mentioned was not covered in its entirety by one type of vehicle. The Greenwood-Coney Line may have been a summer only line. I couldn't confirm or deny its existence; perhaps a real expert may confirm it. At any rate, if the Greenwood-Coney Line did exist, it wasn't well known, or not reported in my historical papers. The route it may have used does seem possible.

With much regards,
Steven R. Berger

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

EARLIEST RESIDENTS AND BUILDINGS

In the last column we announced the search for the 20 earliest residents and the 20 earliest buildings in Boro Park. We indicated that 1910 may be a good reference date by which to determine the age and asked readers to submit names of individuals and addresses of buildings that come before that date.

We have received quite a few responses in connection with this project and hope that the interest continues. However we must have specific names, addresses and dates submitted in writing in order to be accepted and eligible for this project. In the future we will contact the eligible applicants in order to obtain more information in furthering this search.

Some of the responses in connection with this project include additional historical information will be reported in this column. One such response by Dr. Joseph S. Winters is full of very interesting and valuable historical information. We thank Dr. Winters for the following letter.

DR. JOSEPH S. WINTERS

Dear Mr. Kipust:

Your quest for living early residents of Borough Park should reveal a number who settled here before 1910. Advances in health care should produce survivors who came to Borough Park back in the semi-rural days and who are now in their late seventies or older. My family moved to 44th Street in 1912 but I was born in Manhattan in 1910. I imagine there are many who are both older and have lived here longer than I. My wife (who came here in 1920) and I, now live on Fort Hamilton Parkway and 47th Street, and that leads to your second project, oldest buildings.

I wonder if you are aware that some time in this decade will mark the centenary of this community. While the entire area was rural and consisted of a number of farms and undeveloped land prior to the 1880's an enterprising developer named Electus B. Lichtfield built a number of homes in the area extending south and west of 35th Street and New Utrecht Avenue. He called this development Blythebourne, a name that exists only in the post office designation. As a matter of historical interest, the Borough Park Branch of the public library was located in a store just east of New Utrecht Avenue on 36th Street and was called the Blythebourne branch. I believe some of those original buildings may still be standing as Queen Ann Cottages.

But to get back to more positive information I am not familiar with the history of development in any of the areas east of 13th Avenue, but I do know about early building prior to 1910. In the section roughly by 48th Street, Fort Hamilton Parkway to 40th Street and 12th Avenue. In the first decade of this century a good deal of building was begun to accommodate the demand for suburban living. Specifically the row houses, or town houses, or brownstones, whatever you wish to call them were either occupied or in the process of building by 1910.

Papers in my possession reveal these dates: The house we occupy was built in 1907. Restrictive covenants in effect until 1926, forbade commercial trade, raising pigs, establishing a tannery, etc., etc. Buildings had to be constructed according to established specifications, i.e., masonry, brick, etc. The area to be

developed, facing Fort Hamilton Parkway, some 88 feet on 47th Street and 99 feet on 48th Street, was to consist of 20 houses.

When my family moved to 44 Street, P.S. 131 had been in use about seven years. Both my late sister and I attended primary school there through the completion of the sixth year. Based on my memory of my classmates and our neighbors, I believe that I am

correct in stating that the ethnic composition of Borough Park was well mixed. I can recall a pretty fair conglomeration of Irish, German, Scandinavian, and British, as well as the predominant Italians and Jews.

I would like to add a postscript. Bare historical facts are dry without a consideration of the cultural aspects of a community. In 1974, my daughter Eleanor

Winters, submitted a thesis to the Department of Fine Arts of New York University as a requirement toward the degree of M.F.A. The title of the thesis is: "Borough Park: Portrait of a Neighborhood." Essentially, it is a photographic (her major) portrait containing many photos of the neighborhood and its inhabitants. But more importantly, it contains a detailed history of the community from colonial times and a cultural perspective treated to a degree of depth.

Much of what I've written to you is based on memory and private papers. Additional material comes from the thesis of my daughter and the "AIA Guide to New York City". I hope you find this material helpful.

Yours truly,
Dr. Joseph S. Winters
Professor Emeritus, CUNY

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

Boro Park Archives

Our readers and all the residents of Boro Park, past and present, are invited to participate in a new project sponsored by the Boro Park Historical Society. The project is the development of the Archives of Boro Park. Archives are a kind of library or depository in which all past records are kept. In the Boro Park Archives we hope to accumulate historical records and other information about the various institutions of Boro Park—school, organizations, synagogues, churches, businesses and agencies, professionals, and many individual families. These Archives will hopefully eventually be made available to students, researchers, residents or other interested parties wishing to research information or write about a particular family, organization, institution or business or the general community. It will also help various institutions preserve records for historical purposes because of lack of storage space or after that institution discontinues its existence.

This project has been funded in part by State funds made available through the good offices of Senator Martin Solomon to the Boro Park Community Council. Arrangements for this funding was initiated by Jacques Friedman, past president of the Council and publisher of this newspaper.

Several filing and storage cabinets have already been purchased, a separate room furnished, and a part time director hired to help develop the Archives. Periodically all the materials gathered will be microfilmed and stored. These microfilms as well as originals will be available to interested parties.

In order to obtain these materials for our Archives we are

asking all our readers to participate in this project and help us. Here are a few simple things you can do.

1. Please arrange to have the Boro Park Historical Society placed on the mailing list of any organization, synagogue, church, school agency, in which you may be active. Any mailing sent out will then reach us and be filed in the Archives.

2. Institutions may also send us Journals, Yearbooks, notices to students, teachers or parents and curricular or other materials developed in the institution. They should also send us photocopies of important documents and correspondence available to them.

Individual residents may also send us materials that they have which are related to Boro Park such as photocopies of diplomas, marriage and death certificates, deeds of homes, correspondence relating to Boro Park, photos, flyers put out by public officials and so many other items.

Individual residents may also send us materials that they have which are related to Boro Park such as photocopies of diplomas, marriage and death certificates, deeds of homes, correspondence relating to Boro Park, photos, flyers put out by public officials and so many other items.

We plan to designate several places in Boro Park where these materials may be dropped off. In the interim each institution, business and private individual may set aside a bag or carton into which materials can be saved until they are dropped off or mailed. Families moving away may find many materials they are about to discard useful for the Archives. Similarly when elderly residents pass away the heirs may wish to contribute items to our Archives, rather than discard

them.

Eventually the microfilmed items will be used by researchers and historians. The Historical Society plans to write a history of Boro Park and thereby help perpetuate much of the information about individuals, families and organizations of the community.

Please help by saving the materials and getting the various organizations to do likewise. All materials may be sent to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4810-13 Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 or deposited in the drop off stations which will be announced at a future date.

Earliest Residents and Buildings

We are continuing our search for the oldest buildings still standing in Boro Park and earliest residents of Boro Park who are alive but may be living inside or outside of the community. The year 1910 has been selected as a good cut off date by which to determine old buildings and early residents. Kindly submit information in writing. The following letters were received in response to this project:

To Whom It May Concern:

I in response to your "I remember Boro Park" column, my residence was built in 1904. It was moved back and forth across the street twice during its lifetime.

Yours truly, Mrs. Helen Pantic,
1131 56 Street, 11219

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I have read your article in the

Boro Park News where you are seeking some of the oldest Boro Park residents. I was born in Boro Park in the year of 1914. In fact my mother was one of the first families in Brooklyn. The Van Sicklen family. We have, train stations and streets named after them.

I was born at 111 Avenue F, Brooklyn, just a note that I remember Boro Park well. Truly yours, Thomas Morton, 526 Dahill Road, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11218

Dear Mr. Friedman:

As per phone conversation of this evening, I will herewith advise as to my memories of Boro Park when I lived there.

Originally, my family moved from Fifth Street, Manhattan, to 1004 - 40 Street, Brooklyn, which was between 10 Avenue and Fort Hamilton Parkway. We moved there in 1906, when I was two years old and my name at that time was Pearl Gottesman.

As with Dr. Mark J. Wallfield, I also went to P.S. 131 but as this

school only went to the sixth grade, I continued at P.S. 164 and graduated there. I then went to Bay Ridge High School which was located on 4th Avenue and about 65 Street and I might add that there was many a day when I walked from my home at 10th Avenue and 40 Street to Bay Ridge High School diagonally through all vacant lots.

I might further add that when we lived on 10 Avenue, we saw the West End elevated being built. At that time trolley cars ran on the ground along New Utrecht Avenue but these were discontinued when the elevated was completed. There was a celebration for the completion of the elevated, held on New Utrecht Avenue and 45 Street, where a large raised wooden platform was built upon which young girls performed in dancing, singing, etc. Do not recall whether refreshments were served.

Another event comes to mind but I am not sure of this but I am certain you can check it. There was a Catholic Church located on Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 42nd Street, and if I recall correctly, they built a Catholic School while we lived on 40 Street.

The house we occupied on 40 Street, was a two family house, we occupied basement and first floor and rented out the top floor. House had a long stoop in front of it that took you to the first floor and to the top. Have been told that these stoops were taken

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away. We stayed at 40 St. until 1931 when my family moved to East 19 Street, between Avenue S and T.

Another interesting thing happened which you may not be interested in. My mother, as other foreign women, did not believe in banks or vaults at that time and wore whatever jewelry she had in a little bag pinned to her under garments. She shopped one morning (about the time the children went to school) and when she returned the little bag was gone. My sister went to P.S. 131 and to the Catholic School and asked if they would check their classes to see if any students found this. P.S. 131 refused completely but the Catholic School said they would. We received a call from the Police Department that the jewelry was found by a boy who divided it with his friend, and after my Mother gave a complete description of the jewelry, it was all returned to her. Of course, we donated money to the Catholic School and gave the two little boys money as well. It was a wonderful thing for this beautiful school to have done.

If I may help you in any other way, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With kindest regards,

Cordially,

Mrs. Pearl Straus

We wish to thank the above three writers for their interesting and valuable contributions to the history of Boro Park. If you enjoy reading this information about Boro Park, as so many individuals have indicated, why not make some others happy by sending in information about your own family and own memories.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

The following are a few reminders of what you can do to help in this project of researching and preserving the history of Boro Park.

1. Submit the names of old time residents who have lived in Boro Park before 1910.

2. Submit the addresses of buildings still standing in Boro Park which were built before 1910.

3. Place the Boro Park Historical Society on the mailing list of your organization, church, synagogue or other institution. (see address below).

4. Save materials related to Boro Park - articles, photos, letters, advertisements, documents and the like (any year). In the next issue of this paper we hope to list the drop off points for all materials about Boro Park for the Boro Park archives. Materials that can be mailed should be sent to the Boro Park Historical Society 4810 13th Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

5. Be alert for announcements of other projects.

MOFSENSON

SAFFERMAN FAMILY

The following letter was received from Mrs. Bertha Safferman who is an old time resident of Boro Park. She came to Boro Park in 1908 when she was 8 years old. Her wonderful story provides a great deal of information and interesting descriptions of early Boro Park. Does it bring back any memories to you?

Reminiscing

Dear Editor:

I, Bertha Safferman, am still in Boro Park, and I am active in the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue and the Sisterhood in which I was president for two terms and held other offices as well.

When we first moved to Boro Park in 1908, 13th Ave. was unpaved and was called Mudtown (Blutatown).

My father, Harris Mofsenon and mother, Judith bought a 2 family house at 1363 47th St. In 1908 which the family owned and occupied until my sister Dora passed away in 1976. Dora, Bertha, Abraham, Irving, and

Jack (who was born in Boro Park) lived there. Dora and Bertha started school in P.S. 103 and Bertha transferred to P.S. 16 when it was built. Bertha, Abraham and Irving went to P.S. 164. Jack went to the Hebrew Institute, formerly the Boro Park Clubhouse, and was graduated from there. (The Boro Park Clubhouse was the gathering place for men: meetings, social events, weddings and various other occasions.)

My brother Abe, was an electrician and self-employed. My brother Irving was a Civil Engineer and worked in the Boro President's office in Staten Island. He's now living in Florida

with his wife, Roselyn since his retirement about 7 years ago.

Father was a learned man and wrote poetry in Yiddish and English for Jewish papers. He opened the services at Temple Emanuel every Saturday morn-

ing, until the Rabbi came. He died at age 88. Dora lived in the family home on 47th St. until she passed away in 1976. She had been chairman of the American Red Cross for many years and later became very active in the Boro Park Progressive Synagogue.

My brother Jack was graduated from City College and worked for the Signal Corps at Belmar, N.J. during World War II. He worked with a group of scientists who made the first contact to the moon by radar. He was interviewed by the newspapers at the time and also televised. This was a forerunner of men going to the moon. Pop used to say, "Jack, what kind

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

of work do you do?" he used to answer "It's a secret, and even if I told you, you wouldn't understand." Jack worked as a nuclear physicist with Raytheon Corp. in Waltham, MA. until his death at age 55, in 1969.

My daughter Millicent (Milbauer) lived in Boro Park until her marriage to Richard in 1958. They have 3 daughters and live in Hartsdale, N.Y.

On 13th Ave. the stores were located from 39th St. to 44th St. The rest of 13th Ave. was all residential. Some of the merchants were Mr. Cutler a delicatessen, Rosofsky, a grocer, Berger, a candy store, Weiss, a haberdasher whose family still has the store near 44th St. Rothstein who started with a pushcart which developed into a general store, and Klugman who had a trimming store. The Rivlina had a trimming store on 14th Ave. 17th Ave. was farmland and we picked blueberries there and were chased by farmers.

I remember my father's cousin coming to visit us in a horse and buggy with a fringe on top, taking us for rides around Boro Park. I remember going to the movies once a week at the Sandolphin Hall. I think it was on 45th & Ft. Hamilton Pkwy for which we got 5 cents for movies and 1 cent to spend for candy.

I remember my parents taking us to picnics in Ulmer Park which I think may have been located in Beshonhurst or perhaps in Bay Ridge. I remember the open-air street cars on New Utrecht Ave.

In the summertime, On 49th St. & New Utrecht Ave. there was a slight hill and the words "Boro Park" were imprinted on it in clam shells.

I remember attending Sunday School at Temple Emanuel, which at that time was a very sorry looking building on the street level. They had a little Shamus "Nu Schneiderman" who used to chase us kids if we were too unruly.

I remember some of my teachers at P.S. 164: Miss Berry and Mrs. Carothers, the Domestic Science teacher.

Some of the families we knew were the Ansorge family, Borgenicht, Sokol, Samuel Brightman, Ottensteins, Marwell, Madeline Greenberg, Marks families, Pergosin family and Bayles family. Also I remember the Lamports, Gordons, Jacobsons, Lakows, the Merks and Hartmans and many others.

I remember Helen Grosshandler with whom I graduated from P.S. 164 in 1912. She came from one of the important families in Boro Park. I remember the Ideal Shop (women's wear) on 54th St. and New Utrecht Ave. run by the Goldberg family who were my sister Dora's in-laws.

I remember the Little Public Library located many years ago in the garden of the Dutch Reform Church on 14th Ave. & 54th St. There was an annual Brooklyn Day Parade in June commemorating the anniversary of the establishment of the Brooklyn churches.

I remember Mr. Rosofsky, the grocer, coming to our house every

Sunday afternoon to take our order for the following week and collecting for the previous week. Then he would sit down and have dinner with us consisting of potato pancakes, cabbage soup, etc. I remember Berows Drug Stores on 43rd St. & 13th and then 44th St. & 14th Ave. Incidentally, Mrs. Berow was my first cousin. Many times we went to the store and were invited to sit at the fountain to partake of free ice cream sodas.

I remember Dr. Kresky on 15th Ave. & 54th St. who treated us for several years. I remember the amateur shows we used to run and rehearsed in the vestry of the Temple Emanuel. Proceeds of the shows were for Israel-Zion Hospital (later to become Maimonides Hospital). We had plenty of fun at these rehearsals. Our coach was Emil Cooper.

I was married at the Concordia Club on 15th Ave. & 49th St. in 1929 to Manuel Safferman. Today I live at 1455 55th St. Phone 851-5794. I would be glad to hear from anyone who is still a resident of Boro Park and who might remember the Mofenson family.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

LETTER FROM A READER

Dear Editor:

I have the following information to tell Mr. Kipust of the "I Remember Borough Park" column.

1. Farms in the area: There was a farm in the vicinity of 17th Ave. and 59th St., with the name of "Goldberg's Farm." There also may have been a farm in the vicinity of the present site of Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz on 56th St. between 16 and 17th Ave. until the 1930's.

2. I have seen a map of the B.P. area as it appeared in 1910 or 1920, which was probably put out by the developer of some of the buildings in the area. It listed the name "The Boro Park Company Inc." on it. It included some of the streets and blocks as they appear now, but the concentration of houses in the developed areas on the map were mainly in the lower 40's streets and lower numbered avenues. It listed the business hours and addresses of the deve-

lopers. It also mentioned as one of the advantages of buying in the area the fact that it was convenient and now a one fared zone (5.5) to Manhattan.

3. About the Indian life of long ago in this area little is known. I have read up on the subject a bit, but so far I cannot think of anything substantial mentioned about present day Boro Park. On this subject, however, there were some American Indians near B.P. according to what I have read.

Also I would like to ask if "I Remember Boro Park" was missing from the issue of December 22, 1982. I looked for it but couldn't find it.

Bye for now
B.M. Selevan

(ed. Yes, the Dec. 22, 1982, issue of B.P. Community News was a special issue and the writer of this column was away at the time.)

ANOTHER PRE-1910 RESIDENT

Arthur Marmion notified us that he fits into the category of pre-1910 residents. He came to

Boro Park in 1905, when one year old, from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. His parents Samuel and Lena Marmorsteln first moved to their newly purchased house at 1048-40th St. It was a parlor floor and basement type house and not more than a few years old. He still lives in Boro Park.

HELP IN SEARCH

Please help us in the search for pre-1910 residents and houses in the Boro Park Community. Send this information to us together with any other biographical information or memories of the community. Fewer than ten individuals and fewer than ten

buildings in this category have been identified to date.

DROP OFF POINT FOR BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY The Boro Park Historical Soc-

ety Executive Board decided that for the time being all materials should be mailed to, or dropped off at its office. When considering other drop off points, concern was expressed for the safety and confidentiality of materials submitted. All readers are urged to have the Boro Park Historical Society placed on the mailing list of all institutions and organizations in Boro Park. Old materials, journals, photos, meeting minutes, flyers, advertisements, documents, clippings, etc., are needed for the Boro Park archives and should be dropped off or

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mailed to the office listed below. Materials will be microfilmed and preserved for posterity and research and used in writing the history of the community. If you would like your organizations or family's history preserved, please submit such materials to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4810-13th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

TEL-AVIV RESTAURANT

Do you remember the Tel-Aviv restaurant and delicatessen on 13th Ave. many years ago? It was owned by the Yaroslowitz family. I had a brief interview with Bernard Yaroslowitz, son of the original owner. Bernie came to Boro Park in 1940 with his parents Esther and Marcus and sister Susie (nee Fischler) from Williamsburg. The family had originally immigrated to the U.S.A. in 1939 from Belgium, but originally came from Berlin. They moved to Boro Park in order to establish the business, Tel-Aviv restaurant at 4909-13th Ave. The restaurant was sold in 1962 to the present owners, Crown Restaurant. Bernie and wife, Toby and family now live on 12th Ave. near Dahill Rd. but still consider themselves to be Boro Parkers.

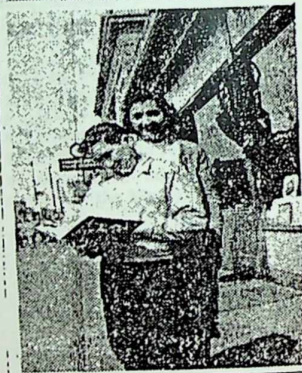
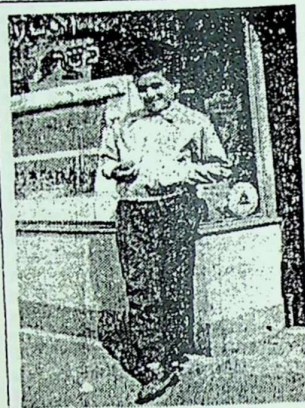
Bernie reminiscenced a little saying he remembers 13th Ave. as a very high class shopping area, and Boro Park as a middle class residential neighborhood. He remembers that in those years the Orthodox Jewish community essentially lived between 12th and 16th Avenues and between 44th and 53rd streets. In those early years Shulamith was the only girls Yeshiva and Buz Chaim and Toras Emes were the only boys' Yeshivas. He also recalls that in those days 95% of the stores on 13th Ave. were open on Saturdays.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographs shown were taken in front of Tel-Aviv Restaurant in May 1949. The young fellow is Rabbi Joel Kramer, now Principal of Prospect Park Yeshiva H.S. The young lady is Ruth Herman now Kipust. The first store to the right is Tel Aviv restaurant (now Crown restaurant), next to it is a meat market which is now called Israel Meat Market (Glatt Pack) in the distance is the Manufacturers Hanover Bank on 49th St. with the well known clock hanging over the street.

PARTICIPATE

Numerous readers have indicated that they enjoy reading stories and memories about Boro Park. Why not add to their enjoyment by submitting your recollections and information about the community.



I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipust

The following interesting letter is self explanatory. Our thanks to Mr. Lesser for his contribution.

JULES LESSER

Dear Mr. Kipust:

I am an ardent reader of your column and letters from Boro Park residents. I enjoy the stories of the past year in Boro Park.

I have been a resident of Boro Park since 1923, first living on 17th Ave. and 53rd St. and then on 50th St. between 13th & 14th Ave. where I live now.

As an officer and board member of the YMHA of Boro Park since 1942 I have been very active and have been chairman of almost every committee including bazaar, Dinner, Dance, shows & concerts, etc. In addition I have been associated with Irving Silberbogen for 30 years, as chairman of the High Holiday services. We had over 500 worshippers who did not belong to other shules or temples! We had many difficulties and incidents trying to please the ticket buyers for the holidays. It seemed as if everyone wanted an aisle seat or window seat, even at \$5 or \$7.00 a

ticket for Rosh Hashona and Yom Kipur.

We sold the tickets every night and weekends for at least a month before the holidays. We also hired the cantors and clergy, sat on the stage giving out honors, and made appeals for Federation, Infants Home, and U.J.A. It was not easy believe me.

One incident that comes to mind took place at the end of one Summer. I was away at Long Beach for the summer and commuted almost every night in order to sell the tickets for the holidays. This year the holidays came out early and the summer was hot. Therefore I did not move back to my Boro Park apartment before the holidays. So erev Kol Nidrel I came home from business to an empty apartment and decided to have my pre-fasting dinner in one of the Kosher restaurants on 13th Ave. Who would believe even in those days, the 1940's Boro Park was so orthodox. I went to Schwartz restaurant on New Utrecht Ave. and 50th St., now Park Surgical, then to Skilowitz on 13th Ave. near 50th. and

others, even the Envoy Cafeteria. Low and behold all of them had closed for Yom Kippur at 2 P.M.

I always fasted on Yom Kippur but I couldn't fast 28 to 30 hours before having my fast breaker meal. I could not find a place to eat and could not be on the job in the shule for 30 hours without eating, there were no food stores open at that hour either. So I prayed that Heaven would forgive me and did something I shouldn't have. To me it was an ordeal but I had no choice.

The Blind Cantor

The following story about Boro Park was told to an audience in Florida last year. The entertainer that related this anecdote said that he lived on 53rd St. in Boro Park as a small boy. He sang in a

choir in shule and his father thought he was very good. His father wanted him to become a boy cantor which was prevalent in those days. In those days Boro Park had some prominent cantors such as Yoselle Rosenblatt, Quarten as other big names.

The boy's father remembered

that the YMHA had a blind cantor. This cantor, Rev. Max Mittelman performed as cantor in the YMHA for over 20 years. He was blind since 14 years of age and learned all the prayers by heart. He never made a mistake; he even corrected other cantors who could see. Reverend Mittelman lived on 56th St. and was led to the YMHA by his daughter.

The boy's father decided to visit the cantor on Shabbos and asked him to listen to the boy sing and test his singing ability and voice. The boy sang a few notes but the cantor did not comment, the father asked the boy to sing some more and told the cantor of his plans to have the boy study to be a cantor. The cantor didn't

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I Remember Boro Park HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

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comment. After several attempts to question him by the father, the cantor hesitated but finally commented over a glass of tea.

"I have been blind since 14 years of age, that is over 50 years already. After listening to your boy sing I have to tell you that I wish I was deaf also."

This story went over big in the condo's in Florida and backstage the entertainer swore that it was a true story.

Very truly yours,
Jules Lesser

Chamber of the HOLOCAUST

We were approached by Mr. David Landau, Executive Director of the Chamber of the Holocaust to help him obtain names of Boro Park residents who are survivors of the Holocaust. The museum already has many thousands of names of survivors but is lacking names from Boro Park residents for some reason. Such names are part of the Boro Park History as well.

The survivors of this tragic era form a unique group, whose identity and personality must be preserved for future generations. The Chamber of the Holocaust's Directory of Survivors is a major advance in the long process of recording and cataloging the names, origins and personal experiences of the survivors. These records, which are stored in the Chamber's computer, will facilitate immediate identification of

survivors and will serve as a resource center for scholars, historians and private individuals who wish to gain greater insight into what transpired during the Holocaust.

The people you most owe this to are your fellow survivors who want to know that you're still alive. They come to the chamber of the Holocaust seeking the last remnants of their communities. For your children's sake as well as the sake of Jewish history, leave a permanent record of your personal experience during the Holocaust, place your name in the Chamber of the Holocaust Computerized Directory of Survivors.

The chamber of the Holocaust was established atop Mt. Zion in Jerusalem, Israel in the early 1950's. New attention focussed upon this museum in 1981 during the World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. This museum also contains a contemporary antisemitism information center and a Holocaust museum.

Send your name, address and information regarding the Holocaust period or request a questionnaire form from either the American office at American Friends of the Chamber of the Holocaust, 662 Lefferts Ave., B'klyn, N.Y. 11203, or to the Chamber of the Holocaust, MT. Zion, P.O. Box 6426, or to the Chamber of the Holocaust, M. Zion, P.O. Box 6426, Jerusalem, 91083.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Following the recent demise of my mother, Fannie (Feiga) Kipust (H.K.M.) on July 5, 1983, a number of friends and readers suggested that I write about her and the family in Boro Park. After some consideration I decided to do so for two reasons. First of all, information about my family, old time Boro Parkers, would provide useful information for the history of Boro Park. Secondly, the information and procedure used may encourage and help others in providing information about their own respective families. The material included is limited to historical information.

FUNERAL OF FANNIE KIPUST

The funeral of Fannie (Feiga) Kipust took place on July 6, 1983 at Shmuel Hadas Chapels 4511-E Hamilton Pkwy. The first eulogy was presented by Rabbi Chaim Twersky, Chaplain of Maimonides Medical Center and Metropolitan Geriatric Center. Rabbi Twersky spoke as a friend of the family as well as chaplain since my mother had spent her last few weeks in both Maimonides Medical Center and Metropolitan Geriatric Center.

The second eulogy was presented by Rabbi Eliezer Horowitz, Rabbi of the 14 Ave. Agadath Israeli Synagogue and Rabbi of the Senior Citizen's Center, located in the same building. Rabbi Horowitz had been Rabbi of Cong. Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph at 4907-18 Ave. until recently and his father was Rabbi in that synagogue for many years before him. He spoke as an old time friend of the family and spiritual leader of the congregation where my family had prayed and studied from the day that synagogue was first established, probably in the late 1920's. My mother also belonged to the Senior Citizen's Center under his spiritual guidance.

Additional eulogies were presented by my son-in-law Rabbi Yitzchak Yarmush and myself representing the family. Psalms were read by Pinchas Frankel son-in-law of the deceased and the Kole Moley Rochamim was chanted

by Rev. Joseph Fishman, sexton of First Cong. Anshe Sfard.

KIPUST FAMILY RECORDS

After the mourning period we went through old records and papers—passports, marriage certificate, citizenship certificates, house insurance, deeds, photos, bills, cancelled checks, charity receipts and other items. Much valuable historical material was gathered from these records, not only about the family but also about the community. Items not needed were submitted to the Boro Park Historical Society Archives. Documents we wished to keep were photocopied and submitted to the Archives. The following is some of the information that was obtained from these records.

Elias Elyohu Kipust and his wife IDA (Chaya Rachel) my grandparents first moved to Boro Park from the lower east side in 1921 with their two sons, Max (Efraim Mordechai) and Oscar (Shlomo)—now living in Los

Angeles. According to the passport, written in Russian, Elias was born in Poland on March 16, 1864. He served in the Czars army in 1886. The passport was dated May 2, 1903, while he lived in Warsaw. The records do not indicate the year he and his family emigrated to America. His son Oscar told me that his father arrived in the U.S.A. in 1909 or 1910 whereas the rest of the family, wife and two sons arrived in 1913. My father Max (Ephraim Mordechai) was listed on the passport of his father.

Ida (Nee Toffel) was born in 1865 in Ogari, Lomza, Poland and

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lived in OSTROLENKA. Her passport was dated May 8, 1903.

Elias and Ida Kipust purchased a home in Boro Park at 1864-49 St. On Aug. 3, 1921 from Isidore and Ettie Kreisner. The house was first built in 1913 as indicated by a first mortgage for \$3,000, which was carried over since then. It was a one family house which they later converted into a two family house of 4 rooms in each apartment. They

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sold half of the house, the upstairs to Israel and Asne Butensky in 1924, for \$4,000. The Butensky's came from Kosciusko St., Bklyn. When Asne passed away, Israel married Sara. Both families continued to live in the house until the demise of the parents.

When the Kipust's first moved to 1864-49 St. only a few houses were already built on the even side of the block. The opposite side of the street was all open undeveloped land stretching until the train tracks on McDonald Ave.

The citizenship papers of Elias indicate that the papers were finalized on Aug. 2, 1921, while he lived at 1864-49 St.

My mother's passport Feiga (then Toffel) is dated May 2, 1908 and lists her date of birth as March 2, 1893. She lived in Ostrovo, Lomze, Poland and arrived in this country about 1917. My father and mother were first cousins, my grandmother Ida and grandfather Toffel were brother and sister.

The house at 1864-49 St. was very important and served as a focal point in the family history, certainly of my childhood recollections. My father and mother were married in that home. They used the backyard for the ceremonies and the inside of the house and the adjoining house at 1862-49 St. which then belonged to a relative, for the meal and festivities. Fiddler fiddled and all the relatives participated in the preparation and serving of the food. The wedding took place on Oct. 28, 1923 (15 marcheshvan 5684), the ceremony was led by Rabbi H. Nathan Manuel who lived at 5313 New Utrecht Ave. My mother had been living at 105 Forsyth St. Manhattan at the time. The two witnesses at the wedding were Harry Cooperman and Elias Verschleiser.

Jack Verschleiser, a son of the witness Elias, told me he remembers Rabbi Manuel and the entire wedding which he attended as a small boy with his father, Jack, who became related to me many years later, when I married his wife's cousin, spoke fondly of my father. My father had a dry goods stand right next to his father's bakery stand in the 13 Ave. Market on 54 St.—now a shoe store.

My parents and their family lived in several places in Boro Park. We lived at 1864-49 St. for many years, at different time intervals. They lived on Webster Ave. when my father had a dry goods store on 18 Ave. between 48 & 49 St. That store was destroyed by fire. We lived at 1358-44 St., ground floor back for about 3 years,

- AUGUST 31, 1983 -

between 1934 and 1939, following that we moved to 1315-42 St. upstairs. We lived there when I was Bar Mitzvah and until May 30, 1941 the day my grandmother Ida Kipust passed away at Maimonides Hospital. After that we moved to 1864-49 St. to help take care of grandpa Elias until his passing in Dec. 1946.

The death certificate showed that Elias Kipust passed away in his home due to a heart attack (Coronary Thrombosis). His attending doctor was Dr. Hyman B. Ressler of 4915-14 Ave. Grandpa Elias was originally an operator on clocks but suffered an injury to his spine while at work. He retired on disability at an early age, and could walk with a cane only with great difficulty. He received workman's compensation, \$38 a month for the rest of his life. During the depression years this was a good income and grandpa paid tuition for my attendance at Yeshiva Toras Emes which was \$4 a month at this time. Dr. Ressler was his attending physician and our family physician for many years, until his retirement.

Grandma Freda Toffel, my mother's mother, lived with us for many years, when we lived on 44 St., on 42 St. and again at 1864-49 St. She passed away on June 29, 1951 in the house at 1864-49 St. and was interred at Beth David cemetery, Ostrove Society. Grandparents Kipust were interred at Montefiore Cemetery, Cong. Beth Aaron Chasidim DeKoidanoff Society.

My father was unemployed for many years during the depression. It was especially difficult to obtain employment if one was a Sabbath observer. Years later a relative gave him a job in the garment center as an operator on ladies belts. He continued to work as an operator until his retirement in 1965. Both my mother and father worked hard to make ends meet and to help repay all the debts they incurred as a result of the fire in their uninsured dry goods store and the many years of unemployment. They purchased a sewing machine for the house which they used to sew at home evenings and Sundays.

When Sara Butensky passed away in 1966 (she had already been a widow for many years) we purchased the other half of the house from the children. My parents continued to live there until they could no longer take care of it. They sold the house in 1972 to Mr. & Mrs. Shechter.

My parents then rented an apartment at 1502-44 St., lived there until 1974, and then moved to 1558-41 St.

My father Max (Z.L.) passed away on March 19, 1975 in his home after a sudden massive heart attack. His funeral took place at Jeffer's Community Chapel 47 St. and Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. Eulogies were presented by Rabbi Eliezer Horowitz, then Rabbi at Cong. Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph, and Rabbi Eli Schwartz, Dean of Yeshiva and Mesivta Toras Emes

Kamenitz. My brother and myself were students in that Yeshiva under Rabbi Schwartz and I was on the faculty of that Yeshiva for many years. Eulogies were also presented by Rabbi Jacob Grossman who had been Rabbi of Cong. Ohel Abraham Mishkan Joseph many years before Rabbi Naftali Horowitz, and had been close to the family in those years, and myself representing the family.

After my father's death my mother lived alone in the apt. until Nov. 1982. She then moved in with her daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Pinchas Frankel at 1532-41 St., where she lived until her hospitalization and subsequent death. At the time of her demise, two of her three children 5 of her 13 grandchildren and 16 of her 32 great grandchildren were living in Boro Park. The other children and grandchildren had all lived in Boro Park for various periods of time. Many of her great grandchildren are third generation born Boro Parkers.

Of course a great deal more can be written about the history of the family and memories of Boro Park. Some information will gradually be interspersed with other articles of Boro Park. I would like to add a few general bits of information.

Fannie obtained her final citizenship papers on Sept. 12, 1939 when we lived at 1358-44 St. I recall that was a time of celebration, common in those days.

We found a check drawn on "The State Bank Borough Park branch 13 Ave. and 49 St.," dated Aug. 17, 1925. We found a bill from Foster Lumber Yard which was located on 47 St. between 19 Ave. and McDonald Ave. and a bill from Windsor Lumber Yard located on 15 Ave. and 37 St.

The block on 49 St. was a special block to us as children. It was a dead end block because of the L.I. railroad tracks. However there is a narrow walkway for pedestrians alongside the track gate going through to 19 Ave. and to 48 St.

As children we enjoyed playing in the street (gutter) because very few cars passed. Few people owned cars in those days and cars couldn't drive through that block. During the summer vacations all the children were out in the street playing games. We played "three feet to Germany," "hide and seek," "ring-a-levio," "stickball," "triangle," "punch ball," "giant step," "jump rope," "marbles," red light, green light, and others. We also played cards, "big business" and "monopoly" as well as others.

Many of those games are still played and enjoyed by children today. That block changed in ethnic composition a few times. As a child I remember that people on the block were almost all Jewish. Only about 6 families were not Jewish, mostly Italian. Many years later the block became mostly Italian and today it is again mainly Jewish. For most of the years that I can remember the corner store, now Eilat Restaurant, was a drug store or pharmacy. The two corner stores on the 49 St. side of 50 St. and 48 St. were candy stores. There are very few candy stores left today in Boro Park, in those

years candy stores were located on almost every block. That's where children purchased ice cream, candy, soda, malteds, school supplies, and some toys. Adults purchased newspapers, cigarettes, ice cream frappes, egg creams, and the like. Most people did not have telephones but used the public phones located in the candy stores. Sometimes in emergencies, the proprietor would send someone to call a person to the telephone for an incoming call.

PERPETUATE YOUR OWN FAMILY'S HISTORY

The Archives of the Boro Park Historical Society 4810-13 Ave. will open files for prominent Boro Park families, past and present. If you would like to safeguard and perpetuate your own family's history, please submit information to the B.P.H.S. When family elders pass on their old papers, documents and photos are usually discarded. Instead, why not submit them to the B.P.H.S. for maintenance in their Archives. Eventually all the documents and information will be put on film and preserved.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPURT

Dominick Suplina submitted an old "letter to the editor" article which appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle on July 14, 1946. The following are a few paragraphs which were extracted from that article. It includes many real old time names and businesses of the community.

The section I knew best is the Boro Park section. The late Senator Reynolds had a great deal to do with its development. There were nice houses and very nice people who resided there. Going way, way back, here are some random thoughts. Barry's ice cream store and movies. Later on the distinguished Captain Roser and his "Rose" moving picture theatre, where the popular Fred Robischon used to sing so pleasantly. His brother Al was an all round athlete. Small in stature but a mighty man. Steven's drug store, where attorney Van Thun used to be often seen chatting with Dr. Stevens. The charming Mrs. Stevens and the sons, Fred and Bradley. Connolly's bakery shop. One of the brothers is now a leading broker in Brooklyn and in the State. Hadley's fish market. Art Hadley was a great first baseman. Tony's, the leading grocery store. The handsome, dashing, bearded son. Pottberg's package liquor store. Hirsch, the postman and amateur theatrical director. The fastest moving postman of the many Brooklyn postman. The Golden family. The son Michael riding Indian fashion on many a horse left at his dad's horse-shoeing establishment. His brother Matt is now a physician in Brooklyn. The Kilcoyne brothers, who built a number of houses and were in the real estate business for years. Billy Kay, who married the sister of the great Baseball pitcher, Pem Finlayson. Billy was quite a pitcher himself. Howard Murphy and Howard Voshell, two

good tennis players. The latter one of the leading pitchers of the country....Edna Murphy made her mark in the movies as an actress. Two fine and handsome fellows killed in World War I, Harold Kuncle and Milton Grusbach. The latters' brother, Chester, and his long curls. The Bradley brothers...the blonde Beavers. The beautiful Powell sisters and Sage brothers. The Mayo family and their cousins the Kudlegers. The Webb and O'Connell families. Virginia Hall...

"Elsie Marks' dancing school. The Boro Park clubhouse. The

Toonerville appearing trolley cars on 16th Ave. The Williams' boys...Lawler the druggist. Dickovers' hardware store...The beautiful trees and well kept lawns and hedges. Those were indeed the Good Old Days.

Boro Parkite
(Pittsburgh)

I wonder if any old timers can recall some of those names and places mentioned in that article. The Boro Park Historical Society would be interested in information about the current whereabouts of old time former Boro Parkers.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK SAMUEL FREDERICK PLACER

At the 78th anniversary week-end of Temple Emanuel of Boro Park in June 1982, Samuel Frederick Placer was Guest of Honor. In June 1983, he was installed as president of the temple the oldest president in the history of the temple. The following historical data about him was gathered by Alan Jay Gerber for the temple's sorivenin Journal.

Sam was born in Medzibezh, in the Ukraine on March 12, 1908 and emigrated to the U.S. in August 1913, settling on the Lower East Side. He is currently a judge of the Small Claims Court, still fully active.

He married his wife Mollie in 1934 in Temple Emanuel and took up residence in Boro Park.

The ceremony was officiated by Cr. Benjamin Levitt who was then Cantor of the Temple. Sam's lifelong relationship with the temple began at that time.

Sam joined the choir of Temple Emanuel in 1935, then under the leadership of Herman Zalls. He served in that choir which was subsequently led by Morris Barosh and Abraham Slutsky and even conducted the choir when the leaders were sometimes indisposed. The Boro Park Y Minstrels of 1926 lists Sam as singing "Song of a Millionaire," and the Boro Park Y Frolics of 1927 has Sam in the role of Caruso's successor, singing "Take In the Moon" and "Southward." Sam appeared also on radio station WGBS in 1928 singing several songs. He sang in choirs with the leading cantors of the time including Zavel Kwartin, Benjamin Levitt, Charles Block and David Kuscovitsky all of Temple Emanuel and other leading cantors mother parts of the city. Sam joined the Temple in 1950 and served in many capacities including the position Vice President. Sam and Mollie who reside at 1655-52 St. are the proud parents of two children. Mrs Sydney Norensberg and Dr. Joseph W. Placer, a pathologist in New Jersey Sam was instrumental in the sale of the Fine Center, which was owned by the temple, to the Bais Yaakov of Brooklyn.

LOU GELBERG

I happened to meet Lou Gelberg at a party in Oceanside L.I. and was surprised to learn that he was a former Boro Parker. Lou came to Boro Park when he was about 11 years old, in 1919. He moved to Boro Park from the Bronx with his father Harry, mother Mollie and brother Man-
 ie. Their first residence was a purchased house at 1247-52 St. He attended PS 103 and New Utrecht H.S. There were no Junior High Schools in those days in this area. Students attended public schools until the 8th grade and then went to high school.

The family moved to 54 St. and 14 Ave. in the apartment house opposite PS 103. They later moved to 53 St. between 13 and 14 Ave. Lou said he was Bar Mitzved in 1921 in the shule off 13 Ave. on 41 or 42 St. The family moved out of Boro Park in 1932 or 33.

Lou remembers 13 Ave. having all private homes from 55 St. to 46 St. There were only a few scattered stores there then. He remembers the Post Office on 13 Ave. between 51 and 52 St. He also remembers when the train on New Utrecht Ave. ran on the ground. He recalls that State Senator Phil Kleinfeld lived on his block on 52 St between 13 and 14 Ave.

He remembers one very wealthy and prominent family, Borge-nicht. They owned a large home on 14 Ave. corner 51 St. (N.W.) On that corner, in front of their home, there was a police booth on the sidewalk. The police rode around with bicycles at that time.

One memory that stands out in his mind was the great robbery on the 55 St. station (New Utrecht Ave.) A bank messenger carrying money was shot and robbed on the station platform in broad daylight. Lou's neighbor on 53 St., Mr. Selkowitz testified against the robbers at the trial. The neighbors were afraid of any possible retaliation by the robbers friends. A crime of this nature was comparatively rare in those days.

The reason they moved so frequently and probably one of the reasons the family first moved to Boro Park was that his father was very allergic to paint and had a strong reaction to it. Therefore every two or three years, instead of painting their apartment they moved into a freshly painted one. From Boro Park they moved to 178 Ocean Pkwy and were the first tenants to move into that new apartment building.

Other memories include attending Loews 46 St. all day on Sunday for 15¢, playing stickball, visiting relatives a great deal on days off and going horse back riding on Ocean Parkway bridal path.

Please submit your memories, photos and historical documents to the Boro Park Historical Society or to this column.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPUST

The history of Boro Park is not limited to events of many years ago. History includes the current happenings as well, up until yesterday. Historical items of long ago are more difficult to obtain or remember and they therefore be more valuable, but recent events must be recorded also while they are still remembered so that the current history may be preserved for future generations. The following interesting letter from Mr. B.M. Selevan includes some more recent historical items.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I was happy to see that my previous letter was published in the "I Remember Boro Park" column. Now I am submitting a few more items on Borough Park.

1. The old map mentioned in my last letter was seen by myself in the New York Public Library at 42nd St. and 5th Ave. Manhattan, research branch in the map room.

2. The following information may be recent but is history none the less.

A. The Cong. Bertche on 16th Ave. corner 54th St., I was told, was once part of a Bohack grocery store.

B. The Yeshiva Beth Shearim of Ungvar under the leadership of Rabbi Menashe Klein, on 16th Ave. between 53rd & 54th St. was once a factory.

C. The minyan Mir on 16th Ave. corner 54th St. (S.W.) was once an egg store.

D. The Meshila Beth Yisrael Chasidai Gur, next to Minyan Mir was until recently a factory.

E. The Lakewood Yeshiva Alumni minyan on 16th Ave. between 51 St. & 52nd St. was until recently a film rental store.

F. Henry's Fruit Store on 16th Ave. and 52nd St. was previously situated a few stores over, closer to 51st St. There was a mini market there, for perhaps one

quarter of the block. It included a butcher store and a fish store (Shlome's fish store) also.

G. Herbst Optician on 16th Ave. and 52nd St. was Bernie's Luncheonette until fairly recently. Before that it was a candy store.

H. The Yeshiva M'Kor Chaim building at 1571-55th St. was previously a nursing home.

3. I have heard an allegation that it cost \$20 million to build the Beth-El Synagogue on 15th Ave. corner 48th St. Does anyone know the true cost?

4. How about including some facts about Boro Park in general?

Things like the highest and lowest elevations, the number of people, houses and apartments and the number and kinds of trees in the community would be of interest to many people. Also such items as the tallest and lowest building, population breakdown by ethnic groups and oldest tree, oldest building, and oldest person. Although some information may be available from census figures it may be difficult to use census information on a community wide basis. It may be worthwhile to obtain our own information.

5. Some people looking at a map

of Boro Park today may be under the impression that Boro Park developed evenly and that all the streets developed about 40 or 50 years ago. That is not so as the following examples point out:

A. There was empty land on 16th Ave. between 54th & 55 St. between the present Schwartz Barber shop and The Hat Rack (formerly a bar) until about 20 years ago. I have also heard that the houses on 55th between 16 and 17 Ave. on odd side of street, closer to 16th Ave., are only about 25 years old. The land was vacant before that.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

(Continued from Page 2)

B. I have heard that a house on 56th St. between 16th & 17th Ave., just off 17th Ave. on the odd side, with a nice sized piece of land, was built personally by its former owner, an Italian man, as a weekend project. Its present owner, Haaldic, purchased it from the original owner not long ago.

C. On 17th Ave. between 57 and 58 St., odd side, one house on the corner of 57th St. there are two one story houses. They are unusual structures for this area. These two buildings are referred to as "bungalows." Maybe they were summer homes at one time.

6. The "Key Food" store on 5701 16th Ave. was previously a "Royal Farms" store. There was a Royal Farm store at 4714 13th Ave. next to Anchor Savings Bank (formerly Bay Ridge Savings), then it became a Key Food store under one owner with the other. Recently the 13th Ave. store became B&V Foods under a new Russian Jewish owner and is Shomer Shabbos.

7. A good topic to write about would be the banks in Boro Park. Several new banks are the Community Bank on 13th Ave. between 50 & 51st St. The Greater New York Savings Bank on 13th Ave. and 53rd St. (formerly a furniture store) and 1st Nationwide Savings on 13th Ave. and 49th St.

B. What is the history of Old Hirsch road between 17 and 18th Ave. and between 48 and 52nd St?

9. The Concordia Club now Cong. Khal Chasidim, was mentioned in a recent column. What kind of a club was it?

Although not everything I've written would be considered old history it may still have some value. I would like to know if the Boro Park Historical Society and the I Remember Boro Park column welcomes the information and writings that I have submitted.

Thank You,
B.M. Selevan

We thank Mr. Selevan for his worthwhile contribution. The materials submitted are indeed welcome and useful both for this column and for the research material being accumulated by the Boro Park Historical Society

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Boro Park Historical Society has a number of projects now under way. An archives of B.P. has been started. Folders have been started for a number of organizations, institutions, schools and houses of worship. Please add the B.P. Historical Society to the mailing list of your organization or institution. When we receive your mail we will start a folder for your organization. You may not receive a donation in response to your mail but your letters will be preserved in our archives and be eligible for inclusion in the history of the community that is now planned.

You will also notice elsewhere in the paper that a contest is now

underway by the B.P.H.S. to help it obtain historical photos and other materials. Look through your photo albums for old photos.

A general membership campaign is also underway now for the B.P.H.S. The membership is \$5.00 for a resident and \$10.00 for a business. A general membership meeting with an interesting presentation about Boro Park is

being planned for the near future.

Finally, an exhibit is being planned for the early Spring which will display many historical photos and other historical items.

We invite you to participate in and support the work of the B.P.H.S. You may submit items and dues mentioned above to

Boro Park Historical Society 4810
13th Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By DR. PHILIP J. KIPURT

PHOTO CONTEST

There is still time to enter the photo contest sponsored by the Boro Park Historical Society. If you have photographs or other memorabilia of historical interest about Boro Park you may be able to win one of the cash prizes. The odds of winning are in your favor because so far only a few entries have been received. The winners will be announced in the Boro Park Community News and the winning entries reproduced here. Materials received will also be used to further our research of Boro Park History and proper credits will be used to further our research of Boro Park History and proper credits will be given to those who submit them.

All items will be returned upon request. See more information and officials rules elsewhere in this paper.

FIFTH GRADERS REQUEST

The following two letters were sent by fifth grade students at P.S. 160. Perhaps some of our readers can help them with information or materials.

Dear Dr. Kipurt:

Hello! My name is Evelyn Kelsick. I'm from P.S. 160, the William T. Sampson School. The reason you are receiving this letter is that my class is making a film on the school's 75th anniversary. We would be thankful for all the information you can give us about the school; and the neighborhood of Boro Park. Please call me at 633-1744 or write to the school if you or anyone else has information. Please let us know if you want to come to see our film, it would be our privilege to invite you.

Sincerely yours,
Evelyn Kelsick

Dear Dr. Kipurt:

My name is Michael Leung. I am a student at the William T. Sampson School, P.S. 160. The school is celebrating its 75th anniversary. My class is making a film about it.

I would appreciate it if you could tell me the history of the school and the neighborhood over the past 75 years. If you have any old pictures about the neighborhood and the school please send them to me. Try to give all the information you can.

What was there before the park across the street from my school? Please write back. My address and

phone are 1268-52nd St. 11219, (871-9895). The address of the school is P.S. 160, 5105 Fort Hamilton Parkway, B'klyn 11219.

Yours truly,
Michael Leung

The addresses and phones are included so that people may contact the students or school directly. Materials may also be submitted to my attention at the Boro Park Community News, and will be forwarded to the students.

CHERNOBILER REBEE PASSES AWAY

The Chernobiler Rebee, Grand Rabbi Yaakov Yisroel Twersky,

passed away suddenly in his home on Nov. 13, 1983. Although an article about the Rabbi, an old time Boro Parker had been planned for a future date, it seems appropriate to revise that plan and do that article now.

The funeral was held at the Rebbe's Shule and home at 1520-49th St. on Monday, November 14, 1983. Some of the Chasidic Rabbinical leaders present were the Bobover Rav, The Salmar Rav, The Bostoner Rebbe and the three Squerer Rebbes. Rabbi Chaim Twersky, Chaplain in Maimonides Medical center and

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK - HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Metropolitan Geriatric Center of-ficiated. Over a thousand people were estimated to have been at the funeral. The burial took place at Beth David Cemetery near the Rebbe's father's grave.

The Rebbe is survived by his wife, the Rebetzin Gitel, his daughter, Mrs. Ada Cohen, the wife of Rabbi Eugene J. Cohen, (Chaplain at the JFK Airport Synagogue and Brooklyn Veterans Administration), his son Rabbi Shlomo Twersky, Director of Touro College, Physician Assoc. Program and eight grandchildren.

The Rebbe, born in 1902 in Kiev Tchernobel, Russia, emigrated in 1936 due to the "progroms" in Russia and settled in Palestine. When the Rebbe's father Rabbi Shlomo Shmuel Twersky passed away 10 months later in 1937, the Rebbe came to Boro Park to fill his position.

The Rebbe's father had settled in Boro Park in 1934 and opened a shul (small synagogue in his home) at 1576-48th St. The present Rebbe at first moved into that house on 48th St. and maintained the Shtiebel there. Subsequently, he purchased the present house at 1570-49th St. in 1938-39 and established his Shtiebel there.

The Chernobiler Rebbe was widely esteemed for his deeds, charity and benevolence. His home was always open for the needy and wayfarer. Many needy guests graced his table almost daily and his synagogue was used by many charitable organizations for meetings and other activities. His passing marks the end of an era in the history of Boro Park.

I recall several personal contacts

with the Rebbe. During the years 1947-1950, I frequently joined my friends who met at the Harbater home on Saturday afternoons. The Harbater home was located near the Rebbe, the corner house at 1502-49th St. The group would usually attend afternoon prayer services at the Rebbe's Shtiebel and we were able to observe and experience the warmth, friendliness and hospitality of the Rebbe. The Kranzler boys were among the group who visited the Harbaters and they were upstairs tenants in the Rebbe's house.

Most of the information for this article was obtained during an interview with the Rebbe's son, Shlomo Shmuel. He was born in 1941 in Israel Zion hospital (now Maimonides). He said Dr. Bunim delivered him and Dr. Schmierer (1328-49th St.) was his pediatrician and they both worked together as a package deal at that time. Shlomo Shmuel married Shelly Levy, a Boro Park girl. She was born in Israel Zion hospital in 1946. Her father was the proprietor of Levy's Jewelry store at 4405-13th Ave. for over 30 years until 1977. The Levy's moved to Boro Park in 1937, they lived at 926-47th St. and after that at 1541-47th St. Shlomo Shmuel and family now live on Ocean Parkway.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

You can become a member of the Boro Park Historical Society and help promote the history of Boro Park. Membership is only \$5.00 for individual families and \$10.00 for business applicants.

You can only participate in the work by submitting photos, articles, memories and other history related items.

Send dues or materials to: Boro Park Historical Society, 4810-13th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

Enter Boro Park Historical Society Contest

\$400 IN PRIZES TO LUCKY WINNERS OF PHOTO & MEMENTO CONTEST!

By Joseph B. Fuchs, Executive Director of the Boro Park Historical Society

To facilitate its search into the rich heritage of our neighborhood, the Boro Park Historical Society has commissioned an exciting contest which will award over \$400 in cash prizes to those who enter by submitting photos or mementos of famous faces or places as well as scenes from everyday life in the Boro Park of yesteryear. You may also be a lucky winner of a beautiful Polaroid camera, simply by clipping the coupon below and entering the contest with your photo of earlier days and ways in Boro Park! Since there will later be a public drawing from among all coupons, everyone has a chance to win! In addition to that, you have a chance at the big bucks bonanza, if your memorable item which is returnable, is among those chosen by the panel of judges. So what are you waiting for? Search through your photo albums, collection of journals, yearbooks, newspapers, clippings, mementos and memorabilia, because you may be sitting on a treasure trove of interesting information about the earlier days here in Boro Park. By entering this contest, Dr. Philip J. Kipust, Chairman of the Boro Park Historical Society notes that you must be a winner in having the good feeling that you have helped future generations know more about how Boro Parkers as yourself lived here.

WHAT YOU CAN WIN IN THE BIG DUCKS BONANZA

Besides the lady luck drawing for the Polaroid prize just for entering the contest, another lucky 13 cash prizes are being reserved for the top 13 memorable entries. The winning person or organization will claim a \$200 cash grand prize, while the next two runnersup will each take home a \$50 first prize and the next ten best qualifiers will each garner \$10 second prizes. In addition to this, the names of the winners and a description of their winning entries will be publicized and also recorded in the archives of the Society. At the same time, you may also help perpetuate the name of your family in the annals of Boro Park history — her heritage, when the duplicated photo or item about your family, is lovingly preserved in its archives and perhaps later, included in its planned volume on our history. Future residents and scholars will be fascinated by it! But you must hurry, since the contest closes January 16, 1984! Here are some hints on architecture, dress, styles, stores, transportation or buildings which have since been razed, renovated or converted in use here in Boro Park? Do you own any photo featuring one of the hundreds of celebrities who have lived or performed here in our neighborhood such as Richard Tucker, Buddy Hackett, Johnny Saxton, Sandy Koufax, The Honorable Stanley Fink, Jackie Eagle, Etc.

HOW TO ENTER THE CONTEST

Simply clip the coupon below and mail it together with your photo(s) or item(s) to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4816—13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219. Or if you prefer, you may personally deliver them to the office (which is one flight up at the above address) each Monday from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Remember, that there is no fee to enter this contest, nor any costs afterwards. For further details, see the rules below:

BPHS Photo & Memorabilia Lady Luck Entry Blank

Historical Society Contest

OFFICIAL CONTEST REGULATIONS

1. No purchase necessary to enter.
2. Each entrant may submit as many Boro Park photos, journals, yearbooks, mementos and memorabilia as desired.
3. Each photo and item which is not self-explanatory, should have a caption attached below or in back of it giving a very brief description of the time, faces and places and connection it has with Boro Park (care should be taken not to write directly on the back of photos, to avoid damaging them; paper can be pasted to their backs or sides). Also include your name and address on it.
4. Entrants who want their entries returned, must include a self-addressed and stamped envelope or carton, or stipulate that they will pick them up after the contest ends.
5. Although the BPHS will take painstaking care of these entries, it cannot assume responsibility for their loss.
6. BPHS reserves the right to photograph or duplicate entries.
7. Each entry will be judged on the basis of its historical relevance to Boro Park, artistic quality, rarity and age.
8. The entries will be independently judged by the executive board of the BPHS, WHOSE DECISION WILL BE FINAL.
9. Deadline for entry: January 16, 1984.
10. Each timely entrant is eligible for the lady luck entry blank public drawing to be held at the Boro Park Community Council meeting of Feb. 8, 1984 at the Greater New York Savings Bank.
Community Room at the corner of 53 Street and 13 Avenue at 7:45 P.M. The winner receives a Polaroid camera for simply entering the contest!
11. Prizes to judged winners: Grand prize: \$200 cash; 2 first prizes; \$50 cash each; 10 second prizes of \$10 each.
12. Employees, staff, community and members of the executive board of the BPHS and their immediate families are ineligible for prizes.

So what are you waiting for? Enter early and often and good luck!

Full Name of person/organization _____			
Address _____			
(number)		(street)	
_____		_____	
(city)	(state)	(zip code)	
_____	_____	_____	
Phone # (_____) _____			
(area code)			

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Klipust

The following few items are based upon brief interviews with residents or former residents of Boro Park.

RABBI PHILIP GOLDBERG

Rabbi Philip Goldberg remembers the fire at the Knickerbocker Ice Co. on 36th St. between 12 and 13th Ave. It was the largest fire in the city at that time and occurred in the 1930's. Mayor LaGuardia came to see the fire which burned all day.

Rabbi Goldberg, whose father was the first Principal of Yeshiva Toras Emes, is a Chaplain at Willowbrook in Staten Island. He also recalls the years when ice was delivered daily in Boro Park by ice men driving horse drawn wagons. Children would run to the wagons, as the iceman chopped the huge cakes of ice into smaller sections, and take the small slivers that were chopped off and eat them or cool themselves with them. Each customer ordered a piece of ice according to his needs which usually sold for anywhere from 10 to 25 cents a piece. The iceman would carry the pieces of ice on his shoulder usually with a sack cloth to the customer's apartment and place the ice into the ice box.

Rabbi Goldberg also recalls the pushcarts on 13th Ave. which lined both sides of the streets from 39 to 41st St. In the winter the vendors would build little fires near their pushcarts in cans in order to warm themselves as they stood there all day selling their fruits, vegetables and other products.

BONIME

Harold Bonime, who now lives in Flatbush, related that his grandparents came to Boro Park in 1913 (approximately). His grandfather Raphael Bonime had an estate on a large piece of land at 1356 - 45th St. Harold's parents Moe and Mae and family lived next door in a home his grandfather had built at 1358 - 45th St.

Harold was born in B.P. in 1922 and moved in 1953 when he was married. His grandfather was deceased in the early 1930's, the estate was sold and several new houses were built on the land in 1939.

His family told him they remember when the subway train went only as far as the 36th St. station. From there one was required to take a horse and carriage to B.P. or other destinations.

He also recalls, the area which became Israel Zion hospital (now Maimonides), was once woods

which were used by the Boy Scouts as their camping grounds. It was up the hill.

Harold pointed out that the early Jewish residents in B.P. set up Jewish institutions which later attracted Orthodox Jews to the community. His grandfather was one of the founders of Temple Emanuel and Israel Zion hospital. He was in the paper box business and wealthy until the depression.

The orthodox community was very small then. Most of the Jews in B.P. attended synagogue services on the high holidays only. They had received a Hebrew school education in their youth.

He pointed out that Ocean Parkway was once a race track for horses, especially south towards Coney Island. He remembers when the stores began to be built on 13th Ave. between 44 and 46 Sts. that was in the late 20's and early 30's. He remembers when the Loews 46th St. (New Utrecht Ave.) was built. It was a beautiful movie house and was also a vaudeville theatre at the time, with live stage shows. He remembers how peddlars with horse drawn wagons would ride down the streets selling fruits and vegetables. Potatoes were \$1.00 for a 100 lb. bag. The people in the community were more neighborly and friendly in those years.

LANGER

I met Moshe Langer in San Francisco in 1982. He told me that he came to B.P. in 1947 from Shanghai. He had been in Shanghai during World War II after his escape from the Nazis. Actually he came to San Francisco first and then went to Boro Park in order to study at Yeshiva Yavneh. He was married in Shanghai before coming to America. Continued on Page 10

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

While in B.P. he lived with the Gellers at 1305 - 52 St., an apartment building. His total stay in B.P. was approximately 3 months and then he moved back to San Francisco where he now resides.

GOLDEN

While in San Francisco I also met Sidney Golden. Sidney came to B.P. in 1940 and moved to 1146 - 46 St. He originally came from Vienna, moved to Uruguay, South America and then came to B.P. Soon after his arrival he went to the army and served until 1946, then he returned to B.P. for 6 months, living with his brother. Following that he went to visit another brother who lived in San Francisco and remained until the present time. His B.P. brother Harry Goldhirsch who came from Vienna in 1941 passed away in 1950 while living at 1146-46 St.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following information about the two public libraries serving the B.P. community was researched and submitted by Susan Malus, Public Relations department of the Brooklyn Public Library.

BOROUGH PARK BRANCH

The Borough Park branch of the Brooklyn Public Library began in 1904 in the Edgewood Reformed Chapel (Couwenhoven Lane near 54th Street and 14th Avenue) when several families asked neighbors to donate books. In 1907 it became a Brooklyn Public Library "station", and in 1910 obtained full status as a branch.

The library was moved to 5211-13 13th Avenue (two stores) in 1926, and enlarged in 1937. It was always a very busy branch with an active reading public.

In 1953 ground was broken for a new building. The branch was then one of the busiest in the system. It was the first branch library in Brooklyn to have a Music Listening Room in its plans; records were added to the collection shortly after the library opened.

The Borough Park library became a regional headquarter in 1958.

Circulation in 1910 was 30,001. In 1981-2 it was 290,069.

MAPLETON BRANCH

The Mapleton branch began as a community library in June,

1934, at 6605 20th Avenue. The Library provided some equipment and books through the Extension Department (no longer in existence).

In February, 1935 a full branch library was opened at 6107 18th Avenue.

The branch was moved to a new building, 17 Ave. & 60 St. (its current location) on December 2, 1955.

Circulation in 1949 (the earliest date accessible) was 146,307; last year it was 267,215.

Why not submit the information about your family organization, business or other memories of Boro Park?

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following interesting letter was received recently in response to the last column. We appreciate this and all correspondence and contributions to the history of Boro Park.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I always look forward to your column "I Remember Boro Park" from which I derive a nostalgic pleasure.

Your most recent issue alludes to the B.P. branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. I remember attending the library when it was still housed in a small separate building on the grounds of the Edgewood Reformed Church (14 Ave & 54 St). It was there that I obtained my first precious library card.

From that location the library moved to a store on 56 St. between 13th & 14th Avenues. (This was not mentioned in Susan Mallus' account). I do not recall just when it was located there, but I do recall trudging back and forth several times a week to 56 St. from my home on 45 St. In those days children were limited to borrowing one fiction (blue jay) and one non-fiction (red jay) at a time.

From 56 St. the library was moved to 5211-13th Ave. and thereafter to its present location on 43 St. (once the site of a Turkish Bath and a Ritualarium).

I am now a member of the Mapleton Branch and I still consider my library card a precious possession.

Sincerely Yours,
Adele Weinstock

THE BIRTH OF BORO PARK

A number of readers have expressed interest in knowing about the very beginnings of Boro Park, when, where and how it all started. The following valuable information was excerpted from an article written in 1964 by a grandson of Electus B. Litchfield and submitted by Dominick Suplina.

"In 1887, Electus B. Litchfield, started one of the early real-estate developments south of the city of Bklyn as it was called then. The area was located on the former farm of Bernard Larzalere and lay west of New Utrecht Ave. and south of Couwenhoven Lane at what is now the corner of 13th Ave and 55 St., the settlement was named "Blythebourne" after a former country place of Mr. Litchfield's in Babylon, Long Island.

"The whole Blythebourne district, in those days, was remote from the city to a degree hard to realize now. Today with its fine

rapid-transit system, telephones and good roads, it is a veritable part of the great city. But then it was a place apart and any contact

with the city (of Brooklyn) consumed much time and energy. To get to Blythebourne from the heart of the city (of Brooklyn) involved a long journey including a horse-car and a railroad.

"One day in the early summer of 1888, my father and mother took me with them to visit my grandfather at Blythebourne. A number of small cottages had already been built, all of the same general type of Architecture known as "Queen Anne". One of them, at the southwest corner of 13th Ave. and 55 St. had just been finished at the time of our visit

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

and was still vacant. Grandfather said to my father, "Why not buy this house with 100 feet of ground, which you can do for \$3,000., live in it during this summer and then sell it in the fall at an advance."

"We walked to the cottage and in the front door. From the front parlor windows we looked across the railroad tracks over a wide stretch of meadow, and I think it was that lovely peaceful view that sold the house to father and mother. In the distance was a gigantic tree, known as "the Umbrella Elm" from its shape. Its massive trunk rose unbroken by branches, for a height of thirty or forty feet, and bore at its top two great horizontal branches, the whole leafy structure being beautifully round and symmetrical. It stood out so prominently in the landscape that it was said that sailors coming up the bay could see it before they could discern anything else on the shore. Be that as it may, it was famous, and a real giant of an elm. So we bought the little cottage and made it our summer home until 1892, when we began to live in it all year.

"Sometime in the 1890's, Senator William H. Reynolds bought the property north of Blythebourne and on the east side of the railroad tracks and named it "Borough Park." The City of Brooklyn had already been incorporated into the City of New York and changed to the Borough of Brooklyn. "The name Borough Park has endured and has also been applied to the area that was once Blythebourne, it all being known now as the Borough Park Section.

So ended the life of the little community of Blythebourne-thir-

ty-four short years from 1887 to 1921. Gone are the lovely lanes and meadows and most of the houses. Those who remember it as it was are getting fewer and fewer in numbers, and in time even the memory of it will have disappeared.

This short article will perhaps serve to preserve its story for those who are interested in knowing how the area once was."

THE NAME BROOKLYN

The Borough of Brooklyn also known as Kings County, was during the Colonial period, divided into six towns. These towns were called Breuckelen, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend and New Utrecht. The present Boro Park is located primarily in the area which belonged to the town of New Utrecht.

The early Dutch settlers spelled the town of Breuckelen in a variety of ways including Breuckland, Brucklyn, Breucklyn and Broucklyn. It was gradually anglicized to Brookland or Brookline, until about the close of the eighteenth century when the standard spelling became Brooklyn. This name was used for the Town of Brooklyn (until 1834), the Village of Brooklyn (1816-1834), and the City of Brooklyn (1834-98). Since 1898 it has been used to denote the Borough of Brooklyn. Before 1898 the title Kings County was generally used to designate the entire area of what is now the Borough of Brooklyn, whereas the name Brooklyn was used to denote either the town, village or city and referred to only part of the present Borough.

Send us your memories, photos and items for our column and archives. Join the Boro park Historical Society. Membership \$5.00 per year.

REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipat
MAILBAG

The following interesting letter were received and we appreciate these contributions to the research of Boro Park history.

Dear Sirs:

I refer to the November 16th issue of the Boro Park Community News under the heading "I Remember Boro Park" on Page 2, in which a reader states he heard that Temple Beth El cost twenty million dollars to build. I wish to comment that this is an unusually high figure for that period (1921). My information from old timers of the Synagogue is that the cost was \$850,000. Do you know that the Brooklyn Bridge which was completed in 1883, cost sixteen million dollars and took fourteen years to build (Time Magazine, June 6, 1983). Consequently the cost stated by the reader cannot be possible.

Yours truly,
David Potok

Dear Dr. Philip J. Kipat

The following information was gathered from an old map (1910) in the New York Public Library.

1. There has been a question about the proper spelling of Boro Park. on that map dated 1910 it was spelled Borough Park in the caption "The Borough Park Company." But the spelling may be a question of usage rather than origin.

2. On the map, Wm. H. Reynolds is listed as president of B.P. company and Thos. T. Barr as the treasurer. Offices of the company are listed at 49 St. and New Utrecht Ave. and at 40 Court St. Perhaps there were other officials but part of the map is torn.

3. On corners of the document there are two pictures (paintings), one of a schoolhouse and one of an unpaved dirt road lined with trees listed as Fort Hamilton Parkway.

4. On the map Old New Utrecht Road is substantially larger than it is at present. It continues on both ends until the borders of B.P. where the map ends. It seems that O.N.U. Road continued beyond the borders of B.P.. Perhaps this road has a history dating back to the original five towns of present day Brooklyn. This matter could be investigated further.

5. The map showed that there were blocks numbered 1-92 laid out in B.P.

6. Ft. Hamilton Parkway is shown to be 100 feet wide, other avenues such as 12th Ave. is

shown to be 80 feet wide and streets to be 60 feet wide.

7. I saw something on the map which shed light for me on

something stated by Prof. Egon Mayer, currently at Brooklyn College in his book, From Suburb to Shitell: The Jews of Boro Park. He states that the Yeshiva Eitz Chaim on 13th Ave & 50 St. was on the site of a former country club. I had wondered what kind of a country club was on such a relative small site. The map lists the Borough Club House on that site. That perhaps clarifies the matter for me in that there was not a large sprawling country club of many acres as the currently style with golf courses etc., but merely a club-house.

(Continued from Page 14)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 2

8. On the map behind the Eitz Chaim site is the Borough Park Field Club with a baseball diamond. Maybe this had some relationship with the Country Club.

9. On the map it states that there are 250 houses already on property in Borough Park, that "the water supply is ample and pure", and that "the company offers both land and houses for cash and on installments". Also included on the map is the following:

"an owner building 100 houses in each operation and offering a tract of 4,000 lots is a wholesaler. The wholesaler undersells the retailer. The president of the company resides on the property and personally meets all customers. You can see the houses and do your business in the evening; as the houses are lighted every night and the Office is open until Ten O'Clock. Please call and examine."

I hope the material will be useful to the historical society and of interest to the readers.

B.M. Selevan

THE BORO BROCHURE

The Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.) has just completed printing a small brochure with photos and information about the B.P.H.S. Copies will be mailed to all those individuals on our mailing list. Anyone who has sent correspondence in the past to this column or to the B.P.H.S. has been placed on the mailing list. Likewise individuals who joined as members, organizations who have placed us on their mailing list to receive their literature and community leaders whose name have been submitted by various members of our committee. If you would like to receive a brochure and future mail from the B.P.G.S. please call or write requesting to be placed on the mailing list. you are also invited to join the B.P.H.S. and help further its work. only \$5.00 per year. Call 435-6886.

CONTEST WINNERS

The Boro Park photo and memorabilia contest was completed in Feb. and the names of the winners are listed elsewhere in this paper. The materials submitted will be returned to those who requested them shortly.

However we did not receive as many entries as we expected and therefore do not have very much in the way of old photographs of Boro Park. We therefore invite our readers to help us in the work of researching the history of Boro

Park by submitting old photos of Boro Park scenes and personalities. We can make copies and return the originals. Any photo of a scene that has changed - a business that is no longer there, a building that was thrown down or renovated or the like will be very valuable to the historical society. These materials will be used for exhibits and for inclusion in our proposed history of Boro Park.

The following letter to the "Editor Old Timers" appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in 1947 and was submitted by Dominick Suplina. It contains valuable and interesting historical information.

FONDLY RECOLLECTS BORO PARK FARMS

Editor Old Timers:

Why does the Eagle touch on all parts of Brooklyn but never on the most important part, Borough Park, which was formerly New Utrecht, until the improvements which consisted of buying up all the farms and cutting them up into building lots came along, which was the year 1891. I think some of the old farms were over 100 years old.

My brothers and sisters attended the little old school next to the cemetery. The children from Borough Park walked two miles to school. I think the boundary lines were New Utrecht Ave or Culver R R line on one side extending to Bath Beach, 4th Ave on the south side and Blythbourne on north. I think the on the west. Perhaps this can be corrected.

TO BE CONTINUED

WINNERS

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORABILIA CONTEST WINNERS

By Joseph B. Fuchs, Executive Director of the B.P.H.S.

\$500 in cash and camera prizes are winging their way to the 14 fortunate people listed below, who were among the many who took the care to share their precious memories of Boro Park by entering their old photos, journals, documents and mementos into the Boro Park Historical Society contest. This exciting competition, is just one of the many strategies being employed by the Boro Park Historical Society in its highly successful ongoing effort to pick up, publicize and preserve the precious past of our neighborhood and its famous and everyday faces and places.

THE WINNING ENTRIES

On February 6, 1984, Dr. Philip J. Kipust, Chairman of the BPHS, convened a special meeting of its Executive Committee to carefully evaluate all the entries, according to the criteria set forth in the contest with each winning entry chosen "on the basis of its historical relevance to Boro Park, artistic quality, rarity and age." Following much deliberation and a close vote, the \$200 cash grand prize was awarded to C. Bidner for a rare photo depicting a 1942 musical extravaganza staged at the Boro Park YMHA. Following that, one \$50 cash first prize was given to E. Henrikson for her 80-year old, 1904 photo depicting a front view of the first two-family frame front-porchd houses located on 44th Street, between 12th and 13th Ave. The other \$50 first prize was given to S. Katz for an uncommon 51-year old family portrait taken in 1933 on the roof of Doctors Hospital which subsequently was redesigned as the present Beth Jacob High School and Seminary at the corner of 15th Avenue and 45th Street.

LUCKY DRAWING RESULT

As promulgated in the contest regulations, two days later, on Wednesday, February 8, 1984, the "lucky luck lottery public drawing was held for each participating BPHS contest entrant, as the finale" of the monthly meeting of the Boro Park Community Council, held at the Community Meeting Room of the Greater New York Savings Bank. The honor of randomly selecting the lucky winner was given to Mr. B. Selevan, who then pulled the lucky entry blank of E. Bader who was awarded a valued Polaroid camera simply for entering the competition.

FUNDING BY SENATOR SOLOMON

The major portion of funding for this contest as well as for the other cultural activities of the Boro Park Historical Society, the only community history-gathering organization and one of the few in all of the metropolitan region, was provided by a modest New York State grant which was received thanks to the indefatigable efforts of our own active State Senator Martin M. Solomon. Other patrons have included local financial institutions, most notably the Greater New York Savings Bank as well as our committed membership.

HOW MEMORIES CAN LIVE ON

At the Boro Park Community Council Meeting and public drawing, Joseph B. Fuchs, the executive director of the Boro Park Historical Society, extended an open invitation for all culture-minded Brooklynites to actively join the Society. For a fascinating informational brochure on the organization, write to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4810-13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219. We will also always welcome any additional information you may have about our neighborhood and its wonderful people, which may be evidenced by oral, written and printed accounts, photos and mementos. This is also a fine way to help perpetuate the memories of your parents, relatives and friends and their past contributions to life here. Fortunately, many historic items can be replicated so that the originals can be returned. In the near future, many of these items will be displayed and find their way into the pages of the first comprehensive history volume on Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust

WHO WAS THE FIRST CHASIDIC REBBE IN BORO PARK?

We are still doing research on the question of who was the first Chasidic Rebbe to live in Boro Park. Although we are close to a solution, we do not as yet have a definitive answer. However one of the Rebbes who is being considered for that distinction was Rabbi Yitzchok Halberstam.

RABBI YITZCHOK HALBERSTAM

Rabbi Yitzchok Halberstam, known as the Bardover Rebbe, arrived in America from Galicia in 1921 and first settled in Chicago. He moved to Boro Park in 1924 (approximately). His wife Chana, a sister of the present Blushover Rebbe, Rabbi Israel Spiro of 1431-58 St. and a sister of the present Silchener Rebbe, Chaya Horowitz of 13-50 St. immigrated to America in 1927

with their youngest son Tuvia. This son, Rabbi Tuvia Halberstam was kind enough to supply this important historical information during a recent interview. He is currently associated with Colel Hibath Jerusalem-Rabbi Melr Baal Haness with local offices at 1282-49th St.

The Bardover Rebbe opened a Shule in his apartment, a two family house at 5309 Ft. Hamilton Pkway upon his arrival to Boro Park. This was across the street from the monastery. The monastery was then much smaller and didn't have the high wall around it. He rented a store at 5120-Ft. Hamilton Pkway for the High Holiday Services in 1926, and then purchased it as a permanent shule in 1929. The shule still exists today but is known as the Chuster Shule.

The Bardover Rebbe was deceased on the Eve of Rosh Hashana, 1944. The shule was then supervised and cared for by

the Rebbetzin (Rebbe's wife) until her passing in 1950. In 1951 the children sold it to the former Chuster Rebbe.

Rabbi Tuvia Halberstam recalls that in those early days it was difficult to obtain a minyan, ten worshippers, especially of chasidic Jews. He recalls that in the late 20's Boro Park had three of the greatest cantors at the same time: Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt in the Sfaridsh Shule, Cantor Kwartin in Temple Emanu-El and Cantor Hirshman in Temple Beth El. At one time the famous Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt came to lead the services at the

Bardover Rebbe's little shule on Simchas Torah. This indeed was an event for the congregants. It seems that Mr. Jones, then

president of the Sfaridsh Shule, was also a good friend of the Rebbe and influenced the Cantor to pray there. Mr. Jonas was a Builder and was involved in building a good portion of Boro Park.

Another recollection of those years was the difficulty people had in trying to obtain employment if they refused to work on Shabbos. We still see some of the old signs advertized in Subway trains. "If you don't come in to work on Sunday, don't come in on Monday". That slogan applied even more stringently to people (Continued on Page 14)

Continued from Page 2. I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

who wouldn't show up to work on Saturdays. Rabbi Tuvia Halberstam recalls the story of one member of his father's congregation who was so distressed at having to work on Saturday that his eyes were filled with tears as he worked. His vision became blurred, because of the tears while he was operating a machine and he lost his finger. He also remembers one local grocery store which was closed on Shabbos. The store, at approximately 5116-Ft. Hamilton Pkway owned by Mr. Schlissel, was an oddity in those days. He remembers that the store was already in existence in 1927 and was one of the first, if not the first Shomrim Shabbos store in Boro Park.

In 1930 Rabbi Tuvia Halberstam was sent back to Galicia by his parents in order to study at the Yeshiva. His parents, like many others, were concerned about the lack of religious observance in the general community and feared the influence on their children. He returned to Boro Park in 1933.

Rabbi Tuvia Halberstam remained a resident of Boro Park all the years since then. He married Osnis Rokeach, an East Side girl and the daughter of the Bertcher Rebbe, in 1943. They have three children Rivy Abramson, Joshua and Miriam Cofsky. The Bertcher Rebbe opened his shule at 5402-16th Ave in 1960. He passed away in 1964 but the shule remains active under the supervision of his widow Rebbetzin Hinda Rokeach.

Rabbi Halberstam points to the tremendous changes that have taken place in B.P. over the years. He could never imagine Boro Park changing so much. Boro Park was the community for the wealthy at that time. There were two Yeshivas Etz Chaim and Toras Emes, there were few Shitblech, few if any chasidim, Jews were in the minority in 1927. There were few apartment houses; mostly small suburban homes with plenty of land around them. He said he used to take trips on the open trolley cars and open Culver line trains in the Summer time just to cool off.

DR. S.A. COHEN

Most Boro Parkers have probably seen the sign Dr. S.A. Cohen, Chiroprapist (Podiatrist) numerous times, many not even realizing it. It is a small plain sign located over the doorway at 1302-45 St. The office, which also has a sign in the window, is located above the corner store, now vacant, but previously occupied by Martin Paints and Home Decorators.

Dr. Cohen opened his office in Brooklyn in 1934, exactly 50 years ago, and still practices at this location. He originally lived in the same apartment but has since moved out of the neighborhood. The initial rental for this professional 5 room suite, then considered to be in a prime location, corner building, in the heart of Boro Park's business section, was \$73.00 a month. His fee for

treating foot problems then was \$2.00 a visit. A pack of cigarettes then, he recall was about .15 cents and a sandwich about .20 cents.

Several of the neighboring business establishments of that time, which Dr. Cohen recalls were- A.S. Buck Shoe Store at 4501-13th Ave. directly under his office; Allen Shoe Co. at 4421-13th Ave. on the corner across 45 St.; Eli Mackta Shoes at 4509-13 Ave. where Fayva shoe store is now located; Parness Radio Store at 4511-13 Ave. Across 13 Ave. there was a Cohen Millinery store in the middle of the block; Crawford Clothes at 4502-13 Ave. (Joyce Lexile is there now). A men's Haberdashery store near 45 St. and Silver Rod Store at 4526-13 Ave. where Quality Cosmetics and Drugs is now located, at the corner of 46 St. He frequented Meyers Ice Cream Parlor on 13 Ave. between 47 and 48 St. even side, for a cream cheese sandwich and chocolate melted, both for about .35 cents. The owners of Meyers was Mr. Westreich, a patient of Dr. Cohen. In the summer months, when business was slow he recalls, several store owners would spend their time together playing cards in the back of one of the stores.

BRIEF ITEMS

Shuster alley is the place where Shuster was shot many years ago. One reader notifies us that it is located in back of the house at 4421-9th Ave. The entrance to the driveway or alley is on 45 St. Could any readers submit more details about Shuster, the shooting incident and the location.

Jerry Markowitz recalls some of his memories as a student in Etz Chaim (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park) during the 1950's. "Grossman's candy store on 50 St. corner 13 Ave. (now the Ach-Tov dairy restaurant) was a frequent stop off for the students who wanted to purchase candy. Pete's candy store located at 1311-51 St. now Emunah Car Service, was another frequent stop off for candy. He added, "there was an alley next to Pete's store which went through to 50 St. and we used to run through that alley when we didn't want the teachers to see us".

He also recalls the Garden Theatre, on 46 St and New Utrecht Ave., where Boro Park Lumber is now located. He remembers that if you wanted to sit in the first three rows of that theatre you had to wear galoshes because the bathroom plumbing wasn't too good. Jerry also recalls the gum machines on the West End 49 St. Station.

Some kids would kick the machines and gum would come out. Jerry was born in Boro Park and lived on 15 Ave. and 50 St. until his recent marriage. He said he misses the warmth and excitement of the people and community.

Toby Morgenstern who lives at 1565-44 St. points out that the row houses on 44 St and 43 St. between 15th and 16th Avenues are called Philadelphia houses and are over 70 years old.

Mrs. Esther Emert remembers electric buses on 16 Ave. with the overhead cables. She also remembers the delicious Italy Bakery which was located next to Schick's bakery (4710-16 Ave.) That store is now part of Schick's bakery and is used for the Passover products. She also recalls the Market on 16 Ave., between 51 and 52 St. (odd side) where you could buy everything from soup to nuts.

Please submit your memories, photos and other information about Boro Park. Please also join the Boro Park Historical Society and support this work. Membership \$5.00 per year for residents \$10.00 per year for business.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust

1926 AWARD BY 13th AVE
Merchants Association

The following interesting information about Boro Park was submitted by Reva Gross (nee Zimmerman).

Gentlemen:

I don't know if the enclosed is of any interest to you but I'm probably the only one in Boro Park who has this.

Enclosed is a Certificate of Award presented to me by the 13th Avenue Merchants Association. In 1926 the 13th Ave. Merchants Assn. sponsored a Beauty and Health Contest for small children (to promote business) and I won 3rd prize (a dozen dresses).

Notice the names of merchants and doctors listed on the certificate, some of them are still in Boro Park. The merchants and doctors listed were the finest and

most respected. Dr. L. Shapiro had his home and office on 49th Street between 14 & 15th Aves. and the house is now a small synagogue. Dr. F. Wolf owned a beautiful home where Edith's Dry Goods Store now stands at 1270 47th Street. Dr. J. Cohen was our family dentist and he is deceased, but his office is still locked and boarded up on the corner of 44th Street and 13th Avenue.

I don't know who the other doctors were but perhaps if you list them you will get some interesting information about them and about the merchants who were on 13th Avenue from 1921 and on.

The following are some of the merchants listed on the certificate whom I recall. I believe Mr. McMahon was from one of the banks. H. Weiss was and still is the men's store now located on 44th Street and 13th Avenue. It is still run by Mr. Weiss' son, but it

is not at the original location. H. Bernstein was "Bernstein's Furniture Store" where the Greater N.Y. Savings Bank now stands on 53rd Street and 13th Avenue. J. Frankel was the men's store on 13th Avenue and the family still runs it. M. Rothstein was Rothstein's Dept. Store on 40th Street and 13th Avenue. Oscar Filene was a clothing store and, maybe related to the famous dept. store. A. Prusila was a ladies dress store where the Bay Ridge Bank now stands on 47th Street and 13th Avenue. Mackta Brothers

owned the shoe store on 45th Street and 13th Avenue. It burned

down and Fayva shoes is there now.

Please note the name "Captain Miller" listed. Many Sea Captains who piloted their ships through the narrows, lived in Boro Park. 1920-1925 was the years of wealth in Boro Park just as it is today, but the stock market crash changed the entire neighborhood. Perhaps publishing these names and this information will encourage others submit additional information about them.

Mrs. Reva Gross

(Continued on Page 10)



1 REMINDER BORO PARK

Continued from Page 2

SCHUSTER STORY FOLLOW UP

Mrs. Esther Emmert submitted the following additional interesting information about the Schuster murder story which was discussed in this column last month.

It seems that the F.B.I. had been looking for the notorious bank robber Willie Sutton for a long time, he was on the most wanted criminal list. Shuster, a Boro Park man, happened to meet and recognize Willie Sutton on the street one day and reported it to the police. Sutton was captured and Schuster became a widely publicized hero.

Schuster's life was threatened and was given constant police protection for a long time. One time Schuster attended some celebration on his own and didn't want any police escort at that time. He was followed home and shot on his stoop and the killer ran into the alley or driveway and escaped. The neighbors heard the shooting and heard the killer tell Schuster why he was being shot. Sutton actually deplored the killing.

The murder of Schuster was a great tragedy for the family. He was an only child and engaged to be married. The family unable to bear the burden, it was a tragedy for the community as well and for all those who deplored crime. It made other citizens afraid to report crimes or serve as witnesses against criminals.

Additional information about the story are welcome, especially as it relates to Boro Park. Does anyone know if any member of the Schuster family still resides in Boro Park?

TANYA PRINTED IN BORO PARK

The printing of a new edition of TANYA in Boro Park last month, April (Nisan) 1984, is a historical item which should be recognized and recorded in the annals of Boro Park history.

The front page clearly states:
"LIKKUTEI AMARIM TANYA
Boro Park, Brooklyn, N.Y.
5744 - 1984
Faculty Press
1449 - 37th Street
Boro Park, Brooklyn, NY"

The Boro Park edition was printed as part of the ongoing program of the Lubavitch Organization to print editions of this book written by Rabbi Schel Zalman Liadi in various communities of the world. News headlines were made when the Lubavitch organization printed an edition of TANYA in Egypt while the Israeli army occupied territory there after the 1973 war. Similarly an edition was printed in Lebanon. To date one thousand different editions of TANYA have been printed in various communities around the world. Close to 500 of these different editions were printed last month and the special one thousandth edition was printed on Nissan 11 (April 13), the Lubavitcher Rebbe's birthday. Our community was given recognition by having one of these editions printed in Boro Park.

Any synagogue in Boro Park may obtain two free copies of this handsomely bound (genuine leather) edition for its library by contacting Label Simpson 4922 - 13th Avenue, Tel.: 871-3597 or Rabbi Bernard Levy at 1430 57th Street, Tel.: 851-6428. Study groups of Tanya may obtain additional copies and copies may also be purchased at the local Hebrew book stores.

The Boro Park edition of Tanya was financed by the congregants of Beth Hakenesseth Ahavas Achim Zemach Zedek, which was founded in 1929 by Rabbi Ella Simpson ZAL* father of Label. The present location of the synagogue, 1546 - 46th Street was started in 1934, exactly 50 years ago.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
BORO PARK'S EARLY
HISTORY

The following interesting letter to the editor appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in July 1952 and was submitted by Dominic Suplina.

EDITOR OLD TIMERS

Samuel Green says he would like to hear about Borough Park. About the turn of the century trolleys were running on New Utrecht Ave. from 39th Street to Bath Beach.

McDougall's farm with the mansion and the windmill, was up on the hill, west of the West Brooklyn station at 44th Street and New Utrecht Ave. A new station was added at 49th Street and New Utrecht Ave. and the Blythebourne station was at 55th Street and New Utrecht Ave. The space between the West Brooklyn and the Blythebourne stations and between New Utrecht and between New Utrecht Ave. and 15th Avenue became Borough Park.

Ex-State Senator William H. Reynolds from the old 9th Ward of Brooklyn, a real estate man in collaboration with Edward Johnson, a builder, developed Borough Park.

A Borough Park Clubhouse was built at 50 Street and 13th Avenue it is now a Jewish Center.

Back of the clubhouse was a square block of athletic fields where semipro baseball was played. On the team Billy Reynolds himself played, I forgot what position. Johnny Ward of the old time Giants, then a successful lawyer, played first base, and the famous Bob Fitzsimmons acted as umpire.

The athletic fields at 8th Ave. and 43rd St. was in the center of a neighborhood called "Finnekulla" or "Hill of the Finns". The windmill at 54 St. and New Utrecht Ave. was the house that contained the chemical engine of the Blythebourne Fire Department.

Webster's pond was owned by the Hughs family who were in the

moving business. It was fed by springs. The "Twin ponds" at 49 St. and 11th Ave. were hollows filled by rain water.

Ex-Senator Reynold's also developed Long Beach on Long Island, which has become one of two cities in Nassau County with a city government, the other being Glen Cove.

The church that became a library was not of brick but of gray limestone built in the late 70's. It was the Edgewood Reform Church still going strong at 53 St. and 14 Ave. under the leadership of the Rev. Frank Peer Beal who has been its pastor for

25 years. The edifice is one of the finest examples of Roman Architecture in a small way, that I have every seen.

Joseph Johnson
8418 - 12 Ave. Brooklyn 28
(Continued on Page 16)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK Continued from Page 1 60TH ANNIVERSARY BNEI YEHUDA

Dear Dr. Kipust

This month, Congregation Sons of Judah (Bnei Yehuda) located on 16 Ave. between 53rd and 54th Streets, will be observing the 60th Anniversary of the dedication of its structure. According to the plaques on the building the congregation was organized on August 16, 1921 and the building was dedicated on June 16, 1924, a 2 years and 10 months after its organization.

The contractor and builder was Jacob R. Pearlman. Who designed the structure, I do not know right now.

The Congregation Bnei Yehuda is still functioning today but has undergone some changes including the following.

1. The present Rabbi of the congregation, Rabbi Eliezer N. Kirzner, (Shlita) may be well, started in that position in 1953. He is the second Rabbi to fill that position since the synagogue was established. The first Rabbi was Rabbi Mordechai A. Kaplan (ZAL).

2. The present Sexton (Shammos) Rev. Leib Emmert was one of several who held that position. Several previous sextons were Rev. Baumgarten, who now lives in Jerusalem and Rev. Tarshish.

3. For many years this synagogue also housed an afternoon and Sunday Hebrew School, called Talmud Tiffereth Elchonon. The classes met in the ground floor area of the building which was divided into several rooms with movable walls. The Talmud Torah has not been in operation for many years, it has become defunct as have similar Talmud Torahs in Boro Park. This has been due to the increase and

growth of Yeshivahs as well as to the changing population in Boro park.

4. Several changes in the building have taken place in the downstairs area, including recent extensive renovations.

I noticed a wall plaque for those

who responded to an appeal in 1915 for redemption of the mortgage. The current president is Mr. Benjamin Gelbfish and the current vice-presidents are Mr. Max Wasser and Mr. Sol Roiter. Several past presidents included Mr. Bernard Freundlich, Mr.

Stuart Herman, Mr. George R. Rubin, Mr. William Weingarten and Mr. Samie Lichtenstein. Mr. George Rubin was a major figure in the shule for about 50 years, from 1924 until his demise in 1973.

Yours truly

B.M. Selevan

Since Cong. Bnei Yehuda is now celebrating the 60th anniversary of its building it seems appropriate to add to the above information, supplied by Mr. B.M. Selevan, the following item which appeared in the #1 Remember Boro Park Column of

September 1979.

"Miriam Dickman said that her grandfather, Mr. Solomon Hollander, started the Cong. Bnei Yehuda (Sons of Judah) synagogue in his basement on 51 St. between 16th and 17th Ave. in the early 1920's. The synagogue was named after her grandmother Yehudith (Judith) Hollander and was moved to the present building, then new, from her grandfather's basement. Her grandparents, the Hollanders, moved to Boro Park in 1922 (approx) from Williamsburg.

"Miriam said her father, David B. Cohen and Uncles Samuel and Irwin Hollander and Charles Koch, were officers and on the Board of Directors of the Bnei Yehuda Synagogue.

We invite our readers to share their own memories and experiences related to Boro Park history with other readers through this column.

Boro Park is a beautiful community. It has an interesting and unique history, one in which we all can and should take pride. Please help us in this work. Remember, Boro Park is you.

You can send membership dues and historical materials to the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810 - 13th Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219, or to my attention at this newspaper. We are counting on your help and support.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS HELP

The Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) was organized in order to help research, record and preserve the history of Boro Park. Through its activities it is hoped that the residents will take increased pride in the community, help keep it in better condition and develop greater respect for each other's property. It is also hoped that this project will help promote better relations between neighbors and between the various ethnic and religious groups in the community.

On the other hand the B.P. Historical Society is certainly not a political organization and does not get involved in any political activities or elections neither directly or indirectly. It is a purely cultural and civic organization.

Although considerable progress has been made in the activities of the B.P. H.S. much more needs to be accomplished. The organization is now at an impasse and needs the help of the residents and readers in two

particular areas.

Considerable research has been completed and archives or depositor for historical items has been established. We need the help of many individuals in gathering and submitting materials related to Boro Park. Such items as photographs, advertisements, journals, documents, letters, articles and personal memories would be valuable contributions for our archives and research and interviews of residents and business establishments. Can you help us in these activities?

For one year we received a grant of money from New York State, made available through the efforts of Senator Martin Solomon. This money was used to purchase some furniture, equipment, stamps and office supplies, and to pay for photography, printing and mailing a brochure, a photo contest and photo copying a great deal of material. It also paid for a part time Executive

Director and part time secretary to help do a good part of the work involved. In addition, the Boro Park Community Council provided us with a room and some incidental starting expenses which it is no longer able to do.

All that financial assistance is no longer available to us but we still need a modest amount of money to carry on our activities. We have to pay for our share of rent and utilities, also postage, printing, photography, supplies, copying

and occasional typing. We now have no paid employees, only volunteers. We need approximately three thousand dollars \$3,000, a relatively modest sum, to carry us through for a year. We think we might be able to raise most of it through membership fees. You can help us carry on our work by becoming a member of the Boro Park Historical Society, only \$5.00 for residents and \$10.00 for business establishments or organizations.

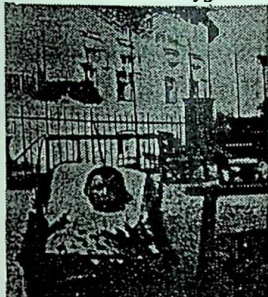
I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

Preference is usually given to correspondence or personal articles submitted by readers. The following three letters contain interesting and valuable contributions to the history of Boro Park.

FORMER 15 Ave Playground



June 1930 photo of playground at 5315-15 Ave. Now occupied by private house.

Gentlemen:

I very much enjoyed your column in the March 12 Boro Park News. Enclosed is a photo I would like to submit. It shows the playground in 1930 of 5315 15 Ave. That space has been occupied for some years (I don't remember how many) by a house. Note the awnings on the windows, which were used to keep out the summer heat during pre-air conditioning days.

I seem to remember a Dutch Reformed church on 13 Avenue & 51 Street on the site of the present Waidbaums. Also, during my attendance at P.S. 103, 14 Avenue and 53 Street, I seem to remember a Dutch Reformed church across the street on 14th Avenue. It is not there now. Am I correct in both instances? I would appreciate any light you can shed on this matter.

I remember in the summer taking the trolley on New Utrecht Avenue to Coney Island. Also, I

remember Rothstein's, which is only gone about 25 years. It was a small department store on 13th Avenue. The Wonder Store (fabrics) is only gone about ten years. G & S Stores on New Utrecht Avenue is now only called G Stores, I believe.

You may keep the photo, as it is a duplicate of one in my possession. I would appreciate receiving a brochure on the organization.

I took part in a program at the Boro Park YMHA sometime either in 1942 or 1943. I don't remember the name of the presentation or the format. I took part in a dramatic sketch about the Warsaw ghetto — on second thought, this must have been in 1943.

Sincerely,
Lucille Posner

Ed: You are correct in both instances about the former churches.

REBORN IN BORO PARK

Dear Sir:

I do not know how you got my name, but your February 1984 "Dear Borough Parker" letter was most welcome.

In 1909, I was born in Boro Park at 125 E 40th Street, and in 1983, I was re-born again at the Maimonides Medical Center where Dr. David Grob performed the Miracle on 48th Street finding the proper treatment for a condition of Myasthenia Gravis that had

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

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came upon me suddenly, and which would have been fatal 30 years ago.

Dr. Gillen whose office was on 12th Avenue near 45th Street delivered me on June 22, 1909. My earliest recollection was going to P.S. 131 on 44th Street and 12th Ave. and watching the building of both the Culver Line and the West End line elevated railways. At 36th Street and 13th Ave. there was an old car barn used as a studio for theatre scenery. I understand it is still used for that purpose.

Just off 13th Avenue on 39th St. there existed a blacksmith shop where the kindergarten children were taken to watch the blacksmith shoe horses.

About 1919, I remember a political rally at a speakers stand on 44th Street near 12th Ave. where the principal speaker was Theodore Roosevelt.

My Mother used to visit farms on Fort Hamilton Parkway opposite the Greenwood Cemetery to purchase eggs and vegetables.

As a child, I remember catching garter snakes in a low area on Fort Hamilton P'way near 48th Street.

There was a large farm near 12th Ave. about 42nd St. which had Windmill - Old game, etc. near me.

We moved away about 1920 to Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

In 1934, I moved to Liberty, N.Y. and began practicing as an Engineer specializing in the

needs of the resort industry. Many of my clients came from Boro Park.

I have three children, the oldest a Professor of Engineering at M.I.T., a daughter living in San Francisco, and my youngest is in charge of a computer section for an airline headquarter in Chicago.

My wife and I divide our time between a condominium in West Palm Beach, Florida and our home in Liberty, N.Y.

But Boro Park always brings back childhood memories.

Very truly yours,
Sidney M. Marks

MEMBERSHIP AND THEATRES

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing a check for \$10.00 to cover two memberships in the Boro Park Historical Society, one for my husband Leon Weinstock, Esq. and the other for myself.

We are both old-time Boro Park residents, and enjoy reading "I Remember Boro Park". In your last issue reference was made to the Garden theatre on 46th St. New Utrecht Ave. This was once an out-door movie house during the Summer - as was the Eagle theatre on 16 Ave. and 42 St. Contemporary with these movie houses was the Royal theatre on 12th Ave. between 41st and 43rd streets - a mecca for kids who often brought their lunches or supper and stayed and watched over and over. Even we kids knew it was a dump. But who cared?

Once the picture was flashed on the screen we were transported to another world.

Sincerely Yours,
Adele Weinstock

We invite our readers to share their own memories and experiences related to Boro Park history with other readers through this column. We also invite our readers and residents of the community to join the Boro Park Historical Society. Membership dues will help defray some of the expenses involved. We have no paid staff-all the work is voluntary. Membership dues are \$5 for residents, \$3 for retired people and \$10 for business or organization membership.

You can send membership dues and historical materials to the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810 - 13th Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219, or to my attention at this newspaper. We are counting on your help and support.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust
TALMUD TORAHs IN BORO
PARK

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Presently to my knowledge, there are no Talmud Torahs operating in Boro Park. By "Talmud Torah" I mean an afternoon Hebrew school which juveniles attended after their regular public school day was over. The Talmud Torahs which were prominent in past years went "out of business".

There were two categories of Talmud Torahs 1) Independent and 2) Synagogue affiliated. The following are some of the past prominent Talmud Torahs that operated in Boro Park.

1.- Talmud Torah of Congregation Shomrei Emunah, 14 Ave. and 52 St. This synagogue affiliated Talmud Torah had a separate building at 1363-50 St., next to the Young Israel building, where Yeshiva Be'er Shmuel was situated until recently. That building, incidentally was also the old Young Israel building. Other details such as when this Talmud Torah first started, information about enrollment, curriculum or faculty are not known to me at present.

2.- Machzichei Talmud Torah, probably the largest T.T. in Boro Park, was an independently operated school. It last operated on 14 Ave. Corner 47 St. where the Sara Schenirer H.S. is now located. Before that the Machzichei T.T. was housed in two adjoining buildings at 1313/1315 - 43 St. that building was then purchased and used by the Yeshiva Toras Emes and currently by Yeshiva Zichron Pinchas.

3.- Talmud Torah Tiferes Elchanan of Cong. Bnei Yehudah, 16 Ave and 53 St. was located in the ground floor of the synagogue building. Three classrooms with sliding door walls were set aside on the right side of the downstairs

synagogue. Remnants of the former T.T. were plainly visible until the recent renovations in the downstairs part of the synagogue. The T.T. may have started as soon as the synagogue building was put up. The last principal of this T.T. was probably Rabbi Goldberg who still lives in B.P. This school was in operation until about 1964.

4.- Talmud Torah of Congregation Kesser Yisroel (Crown of Israel) on 56 St. between 17 and 18 Aves. the T.T. was synagogue affiliated and met in the same building.

5.- Talmud Torah of Congregation Beth Israel of 11th Ave and 56 St. According to my information this T.T. was housed in a separate building.

6.- An independent Talmud Torah was run by Rabbi Glukowsky at 15 Ave near 42 St.

7.- A synagogue affiliated Talmud Torah was housed in the shule on 49 St. and Fort Hamilton Parkway. The building was thrown down about two years ago and is now a medical building.

8.- Congregation Bnei Israel of Linden Heights also operated one of the first Talmud Torahs in Boro Park in its synagogue building.

I hope some of the readers will be able to submit more information about these Talmud Torahs and others.

Yours Truly

B.M. Selevan

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

We thank Mr. Selevan for this valuable contribution. This survey of Talmud Torahs is an interesting piece of research. Perhaps readers will remember the names of the principals, teachers or secretaries, the names of the officers and the dates when the Talmud Torahs began and when they closed.

The obvious reason for the closing of the Talmud Torahs in Boro Park is that currently most of the Jewish children in the area attend all day Yeshivahs. In past decades most of the children attended public schools and wished to obtain a Hebrew education. Talmud Torahs were the popular way to obtain this education. The few children who wanted a Yeshivah education in those years either traveled to other parts of the city or attended the small local Yeshivahs in Boro Park.

ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS

In order to research the early history of Boro Park several individuals are looking through old English newspapers for articles dealing with Boro Park. Photo copies of such articles are made and filed in the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society. One researcher is looking through old Yiddish newspapers and finding many interesting and valuable articles about Boro Park.

We need volunteers to look through old Italian newspapers for articles about Boro Park. There was a large Italian popu-

lation in early Boro Park and undoubtedly there have been many articles about this community printed there.

Volunteers to do this research and/or to serve on the Boro Park Historical Society executive committee may contact us by mail or by phone to this newspaper at 854-1033 or to my home at 436-7729.

KAUFMAN

Some time ago we interviewed Edwin Kaufman, an old time former Boro Parker. His parents Elsie and Herman Kaufman moved to B.P. in 1917 from the Lower East Side of Manhattan because they wanted to "improve themselves".

They first rented an apartment 1241 - 41 St. Edwin was born in Israel Zion hospital in 1921. In that year the Kaufman's also purchased their own home at 1739 - 52 St. That house was purchased from the occupant and builder Louis Pellingeri. They lived there until 1941 and moved to Flatbush.

Edwin's grandparents Charles and Rose Kaufman came to B.P. from the Lower East Side in 1921 (approximately). His father Herman was in the "piece goods" business, manufacturer, and his grandfather Charles was a manufacturer of men's pants on the East Side.

Edwin married Helene Popover in 1921. She had been living at 1658 - 50 St. with her family. They moved to 570 Ocean Parkway for 3 years and then back to 1658 - 50 St. His in-laws had converted

their one family to a 2 family house in 1945. They lived there until 1979 and then moved to Woodmere, Long Island.

The Kaufmans were active in Temple Beth-El, Israel Zion hospital, the Infants Home of Boro Park, Hadassah, the Incurable Home (B.P. Branch), Machzichei Talmud Torah and Yeshivah Etz Chaim, Edwin's son attended Yeshivah Etz Chaim then went to B'klyn Tech. H.S. and Lehman College. He is currently a Psychologist. Edwin's daughter attended P.S. 180, Shallow J.H.S., New Utrecht H.S. and in afternoons attended the Shomrei Emunah Talmud Torah. She is currently a lab technician.

Edwin remembers McDougall Hall an Irish facility. He says Boro Park had a large Irish community in the 20's and 30's.

These little interviews - and family histories add important information about the history of the community. We learn about the schools attended, the family affiliations, the types of institutions that existed, the life styles, the career goals, the reasons for moving, the real estate activities and many other things. Submit your own family history and information. It may seem unimportant and insignificant to you but becomes important as another piece of the puzzle.

We ask our readers to become members of the Boro Park Historical Society, only \$5.00 per year, \$3.00 for retirees or students. Help us preserve and record the history of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following article appeared in the "Brooklyn Eagle", a highly respected newspaper of the time, on August 3, 1931. Two items of special interest in this article are: 1) the fact that the name Boro Park was then extended part of the area considered to be Bensonhurst today and 2) the breakdown showing the areas from which people migrated to this community at that time. The extended boundaries of Boro Park is not likely to be an error of the reporter because we have seen several other articles of the time calling the areas as far as 67th St., from 8th to 20th Avenues.

Boro Park. The article reads: "SCHOOL CENSUS SHOW GROWTH IN BOROUGH PARK. Only 10 percent of Students Attending P.S. 205 Were Born in Present Homes.

"A census of children attending Public School 205, 20th Avenue and 67th St., made by principal Joseph Griffin, reveals graphically the rapid growth of this Borough Park Community

and its cosmopolitan structure.

"Of the total of 2,934 students attending the school, only 279, less than 10 percent, were born in their present homes. The survey showed.

"Recent improvement in transportation facilities, active home construction and the excellent character of the schools all contribute to the magnetic force which is drawing wave after wave of new residents from the city's older communities, the suburbs and foreign lands, according to Griffin.

"The analysis of the enrollment at Public School 205 follows:

279 were born in their present homes.

359 migrated from the older sections of Brooklyn.

54 from Greenpoint.

205 from Brownsville.

506 from other sections of Brooklyn. 5 from Queens."

555 from lower Manhattan, East Side.

96 from West Side.

183 from Harlem.

210 from the Bronx.

15 from Richmond.

200 from places outside New York.

58 from Asiatic countries.

99 from Europe.

TALMUD TORAH'S

As a follow up to the article last month dealing with Talmud Torahs (afternoon Hebrew Schools) in Boro Park we have some additional information. This information was obtained through the following interviews.

Jack Toffel

Jack Toffel moved to Boro Park with his family in 1927 while still a young boy. He was born in the East New York section where he lived until his parents Charlie and Becky (Rebecca) decided to move the family to a "better" neighborhood.

He attended P.S. 131 (Et. Hamilton Pkway and 43 St.), and P.S. 134 (18 Ave & E. 5 St.), and P.S. 164 (14 Ave & 44 St.) He also

attended Montauk J.H.S. and New Utrecht H.S., graduating from the latter in January 1936.

Jack remembers attending the Talmud Torah which was located in the upstairs floor of Congregation Ohel Abraham Muskkan Joseph 4907. 18 Ave. Yeshiva Derech Chaim and the Professional Minyan are now located in that upstairs floor of the congregation.

Jack (Yankel) said he attended that Talmud Torah until his Bar Mitzvah in 1931. Rabbi Jacob Glen was the principal of the Talmud Torah then and also his teacher for barmitzvah lessons. The party after the Barmitzvah

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

took place in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Elias Kipust (grandparents of the columnist) at 1864-49 St.

Jack recalls that his family lived at the following 8 different locations in Boro Park between the years 1927 and 1954. 1) 42 St. between 11 & 12 Ave. 2) 934 Grovesand Ave. (now McDonald Ave) between 18 Ave & Ave F. 3) 1322-44 St. 4) 1360-44 St. 5) 1339-44 St. 6) 4410-10 Ave. 7) 1848-49 St. (years 1943-1952) 8) 5251 between 18 and 19 Ave.

Jack recalled some other fond Boro Park memories (trivia). He remembers the push carts on 13 Ave., 3 bunches of carrots for 5 cents & 3 lbs of potatoes for 10 cents. He worked for Prussack Boro. Drug store on 13 Ave. between 40 & 41 St. when he was about 13 years old. He also worked in the Culver Theatre located on 18 Ave. corner McDonald ave in 1928 or 1929. At that time the Culver introduced the first talking movie picture at its theatre. It was called the "Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson. Jack said he helped them put up the advertisement signs for that film.

Some of the stores on 13th Ave he remembers were Amerling/Konner Chevrolet Dealers on 44 St. corner 13 Ave. It was a long store and had autos inside the large plate glass windows. Cleaners is located there now. He remembers Cohen the shoemaker on 44 St. next to Amerling. Cohen was located up that store, many, many years. Woolworth was at the same location it is now on 13 Ave near 44 St. Kresges 5 & 10 store, Woolworth's competition was located on the other side of 44 St., corner 13th Ave, where Silver Rod is now located. Vim radio store, one of the chain stores then was located on the corner of 46 St. & 13 Ave., where Focus is now located. Meyer's Ice Cream parlor was located on 13 Ave between 47th & 48 St. Meyer's was a popular luncheonette and ice cream parlor where many business people ate their meals.

Jack remembers a tragic accident along Gravesand Ave. The trolley cars rode under the E 1 trains along the street tracks. Fares were 5 cents then and a conductor stood on an outside platform of the trolley as it rode along, collecting fares etc. One time the conductor hit his head against on of the pillar of the elevated trains as the trolley was speeding along, and was killed.

Jack's sister Rose was married in 1940 and moved to Baltimore. His sister Belle (Bea) married a neighbor Bernard Grossman, who lived on the same block (49 St. between 18 & 19 Ave.) and moved to Queens. Jack's parents moved to Baltimore in 1954 and have since passed away.

Rabbi Joseph Goldberg

Rabbi Joseph Goldberg was affiliated with the Talmud Torah Tiferes Elchonon. This Talmud Torah was subsidised by and housed in the building of Congregation Bnei Yehudah (Sons of Judah) 16 Ave and 53 St.

Rabbi Goldberg moved into Boro Park in 1947 from Birmingham, Alabama. He had a Rabbinical position in the previous location. He moved to Boro Park in order to provide for the religious education and environment of his six children. While in Boro Park the Goldbergs lived at 1514-56 St., 1730-52 St. and

currently at 1401-52 St.

Rabbi Goldberg assumed the position of Hebrew teacher at the Talmud Torah Tiferes Elchonon in 1948 and became principal of the T.T. in 1950. He said the T.T. closed approximately in 1953.

He said that in 1948 the T.T. had approximately 100 students. The students attended 2 hours per day for 5 days per week, Sunday through Thursday. The students usually started attending the T.T. at the age of 8 and continued until Barmitzvah at 13. The students were asked to pay a minimal tuition of 50 cents per week since the congregation covered the main budget of teachers salary, building and utilities. In 1948 the T.T. employed three Hebrew teachers. The teachers usually taught in Yeshivahs during the morning hours.

The subjects taught in the T.T. were reading and speaking Hebrew, lesson were given to older boys in preparation for their Barmitzvah.

Rabbi Goldberg was also an expert Mohel (circumcisions) a profession which he still practices.

Sol Deutsch (Chatman clothes) points out that in those days, Hebrew teachers were not called Rebbe or Rabbi but were addressed as Mr. he remember Mr. Borowsky who was a long time principal of Machzikei Talmud Torah. Mr. Bokst was a Hebrew teacher there. Mr. Bokst's wife was the daughter of the Torah Temina and grandmother of the Orzech Hashulchan. Likewise, Mr. Richmond was the Hebrew principal of Yeshivah Etz Chaim. (Hebrew Institute of Boro Park).

Siegfried (Sigi) Lobell, currently president of Cong. Beth Israel, 14 Ave & 56 St., remembers the Talmud Torah of that congregation which was located in the basement of the synagogue. Sigi moved to Boro Park in 1960 and said the T.T. remembers, soon after he moved to Boro Park, an appeal was made in the Synagogue to provide a scholarship for the few remaining students in the T.T. to enable them to attend Yeshivahs. Most of them did later attend Yeshivah Etz Chaim.

Do you have any information or memories about Talmud Torah in Boro Park? Do you have any information or memories about other areas of Boro Park History? Why not share them with us. Submit them to this newspaper c/o my attention.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

BOROUGH PARK TENNIS CLUB

Two articles in the Brooklyn Eagle of March and April 1984, submitted by Dominick Supina, discuss the election and awards of the Borough Park Tennis Club.

"At the twelfth annual meeting of the club the following officers were elected for the 1914 season: President Gerald Donaldson; Vice President, William H. Hayward; Treasurer, Lloyd West Francis; Secretary, John U. Burt.

"Committees appointed follow: Hours and grounds, chairman, Arthur E. Cherouny; A.H. Murphy, C. Van Alst, Cyril J. Carroll. Tournament, chairman, Harvey A. Willis; Bankson Wilder, E.A. Davis; Entertainment, chairman Rikichi Ito; William H. Dewey, Walter Kress, E.A. Cook. Membership, S.B. Marks, Barry Frost, R.D. Moorehead, M.D.

"The members anticipate a busy playing season, as numerous trophies have been presented for single and double tournaments. The membership this year will be in the neighborhood of about sixty active players....

"The Borough Park Tennis Club grounds are situated on Forty-eighth street between fifteen and sixteenth avenues, on a plot containing four beautiful clay courts surrounded by magnificent grass lawns at the 'Bonnie' club house, with all the comforts of home. The annual dinner of the club will take place the latter part of April, when the trophy for winners of the South Brooklyn Tennis Tourney will be presented."

In the April 1914 issue the paper describes the annual dinner of the Borough Park Tennis Club. Over seventy members attended the affair which was held at the Clarendon Hotel and which served as a celebration of the victory achieved by the Borough Park Clubmen in the South Brooklyn

Tennis League. The article describes the dinner program and speakers in detail, relates that the trophy was won by the Borough Park team and lists the names of most of the guests present at the affair.

When reading the above paragraphs it may be of interest to note and imagine the kind of suburban community Boro Park was then, the probable ethnic make up of the members as represented by the names mentioned, the writing style used as shown in the paragraphs quoted and the fact that the tennis courts and club were on the block now

housing the main Bobover chasidic buildings.

MIGRATION TO AND FROM BORO PARK

One question I usually ask

residents of Boro Park when interviewing them is, "Why did your family move to Boro Park?" The answers to this question are important in helping to under-

stand the history and development of Boro Park. We usually get answers which are characteristic of certain time periods. The reason why an individual moved to Boro Park in 1920 usually differs from the reason given for moving here in 1950 or 1970. Also, most of those who moved here during the same time period give similar reasons for doing so.

Similarly when interviewing people who moved away from

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Boro Park I usually ask them why they moved. The answers to this question may also fit into patterns according to the time periods. An analysis of the reasons for moving into or away from this community will be attempted at a future time. It should be interesting and help understand the general migration patterns of people as well as explain the development and changes in the Boro Park Community. Therefore when you submit information about your own family or other Boro Park memories please try to include, if possible, your family's reasons for the move.

FORMER BORO PARKERS

Whenever I have the occasion to travel to other cities and meet people I inevitably meet a former Boro Parker. Several interviews with former Boro Parkers have already been reported in previous columns.

Here I would like to report on several more.

BLECH FAMILY

Samuel (Shmuel) and Ilona Blech now live in Silver Springs, Md. Both lived and came from families who lived in Boro Park. Samuel is a son of the late Rabbi Ben Zion Blech, a long time teacher (Rebbe) at Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz and of Mrs. Gittel Blech. Mrs. Blech still resides on 12 Ave near 36 St.

The Blech family, parents and three children immigrated to Boro Park in 1941 from Switzerland. They left that country for fear that the Nazis may march in and overtake it. They selected Boro Park as their place of residence because they had family already living here who helped them come to America and wanted them to live near them. Rabbi Benzion Blech became the Rabbi of Cong. Linath Hatzedek at 109 Clara St. and a Rebbe (teacher) in Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz. He taught there for 25 years, from 1942 to 1967 when he retired. He passed away on April 6, 1984 at the age of 83.

Shmuel and Ilona were interviewed in Silver Springs on Nov. 1, 1984, several days after the wedding celebration of their son Rabbi Sheldon Blech. The bride, Vittie Yudkowsky of Chicago is a niece of Mr. Ovadia Yudkowsky of Boro Park.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK - HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Shmuel and Ilona moved to Silver Springs in 1958 because he received an appointment as a chemist in the Patent Office in Washington, D.C. He is currently also a judge in the patent office. Shmuel's sister Lee First is an arbitration judge in New York City and her husband Harry First is a successful attorney. Shmuel's younger brother Rabbi Benjamin Blech is the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Oceanside, L.I.

SCHRADER FAMILY

Malcolm and Lillian Schrader were also interviewed in Silver Springs. Malcolm moved to Boro Park with his family in 1928, from Eastern Parkway, when he was 3 years old. His family first lived at 4701-12 Ave and moved to

5100-15 Ave in 1930-31. He doesn't know why his father William and mother Sarah (Sheva), formerly Kwestel, decided to move to Boro Park. His father owned a retail dry goods store.

Malcolm attended P.S. 103 until grade 3A and then entered Eitz Chaim Yeshiva in 1933. He attended New Utrecht H.S. and then attended Yeshiva University for two years. He then volunteered for the U.S. Army during WW II. During combat in France Malcolm was wounded, shot in the arm and chest, and was awarded the Purple Heart medal and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Following the war Malcolm returned to school, majored in Chemistry and earned his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry in 1956, at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He then received a position in the Naval Applied Science Lab, which was located in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

In 1952 Malcolm married Lillian Brenner a young lady from Williamsburg. They lived in Bensonhurst for two years and then moved back to 5100-15 Ave. Same building as, but different apartment than, his parents.

Lillian was a public school teacher and is now a reading specialist. His mother passed away in 1963 while at the same residence.

Malcolm and Lillian raised three children in Boro Park. Martin (Menachem) who is now a Rebbe in Israel, Solomon (Shlomo) and Rachael. The boys went to Yeshivah Eitz Chaim and the girl to Shulamith. All went to the Yeshiva of Central Queens, a coed Yeshivah.

While in Boro Park the family attended services at Cong. Shomrei Emunah. Malcolm was also a member of the Young Israel, the Hapoel Hamizrachi and the Marcus Smolowitz Post of the Jewish War Veterans. Lillian belonged to the Ilana chapter of the women's Hapoel Hamizrachi (today called Emunah Women).

The family moved to Queens in 1966 and purchased a one family house. He said he moved away from B.P. because that seemed to be the trend then, for young orthodox families. Many decided to purchase homes in suburban areas, at that time, because it offered more land space and modern homes. The Schraders moved to Silver Springs, Maryland in 1970 when he was offered a more attractive position with the Federal Government.

Malcolm plans to retire early in 1985 and move to Israel with his family. His father passed away in 1978 while living with them in Silver Springs.

Malcolm recalls that in the 1930's when he lived at 5100-15 Ave there were about 100 families living in that building and only three of these families were orthodox. He estimates that at that time about 5% of the Jewish community who lived in the heart of Boro Park were orthodox. All the orthodox Rabbis who had pulpits in the large Synagogues of Boro Park at that time belonged to Mizrahi or Hapoel Hamizrachi.

GOLDSTEIN FAMILY

Solomon (Shlomo) and Freda Goldstein were interviewed in Baltimore recently. Shlomo is a brother of Shmuel Goldstein the printer on 46 St. and 16 Ave. A story about their family appeared in this column several years ago.

Shlomo remembers singing in the choir that accompanied Cantor Yosselle Rosenblatt in the Cong. Anshe Sfard, 14 Ave. corner 45 St., in 1932. He said his father, brother Daniel, and about 12 others sang in that choir, under the leadership of Mr. Davidson.

He remembers Temple Beth El, 48 St. & 15 Ave., when the officers and Rabbi sat up front on the bimah with high stove hats.

Shlomo recalls that when he lived in Providence, R.I. as a very young boy, his home was an open house for travelling Rabbis and other guests. Once the Trisker Rebbe, Rabbi Twersky, who had a shule on 47 St. between 12 and 13 Aves. came to visit. The Trisker Rebbe was instrumental in convincing his father, Moshe Goldstein, to move to Boro Park in order to provide a better religious environment and education for his children. The Goldstein family then moved to B.P. in Sept. 1929, and other relatives followed them shortly. This move he said safeguarded his family and resulted in over a hundred individuals today who are strictly observant Jews, many of them Torah Scholars and/or chassidim.

He also recalls the problem that the father of the Squire Rebbe, Rabbi David Twersky, had with a neighbor. The neighbor took Rabbi Twersky to court complaining that the shule in the house was disturbing him. The court ordered the Rebbe to discontinue the shule located on 47 between 13 and 14 Aves., but permitted the Rebbe to have a minyan of ten men pray with him in his upstairs apartment. They used the sun parlor for the minyan and had a small Sefer Torah.

The Goldstein's moved to Baltimore in 1981 out of necessity, due to a family tragedy. Their son-in-law passed away after a long illness leaving a wife with 6 small children, one an infant, and a retail business. The Goldstein's moved in order to help their daughter with the family and the business. Their last address in Boro Park was 1516-46 St. Before that they lived at 1566 - 45 St.

Please send in your family history and Boro Park memories. Help collect and preserve the history of Boro Park. Join the Boro Park Historical Society \$5 for residents, \$3 for retired people.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Philip J. Kipuet

The following letter was sent in recently by Mrs. Esther Kane, nee Babich. It is full of interesting information and memories about Boro Park. If you remember some of the places and people mentioned and can add some information please drop us a line. We are especially interested in obtaining exact dates, names and addresses.

HYMIE'S RESTAURANT

Dear Mr. Friedman Editor:

I've been wanting to write to you for a long time and finally, here goes. The Babich family moved to 14 Ave. and 37 St. in 1921 from E. 7 St. in Manhattan. My mother said, when she told her landlord she was moving into a house with parquet floors, electricity, tiled bathroom etc., he replied: "Keep on dreaming."

My parents opened the first cafeteria in the area, "The New Bedford Cafeteria," opposite the Flatbush Industrial Building.

Some of the companies in the building were Kerrs Butterscotch, Hannan Shoes, Fortune Magazine, Superior Cabinet, Guttmans Bottle Caps, Industrial Lithographing, Buttercock Patterns.

My brother Eddie and I attended P.S. 179 and then Erasmus High School. Mr. Ludwig was principal of P.S. 179 (Ave. Child E. 2 St.) and later became principal of Montauk J.H.S. (16 Ave. & 42 St.). Mr. Weinberger took his place. Dr. Seth Low was principal of Erasmus H.S. My mother attended night classes at Montauk J.H.S. She and several classmates participated in a trip to Washington, D.C. where she received an award certificate from President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

I remember some of the business establishments on 13th Ave.: the live chicken market on 34 St.; the Royal movie house on 40 St.; Katz's knitting shop; Rothstein's Dept. Store 40 & 41 St.; Mr. Rothstein outside with

his pushcart; the Prussack boys drugstore on 39 & 40 St. with old man Prussack selling outside on his pushcart; the famous pickle man on 40 St.; Hellman's "Hot Shop"; Weiss's Haberdashery which is still there and run by one of the son's.

I remember Dr. Joseph Esirin 14 Ave. & 49 St. when he was working at L.I. College Hospital, his wonderful parents and sister, Eva; Dr. N. Nelson, eye specialist; Dr. Korencfsky general practitioner (uncle of Dr. N. Nelson); Dr. Siegmester ear specialist. My youngest brother Jerry was born at Israeli Zion Hospital in

1931, delivered by Dr. Alex S. Manne. I remember the Western Union office next to our store at 3616-14 Ave. They later moved to

47 St. off 14 Ave. I remember the Menora building when it was built in Windsor Lumber Yard on 14 Ave. and 37 St.; Unity Lumber across the street on Old New Utrecht Rd.; the open air trolleys; the tunnel trolleys went through on Church Ave. under

Ocean Pkwy.; the Linneth Hazedek Shule on Clara St. with Rabbi B. Blech; he married me and my brother Jerry was Bar Mitzvah there.

Some other things I remember are the Crystal Palace opposite P.S. 164; the Bartel family on 47 St. between 9th and 10th Ave's;

The Windsor theatre (amateur night) on 40 St. & 15 Ave. At our cafeteria I recall coffee for 5 cents a cup, pie for 10 cents, soup for 10 cents with bread, a meat dinner with 2 vegetables for 25 cents and the help from the building coming in with big pitchers to have it filled up with coffee for 5 cents. If you said anything they would say "come on fill it up". Yes, those were the days. We had rationing of food (yet the prices were very low) but we managed.

We moved to "B.P." upon the recommendation of Max Weiman who owned a garage on 36 St. (14 & 15 Ave.). He felt that a good eating place was needed. I recall the N.Y. Telephone people coming in at lunch time, many from the schools and especially from the Flatbush Industrial Bldg. across the street.

Of course this brings back so many memories. I'm sure there are people living in B.P. today who can still recall and talk about Hymie's restaurant (my father's name) and the delicious home made muffins (2 for 5 cents). Unbelievable but true.

I would appreciate it if this could be included in your very newsy and interesting B.P. Community News.

With best wishes to you and your staff for always giving us the news "as it is".

Good luck and Happy Chanukah.

Esther Kane

After reading that wonderful letter packed full of historical information, I contacted Mrs. Kane and obtained additional information about family history.

She related a recent incident that occurred at the Metropolitan Geriatric Center on 49 St. & 10 Ave., where she is a volunteer worker. A man came over to her and gave her a big hello. She asked him how he knew her. He said, "Aren't you Hymie's daughter from the restaurant?" Although he hadn't seen her for over 50 years he recognized her and remembered her father's restaurant.

When the Babich family came to B.P. in 1921 there was Mother Bessie, Father Hymie and children Esther, Ruth and Eddie. Jerry the youngest was born in B.P. They first moved to 3614-14 Ave., living above their restaurant at the same address. They lived there until they sold the house in 1980. The store is now occupied by North Star Cooling Co.

Hymie Babich passed away in 1946 and the restaurant closed then. Esther was married in 1951, and continued living there with her mother. Her mother died in 1967 and her husband died in 1969. When she sold her house in 1980 she moved to

Pkwy.

The Flatbush Industrial Building is located at 3611-14 Ave. and some of the original businesses are still located in that building.

Eather's father was a Mason and her brother still is. She belonged to the women's branch of Mason's called the Order of the

Eastern Star. The Mason's lodge met at the Menorah Hall and so did the women's branch. Other lodges that met at the Menorah Hall were the Goldfarb's and the Anisimih's.

The Crystal Palace 14 Ave. & 43 St. was a party hall. Her brother's Bar Mitzvah party was held there. She recalls that she was selected to participate in an amateur show when she was 18 yrs. old. She was a dancer in the show and it was booked to perform at the Loews 46 St. (now Rubinstein & Kleins Furniture on 46 St. & New Utrecht Ave.) They performed three shows a day for two weeks. The rehearsals and preparations for this show took place at the Crystal Palace under the tutelage of professional show people. The show consisted of skits, dances and songs.

The Windsor Lumber Yard was located on 14 Ave. & 37 St. where the gas service station now operates. The Unity Lumber Co., right across the avenue now consisting of buildings, was previously a car barn, where trolley cars were stationed. Eather's mother was a secretary in H.I.A.S. organization. Her sister married Benjamin Bartel in 1943. They lived at 4910-14 Ave. and then at the Georgian 52 St. & 15 Ave. The Bartel's have a son Michael who lives at 1538-54 St. He is married to Chaya Karp daughter of Rabbi Elias Karp who was a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

BOROUGH PARK ITALIAN BAPTIST CHURCH

In a recent column we pointed out that in former years newspaper articles sometimes referred to locations, now considered to be Bensonhurst or Bay Ridge, as Boro Park. An example of this might be found in the following newspaper articles which were published in 1938. However the

second article gives an explanation. In this case at least, for the Borough Park designation of the church in question. The articles were submitted by Dominic Suplina. The first article appeared on May 21, 1938.

"ITALIAN BAPTISTS NOTE 40TH ANNIVERSARY

"The 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Borough Park Italian Baptist Church was celebrated last night in the parish hall, 67 St. and 11 Ave. The Rev. Joseph B. Dellutri, pastor, presided.

"Speakers included the Rev. W.W. Ludwig, former pastor for 18 years, and Mr. & Mrs. Harry B. Bailey, charter members. A dinner of the church's Alumni Association preceded the ceremonies, which were attended by more than 150 persons. Mrs. Ralph Yeaton was chairman."

The second article which follows, appeared on Oct. 12, 1938.

"CHURCH TO MARK 10TH MILESTONE

"Three special meetings on Oct. 14, 15 and 16 will mark the tenth anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Borough Park Italian Baptist Church at 67 St. & 11 Ave., of which the Rev. Joseph B. Dellutri is pastor...

"The Rev. Mr. Dellutri was ordained in the Baptist Temple, Brooklyn, in 1926. His first pastoral work was as assistant at the Borough Park church, then at 48 St. and 13 Ave., where he was assigned to duty among the Italians. Later he became the regular pastor of the church. The present edifice was built in 1929 and the property is now valued at \$100,000. The Sunday morning services are conducted in English and the evening in Italian."

Are there any old times in Boro Park who remember this church on 48 St. and 13 Ave. before 1929?

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Do you have any memories of Boro Park? Does your personal family history include Boro Park? Why not preserve your memories and family history and perhaps share them with others. Information submitted about your family, business, education, relatives or friends in "Boro Park" will be preserved in our Boro Park Historical Society archives. Some stories will be published in this column others will be used in a future compilation of the history of Boro Park.

JOIN THE BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Boro Park Historical Society is collecting information about the history of Boro Park and preserving it. Old photographs are being collected. New current photographs are being taken and preserved for future generations. Library and newspaper research is in progress. Personal interviews are being conducted and preserved on tape or paper. Exhibits, movies and lectures about Boro Park are being planned.

Perhaps you would like to participate in these interesting, educational and fun activities. Let us know if you are able to help us in these activities.

Perhaps you can help us cover some of the expenses involved. Become a member only \$5 a year for residents, \$10 for business or institutions, \$3 for retired persons or students. The B.P.H.S. has no paid employees, all the work is done by volunteers. Financial help is needed to help cover the expenses. Please help by becoming a member and/or participating in the activities. You can write to my attention at this newspaper or at the B.P.H.S., 4810-13 Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Phillip J. Klipust

The following very interesting article was submitted by Mrs. Thelma Fox, nee Klein. It contains a great deal of information about Boro Park and describes an era and area that has undergone great changes.

KLEIN FOX FAMILY

Dear Dr. Klipust:

When I first met Jacques Friedman several years ago, I told him that I had a photograph showing Cantor Yusselle Rosenblatt signing a contract to sing at First Congregation Anshe Sfard, when all of my father's family were members.

This picture dates back to 1931 I believe and shows my uncles Max Jonas and Selig Berman, seated at the left side of the table. My father, Joseph Klein, is peering over the Cantor's shoulder and my uncle, Julius Feller, is the man with the small "Van Dyke" beard and moustache, standing next to the table on the right side.

When I told Mr. Friedman that I have been living in Boro Park all my life and knew many of the outstanding residents during all the years up to the present, he was very interested in having me set down my memoirs as regards Boro Park. This month being the coldest January in many years, I was forced to remain indoors because of the inclement weather and thus I finally found the time to sit down and write this article.

BORO PARK NAME

To begin with, many people who moved to Boro Park only within the last 15-20 years have asked me how this name came to be applied to our neighborhood since whatever few playgrounds we have, can in no way be considered parks. My standard reply is, "You should have lived here when" - and then I go on to describe to them how Boro Park looked in what I call "The good old days."

When I was a child, most of the houses were one or two family

homes, each surrounded by a garden. To compare the gardens in Boro Park today to those that existed then, is an impossibility, because we had many mansions with such imposing gardens, that they resembled parks, and thus the name Boro Park, was both apt and fitting.

I could, for instance tell you that across the street from my parents home on 17th Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets, there was a residence which took up half the block. It consisted of a mansion, with a beautiful garden, completely protected by a 5 foot stone wall. After the owners, Mr.

& Mrs. Godoff died, their three children had the entire property razed and built an apartment house in its stead.
at 4910 - 17 Ave.

Another beautiful home stood on the corner of 17th Avenue and 50th Street and was owned by a Mr. Jackowitz. His house was sold about 25 years ago and was converted into a Synagogue with an adjacent "Mikvah". Just recently I noticed that the Synagogue had been torn down and a private home was built in its place.

I could continue - "ad infinitum" - describing all the beautiful homes that existed during my childhood and early years of my marriage but that would take up too much time and space, and so I will go on and tell

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK - HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

of some of the prominent and eminent families, including my own, who lived here.

PROMINENT FAMILIES

There were the Herricks, the Bienenstocks, Jacob Neinken, Joe Gottfried, Isaac Ginsberg, the Godoffs, the Kornblums, the Marinbachs, and Morris Wolf, to name a few. All were well to-do and charitable people, including my father and his three brothers-in-law the Jonases, the Bermans and the Fellers. It was due to their efforts and money, that Israel Zion Hospital, now called Maimonides, was built. A look at the plaques inside the old original building, shows the names of those who contributed towards the building of this hospital, which was sorely needed at the time.

My father, Joseph Klein, who had been in the dry goods business, became a builder in the early 1920's, as did Max Jonas, Selig Berman and Julius Feller, my 3 uncles. The homes they built are still in existence and occupied in Boro Park. As Berman and Klein, they built the houses that stand on both sides of 50th Street between Old New Utrecht Road and 18th Avenue, and also on 51st Street between the same Avenues. The row of 5 red brick attached houses that are set on an incline on 17th Avenue and 53 Street, were built by my father. My uncle Max Jonas, built the apartment house on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and 53rd Street, which was called "Jonas Arms." I recently noticed that it is boarded up and will be either demolished or renovated. Most of the homes built by my family are in the Dyker Heights area.

CONCORDIA CLUB

The above mentioned men were all very active members of "Anshe Sfard" and the community. They belonged to a "Men's Club" called "The Concordia Club", which still stands on the corner of 15th Ave. and 49th Street right next to "Temple Beth-El." If you look hard, you can still see this name set into the stones on the sidewalk in front of the building, which now serves as a "Shule" and catering place.

The "Concordia Club" was established mainly as a social club, where the men played cards and where they held many parties to gain money for charity. I can still see before me my mother, Jennie Klein, dressed in a short orange evening dress with fringes falling from the waist. The dress was very much in vogue, as this was the era of the short or so-called "Flapper" dresses.

It was my personal duty and pleasure to visit my paternal grandmother "Baba Brucha Klein" every Saturday. She lived with her most affluent daughter Ella Jonas, on 46th Street between 14th and 15th Avenues. Such was my "Baba's" reputation for kindness and charity that the house was always filled, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, cousins of every degree and friends, all of

whom sought to visit her and come away with the magic that she could instill. Those who could afford it, would leave money with her, knowing that she would not use it for her personal needs but rather that she would give it away wisely to the poor who came to her.

I have a special reason for revering my grandmother and that is because she insisted that all her grandchildren speak to her in "Yiddish". Though I was brought up in a strictly Orthodox home, my parents spoke to us mainly in English. It is due to my grandmother that I have a fairly good command of the "Yiddish" language which has served me in good stead on many occasions.



Mr. & Mrs. Klein

HEBREW SCHOOLS

One thing I do regret, however, is that though I went to Hebrew School for 5 years and received a Diploma in all aspects of reading, writing, Bible study and speaking Hebrew, I did not have the opportunity to speak in Hebrew with anyone in Boro Park at that time and consequently lost my ability to converse in this language which is now used so prevalently in Boro Park.

Apropos of Hebrew Schools, your column has mentioned "The Hebrew Institute" or "Eitz Chaim" as it was also called, which stood on 13th Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets. During my younger days, Mr. Kufeld was the principal. Incidentally, both his wife Carrie and daughter Rita Michaelson still reside in Boro Park.

The Hebrew School that I attended after secular school was over from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. - was housed in what is now the Beer Shmuel Synagogue located on 50th St. between 13th and 14th Aves. The principal was Mr. Gordon, who owned the apartment house 5001 - 15 Ave. I remember that one of the teachers was a Mr. Mishkin. Perhaps some of your readers can fill in with more information about the school. I know that it housed "The Young Israel Congregation" on Saturdays and that the "Shulamith School" had its beginnings in that building.

There is one interesting item which I don't think any of your readers has mentioned. There was a family living on 50th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues whose name was Friedlander.

What was unusual about them was that there were 16 children in the family although the parents were neither religious nor wealthy. However, they were all endowed with such "Charisma", that everyone in the neighborhood sought to be their friends. To my knowledge there are about 12 of them still living. Morison, or "Babe" as he was better known, moved out of Boro Park about 5 years ago, and now there are two sisters residing in Flatbush and one in New Jersey. The rest of them have retired to Florida.

At one time I knew every family living on 50th Street between 16th & 17th Avenues, but through the years they have all moved out. The last remaining ones were 2 sisters from the Popover Family, who shared a house at 1658 - 50th St. They are Blindy & Eddie Kaufman and Rhoda & Sol Turk, my cousins, who were very active in "Temple Beth-El." When they moved away in 1980, my last ties to that block were severed.

CONG. ANSHE SFARD

I have sisters - Hilda Klein and Florence Fox Schwartz. My brother, Irving Klein, an attorney, has told me that my family moved to Boro Park from the Bronx in December 1918, at which time my father and uncles became members of "Anshe Sfard" which had opened in 1915. My sister-in-law, Sylvia, says that her parents, Morris and Eva Goldberg, moved here in 1912. Both my brother and his son Neal had their Bar Mitzvahs in "Anshe Sfard." I was ~~reared there~~ and the Smithline brothers are probably the oldest members of this "Schule", not in age but in years of being members.

My Aunt, Ella Jonas, was one of the founding members of a society to help poor, sick people. It went under the name of the "Home for the Incurables", an unfortunate nomenclature, whose name was later changed to one less depressing sounding. It was run under the capable hands of Minnie Tulipan, mother of Dr. Herbert Tulipan, who has an office in Boro Park. The hospital is still in existence but I have forgotten the name that it now goes under. I believe it is now located in Flatbush.

My family moved from 46th St. between 16th & 17th Avenues to 4913 - 17th Ave. In 1922, it is a 2 family house built by two of my father's friends in order to house both us and our Berman cousins.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

I think that your readers will find it unusual that I, as a 6 year old, had to walk from my home to 18th Ave. & Ocean Pkwy. to go to P.S. 134, the nearest school to my home at that time. Mr. Morey was the principal. I later attended Montauk Jr. High School, where Mr. Ludwig was the principal. Then on to New Utrecht High School with Dr. Potter as the principal. From there I went to Hunter College, from which I graduated and became a substitute Elementary School teacher. I taught in P.S. 103 on 14th Ave. and 53rd St.,

P.S. 160 on Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and 51st St. and P.S. 180 on 16th Ave. & 56th St. Perhaps some of your readers had me as their teacher.

My own daughter, Ronnie, attended P.S. 103 during the time I taught there. She is now married and the mother of 2 girls, and lives in Staten Island.

I just want to mention in passing, that there is a house which stands alone on 17th Ave. and 49th St. and Old New Utrecht Road. It is now used as a school but it was originally built by my Uncle Berman for the Neustadter Family. It was the first house in Boro Park to have a room on the second floor, which was built in such a way that the roof could be opened manually, and thus serve as a Sukka.

MOVING AWAY FROM BORO PARK

I have left the most unhappy part of these remembrances to my final paragraphs. Of all the many relatives who resided in Boro Park, only my brother and I and two of our cousins and their families, Nathan and Reuben

The others have all moved to other parts of the city or to other states. I felt this separation most keenly, last "Rosh Hashonah."

My brother and I still go to "Anshe Sfard" for religious services and it had always been my custom to go from there to "Temple Emanu-El," to wish Happy New Year to my Berman cousins there.

They are Hilton and Pearl Marwell and Dr. Morris and Ruth Miller, all of whom are well known in Boro Park. Ruth and Morris had moved to New Jersey and Florida some time ago, but Hilton and Pearl were mainstays at the Temple, Hilton having served as president at one time. At the beginning of 1984, they decided to make Florida their permanent home.

As I passed "Temple Emanu-El" on my way home that day, I debated with myself whether to enter there, knowing I would feel depressed not seeing them in their usual seats. However, I reminded myself that I still had many friends and knew many people who worshipped there, and so I went in and wished them all "A Happy New Year."

Sincerely,

Thelma Klein Fox

Our thanks to Mrs. Thelma Fox for her interesting and valuable contribution. WE ASSUME THAT SHE PROBABLY HAS A GREAT DEAL MORE INFORMATION about Boro Park and invite her to write a sequel. We also invite our readers to share their personal histories of Boro Park with others through this column.

Cantor Rosenblatt Signs Historic Contract With Cong. Anshe Sfard



I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Philip J. Kinsat

MAX ROTH OLDEST RESIDENT

(Our thanks to Esther Kane for the following interview and information.)

Max Roth says that he may be the oldest resident in Boro Park today, oldest in both age and duration (B'I.A.H.). He was born in Galicia, Austria (now Poland), on September 25, 1887, and moved to B.P. on Jan. 10, 1909. He married Anna Greenberg (both from Manhattan) in 1909, at Hennington Hall in Manhattan. His wife passed away in 1982.

His first address in B.P. was at 1435-60 St. in a two family house. He currently lives at 4800-14 Ave. and has lived in the same apartment building for approximately 50 years. He moved into this then plush building before it was fully completed. This building, known as the Studio Building has sunken living rooms and his 4 1/4 room apartment includes 2

complete bathrooms. His original rent when he moved into this high class building was \$75 a month with one month's concession. That was a high rental for 1935, one of the depression years. His apartment is still under rent control and his rental is now only \$255.

In 1909 there were no buses or trolleys. The only public transportation in Boro Park was the West End train which ran along New Utrecht Ave. on the ground. That train already traveled to Manhattan at that time.

Max pointed out that none of the streets in Boro Park were paved then. There were no apartment buildings, only private one or two family houses with plenty of open spaces between them. All the land between 16 Ave. and 22 Ave. was farmland. He remembers stores along New Utrecht Ave. but none along the other avenues in those days. Thirteenth Ave. had private homes. Nanny goats roamed the streets oblivious to the people or traffic since autos were almost non-existent.

During his early years in B.P. there was no hospital in the area. People had to travel to other areas of Brooklyn or Manhattan for hospital treatment. He recalls the early campaigns to raise money for a local hospital. One of his then dear friends, Neuman Dube, was one of the first Presidents of the newly formed Israel Zion Hospital.

Max remembers the farmers who would come from the areas between 16 and 22 Ave. on horse and wagon to sell fruits and vegetables to the residents. He recalls only one kosher butcher

store and one grocery store owned by Mr. Rivers on 14 Ave. between 59 and 60 St. over 70 years ago. Lou Kraus owned a hardware store in 1910 on New Utrecht Ave. between 59 and 60 St.

Max joined the Loyalty Lodge of Masons in 1911 and became a Master in 1917. He received a gold plaque in honor of his 50th year as Master in 1961. He was made honorary member of the Menora Lodge more recently. He was a charter member of Temple Emanuel, 49 St. and 14 Ave. He was also one of the earliest

depositors at the Bay Ridge Savings Bank which is now the Anchor Savings on 48 St. and 13 Ave.

Max has one son, Irving now living in Virginia and a daughter Beatrice. J grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren living in Florida. He has a kid brother who is 91 living in Manhattan. Max is looking forward to his 100th birthday in September 1987.

In a subsequent telephone conversation Max said he moved to B.P. because he was getting married and the man with whom he was planning a business partnership had a two family house, with one vacancy, in B.P. Also B.P. was considered to be a desirable new suburban area. Max was a designer in the custom tailor business. His partner and landlord in 1909 was Henry Fox.

Both his son and daughter attended P.S. 103 on 14 Ave. and 53 St. until graduation from 8th grade, then New Utrecht H.S. and then Brooklyn College. They didn't attend Hebrew schools but he hired a private teacher for his son to prepare him for Bar Mitzvah at Temple Emanuel.

His daughter prepared herself for a teaching career. However after college, during the depression years, she was not able to obtain a position in the field. That was the general situation in those years. His son Irving passed a Civil Service exam and accepted a position with the Dept. of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. He changed careers later and became one of the top administrators in the Civil Aeronautics Board. In that position he had a long interview with President Johnson in regard to a possible appointment as the chief of the C.A.B. He didn't get the appointment but Max is proud of the photo he has of his son with President Johnson. Irving left the C.A.B. and became Vice President of the United Air Lines. He is now retired.

Our readers are invited to submit information about their own Boro Park history and memories. Can any resident claim to be older than Max Roth in either age or duration in the community?

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust

FAMOUS BORO PARKER'S

In the past this column has brought to the readers' attention names of famous personalities who live or lived in Boro Park. Readers are requested to submit information not other Boro Parkers who became famous or who made a noteworthy contribution to the community or to society. Such names and information will also be considered in connection with our newly formed project "The Boro Park Hall of Fame."

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO

In the last issue of this newspaper a photo appeared on the front page with the caption "Can you recognize these famous Rabbis?" The Rabbis in the photo were Rabbi Eliezer Silver of Cincinnati on the right and the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok Schneersohn on the left. The photo was taken during 1929 or 1930 soon

after the Rebbe arrived in America. The relationship between this photo and Boro Park History is that the Lubavitcher Rebbe stayed in Boro Park for a length of time at the home of Rabbi Simpson. Rabbi Simpson then had a small shule in a wooden house which was situated on 14 Avenue near 46 Street. That building was located on the parcel of land adjacent to the Agudah building, where the Agudah yard is now located. The house was subsequently burned in a fire. All three Rabbis mentioned (Z"TL) are no longer living.

SEQUEL BY THELMA FOX

We are indebted to Thelma Fox for the following interesting article which was well researched. It includes valuable information about famous people in Boro Park and is a sequel to her well received previous article.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

After receiving so many favorable responses to my first "I

Remember Boro Park" column, I decided to write a sequel. It occurred to me that I could liken my entire family to that of the Kennedy Clan. With my paternal grandmother, my Baba Klein, as the matriarch of the family, the Hub of the wheel so to speak, with her one son and three daughters as the spokes, radiating and branching out and yet remaining in close contact with each other. So far five generations of the family have emanated from her, and Boro Park is the compound where it all began.

I am going to write this article in the form of a game. It will be a

combination of "Trivial Pursuits" and "Whatever Became Of." You will read of people who lived in Boro Park for a time and then

went on to fame and/or fortune in the various fields of Education, The Arts, Sports and International Law.

First, a "Trivia" question. How many of you remember where the 66th precinct was housed, before it moved to its present location on 16 Avenue between 58 and 59 Streets? You get an "A" if your answer is "in a one family house at 1430 - 49 Street." The house is still there, and occupied. It is easily recognizable because of its yellow color. You get an extra credit if you know that the move was made in 1949. If you are interested in

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seeing it, I would suggest that you view it soon because I have heard via the "grapevine" that it is due for demolition in the near future.

WILLIE FOX-EDUCATOR

Now, to get on with my story, I will begin with a very important member of my family, namely my, late husband, William L. Fox, who was inadvertently omitted from my last column. I had intended to relate some stories about his contribution to "Education," but did not find the proper area in my first report, to refer to him. Hence, I will commence with a short resume of his accomplishments.

When "Willie" as he was fondly called, graduated from City College, he answered an "ad" for a teacher to teach boys who had never finished high school. The school was called Brooklyn Boys Continuation School. There he taught Social Studies his major in college. When the principal, I. David Cohen, learned that Willie was a musician, who played the violin, and had been the leader of a band during his college years, he was asked to form a school band. This venture proved so successful, that the band received many commendations from the Board of Education, for its excellence.

The school fared so well that it branched out and became "The Brooklyn High School for Specialty Trades." I am sure that many of you know Eli Elkin, who has worked as a licensed optic dispenser for many years, at Katz and Strauss Optometrists, located at 4405 - 13 Avenue. Eli was a student at this school and remembers having had my husband as one of his teachers. He studied Mechanical Drafting in that school and after graduation, went on to the School of Optics.

"Specialty Trades" grew by leaps and bounds and received a grant from the George Westinghouse Foundation, to enlarge the school. It now goes under the name "George Westinghouse Vocational and Technical High School." It is situated on Flatbush Avenue Extension and Johnson Street, near the Manhattan Bridge.

Because Willie had served in so many capacities, from the time of his original association with these schools - as teacher, Chairman of Social Studies and Academics, as School Disciplinarian, and as an administrator, the school honored him after his demise, by naming the school library after him. It is called, "The William L. Fox Memorial Library." A formal ceremony was held when this title was placed about the library. About 20 of his colleagues and several students spoke about what Willie had done for the students, the teachers and the school.

BORO PARK SCHOOLS

Speaking of schools, Dr. Klipust would like me to clarify why I had to go to P.S. 134 on 18 Avenue near Ocean Parkway,

when P.S. 192 on 18 Avenue and 48 Street was so much closer to my home. P.S. 192 opened in 1924, a year after I entered the first grade in P.S. 134. Why then, you might ask wasn't I transferred to that school? After much research and many calls to the Board of Education, I was told that it was the policy of the System not to transfer pupils if they had an older sibling in their original school. Since I did have an older sister attending P.S. 134 with me, I had to continue at that school until my graduation from the 6th grade. It was then that I was permitted to go to P.S. 192, which maintained a junior high school - grades 7-9, on its upper floors. I entered into the "R.A.-R.B. Program" which means rapid advance and I completed the 7th and 8th grades in one year, rather than the usual two years. When I was in the 9th grade, Montauk Jr. High School was completed on 16 Avenue and 42 Street. I can remember that all the upper grade children marched to Montauk Jr. High, with the teachers and principals showing us what route to take when we were transferred to the new school. This occurred in 1930, and I was in the first graduating class from the 9th grade. It was after this move, that P.S. 192 became a full-fledged elementary school, with classes from Kindergarten through 6th grade.



Thelma (Klein) Fox as a child standing in front of 1620 - 46 Street. Photo taken in early 1920's when she lived at 1616 - 46 Street. Note wooden steps.

In my previous column when I mentioned the Boro Park schools in which I had taught, P.S. 164 on 14 Avenue and 42 Street was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Perlman was the principal at that time and Miss Cohen (who could forget her) was the assistant principal. My cousin, Gertrude Feller Arkin (Aunt of actor, Alan Arkin) taught there too.

THE FRIEDLANDERS

Now I get to "Whatever Became Of" Those readers who

read my first column may remember that I spoke of the Friedlanders who lived at 1637 - 50 Street, and had 16 children in the family - a surprising thing happened about three weeks after that column appeared. I met Seymour Wishkoff, an acquaintance of mine since high school days, who had lived on 52 Street between 17 and 18 Avenues, the same block that my future husband-to-be lived on. He told me that he had read my story about the Friedlanders and could appreciate

what I had written about them, especially since one of the sons had married and lived on 52 Street for a short time. He concurred with me that they were an unforgettable family.

This lends me right into my next story about the "Aris." The daughter of the Friedlander's oldest son - Harold, Toby Lynn Friedlander by name, married Itzhak Perlman, the world-renowned violinist, in 1967. How's that for moving up in the world!

If you recall, I mentioned a mansion, which used to be on the site of what is now an apartment house at 4910 - 17 Avenue. The extremely wealthy owner, Mr. Godoff, had a daughter, Ethel, who had fallen in love with a penniless artist, who was forbidden by the father to "court" her. Nevertheless, the two did marry, either just before or just after the father's death. Now for the denouement.

STEPHEN LONGSTREET AUTHOR

The penniless artist Ethel Godoff married in 1933, became the well-known and widely read author of countless novels. His name is Stephen Longstreet, and I am sure that many of you have read his books. He is not only an artist and author, but also a movie script writer as well. Stephen co-authored several books with his wife. His most famous book "The Pedlocks" was written in 1951. He writes books under four different pseudonyms. So here is a case of "Poor Boy Makes Good" or "All's Well That Ends Well."

SANDY KOUFAX-SPORTS

Now to get on to my next subject, "Sports," which I think will interest many men and boys who enjoy watching baseball games. Sandy Koufax, who lived in Boro Park on 48 Street between 14 and 15 Avenues attended Lafayette High School, and was chosen by the Brooklyn Dodgers to be a player on their baseball team in 1954. He was considered to be one of their best players but unfortunately had to retire at an early age because of a painful shoulder. He moved to California, where he married the daughter of Richard Widmark, the movie actor. Sandy was elected to the "Baseball Hall of Fame" in 1972.

ELIE SIEGMEISTER-MUSICIAN

Digonally across the street from my parents' home, the later to become famous composer, Elie Siegmester, lived with his family at 4924 - 17 Avenue. He is now recognized as a major composer and conductor of music, and is also the author of many books on this subject. He wrote the music

for several shows, one of which, "Sing Out Sweet Land," received plaudits from the music critics. He is the founder of the American Composers Alliance and was and may still be, Professor of Music at Hofstra University, and Conductor of Hofstra Symphony Orchestra. I am privileged to say that I could see and hear him when he was composing at the piano, because the room he worked in was almost completely surrounded by windows.

**ABRAHAM FELLER
INTERNATIONAL LAW**

I've reserved the fields of "International Law" and "World Government" for last, in writing about famous Boro Parkers. My cousin, the late Abraham Feller, was the first born son of my father's sister Jennie (Sheinsha) and her husband, Julius Feller. He was also the brother of Gertrude Arkin whom I mentioned in another paragraph, Molly Scif and the late Maxwell Feller, who created a niche for himself in the business world by becoming Vice President of International Playtex. He was also an active member on the Labor Relations Board.

Abe Feller lived with his parents at 1676 - 50 Street. He attended prestigious Stuyvesant High School, the school which only accepts students of extremely high caliber. He received his B.A. from Columbia University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After graduating at the top of his class, in Harvard Law School, he became an exchange professor assigned to Berlin. With the rise of Hitler he returned to the U.S. to take up the teaching on International Law at

Harvard from 1934 to 1940. His career took him from law professor at Yale University and Leland Stanford University thru a brilliant succession of government key assignments. Consultant to the National Defense Mediation Board, the office of Land-Lease Administration, Deputy Director and General Counsel of the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and representative of the U.N.R.R.A. at the U.N. founding conference in San Francisco in 1945.

Later that year, the U.S. appointed him as delegate to the U.N. Preparatory Commission in London, and when the first U.N. General Assembly got underway in early 1946, he was advisor to the American delegation. He left that task to join the U.N. as General Counsel to Trygve Lie, the first Secretary General of the U.N., in February 1946. He dealt with a multiplicity of problems. He had a legal role in every one of the U.N.'s far flung and varied activities. Also extensive dealings with New York City in the establishment of the U.N.'s headquarters on the East River.

Abe Feller invested all his moral, intellectual and emotional resources in the United Nations. The vision of the U.N., strained and emasculated by international intrigue, was however abruptly shattered by Trygve Lie walking out and dropping the mantle of Secretary General on Abe's over-

burdened shoulders. At forty-seven, Abe Feller was dead. The ailing world too much for the frail boy from Boro Park.

Although he is no longer with us, his name lives on in The Encyclopedia Britannica (of which he was one of the editors) and in several books on World Government and the United Nations.

MARWELL'S OPEN HOUSE

My cousins, Hilton and Pearl Marwell, whom I mentioned in my previous article, lived at one time at 5105 - 17 Avenue. They always held "Open House" on Saturday afternoons, and it is there that I met many well-known personalities in the early 1940's. The literati and the intelligentsia of Boro Park often visited them. It was there that I first became acquainted with Rabbi Baruch and Mrs. Silverstein and Cantor David Kusevitsky and his charming wife Pat.

Several people have asked me for more news about my daughter, Ronnie. As I mentioned in my first column, she lives on Staten Island and is the mother of two girls Jesalca Wendy, age 5½ and Alyson Jane, age 3½. They were named in loving memory of my father, Joseph, my husband, Willie, and my mother, Jennie.



Thelma [Klein] Fox recent photo with two grandchildren.

Ronnie is married to Michael, the son of Sonya and "Mike," the owners of Saraco Glass, situated at 3710 - 13 Avenue. Saraco Glass advertised in the first edition of Boro Park Community News and has advertised in every subsequent edition since then, right up to the present time.

For those of you who wondered whether I had made a mistake when I mentioned my younger sister's name as Florence Fox Schwartz, let me set the matter straight. We were two sisters married to two brothers and hence had the same last name - Fox. I would like to mention that she was born in the Minnensberg Maternity Hospital, where Dr. Kipust also first saw the light of day. It was located at 4421 - 15 Avenue and is still standing there, no longer a hospital but rather, a girls Religious School - Beth Jacob Seminary.

I hope you enjoyed this article and were able to relate to some of the people and places therein. I'm sure that some of you have interesting stories to tell about other famous Boro Park residents, and will take the time to write about them and enlighten us as to who they are and what they did.

Cont. on next page

I REMEMBER BORO PARK •

The information in this story about famous people, is mostly from having been in close contact with them and their careers. However, everything I wrote about them was, nevertheless, researched and authenticated. In closing, let me say "Sic transit gloria mundi," or translated "Thus the glory of the world passes away."

Sincerely,

Thelma (Toby) Klein Fox

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society is planning a general membership meeting open to all interested residents or former residents of Boro Park. The program will include a film presentation, a memorabilia display, a speaker and discussion comparing the old and the present Boro Park. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 20 at 7 P.M. at the Greater New York Savings Bank. Admission Free.

COME - REMINISCE - ENJOY

B.P.H.S.

Join the Boro Park Historical Society. Help further the work of researching and preserving the history of B.P. Dues \$5 per year, (\$3 for retirees), can be sent to the B.P.H.S., 4810 - 13 Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust

The following letter was received seeking information about a former resident of Boro Park, Moses Weinberger, and relatives. Anyone having information may forward it to this column at the B.P.C.N.

SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT RESIDENT

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Glad to hear that you are doing research on the history of Boro Park. Maybe you can help me out in the following. Since the book, "People Walk On Their Heads" by Moses Weinberger came out, edited by Jonathan Sarna, I have become interested to find out more about him. Basically, history stops about 1906. A little was added when he published a book in 1914. From that time nothing is known about him until he died at the age of 87 on June 13, 1940 (N.Y. Times obituary, June 14 - p. 21). Funeral was June 14 in Brooklyn. It states that his

residence was 1703 - 47th St. It states that surviving was wife Amalia and children Yetta Rapaport, Lillian Elstein, Rose Lichtenthal, Betty Levy, William D. & Max Weinberger.

I'd like to know if anything is known about his children (I doubt if any are alive), or his grandchildren, who certainly should be alive. Also anybody who may have known anything about him while he was living in Boro Park. Any information will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Morris Gorlin

Another interesting letter from an interested reader and former Boro Park.

Dear Mr. Friedman,

I moved out of Boro Park in Sept. '84 after 61 years, but I have enjoyed the Boro Park News even though I did not always agree with some of the articles.

Please send your newspaper to my home. Reading the

"Historical Highlights" brings back memories. I see that you are now collecting pictures. I am looking for some very old ones that might be interesting even though the people in the picture are long since gone. I will mail them when I find them.

Boro Park has always been a terrific shopping center even in the old days. I remember as a young child the vegetable man coming down the street with his horse and carriage and we didn't even have to leave the street to buy what we needed.

This past summer I was surprised to see the little truck of the "Knife & Sclator Grinder." In speaking to him, I discovered that the son has continued his father's tradition of riding up and down

streets - a period of at least 50 years.

These are little insignificant things but that was part of my Boro Park.

Last Sunday I came to the "Avenue" to shop and after being away since Sept. I found it strikingly crowded (which is good for business), but the streets were filthy and dirty as far as the eye could see, including the private streets. What Boro Park needs is a campaign to educate the people living there to first keep their homes clean of snow and dirt, to teach their children not to throw wrappers, containers, etc. (continued on Page 12)

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK - HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (mon practice), and to help their neighbors.

I am happy to say that I live on a street where everyone keeps his walk clean, winter and summer. Where whoever is home will take the garbage pails off the street (even though his not his) after the sanitation leaves and even sweep-up their gutters in front of their house.

When you teach Boro Parkers that the "community" includes their home (outside as well as inside), you will be a winner. I still remember my father opening his store early in the morning and the first thing he did was sweep the street and wash it down with a pail of water (every day for 41 years).

Thanks for listening.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Reva Gross

We are grateful to Esther B. Kane for submitting the following interesting story of William Stern. **KINGSBORO DENTAL LABS**

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I am a faithful reader of your column and would like to submit the following article:

I was born in 1900 in N.Y.C., and came to Boro Park in 1933. I rented a small loft on 47th St. and 13th Ave. (1301 - 47th St.). Before that I was located on Livingston and Broad Sts., where I started out as a dental technician. In 1926, I am still located at 1301 - 47th St., now 53 years, and actively carrying on my dental business daily, under the name of Kingsboro Dental Labs.

The following are some of the very fine dentists for whom I did work.

Dr. Irving Jacobs - professor of dentistry at New York University. He was a very prominent dentist located on 48th St. and 14th Ave.

Dr. Nello Napelbaum, who was located on 48th St. between 12th and 13th Aves.

Dr. Jacob Kuho, who was located on 49th St. between 13th & 14th Aves.

Dr. Harry Chodroff, who was located on 46th St. and 14th Ave.

Dr. S. Benson, who was located on 43rd St. and 14th Ave.

Dr. Joseph Murray, who was located on 46th St. between 13th & 14th Aves.

These doctors are just a few of the top men for whom I did work. Although they are no longer with us they have been recognized as pioneers in their field.

I recall Mr. Belcher, the original owner of the Famous Restaurant on 13th Ave. and 48th St. It probably opened in the late 1920's. Mr. Belcher always welcomed our group of dentists who would meet every Friday afternoon for lunch at his place and would discuss dentistry.

I recall Mr. Goldberg, owner of the Boro Park Tobacco Co. on 48th St. between 12th and New Utrecht Aves. We would play pinocle and share pleasant memories of Boro Park. His two sons still operate the business.

Another old establishment is the Park Surgical Supply Co. on New Utrecht Ave. and 50th St., now operated by the Dube brothers - Joseph, and Daniel. I knew their father personally.

I remember Meyers Ice Cream Parlor and Luncheonette on 13th Ave. between 48th & 49th Sts., a few doors from Famous Restaurant. Buddy Hackell, famous comedian, was a frequent customer there when he lived in Boro Park.

I recall the gas service station on New Utrecht Ave. near 50th St., when Monty Greenhut was the owner. Western Union was a tenant in a store on 47th St., in the same building where I have my dental laboratory. The Public National Bank, later the Bankers Trust Co., was located where the Bank Leumi is now situated, on 13th Ave. near 44th St. Mr. Jack Rosen was the manager of P.N.B. and would give loans and credit to merchants on 13th Ave. who were in need of financial assistance during the depression days. He was very liberal in extending this credit to them. Every one of those merchants repaid his loan and Mr. Rosen did not suffer any loss. This proves the old saying, "It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice." I am very grateful that I turned 83 in April and still keep active.

With Best Wishes,
William Stern

A follow-up, phone conversation with Mr. Stern provided additional information. Mr. Stern does all the dental work himself including pick-up and delivery, with his own car. However, he does a limited business now and shares his premises with another dental lab.

Mr. Stern lived in Boro Park for one year in 1948 in the apartment house at 15th Ave. & 48th St. He now lives on Ocean Parkway.

In the loft where Mr. Stern is now located, his neighbor to the front is Werdiger's Travel Agency. Mr. Stern remembers where he first moved to that location, there was a synagogue in the front, where Werdiger's Travel is now located. Later a tuxedo renting business was located there. (This columnist remembers renting his wedding tuxedo there in Jan. 1951. Does anyone recall or have information about that Synagogue?)

The New Utrecht Chapter of the Dental Society used to meet regularly at the Menorah Hall, then called Menorah Temple. The society began in the late 1930's and continued until about 1970. Dr. Irving Jacobs was a lecturer on dental subjects for dentists.

As mentioned previously, I used to play pinocle with Mr. Goldberg, owner of the Boro Park Tobacco Co. On one occasion, while he was playing with another friend, they heard the police cars running by noisily. That was when his tobacco business was held up by gunmen and two detectives were killed when they walked in. The holdup men were caught and sentenced to 25 years to life. The killer studied law in prison and became a lawyer while in prison. He was recently released after having served the full sentence.

He remembers another incident when two brothers, the Diamond brothers, held up the Bay Ridge Savings Bank on 13th Ave. & 48th St., where Anchor Bank is now located. This happened in the late 1920's. The two robbers ran to New Utrecht Ave. with the money (who had a car then), and wanted to board the train. They were nabbed there by the police.

Then there was the story of Philip Schupler, a state legislator representing the Boro Park community. He committed suicide in the 1950's because of charges that he took money to help someone get into college and didn't succeed. He was also having domestic problems.

Another story was that of Rothstein's Department store on 13th Ave. The owner was going bankrupt and he sold the business to all his workers. They each had stock in the business and ran it. Unfortunately it didn't work out. The business went bankrupt and the employees also lost money.

Mr. Stern said one of the oldest business establishments on 13th Ave. is Red's Italian Restaurant on 13th Ave. near 37th St. The business was established over 50 years ago and is still active.

Mr. Stern said he became a depositor in the Public National Bank and continued banking there through the changes to Bankers Trust Co. and now to Bank Leumi. He said he still has his account in that bank.

When Mr. Stern moved into his loft in 1933 the rental was \$40 a month, now it's \$500. He said Mr. Walsh was landlord when he first moved in. Mr. Walsh was a carpenter by trade when he came to Boro Park in 1907. He gradually purchased and owned considerable real estate including the building that houses Famous Restaurant. He left millions of dollars worth of real estate for his children. Believe it or not Mr. Walsh was unable to sign his name he had to make an X.

Finally he recalls the beauty parlor on 13th Ave. between 51st & 52nd St. which was operated by Betty Schwartz for many years. She moved her business to Flatbush about 1955.

Our many thanks to all who contributed to this column. We invite other readers to tell us about their own histories and memories. Join us at the first general meeting on May 20th, 7 P.M. At Greater my Saving Bank 53rd St. and 13th Ave.

EMANUEL SCHWARTZ

Dear Sir:

I enjoy reading this column from time to time as it brings back many nostalgic memories:

I was singing in a choir since I was nine with various Cantors, and choir leaders. I started in a Shule on 85 Attorney Street, with Cantor Spund. I used to sing at weddings for 35 cents and sang O-Promise Me for an additional 25 cents. The entire choir including two men, one bass and one tenor got \$8.00.

When I was just past 13 years old and living on the Lower East Side, I lost my father. That was in June 1925. In August my mother and five children including a newly married daughter, moved to Boro Park - 960 43rd Street. In 1925 my last year with a choir, as soloist, I sang in a shule on Coney Island Avenue near Avenue J, for Rosh Hashonah, and Yom Kippur for \$150.

When I was in the second term high school and was to register at New Utrecht High School, September 1925, the principal was Dr. Harry Potter and assistant principals were Dr. Jenner, and Dr. Brunner. Barney Hyman was the athletic coach. Barney Zuckerman was the swimming coach and Philip Ehrlich was head of the music department. The West End train, and the West End trolley cost five cents. The trolley ran from 39th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, to Coney Island, with complete open air cars in the summertime. The West End train ran from Coney Island to Times Square and back, as many times as you wished, for five cents and no gratuity.

I used to go ice skating on a small pond in Sunset Park, and sleigh riding down a steep hill in the park. We also used a steep hill on 43rd Street from 9th Avenue to Fort Hamilton Parkway, always watching out for the trolley car on New Utrecht Avenue.

I remember coming home from a choir rehearsal in August 1925 in a heavy summer rain on the

West End Train. When the train was about 500 feet from the 9th Avenue station, there was a very heavy landslide, covering heavy mud over the front of the train tracks. The passengers were left sitting in the stalled train for about five hours, before a train crew finally came to open the rear door and have all of us walk to the 9th Avenue station.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
VERY SUCCESSFUL

The first general membership meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society was held on May 20, 1985 at The Greater New York Savings Bank. An overflow crowd attended, in fact a number of people who arrived late and saw the crowded conditions, turned away. We received many exciting comments from those who attended: "Magnificent," "wonderful program," "beautiful," "I had a marvelous time, what a beautiful thing this is," were only a few of the comments we received.

Many old time Boro Parkers, as well as younger ones, attended. They were treated to beautiful displays of photos, journals, and other memorabilia, showing old and new Boro Park which was skillfully prepared by Dominic Suplina. They enjoyed the inter-

esting narrated slide program, expertly presented by Oscar Israelovitz, showing very old scenes of Boro Park. They were enthralled by the lecture presentation of famous Boro Parkers, past and present, masterfully delivered by Joe Fuchs. They tried to answer the interesting Trivia questions about Boro Park carefully prepared by D. Solcivan. Many remained to reminisce, many decided to join (no appeals, no pressures) in order to become charter members of the historical society and help support its work. Many, many asked, "When is the next meeting?" We hope to have another meeting in the Fall, but may need a larger place.

The following two interesting letters were received, packed full with historical information. We thank the two contributors and invite others to submit their personal stories.

MOVIES

Dear Sir:

How many people remember when there were ten movie theaters in Boro Park? Seven additional ones were within easy walking distance. The Star, probably the oldest, was on 13th Avenue near 37th Street. New Utrecht Avenue was movie row. On New Utrecht Avenue were the following: Tuxedo, between 55th and 56th Street, West End, 52nd Street, Loewes Boro Park, formerly a Shubert legit., 51st Street. The Garden, indoor and outdoor, 46th Street. Also at 46th Street was the Loewes 46th, formerly

ly Universal Theater. The Elton was near 42nd Street.

The Radio, formerly the Royal, was on 13th Avenue near 42nd

Street. The Windsor on 15th Avenue and 40th Street. The Eagle, indoor and outdoor, 16th Avenue near 43rd Street. The Crown, Ditmas Avenue and East 3rd Street. The Dittmas, indoor and outdoor, Ditmas and East 3rd Street. The Parkville, Gravesend Avenue, later renamed McDonald Avenue, and Parkville Avenue. The Culver Line ran on the ground on Gravesend Avenue. The Culver, McDonald Avenue and 18th Avenue.

The lovely Beverly, on Church Avenue and McDonald Avenue. The New Moon, Ft. Hamilton Parkway near 38th Street. The

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Hamilton, Ft. Hamilton Parkway, also near 38th Street. The Beverly was the last to close.

"Backward, oh backward, on time in thy flight, and make me a boy once again.

Sincerely,
Peter Black

1462 - 48th Street

(Ed. - We can't locate Peter Black, he is no longer at his former address. Does anyone know where he can be found so that we can ask him a few questions?)

• JUNE 20, 1985 •

I notice the forthcoming 60th Anniversary of Bnai Israel of Linden Heights. I was saying Kaddish for my father at Bnai Israel of Linden Heights when it was first located in the basement of a two family house on 9th Avenue and 46th Street, 902 - 46th Street. As I remember, the first building was put up with its entrance one step down. In August 1926 there was a Bar Mitzvah for Rueben Ticker, later known as Richard Tucker, of the Metropolitan Opera House, he lived at 902 - 45th Street. He was Cantor at the Eastern Parkway Jewish Center, and at the Concord Hotel in New York. His voice was well known throughout the world. In 1937, at Bnai Israel of Linden Heights he performed the wedding ceremony for my sister and brother-in-law, and charged them \$15.00 for the service. After wards he returned the \$15.00 as a wedding gift. My mother and sister belonged to the Ladies Auxilliary of Bnai Israel of Linden Heights and attended various strawberry festivals, and the Koffee Klatch. They were also part of a committee for placing various papers in the Corner Stone of the 45th Street and 9th Avenue building when it was put up. In 1938 some boys broke into the shule and started a fire at the Ark, which resulted in a funeral for five Torahs. I think some of the early officers in Bnai Israel of Linden Heights were Aaron Kahn, The Spector Brothers, The Seizler Brothers, Mr. Schenken was the shamus, and Mr. Charney a rabbi or teacher.

Some other interesting news about Boro Park. On 10th Avenue and 43rd Street in 1925 was a most delicious kosher delicatessen (Scheinman & Geduld) where I bought a hot pastrami club sandwich for twenty cents plus five cents for cole slaw, and sometimes hot Corned Beef. (same deal today \$4.50-\$6.00). We had a Dr. John Hirsch and his wife both Jewish doctors on 56th Street and 12th Avenue who charged everybody \$1.00 for a visit (1926-30). In 1930 on 44th Street and 13th Avenue, where the cleaners are now, there was a Chevrolet Agency-Amerling-Kaner. They kept five cars in the showroom. New Car Delivery was \$600.00.

On 55th Street, narrow corner, New Utrecht Avenue and 13th Avenue, was a Studebaker Agency. On Fort Hamilton Parkway and 44th Street, was an agency for the automobile Windsor White Prince. Between 1890 and 1930 there were about 1200 automobile manufacturers. In 1930 there was a gasoline war and you could buy twelve gallons of gasoline for \$1.00; oil change and grease and spray springs \$1.25; and flats fixed by hand twenty-five cents.

The movies in Boro Park in 1926 were Carl Laemmle Universal, 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue, now Klein & Rubenstein. The Garden movies regular and open air, in summer it had two theatres; now it is the Boro Park Lumber, New Utrecht Avenue and 46th Street. American Movies on 39th Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, now Long Life Auto Springs, the Eagle movies on 16th Avenue and 42nd Street, now an apartment house opposite Montauk Junior High School. The Windsor Movies on 41st Street and 15th Avenue, Culver Movie 18th Avenue and McDonald Avenue, now a bank. The Elton movie on 43rd Street and New Utrecht Avenue was built in 1926. This movie was built on the site from which two wooden frame houses were lifted and replaced on two new foundations on 42nd Street. The first movie shown at the Elton was Potamkin. The building is now occupied by a leather manufacturer. There was a movie house on 13th Avenue between 41st Street and 42nd Street on the even side numbers midway, now assorted retailers. The Loews Boro Park, on 51st Street and New Utrecht Avenue is now a post office. The West End movie on 52nd Street and New Utrecht Avenue, is now a catering hall. In your article of February 20, 1985, you mentioned an apartment house, 5001 15th Avenue. You may be interested to know, that in 1930 before that building was put up, it was known as Hoffman's Mansion, a catering hall. I was a drummer in a four piece band, playing at a wedding there.

I might as well add this little item. I was singing for Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kipper somewhere in a shule around 178th Street and Washington Heights in 1922 and there was a Kol Nidre Appeal that started with several \$50.000 donations and didn't stop until fifteen or twenty minutes later with a \$6,000 donation.

Could anyone imagine five cents here, two cents newspaper, twenty cents to twenty-five cents lunch with such donations. Lets face it, the only permanent thing in life is change.

Emanuel Schwartz
A subsequent phone conversation with Mr. Schwartz provided the following additional information.

Emanuel Schwartz lived in the following addresses in Boro Park: At 960-43rd Street from 1925-1930; at 925-43rd Street from 1930-1933; at 1139-51st Street from 1933-1935; at 1059-51st Street from 1935-1938; at 1425-51st Street from 1938-1945 and at his current address 5118-14th Avenue since 1945. He was a drummer in a band from 1930 to 1939 and good friends with Richard Tucker. The photo shows him with Richard Tucker and other Boro Park boys in 1930.

Mr. Schwartz is a veteran of WW II having served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945. In 1943, while on furlough he married Ruth Elman, a Bedford-Stuyvesant girl. They have one daughter, who is married and lives in Flatbush.

His other organizational affiliations in Boro Park were the YMHA men's club and Temple

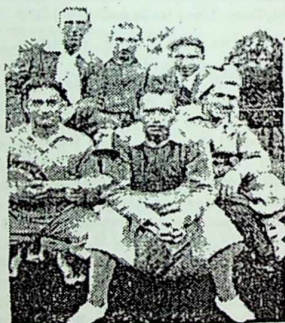


Photo at Indian Point, N.Y. taken in August 1930.

Top left clockwise-Sam Sherman, Sam Steinhauer, Bill Landesman, Manny Schwartz, Teddy Sloan, and Richard Tucker. [Richard Tucker did not play instrument, it was borrowed for photo.]

Emanuel. He remembers vividly, the Boro Park Library, in a wooden house on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenue, the first house on the left side walking from New Utrecht Avenue.

Join the Boro Park Historical Society, membership \$5.00 a year, 4810 - 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust

NEW INTEREST IN B.P. HISTORY

Considerable interest in the history of Boro Park has been generated during the past few years. This interest is not limited to the reading of this column and other material about the community, but has gone a few steps further. It has manifested itself in more active participation and expressions. Here are a few examples of some recent activities related to the history of Boro Park.

RADIO INTERVIEW

Very recently, Joe Fuchs, an active officer of the Boro Park Historical Society was interviewed on a radio talk show about the history of this community. The hour long interview took place on July 20, 1985 on the Jerry Markowitz program station WNYM. Fuchs discussed many

aspects of the community's development and also responded to listeners questions. Due to the interest generated by his articulate and knowledgeable discussion the program was repeated on July 23.

JOURNALS

The fascination with the local history has also been expressed several times recently in the form of school and organizational journals.

The Beth Jacob of Boro Park, 14 Ave. and 46 St., recently ran its Second Annual Dinner on April 28, 1985. People reading this may think it's a printer's error, but it isn't. This was only the second time it ran a Dinner since the school began in 1941. The Dinner Journal started with a six page article about the history of the school and included a photo of the previous building on 45 St.

The school administration was also very cooperative and helpful to Ruth Finkelstein, member of the B.P.H.S. Exec. B'd., in her thorough research of the school's history, and provided her with many old Yearbooks and copies of other school literature.

Congregation Shomrei Emunah recently celebrated its 80th anniversary on April 21, 1985, honoring its spiritual leader Rabbi & Mrs. Yaakov Pollack for 10 years of service. The theme of the Dinner Journal, edited by Alan Jay Gerber, was the history of Rabbi Pollack's work in Shomrei Emunah and the community. Gerber, who is also a member of

the Boro Park Historical Society, and an elected member of Community School Board #20, amongst his many other notable pursuits, has a strong interest in

the history of the community.

Temple Emanuel has had several Journals in recent years, also edited by Alan Jay Gerber, emphasizing the history of the Temple and the community. It recently held a Testimonial Dinner in honor of Rabbi & Mrs. Baruch Silverstein upon their retirement after 40 years of service to the Temple. The Dinner Journal published on this occasion, also edited by Alan Jay Gerber, contains much historical information about the Silverstein's life and work in the Temple and community.

Copies of all these Journals
Continued on page 12

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

were submitted to the B.P. Historical Society archives for preservation and further research.

INTERVIEWS IN ISRAEL

My wife and I visited Switzerland and Israel recently, for 25 days starting June 12, 1985. During this trip we spent a great deal of time seeking and interviewing former or present Boro Parkers. In several cases we were able to obtain documents, correspondence, articles and similar materials for our archives.

During our 5 day stay in Switzerland we met one Boro Park couple, Mr. & Mrs. Abe Plotzker in a hotel in Grindelwald. The Plotzkers were visiting Israel and Switzerland. We met another Boro Parker, a teenage student, Tzvi Singer, at the Yeshiva in Kriens, near Luzerne. We did not locate any other present or former Boro Parkers.

In Israel the story was much different. We met many former Boro Parkers who are now living in Israel and we met many who were visiting Israel or attending school there. During the 18 days that we stayed in Israel, two days were for travel, we met over 50 people from Boro Park and interviewed about 40 of them in various cities of the country.

We can't write about all of the personal interviews at this time, understandably. We do hope to write about many of them in future columns. However, all the information gathered will be kept in the files of the B.P. archives for future use and research.

However, it may be of interest and historical significance to mention the names of the people we met and interviewed in Israel. Some are former old time Boro Parkers and may be familiar to many readers.

In Jerusalem we met and interviewed Morris and Bobby Yarmak, Goldie Bodek, Dr. Sidney & Gabby Finkelstein, Manfred Teller, Avi Frank, Eddie and Miriam Baumel, Aron and Judy Krumbel, Dr. Morris Mandel, Mordechai Lipshitz, Sol Schwartz (Atlas Travel), Rabbi David Shisgal, Elliot Aber, Sydelle and Ralph Braver, Debbie (Blech) Benson, Sora (Abend) Gruber, Zev Abromowitz, Rabbi Joseph Kopelovitz, Rabbi Shimon Gruma and Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Grossman.

In Rechovot we met and interviewed Harry and Bertha Lavenglick, Bezalel Harbater, Rabbi Mordechai Berg. In Ein Gedl we met and interviewed Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai Mendelowitz, Mordechai Szimonowitz and one couple who didn't wish to have their name mentioned.

At Lud airport we met and interviewed Sara Spira. In Mevaseret Zion we interviewed Rabbi Mordechai and Chael (Stein) Rabinovitz. In Haifa we interviewed Dvora Charlotte (Harbater) Melamed. In Kfar Horoeh we interviewed her sister Nechoma (Harbater) Dison.

Amongst the others whom we met but didn't have the opportunity to interview were Dr. & Mrs. :

Joseph Kaminetsky, Rabbi Nachman Levovitz, Chaya (Frankel) Kahanovitz, Ilona (Penner) Blech, Yakov Groner, Bernie and Shirley Frankel, Elliot and Ady Frankel, Bruchi (Frankel) Sochet, Rabbi Daniel Goldstein, Mr. Halpern and David Weinstein.

BORO PARK WEEKEND

One of the most fascinating and innovative activities related to B.P. history that has come to our attention occurred in Israel.

While interviewing present and former Boro Parkers during my recent trip to Israel, several people informed me of the special get together arranged for Boro Parkers in Israel. Most of the details of this event was related to me by Goldie Bodek who moved to Jerusalem in 1984. She still maintains an apartment in Boro Park where she lives part of the year.

The event was a "Boro Park Weekend" in the Gali Sanz hotel in Netanyah, Israel. The affair was organized and arranged by Edith Lieberman, a former Boro Parker, who moved to Israel many years ago and works for the Lidaino Hospital in Netanyah. About 75 people showed up at the hotel for this weekend and another 75 people answered that they would have loved to attend but couldn't make it this year.

The weekend took place in November of 1984 and because it was so successful, the participants agreed to have another one in November of 1985.

The program included talks by Aron Krumbain and Rabbi Kravitz. Eddie and Miriam Baumeil held a session in which they discussed what has been done and what still can be done to help save their son Zachary who is being held prisoner in Syria since June 1982. Zachary is an American citizen and the Syrian government claims that they don't have him.

One session was devoted to a general discussion about Boro Park and each person related his personal experiences and memories of B.P. The idea was great, according to Goldie Bodek, and she said the people enjoyed the weekend immensely.

TORAS EMES NOVEL PROGRAM

The president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Yeshiva Toras Emes, Joseph S. Gruss High School, Mrs. Ruth Wolf, came up with a novel program idea for the forthcoming Membership Tea. She invited this columnist to be guest speaker at the affair scheduled for Oct. 22, 1985, on the topic "I Remember Yeshiva Toras Emes-Then And Now". The idea is for the speaker to talk about the history of the school and allow some time for audience participation. We have already collected much historical information about the school. In addition this columnist was a student and faculty member there for many years and therefore has considerable personal historical information.

PHOTOGRAPHING BORO PARK

The Boro Park Historical Society is interested in obtaining

photos of Boro Park scenes and people, even current ones. Because the community keeps changing so rapidly, a photo of a house or a store today may become historically important next year.

On behalf of the B.P.H.S. I have been walking the streets on various occasions and photographing houses, stores, institutions and other scenes. Individuals sometimes ask me why I am photographing these houses, others ask me if I am a real estate speculator. You can help us acquire a library of Boro Park photos in several ways. If you are aware of a house that is going to be torn down, please notify us so that we can photograph it. If you are able to take some photos of Boro Park scenes please let us know we would be happy to pay for materials. If you have some photos of scenes or people who not send them to us before they are discarded or lost.

SUGGEST BORO PARK ACTIVITIES

Perhaps the above items will give others ideas and encouragement to undertake activities related to Boro Park. Why not use historical themes when planning for Journals, Yearbooks, Articles, speakers, plays and parties. These activities will help in the research and recording of the history of Boro Park. Please remember to send copies of your materials to the Boro Park Historical Society for inclusion in the Archives; and you are invited to write to the B.P.H.S. for guidance and information about your project.

JOIN THE B.P.H.S.

Help research, photograph and preserve the history of Boro Park by becoming a member of the B.P.H.S. Dues are only \$5 per year, \$3 for retirees and \$10 for a business. Perhaps you know someone who would be interested in joining or making a contribution towards the work and upkeep of the B.P.H.S. We also need workers. Please contact us at B.P.H.S. 4810-13th Ave., B'klyn 11219.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

SPECIAL INTERESTS

The history of Boro Park can be approached from many different angles. Individuals with special weekends or information about a particular field, organization, business, institution, profession, hobby etc. may be able to contribute interesting historical information about this community through that special knowledge. One case in point would relate to the telephone exchanges.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

During the past year I have been doing quite extensive research into the history of the schools on Boro Park. Future columns will include additional information gathered for this project. One interesting sidelight of this research however was the information I gathered about the change in the telephone exchange in Boro Park. Old timers may especially enjoy remembering some of their own telephone exchanges, even in other sections of the city or country.

The telephones used in the individual public schools in Boro Park were first listed in the Board of Education Directories of 1915. P.S. 48, located on 18 Ave. and 60 St., right on the Boro Park border, had its telephone listing in 1915 as "Bath Beach 3393." This was changed in 1920 to Bensonhurst 3393. This in turn was changed in 1929 to "Utrecht 3873." The current listing is 232-3873, with the 718 area code added recently.

P.S. 105, located at Ft Hamilton Parkway and 59 St. had as its first telephone number listed in 1915 as "Boro Park 2730" this listing was changed in 1920 to "Bensonhurst 2730." In 1923 it was changed to "Berkshire 7006".

P.S. 103, the oldest public

school in Boro Park was located on 14 Ave. and 53 St. the building is still there but was sold by the city and is now a Yeshiva belonging to the Satmar Chasidic group. This school has an interesting history which will be discussed in the future.

Its first telephone listing in 1915 was "Boro Park 2713." The school itself, unadorned, was named "The Borough Park" in 1916.

In 1920 the telephone listing was "Bensonhurst 2713." In 1923 it was changed to "Blythebourne 2713". Readers of this column and old timers, may recall that the north western part of Boro Park

was once called "Blythebourne" and the post office on 51 St. and New Utrecht Ave. still carries that name.

In 1925 the P.S. 103 telephone was listed as "Windsor 7051."

Other telephone exchange names that were used since the 1930's in Boro Park are: Gedney, triangle, Ambassador and Ulster.

I called up the telephone company to ask if they had any information about old exchange names but was advised that they don't keep old telephone books or reference files. Perhaps some of our readers can furnish us with such exchange names. You may find such information old bills, flyers, stationery, business cards, correspondence etc. if you remember or have available such information why not send it to us (Continued on Page 8)

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

and share it with other readers and the archives of the Boro Park Historical Society.

FRENCH CLEANERS

In response to a news release we sent out, requesting information from former Boro Parkers, we received several letters. The following information was sent by Mr. Sigmund Stern for which we are thankful.

He and his wife Ruth were the former owners of Stern's French Cleaners which was located at 1309-49 St. They said they owned and worked at that store for 26 years but unfortunately didn't indicate when those years began or ended. The dates are important bits of historical information and we urge our readers to include them whenever possible.

The Stern's resided in Flatbush while they operated their business in Boro Park and were members of the Hapoel Hamizrochi, and Emunah Women's organizations. They moved to Deerfield Beach, Florida for health reasons where they still reside.

MAIMONIDES HOSPITAL

The following information about the history of Maimonides Medical Center was researched and submitted by Guy Granato, one of the early Board members of the Boro Park Historical Society. We are grateful to Guy Granato for this interesting and important contribution. Thanks are also due to Ms. Ina Gillers Director of Public Relations at Maimonides, for her assistance in gathering the information.

Maimonides Medical Center is one of the oldest institutions in Boro park and perhaps the largest. The history of this hospital is certainly an integral part of the history of the community.

THE NEW UTRECHT DISPENSARY

Today's modern, multi-faceted complex which is Maimonides Medical Center can trace its history back to 1911 when the women of Boro Park, as part of their philanthropic service to the distressed and needy poor, began the New Utrecht Dispensary at 1237 37th Street.

In 1919, with increased demands and growing community interest, its name was changed, and its activities further extended under the name of Israel Hospital of Brooklyn.

THE ISRAEL-ZION HOSPITAL

Uniting with the Zion Hospital in 1920, the new institution became known as the United Israel-Zion Hospital. It operated and grew steadily under this banner until 1947 at various locations in Boro Park.

MAIMONIDES HOSPITAL OF BROOKLYN

Maimonides Hospital of Brooklyn was the product of a merger of the Beth Moses Hospital and Israel Zion Hospital in 1947. Each had made important contributions to the community, but a multiplicity of insoluble problems and mounting pressures which had their origin during the years of World War II pointed the way to an amalgamation.

In July, 1947, at the prompting of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and with the pledge of its continuing support, Maimonides Hospital of Brooklyn came into being. It was the largest voluntary hospital in Brooklyn and the sixth largest in New York City.

In 1948 the hospital became affiliated with the Long Island College of Medicine (today known as the State University of New York, College of Medicine...Downstate Medical Center) for the clinical training of students.

By mid 1966, the wide range of research projects, an expanded educational program with medical school affiliation and the comprehensive nature of patient services made it necessary to change the name of the institution to Maimonides Medical Center since the term hospital no longer adequately reflected the scientific advances being made here.

A CONTINUING STORY OF GROWTH/THE ADVENT OF FULL-TIME MEDICINE

Maimonides Hospital was one of the early institutions to embrace the concept their program of full-time medicine were conducive to improved medical care.

The initial move in this direction was made with the appointment of a Director of Medicine in 1947. A full-time Director of Surgery was retained in 1949 with Obstetrics and Gynecology similarly organized in 1954 and Pediatrics in 1955. During this time, the Departments of Anesthesiology, Pathology and Radiology were given full departmental status with full-time leadership.

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The Department of Psychiatry was similarly formed in 1961 which led to the establishment of the Community Mental Health Center and the Department of Ambulatory Health Services in 1967. The Department of Rehabilitation Medicine was formed in 1966.

Along with these developments, the divisions of Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Hematology, Neurology, Oncology, Renal Disease, Thoracic Surgery, and Urology were established under full-time direction.

Other divisions subsequently formed under full-time direction were Internal Medicine, Neuromuscular Disease, Dentistry, General Surgery, and Ophthalmology.

Cardiac Surgery has also subsequently been added to the program and combined with Thoracic surgery.

In 1959, the Jacob and Tillie Neinken Outpatient Center opened. A four-story building on

48th Street, the Center became the location for all outpatient clinics, the outpatient pharmacy, information desk and outpatient administrative office. Also situated there was the Medical Records Center for the entire hospital.

In 1961, the Edwin B. Elson Building housing the Edward Neimeth Institute for Medical Research, was opened. This four-story building, facing 49th Street, was patterned in design after the Neinken Outpatient Center. It was the first building of its kind in Brooklyn devoted exclusively to medical research laboratories.

In 1962, the Dormitory for single house staff students was opened on 49th Street. Also housing the Medical Library, the Dormitory had accommodations for 108 students.

In 1963, the 10-story, 98-apartment building for nurses, married housestaff and other personnel was opened on 49th Street.

In 1964, the Hortense and Jacob Aron Pavilion was opened, providing maternity, pediatric and general care beds. While most of the beds replaced existing outmoded accommodations, 54 were additions, bringing the hospital's total bed complement to 576. The Aron Pavilion is an architectural landmark visible as far away as the Verrazano Bridge.

In 1967, the Community Mental Health Center opened, reflecting the all-encompassing role of Maimonides as a medical center serving the full range of health needs of the people living in the local community.

In 1971, the four-story Clinical Services Building was added to the growing Maimonides Medical Center complex. It uniquely had air rights over Tenth Avenue and was connected to the Goldberg Building across the street. Ten new operating rooms, expanded radiology facilities and 80 more patient beds were thus created. The total bed complement was now 613.

In 1973, the New Emergency Center was completed at a cost of over a million dollars. Designed and equipped to the latest standards established by the American College of Surgeons, it is a comprehensive and fully equipped emergency hospital with special sections for cardiac and pediatric emergencies and a Walk-In Clinic operated by a full-time staff of doctors, nurses, and technicians on a 24 hour daily schedule.

In 1974, the \$29-bed Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center was built on 49th Street. Although it is not owned by Maimonides, it was designed as a symbiotic entity which could serve and be served by Maimonides. An enclosed bridge across 49th Street connects the Geriatric Center and the Medical Center's Kronish Building.

CONSTRUCTION

In 1978 and 1979, several major facilities changed the face of the medical center.

1. Completion of a new Central Warehouse and Public Parking Garage on 48th Street.
2. Completion of a 25-basinet

Pediatric Neo-Natal Unit in the Kronish Building.

3. Four new floors above the existing four stories of the Clinical Services Building were completed. One floor houses new and expanded laboratory facilities. The other floors accommodate patients and replace 180 obsolete beds in the Goldberg Building.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust MORE ON TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

The following letter was received in response to our article in the last issue pertaining to the history of telephone exchange names in Boro Park. We thank Mr. Charlop for his interesting contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Referring to your request for old telephone exchange names, my records can supply a sequence from our family home at the above address (1568-49 St.) since 1920.

The exchange names in chronological order were:

- Bensonhurst.
- Blythebourne.
- Windsor.
- Windsor - 6 (when the fifth number was added).
- Gedney - 6.
- Ulaier - 6.
- Hyacinth - 5.
- "851"

The "851" exchange is, of course now preceded by "718".

The original telephones provided by the telephone company were upright with a separate hearing piece held to the ear. These phones later were replaced by the one piece "French" style units.

Sincerely,
Winton Charlop

INTERVIEW OF WINTON CHARLOP

The fact that he maintained records since 1920 indicated that Winton Charlop should have a good deal more information about Boro Park history. Subsequently I called and Mr. Charlop provided me with a wealth of historical information during the interview.

Winton's parents Murray and Pearl moved to Boro Park in 1915 from the Lower East Side of Manhattan, that was the trend then amongst families that were more comfortable financially and wished to upgrade their living conditions. Boro Park was a suburban area with lots of open fields and spaces between homes. His mother, Pearl had been born in Manhattan in 1890 and his father had immigrated

to America as a 4 year old child in 1888 from Russ Poland. The family first moved to 44 St. between 15 and 16 Aves.

Winton was born in B.P. In 1918 in that home, the delivery was at home, a common practice in those days. In 1920 the family purchased the one family house at 1568-49 St. where Winton still lives today. The house cost approximately \$3,000. Of the 4 sons born to Murray and Pearl only Winton and his younger brother Herbert were born in Boro Park, the older ones were born in Manhattan and Herbert was born in the present home on 49 St.

SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Winton attended P.S. 103 on 14

Ave. & 53 St. (now Sator Yeshiva), then Montauk J.H.S. then New Utrecht H.S. and then Brooklyn College, that was the general educational pattern of B.P. students in those days.

He was in the Rapid Advance (R.A.) classes in Elementary School and was therefore able to complete school about a year earlier.

Winton majored in Art and entered the sales and advertising field. He is currently a private investor and lives alone in the home and other residences that he maintains.

FAMILY CAREERS AND TALENTS

His father was active in Temple Emanuel. Mrs. Ben Gunsburg, his father's sister, lived on 15 Ave and 51 St. She was active in the community. His father was an air raid warden during WWII. He was also

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

in the garment business, (manufactured dresses) and in later life in insurance and Real Estate. His father was deceased in 1972 at the age of 88 and his mother was deceased on Oct. 28, 1975 at the age of 85. (Coincidentally, I interviewed Winton on Oct. 28, 1985 on the 10th anniversary, of his mother's passing)

Winton indicated that his family was very artistic. His mother had "absolute pitch" which is an unusual musical ability and played the piano beautifully by ear. His brother, an aeronautic engineer, has won many awards in art and engineering. Winton himself majored in art and worked in the field. The family was also very athletic.

EARLY MEMORIES EARLY MEMORIES

He remembers in the 1920's there were only a few houses on his block, most of the area was vacant land with plenty of open spaces. He recently visited the Planning Board to discuss the changing nature of Boro Park with the new homes being built right up to their property boundaries and eliminating the spaces between houses. He argued that B.P. was a residential area and the new building practices were changing the nature of the area.

Some of Mr. Charlop's other memories of B.P. include riding the open air trolley cars on New Utrecht Ave. to Coney Island. "that was a thrilling ride", he said. He recalls the gas street lights and the government employed lamp lighter who would walk from lamp to lamp and with a long stick light each street lamp. He recalls also the 16 Ave. trolleys that rode near his home. He recalls as a child while taking naps the man would pass by chanting in his usual tune, "I cash clo thes." He didn't really understand what it meant until he was older but the chant remained ingrained in his mind. He also remembers the pick up truck driven by the butter and egg man who made periodic sales and deliveries with it.

His older brother and friends attended P.S. 103 in the afternoon. (Due to crowded conditions at the school in those days children were only able to attend half day sessions). On the corner of 49 St and 16 Ave. was a drug store called Resnick's, it is currently a shoe store, the drugstore also had an ice cream and soda counter and fountain. He remembers his older brother and friends used to send him to the drugstore to find out what time it is, while they were playing, in order to know when to go to school. Winton couldn't tell time yet but they would ask him on which number the clock hand was located.

FAMOUS BORO PARKERS

Two additional famous former Boro Parkers were discussed by M. Charlop. One immediate neighbor who lived at 1564-49 St. was Arthur

Zwerling. He became a well known actor under the name of Jeff Corey. Winton still sees him in old movies and T.V. programs. Jeff Corey moved out of B.P. in the early 1930's. He operates a well regarded dramatic school on the West Coast named Jeff Corey's Dramatic School. Occasionally famous actors or actresses mention, during interviews, that they attended Jeff Corey's school. The house at 1564 was torn down and replaced by a new brick house.

The neighbor who lived the other side, at 1572, was Joe Schwartz. He married a B.P. girl and still lives in B.P. the house there was also torn down and replaced by a new brick house.

Another famous resident was Bert Granet who was a writer. He won a writing contest and received a writing contract in Hollywood. Winton said he sees his name on many old movies as screen writer. Mr. Granet lived on 50th St. between 15 and 16 Aves., behind the Charlop's house and moved to Hollywood approximately 1928.

Mr. Charlop discussed an old movie which dealt with the Boro Park Community. The movie called "Mr. 88" is about an old man who was a counterfeiter and lived in Boro Park. It stars Burt Lancaster and Edmund Gwenn. It shows scenes of B.P. and a map of the community. It was produced approximately in 1965 and still appears every once in a while. Mr. Charlop couldn't tell if Bert Granet or Jeff Corey were involved with the film in anyway.

SUMMER CAMPS

According to Charlop, two Summer sleep away camps were organized in Boro Park and may have been the forerunners of all such camps. Camp Onibar started about 1924 by Mr. Herman (Chaim) Rabin. Onibar is Rabin spelled backwards. Mr. Rabin was affiliated with Temple Emanuel, where he is listed on a wall plaque. His two son's Lester and Murray operated the camp in later years, the camp was situated in Pennsylvania and many boys from B.P. attended it.

Camp Winadu was organized approximately in 1927 and was situated in Pittsfield Pittsfield Mass. The name of the camp is derived from the last names of its three owners Dr. Winnick, Mr. Nadelman and Mr. Dube. Dr. Winnick, a dentist had an office on 15th Ave. corner 49th St. Mr. Dube he believes was an uncle of Danny Dube, owner of Park Surgical. Danny Dube, as a boy, was bugler in camp Winadu. Many Boro Parkers were campers there.

As a small boy Winton said he received his Hebrew instruction from a private teacher, Mr. Ducoff. The teacher who came to his home several times a week, gave him lessons until about one year past his Bar Mitzvah. Since Winton's birthday was during the summer vacation, his Bar Mitzvah, as well as that of his brother,

took place in Camp Winadu. His parents kept a kosher-home and attended Synagogue services at Temple Emanuel. Winton and his brother also attended the Young Israel.

The Charlop's were also very athletically included. Winton indicated that he played tennis many years and still does. He played in Tournaments of the U.S. Tennis Assoc. and was rated amongst the top ten tennis players in the Eastern Tennis Assoc. men's group. He was also ranked number one in the senior group recently.

Winton Charlop has much more information, photos, documents and literature related to Boro Park which he plans to find and put aside for the Boro Park Historical Society. Perhaps we can have a sequel to this story in a future issue.

Why not submit your memories, photos, and information about B.P. to the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810 - 13th Ave. Membership \$5 per year - Join Us.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

ODDS AND ENDS

The following are several brief items pertaining to Boro Park history.

At the last General meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society, Rose Kaufman of 50 St. contributed an old photograph of Boro Park. It is a photo taken in 1905 showing the corner of 16 Ave. and 49 St. (looking to 15 Ave.), there are no stores, mostly open land. It shows the park like atmosphere of old Boro Park. This photo is a valuable contribution to the Archives of the B.P.H.S. and we thank Rose Kaufman very much for it. Another General Meeting is planned for the Spring.

When we interviewed Nechama Harbater Dison in Israel this past June she gave us some old correspondence and other items. One was a letter written on a piece of stationery of The Boro Park Post which was situated at 4523-

13 Ave. (now Focus Stores). The letter was dated July 13, 1932. The Managing Editor was Robert Gottlieb, Associate Editor was Leonard Holland and the business Manager was Lee M. Brandt. The Boro Park Post was published by Brooklyn Community Newspapers, Inc., and the telephone was Windsor 4300. Does anyone remember this paper or any of the editors? So far we haven't found anyone who remembers it.

Another item we received from Nechama was a bill from Dr. Blum's Children's Wear, situated at 4719-13 Ave. (now Upper Class Beautique). The store sold infants wear, ladies and sportswear. It also indicated, "Camp Outfits our Specialty." The bill was dated 9/7/32 and made out to Mrs. Harbater at 4903-17 Ave. This phone number was Windsor 6-7275 interestingly it had 5 numbers whereas the Boro Park Post only listed 4 numbers. (The B.P. Post may have been an older piece

of stationery used by someone for correspondence.)

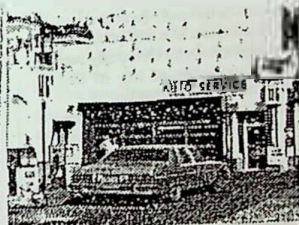
The items purchased and the prices are also of interest. They are: pants 69 cents, Union Suit 39 cents, waist 39 cents, panties 45 cents, blouse 49 cents, gown 69 cents, pajamas 70 cents.

Speaking of telephone exchange names, as we have been during the past few issues, Thelma Fox brought to our attention the fact that one exchange name not mentioned was Berkshire, which was her phone exchange name in the late 1920's.

SERVICE STATION

Norman Antziz claims that his gas service station or garage was

the first Shomer Shabos (Sabbath Observer) garage in Boro Park and perhaps in the U.S.A His station was opened in 1960. Nor-



Mallard Service Station 16 Ave. corner 46 St. operated by Norman Antziz, son Mordechai is shown in photo, Nationwide Auto Rental seen right background.

(Photo by Phil Kipust)

man married Beebe Sybel in 1958

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from page 2)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

and have been living at 1538 - 45 St. approximately since 1965. Beebe's father Mr. Sydel owned the garage at 15 Ave. corner 60 St. for many years. See photo showing the service station on 16 Ave. with son Mordechai Antziz helping out.

200th ANNIVERSARY

Erasmus Hall H.S. on Flatbush near Church Ave., the oldest school in New York City and one of the oldest in the country, is trying to locate as many of its alumni as it can for the school's 200th Anniversary celebration which will be held in 1987. Many Boro Parkers attended Erasmus H.S. before we had the other closer high schools and even after when they selected special courses. All alumni are asked to send their name, address and year of graduation to the Alumni Assoc., Erasmus Hall H.S. 911 - Flatbush Ave. 11226.

ZACHARY BAUMEL STILL MISSING

Zachary Baamel, born and raised in Boro Park, and an American citizen, disappeared with his Israeli tank on June 11, 1982, in a battle with Syria at the beginning of the conflict in Lebanon. The Syrians and the PLO deny that they are holding him. His parents Eddie and Miriam Baamel, who moved to Israel with the family in 1970, were very active and long time residents of Boro Park. Their last address in the community was 1534-45 St. - neighbors to the Antziz family. The current residents who purchased the house from the Baumels are Mr. & Mrs. Levi Goldberg the proprietors of Toy Motors at 3719 - Ft. Hamilton Parkway (used car business).

We interviewed the grief stricken parents of 23 year old Zachary Baamel in Israel this past June. They claim that they have credible evidence that Zachary is still alive and being hidden in Syria in violation of the Geneva Convention and elementary human rights. The Baumels have been campaigning world wide for governments to help intervene with Syria to acknowledge his presence and arrange for his release. They wonder why in the

face of so much publicity and negotiations regarding other American's captured in Lebanon, there is practically nothing mentioned or being done about Zachary Baamel, also an American citizen, still being held in Syria. Eddie and Miriam plead with us to urge all Boro Parkers to write to President Reagan and their elected Senators and congressmen, to help obtain Zachary's release or at least arrange for him to be visited by the Red Cross.

THE BLYTHEBOURNE FOUNDATION

The following article was submitted by Dominic Suplina. We thank Mr. Suplina for his valuable contribution. It had been published in "The Brooklyn Eagle" in November 1940 and describes aspects of Boro Park or Blythebourne at the beginning of this century:

PAT FLYNN 'FINANCIAL WIZARD'. PUT BLYTHEBOURNE ON MAP IT'S BOROUGH PARK TODAY, BUT THIS LEGAL BATTLES AND COMMUNITY PROMOTION MADE THE TOWN FAMOUS

By Jane Corby

Behind the group of comfortable homes and convenient shops known as Borough Park lies a story of Weird Financial Juggling that is unusual in the annals of Brooklyn. Residents today, generally speaking, know nothing of the rather lurid pages of history that form part of the background of their simple home community. But for years, court records were enlivened by lawsuits, judgements and almost every other kind of legal action brought by or against one Patrick J. Flynn. In fact, his life reads like one long lawsuit, and his accomplishments in high finance leave the layman slightly dizzy.

A smaller portion of Borough Park may be recognized by some residents as old Blythebourne, a deluxe residential section of the early part of the century bounded by 55th and 58th Street, New Utrecht and 11th Aves. It was once distinguished by a highly ornate fountain. The fountain had been intended for City Hall Park in the beginning. William M. Tweed held sway as 'Boss Tweed' of little old New York, and he thought that the corner of City Hall Park, at Broadway decided that a very grand fountain

would be just right, and he ordered one on the (usual for him) 'royalty' basis - that is, the city would pay several thousands of dollars for the work of art. He the 'Boss' would get a full share (or a little bit more), for thinking the whole thing up, or something. It's difficult to say this delicately, but the truth of the matter is, jail caught up with the 'Boss' before even the fountain could be put up - when the corner.

Another and truth is, the people who succeeded him were rough with the beautiful fountain, and threw it right into the junk yard. Probably a back-of-the-hand gesture towards Boss Tweed. But it was refused.

Enterprising realty developers saw it and bought it for \$65. They set it up as the principal ornament at the entrance to Blythebourne, which name, of course, means 'happy home.' It could be seen by one and all riding on the elevated railroad, and, no doubt, lured many home seekers to buy there. It spouted water, you know, at least during the warm weather, at 55th Street and New Utrecht Ave., and was just about one of the best little attention-getters one could wish for. It wasn't a false beacon, either; for the settlement did, in fact, become a colony of happy homes.

THEN PROMOTERS WENT TO WORK

The promoters of the development were Thomas S. Sands and there's that man again, Patrick J. Flynn. In addition to placing the Tweed fountain where it did the most good, they put in a fine water supply for the village, which flowed from a tower with a wind mill, just a stone's throw from the fountain. And they put up a large number of lovely Queen Anne cottages, which were for sale on the installment plan, the inducement being that the monthly payment would be about the same as the rent one would pay for a nice flat in the city. There was an added advantage

you'd own the cottage at the end of a specified time. An old prospectus of the Blythebourne Company sets forth the advantages of life in that particular village glowingly:

The natural beauties and advantages of Blythebourne have been supplemented by a thorough system of public improvements, which give broad streets and avenues, nicely graded, and having good stone or plank sidewalks. A supply of pure cold water is introduced into each cottage; two fine school houses have been built by the township of New Utrecht, and the city has erected a building which furnishes residents with facilities for marketing as convenient as those within the city limits. Then they stressed the nearness of New York, Brooklyn and Coney Island, and, to cap the climax, they made a final point: Blythebourne has the fertility of soil that makes possible the pretty garden which is always a source of delight to a refined household."

BUT IT DIDN'T LAST

The strange part is, all they wrote in praise of the place was true, and people believed what the prospectus said and went there to live. For a number of years, it was just like promoters said, a community of beautiful residences and happy homes. After

a while, progress came marching along - in other words, a number of new streets had to be opened, and one of the first things found to be, in the way... the fountain! Down it came, and again it became junk! After all, it had done to get the place going, too! And they don't know to this day what finally became of it... there's irony for you. There are some who say it probably helped to fill in the marshes near Coney Island.

The pretty cottages eventually gave way to apartment houses and business buildings too. But, while Blythebourne had been beautiful and booming, what of this man, Patrick J. Flynn, who was largely responsible for all its glory? It would take volumes to cover all the enterprises he was head man in. But this is a summing up of his extraordinary life in a post mortem article.

METEORIC RISE OF PAT FLYNN

Patrick J. Flynn, who, a generation ago, was the 'Napoleon of Finance' in Brooklyn, and successfully fought the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company in its own field, is dead.

He died in obscurity in his lonely many-acred home at Livingston Manor, Sullivan County, N.Y., and so far had the once great man slipped away from the highways of the world's events, that, though his death occurred on Tuesday of last week, knowledge of his passing did not reach the scene of his former smashing business transactions until today."

Patrick J. Flynn's career was a remarkable one. It flared up in the old city of Brooklyn, when he was able to pile millions upon millions, and then died down as these millions, more suddenly than they came, vanished."

The article continues to describe the career of Patrick J. Flynn. He came from England at an early age, started as a day laborer, later achieved a Post Office position, bought up land and formed a land syndicate in Bay Ridge with Daniel P. Lewis, then president of the B.R.T. He finally started the Nassau Street Railway Company in competition with the B.R.T. until the latter bought him out with a profit of 3 1/2 million to Flynn.

Readers are invited to submit historical contributions to this column or to the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810-13 Avenue, Brooklyn 11219. They are also invited to become members of the B.P.H.S. only \$5. per year, \$10. for business, \$3. for retired.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust
INCORPORATION
OF B.P.H.S.

The Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) has recently been incorporated and is now a separate entity. It still maintains its office at the headquarters of the Boro Park Community Council (B.P.C.C.) and is grateful to the B.P.C.C. for providing the space and utilities for the operation of the society.

We express special thanks to attorney David Selengut for drawing up and filing the incorporation papers, which he did without fee in recognition of the work the B.P.H.S. is doing for the Community. The Executive Board of the B.P.H.S. is indeed grateful to attorney Selengut, a former resident of Boro Park (now of Flatbush) for this valuable contribution. Membership in the B.P.H.S. is open to all residents and former residents of Boro Park regardless of religion, ethnic or national origin. It is non-political and purely cultural in nature.

MAZEL-TOV TO SELENGUT

As of this writing we were informed that Mrs. David Selengut gave birth to Twin boys on Dec. 22 and we wish to express Mazel Tov and good wishes to the parents and the grandparents Rabbi & Mrs. Morris Selengut who reside in Boro Park, on this historic occasion.

INTERVIEWS

When we write about an individual a business or an institution, it is not because that particular one has special historical interest. Although at times it does. Rather it is because the history of every individual has general historic interest. The information one provides about himself gives the reader and the researcher insight and information about the general history of the time and community. Sometimes a specific personal fact or date provided by an individual, even if it seems irrelevant or trivial, may become an important building block in reconstructing other more significant historical information. Therefore any information you

may submit about yourself is kept on file in our archives. Even if we are not able to write about each interview or each story submitted, the information will be kept for reference and for future articles.

BLATT'S DEPT. STORE

Most old timers in Boro Park will remember Blatt's Dept store on 13 Ave. opposite Yeshiva Etz Chaim. William and Frances Blatt, the proprietors, settled in Jerusalem in 1967 after the Six Day War.

Recently I had the privilege of meeting Willie Blatt during his visit to Boro Park and was able to obtain the following information under-

duress. He is adverse to personal publicity.

The Blatts first moved to Boro Park in 1931, with their 5 year old son.

They first opened a tiny variety store at 5005-13 Ave. His son Jerome Jacob attended Etz Chaim Yeshiva and when older helped in the business.

The small store was successful and continued to expand further and further until it became a small department store. They sold the business in 1965. The location is now occupied by Community National Bank and Tiv-Tov Carpet.

The Blatts had previously lived in Bayonne, New Jersey and moved to Boro Park because they wanted a Yeshiva education for their son.

When they decided to open their

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

first store which was a type of 5 cents & 10 cents variety store they had difficulty obtaining credit from the wholesalers. That was because Boro Park already had two 5 & 10 stores.

Woolworth and Kresges. Woolworth is still situated on 13 Ave. & 44th St. and Kresges was on the opposite corner, across 44 St., where RX Unlimited is now located. In those stores nothing cost more than 10 cents, almost all items were priced at 5 or 10 cents. He therefore decided to call his store "Blatts 4 cents and 8 cents store." He distributed circulars in which he wrote "why pay 5 cents & 10 cents, we sell for 4 cents & 8 cents. He distributed the circulars, house to house himself and sold out his merchandise in one week.

The Blatts had problems because they were closed on Saturdays and opened on Sundays. In those years New York had the "Blue Laws" which made it illegal to open one's business on Sundays, with few store exceptions. The Blatts received summonses and had to go to court to pay. Mr. Blatt said he was one of the founders of the organization call "Shomer Shabbos-Sabbath Observers Organization" to help Sabbath observant businessmen with these problems. Mr. Blatt also helped to organize the Bikur Cholim - Guardians of the Sick in Boro Park and was one of its first presidents. The Blatts have 3 children Jerome Jacob, Diane and Sandy.

Mr. Blatt said he moved to Israel right after the Six Day War because he felt grateful to G-d for helping him and Israel and wanted to devote the rest of his life serving G-d by helping the poor and needy people.

During his eighteen years in Israel Willie Blatt has been involved daily in helping to aid poor and needy people. He distributes used clothes, which people send from America, and food and other necessities. He is now President of the Organization called Central Committee of Settlers in Israel.

• JANUARY 15, 1986 •

CONG. Bnei ISRAEL OF BORO PARK

Chevre Bnei Israel of Boro Park is situated at 4304 - 15 Ave in an attached storefront building (see photo). The front of the store was bricked and the first floor was made into a women's gallery with the front section, about 15 feet deep, completely open to the ground floor. The Synagogue was started in 1930 coincidentally, about the time as the Blais moved to Boro Park. (There is no connection between the Blais and this Synagogue.)

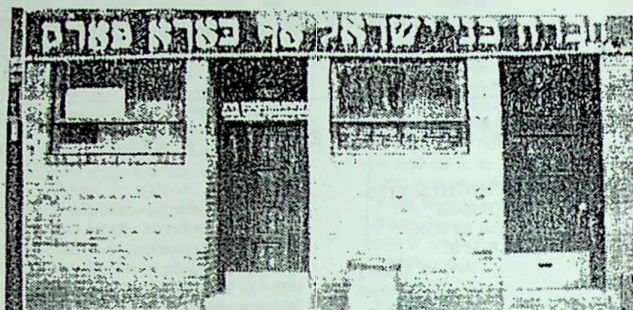
One of the men interviewed was Mr. Aaron Prager who has been Gabbai of the Synagogue for many years. Mr. Prager moved to Boro Park in 1939 when he married the daughter of Rabbi Avrohom Yakov Brill who was then Rabbi of this congregation. Mr. Prager said his father-in-law had a photographic mind, and had come to the U.S.A. from Ponovez, Lithuania. Rabbi Brill was deceased in 1943.

The Pragers first lived at 4309-15 Ave. above a store. He said there was a candy store on the corner of 43 st where Freunds Fish Store is now located. "Hardly any stores were closed on Saturdays, when I came to B.P. in 1939," Mr. Prager commented, "and the community was then composed of almost all Jews and Italians no other ethnic groups." He said in those days many Jews went to Synagogue on Saturday mornings and after services opened up their stores, "today" he said, "they are all Shomrei Shabbos."

This shule has had three Rabbis to date. Rabbi Avrohom Yakov Brill served from 1933 to 1943 and his salary was \$3 - per week.

Rabbi Shalom Podolefsky served from 1943-1964 and his starting salary was \$5 a week.

Rabbi Zev Joseph the present Rabbi started in 1964 at a salary of \$15 a week. Rabbi Joseph moved to Boro Park from the Bronx where he had been the Rabbi in a Shule for many years until the Jews in his community moved away to other neighborhoods. Rabbi Joseph teaches an adult class in the Synagogue daily in the evening, between mincha and maariv, which is well attended. He is now the longest serving Rabbi of the congregation.



Another man interviewed in the congregation was Mr. Abe Miller, who has been vice president for about 12 years. He is an old timer with a good sense of humor and enjoys making people laugh, usually at his own expense. He usually enters the Shule each morning with a loud "Boker Tov" or good morning. Mr. Miller said that the Shule started in 1930 and was purchased by Mr. Kaplan, the first president, for \$20,000. It was purchased from the bank and required a \$5,000 down payment and \$15,000 mortgage. Mr. Miller was married in 1928 and came to B.P. soon after that.

CONGREGATION'S PRESIDENTS

Based on the interviews and some wall plaques we were able to determine the names of the Shules six presidents to date, there may have been more.

The first was Mr. Kaplan and the second Yosef Schneid the third was Leon Zuckerkandle who now lives in Florida. He was once shot in the abdomen during a holdup while living in Brownsville. His life was saved and in gratitude donated his entire wealth at the time, which amounted to about 1/4 million dollars, to charity. In later years another tragedy befell the Zuckerkandles when their only son was lost in a swimming accident at Brooklyn College. Outside the Synagogue, over the doorpost, there is a large sign which reads "ZVI Zuckerkandel-free loan organization", which was one of the charities established in memory of his son. One of the contributions to the shule by the Zuckerkandles was the group of high backed felt covered chairs on the Bima for the officers and Rabbi.

The next president was Mr. Sol Pickholz who served for about ten years until 1982. He also contributed much time and funds to the Synagogue, and also moved to Florida.

The fifth president Mr. Harry Beller served from 1982-to-1985. He moved to B.P. in 1954 and was previously president of Poalei Agudath Israel at 48-20-16 Ave. He is also president of Sokolov Lugensky Society. Mr. Miller pointed out that Mr. Beller spent a great deal of time and money for the benefit of the shule during his administration. The current president Mr. Chaim Reinitz has undertaken some current renovations, new paneling and painting of the interior, which is now completed.

The Synagogue has services on Saturdays and holidays and daily three times in the morning at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 and daily in the evenings. It's services are in nusach sfar.

Five large wall plaques were eye catching, they were in tribute to individuals who had worked for the shule. One reads "Sol Bachlot & Katio-Sommerfeld July 26, 1967" the second reads "Sol Pickholz, Vice President 1968, (Leon Zuckerkandel Pres., Rabbi Zev Joseph, Henry Kardemon Ch. of the Bd.)".

The third plaque reads "Leon Zuckerkandel - 1963" The fourth plaque reads "Mr. Morris Wald - Feb. 13, 1972 (Leon Zuckerkandel, Pres., Sol Pickholz, Vice Pres., Aaron Roth, Vice Pres., Michael Miller, Ch. of Bd.)". The fifth sign reads "Mr. Aaron Roth - 1970 (Leon Zuckerkandel, Pres., Sol Pickholz, Vice Pres.)".

This Synagogue, although comparatively small, (it has 250 - seats), is a community owned shule and is arranged and operated similar to the large synagogues in the area.

If our readers can add more information about the items discussed in this column we would appreciate hearing from you.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
BORO PARK REALTY

Boro Park has become well known, even famous, for a number of reasons. One of those reasons is the current real estate boom which has been taking place for a number of years. People in the community are astonished at the number of houses that are thrown down each month with new ones built in their places. Some of the comments that I have heard lately are as follows: "Whenever I walk down a block I see an old house being thrown down or a new one being built."

"I came back to Boro Park after three years and didn't recognize the blocks as I walked down the streets, the stores and houses are different."

"The prices for houses in Boro Park are so high it's unbelievable." "I heard of a two family house recently sold to a builder for over 1/2 million dollars, and the builder will throw it down for the land."

Our readers may be aware of the above description of Boro Park today but may not know it is not a new phenomenon. It seems that Boro Park

over the decades has been a desirable community to live in, a fact which has been reflected in the demand for and prices of its real estate. The following are excerpts from a newspaper article which appeared in the Brooklyn Eagle in 1916. The article was submitted by Dominic Supina and we thank him for it.

"REALTY BOOM IS PREDICTED FOR BOROUGH PARK SECTION. ATTRACTIVE HOME LOCALITY IS NOW SUPPLIED WITH ADEQUATE TRANSIT ACCOMMODATIONS — WAITED LONG AND PATIENTLY FOR NEEDED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BOROUGH, RUNNINGS TIME TO BUSINESS CENTERS CUT IN HALF. MARVELOUS GROWTH OF HISTORICAL DISTRICT DUE TO NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

"Borough Park enjoys the distinction today of being one of the most favored sections of the Greater City in respect to transit accommodations. The busy residential locality has waited long and patiently for the facilities that shortened the distance in railroad time to and from the business center of Manhattan.

Nothing stands in the way now to prevent Borough Park from building up solidly in the business sections and with proper limitation in the residential neighborhoods. The Brooklyn Rapid Transit (BRT) is providing satisfactory transfer arrangements between the section and Manhattan."

"Only a single five-cent fare will be charged for the entire route which will extend from Coney Island direct to Fifty-ninth Street Manhattan, by way of Manhattan Bridge, Canal Street, Broadway to Forty-second Street and then up Broadway to and through Fifty-ninth Street to Queensboro Bridge."

"The stations on the Culver line will be: Fort Hamilton Parkway, Thirteenth Avenue, Avenue I,

Twenty-second Avenue, Avenue N, Avenue P, Kings Highway, Avenue U, Avenue X, Van Sicklen Avenue, Surf Avenue (Coney Island). At present the Culver line operates across

the Brooklyn Bridge, up Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn, then from Thirty-sixth Street it runs on grade the same as above. The elimination of the grade transit and the installation of the new three-door steel subway cars will cut in half the present running time of forty minutes to Borough Park from Manhattan and will more than triple the passenger carrying capacity."

"The Tax Department records indicate that the total assessment valuation for Borough Park in 1904 was approximately \$5,500,000, while the estimated aggregate for 1915 exceeds \$19,500,000, an increase in a decade of nearly 300 percent."

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Continued from Page 2 I REMEMBER BORO PARK MARVELOUS GROWTH OF SECTION

"One of the oldest and most historical localities in Brooklyn, Borough Park is particularly favored in its natural advantages being supplied with beautiful trees in abundance. It is one of the highest spots in the borough, and is developed from farmlands that supplied the people of old Brooklyn with vegetables and fruit. The soil of this locality was famous for its productivity, and many farmers reaped substantial fortunes in the days when New Utrecht was plan road over which ran Mayor Gunthers steam railroad, a single track line running from Fifth Avenue and Twenty-ninth Street to Coney Island. There were just seven houses in Borough Park at that time."

"The growth of the section since that time is astonishing to those who have watched the various stages of development. There are today...six big public schools and several churches in Borough Park, half of which were erected within the past twelve years. The school at Fort Hamilton Parkway and Forty-fourth is the second largest public school in Brooklyn. It was built at a cost of \$265,000 and covers the entire block. There is another school of this size at Fort Hamilton Parkway and Fifty-fourth Street. Modern buildings of every type may be found in the district. The detached, semi detached, one and two-family, and apartment houses in Borough Park compare with the best designs to be found in the city. They have been built in abundance and are located convenient to the new transit lines. The demand for homes there is increasing every day, as indicated in the reports of rentals supplied by real estate brokers doing business in the district."

"The elevated road running through New Utrecht Avenue is in operation. It started today and Borough Park citizens are celebrating the event with appropriate ceremonies terminating tonight with a banquet at Sandalphon...Forty-sixth Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway, at which city officials and prominent citizens of the section will make speeches."

"The opening of the New Utrecht Avenue line from Thirty-eighth Street to Sixty-eighth Street inaugurates a three track branch of the Fourth Avenue subway which connects with the latter at Thirty-eighth Street, runs through an open cut along that thoroughfare to New Utrecht Avenue and continues as an elevated railroad over New Utrecht Avenue, eventually to Coney Island."

MARKELL'S SHOE STORE

Markell's Shoe Store, located at 4715 - 13 Ave. is one of the oldest established businesses in Boro Park. The business started in B.P. in 1914 and was first located at 54 Street and New Utrecht Ave. At that time New Utrecht Ave. was the main business center of the community. Markell's moved to its present location in 1928.

The business was started by Dr. Maurice J. Markell, a podiatrist. This may have been the first prescription shoe store in existence. Dr. Markell, together with other orthopedic doctors, invented and developed special shoes for people with club feet, called Turno Pronator shoes. He also developed three other orthopedic shoes for various foot problems such

as flat feet.

Dr. Markell began to sell his shoes to other stores throughout the country. The manufacturing and wholesale business soon became more than he could handle and he therefore sold the retail store on 13 Ave. This retail store is now owned by a corporation and the main offices reside in Florida. The store is operated by managers and salesmen.

Mr. Arthur Cooperman, one of the managers that we spoke to has been with the business for 26 years. He said that foot sizes have been getting larger with each successive generation. He showed me a ladies shoe that was over 75 years old and still in very good condition. It is a size 3AAAA and probably would be too small for a child today. He also pointed out that Markell's still maintains an open stock and is one of the few orthopedic shoe stores now in existence.

BRIEF ITEMS

Kurt Lucbenberg, who once lived with the Kronzlers in the house above the Tchemobler Rebbe at 1520 - 49 St., related that in the next house there lived a famous photographer, Paul Schutizer. He was a photographer for Life Magazine and was assigned to photograph Israel during the War of Independence. Unfortunately he was killed in the war. Life Magazine published his photos after his death in August 1948.

Harvey Brody related that he worked in Boro Park during the years 1946 - 49. He had a warehouse on 60 St. between 11 & 12 Ave. The business was owned by Joe Hoffman, David Schein and Mr. Gendzel. The business was called Hoffman and Gendzel and they were distributors of Streits products.

He claims that in 1946 there were only two groceries that observed and were closed on Shabbos in Boro Park, Nordlicht on 16 Ave. and 54 St. and Senels on 13 Ave. He also recalled Hirsch's Knish shop on 12 Ave. and 49 St., second store from corner.

where Schick's Manor is now located. The corner store was a drug store. Hirsch's knish shop was probably the first Sabbath observing dairy restaurant in Boro Park. It started as a knish shop exclusively and gradually developed into a full dairy restaurant.

DR. JACOB ADDES

Dr. Jacob Addes, M.D. moved to B.P. in 1941 to his present address at 5123 - 14 Ave. He became an M.D. in 1945 and entered the U.S. Navy the same year. He

opened his practice at the same address in 1946 and except for army service in 1954 in Germany during the Korean War he has maintained his practice at the same location now going on 40 years.

Submit your information - memories, photos, memorabilia to the Boro Park Historical Society, 4810 - 13 Ave. for preservation. Support the Boro Park Historical Society by becoming a member \$5 a year.

1 REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

SEEKS INFORMATION

ABOUT DOCTORS HOSPITAL

The following letter was received from a lady in Massachusetts recently requesting information about a former hospital in Boro Park, where Beth Jacob Seminary is now located. If anyone can supply information please send it to this columnist for possible publication and forwarding to the letter writer:

Dear Editor,

I am trying to locate as much information as possible about the now closed Brooklyn Doctors Hospital formerly located at 45 St. and 15 Ave. It was a small private hospital that I am told was owned by an attorney named Baronoff.

Would your office have any information about this now closed facility for primarily unwed (Jewish) mothers? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Mrs. Debbie Cuine

BORO PARK

BASEBALL PLAYERS

The following information about

famous Boro Park baseball players was submitted by Lawrence Cuomo. We thank him for this interesting and valuable information:

Dear Editor:

The following are some players who came from Boro Park: Sandy Koufax, who pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers, pitched 3 no-hitters and is now in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown N.Y. He is married to the daughter of Richard Widmark, movie actor.

Another player is Tommy Holmes who came from the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, located at 45 St. and 17 Ave. He held the record for hits for 37 consecutive games, until Pete Rose broke it for the National League record. He also played for the Boston National League from 1942-1952, had a lifetime batting average of .302 and was also a good baseball player.

During the war years, when there was a shortage of ballplayers, the Brooklyn Dodgers signed up a youngster, a 16 year old by the name of Tommy Michael "Buckshot" Brown. The name "buckshot" was used because he had a powerful arm.

He played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1944-1951.

There was also a player by the name of Steve Lembo who played for a short time with the Dodgers.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Cuomo.

CHEVRA BNEI ISRAEL OF BORO PARK

In the Jan. 1986 issue we wrote about the shule Ehevra Bnei Israel. Several corrections and additions were brought to the attention of this columnist.

Mr. Abe Miller had also been president of the shule before Mr. 6 OIZuckermandel.

Rabbi Zev Joseph had been a prominent Rabbi in the Bronx for 12

years, in the Bryant Ave. Shule, Cong. Ahavas Shalom, (seats 1500) before moving to B.P. Rabbi Joseph pointed out that the Bronx had a very large prestigious Jewish community in those years. It had a Vaad

Harobonim (Rabbinical Committee) composed of 70 rabbis.

Rabbi Joseph's starting salary when he came to Chevra Bnei Israel was \$100 month, not as previously reported, and this was doubled in a short time. He also had a position as a Kosher supervisor in a meat plant. Originally Rabbi Joseph was a student of Rabbi Shimon Shkopin the Grodno Yeshiva. He also studied in the Mirrer Yeshiva in Shanghai during WWD and arrived in the USA in 1947.

When Rabbi Joseph came to Chevra Bnei Israel of Boro Park there was no "bima" in the shule. Mr. Backbord donated the bima, the

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memorial plaque and many other things. Rabbi Joseph taught Chevra Shas every night in addition to other daily classes in the early years and plans to reinstitute that class in the near future.

There seems to have been another Rabbi in the shule before Rabbi Podolsky, by the name of Rabbi Yizchok Karpensprung, former student of Rabbi Aaron Kotler. He was there a short time and probably not in an official capacity.

The former president of this synagogue, Leon Zuckerkandel, had a stationery store and had a franchise for a national brand of sneakers. His only son's accident and death in the pool of Brooklyn College occurred in 1950 (28-lyur) much earlier than the holdup shooting of Leon. He became nitive in the shule after his son's accident.

Mr. Silverstein pointed out that it was Mr. Zuckerkandel who renovated the shule from a one floor storefront to the present two story synagogue. Before that it still had glass store windows and a pull curtain for the ladies section.

Mr. Zuckerkandel also donated an ambulance to Israel in his son's memory, helped start the Agud'ah library and donated to many other worthy charities.

CORRECTIONS

ADDITIONS

In last month's column there was an item by Harvey Brody who was a food distributor during 1946-1949. He claimed that in 1946 there were only two groceries that were Sabbath observers, Nordlicht and Semels.

Several readers contacted this columnist to disagree with Mr. Brody's claim. Mr. Shmuly Goldstein, (Goldstein Press) pointed out several other groceries who had been Sabbath observers long before 1946. There was Bindiger Bros. grocery located on 14 Ave. near 43 St. and later moved to larger premises on 18 Ave. between 46 & 47 St. There was Nussbaum grocery on 41 St. and 14 Ave. There was Oelbaum's grocery store at 5110 Ft. Hamilton Parkway from 1941 till about 1951. The Oelbaums then moved their store location to 4502 16 Ave. Sold their store to Zisfine in 1959 (approximate-

ly). The store was later sold to Deutsch, then to Roth and recently to Aronowitz. It has remained under the ownership of Sabbath observers throughout those years.

Then there was Wachtman's grocery on 46 St. and 16 Ave., the same site where Goldstein Press is now located.

Dr. Israel Pressman indicated that when he came to B.P. in 1946 there was a Sabbath observer grocery store on 15 Ave. between 44 and 45 St. Where Berkovitz Grocers is now located.

(The following article was submitted by Mr. Steven Berger. Mr. Berger has a special interest in the history of transportation and has submitted materials to this column in the past. We thank him for this interesting and valuable contribution.)

THE 16TH AVENUE STREETCAR AND TRACKLESS TROLLEY LINE

By Steven R. Berger

Boro Park's 16th Avenue is unique in the sense that it was (along with Cortelyou Road) the only street in the western part of Brooklyn to have had both forms of electric transportation - namely trolley cars and trolley buses. In what follows below, we will give a brief history of electric transportation on 16th Avenue from 1905 to 1956.

The 16th Avenue streetcar line opened in 1905 by the Brooklyn City Railroad (1905-1929). This was a relatively new line as far as streetcar lines in Brooklyn are concerned. By comparison, the Coney Island Avenue line started as a horsecar line in 1862 and was electrified in 1890. Our 16th Avenue line was never a horsecar line and it started its life 15 years after the Coney Island Avenue line was electrified.

In 1905 when the line was opened, the route was quite different from the bus route in existence today. The streetcar route ran from 58th Street and 16th Avenue from a single track stub terminal. The line followed 16th Avenue (two tracks), a private right-of-way, Gravesend (McDonald Avenue) Avenue to 20th Street and 7th Avenue.

The above mentioned private-right-of-way does not exist today, but modern Boro Parkers can see a portion where it was located. If one walks under the Ditmas Avenue el station on the western side of the street, in the middle of the block, one may notice part of a curved trolley track in a business parking lot. This track was part of a loop that was in service from 1933 to 1956 and generally is the location of the eastern end of the private right-of-way.

Four years later its establishment, the 16th Avenue Streetcar was cut back to Gravesend Avenue on May 15th, 1909 until 58th Street but was re-extended to 20th Street and 7th

Avenue on September 20, 1909.

One month later on October 25, 1909, the line was given a gigantic extension. For on that date, the line was extended to Boro Hall via 16th Avenue, Gravesend Avenue, 20th Street, 9th Avenue (Prospect Park West), Vanderbilt Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, Flatbush Avenue, Fulton Street to Boro Hall.

In 1913, the Boro Park end of the line was extended a few blocks to 63rd Street and 16th Avenue. At 63rd Street, two tracks became a one track "Y" shaped stub terminal. No loop existed at this site and the 16th Avenue streetcar never reached New Utrecht Avenue.

On October 19, 1919, the line was cut back to 16th and Gravesend Avenues, never to reach Boro Hall again. This changed may have been brought about by the opening of the West End and Culver elevated lines around this time. These elevated lines provided a more direct route from Boro Park to downtown Brooklyn and Manhattan.

By 1929, the line was again extended. This time to a new terminal at Church and Utica Avenues via Gravesend and Church Avenues. The last day of 16th Avenue trolley service was on May 27th, 1932. One that date, the section from 63rd Street to Gravesend Avenue was replaced by trackless trolley buses while the remainder of the line continued to exist (from Utica and Church Avenues) as the Gravesend-Church streetcar line. The Gravesend-Church line used the tracks and loop from (1933) under the Ditmas Avenue station.

16TH AVENUE CORTELYOU RD.

TRACKLESS TROLLEY LINE

Two years before the 16th Avenue streetcar was abandoned, an interesting experiment was taking place on Avenue C (Cortelyou Road) between Coney Island and Flatbush Avenues. The Avenue C streetcar (started as a horsecar line in 1894; electrified in 1898) was replaced by two trackless trolleys on an experimental basis between Flatbush and Coney Island Avenues. The experiment was considered a success and six additional coaches were purchased in 1932.

A trackless trolley, or trolley bus is similar to a regular diesel or gasoline bus by having rubber tires. Electric power leaves and enters a trolley bus by two long trolley poles located on the roof of the vehicle. One overhead cable supplies direct current while the second cable acts as a return (ground wire).

On May 27, 1932, the 16th Avenue streetcar was abandoned and replaced by the trackless trolleys. The terminal of this experimental line was extended from Coney Island to 62nd Street and New Utrecht Avenue. The new route followed Cortelyou Road, Dahill Road, 16th Avenue, 62nd Street to the 62nd New Utrecht subway stations. This line did not pass the private-right-of-way between Cortelyou Road and Ditmas Avenue.

In 1948, the Cortelyou 16 Avenue trackless trolley received new coaches while the old coaches were retired. Between 1952 and 1954, the trackless trolleys were absent from 16th Avenue and were replaced by diesel buses. Trackless trolleys returned on January 6, 1954 but were substituted on October 31, 1956. On that same date, Church Avenue

streetcar service was also abandoned.

The trackless trolley route on 16th Avenue was never physically attached to the other trackless trolley lines (such as the St. Johns Place and Tompkins Avenue routes) in Brooklyn. It is interesting to note that the 16th Avenue trackless trolley line was one of the longest lasting trackless trolley lines in New York State. It is remembered for its quiet operation and lack of fumes.

It is hard to believe that this October, we are entering the 30th anniversary of its demise. The only physical relic of electric transportation on 16th Avenue are a few black painted metallic trolley line poles at the bus turn-around at the 62nd Street New Utrecht subway station. Even the tracks under 16th Avenue are gone; they were removed between 1933 and 1937.

1 REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Phillip J. Kipust
BORO PARK
IN THE 20'S

The articles in this column give us some additional knowledge and understanding of the Boro Park community in the 1920's. The first article is based upon an important research discovery and the other is based upon an interview with someone who responded to last month's column.

BOROUGH PARK NEWS - 1920

A copy of a Boro Park newspaper, dated September 9, 1920, was discovered by Mr. B. Selevan during his important research on the history of the community. We are indebted to Mr. Selevan, a member of the B.P. Historical Society Executive Committee, for the valuable discovery and contribution to the B.P. Historical Society.

In this column we will offer a general description and discussion of the newspaper and the advertisements, and continue a discussion of some of the articles in next month's

column. There is too much interesting and valuable information in the paper to do it justice in one article.

The newspaper masthead reads: Borough Park News, Published every Thursday, Borough Park, Brooklyn, N.Y. September 9, 1920. Single copies, 3 cents, yearly, \$1.50.

This weekly, twelve page issue appears to have been a new venture at the time. Page four, the Editorial Page, includes letters from readers, editorials, a feature entitled "Comments from the Press," and the publishers box. The box contains the following information: "The Borough Park News, Published every Thursday by The Borough Park Publishing Co. Adolph Deutsch, President, Suite 418, Temple Bar Building - 44 Court St. Brooklyn, Telephone - Main 1917. Subscriptions - One dollar fifty cents per year, delivered.

The Borough Park News reserves the right to reject any advertising it considers against the best interests of Borough Park.

HAROLD BLAKE SCHUMM,

EDITOR

The Borough Park News will receive contributions and communications of general interests to Borough Park.

The above listed cost of the newspaper, including delivery, gives us an indication of the prices of materials and labor in 1920. The ads in the paper usually do not list prices.

ADS

One can obtain much interesting information about the history of a period or community by reading the ads of the time and place. When reading the ads in the newspaper under discussion it is of interest to note the type and location of the business, the type of products adver-

tised the owners, the telephone exchange number, the wording and design of the ad and the kind of print and illustrations used. In describing and commenting on some of the ads

we shall try to keep the above items in mind.

Four restaurants are advertised in this issue. The ad for Parkway Restaurant at 4209-13 Ave. reads in part, "For a good meal. Specialties after theatre hours. We serve the best Golden Edge Coffee and pastry in the Park. Under management of Sam Rothfield."

The ad for Schwartz's Restaurant and Dining Room at 4102-14 Ave. lists the phone number "BORO PARK 6487" and one line which reads "Corner 41st Street."

Another ad reads: For a good meal come to David Weitz, Bakery and Restaurant, 3804-13 Ave. Phone

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1 REMEMBER BORO PARK

Sunset 6531. "Sunset" is an addition to our list of telephone exchanges in Boro Park.

Abelman's French Ice Cream Parlor at 4203-13 Ave. is the only ad that lists prices. They are "60 cents per quart 30 cents per pint 15 cents per half pint." The ad also includes "We cater to weddings & parties."

The ad for the Hebrew National Delicatessen and Lunch Room reads: "Hebrew National, Delicatessen and Lunch Room 4519-Thirteenth Avenue, near 46 St. - New building. We sell only Hebrew National Meat. Products daily fresh from the factory. Strictly Closed on Saturday. Telephone orders cordially delivered. Blythebourne 2565. Joseph Rosenberg."

There are several items of special interest in this ad. First of all, it indicates that the store is a new building. This tells us that the store buildings on that block were probably built in 1920. Most of the businesses in those days on 13 Avenue were situated between 38 St. and 45 St.

This was probably one of the early developments that extended until 46 St. and supports some of the information provided by old timers in previous columns.

Secondly, although this store was located on the site where Rainbow Shops is now situated, there is currently a delicatessen store, situated just across the street at 4514-13 Ave., called Adelmans which also sells Hebrew National meat products. I wondered if the two businesses were connected historically. A call to Adelmans did not provide information as the current owner said he didn't know. He thinks Adelman's store is there about 45 years. Do any of our readers know if there is any relationship between the two businesses?

Finally, of special interest is the fact that this store in 1920 was "Strictly closed on Saturday." There were very few, if any stores on 13 Ave. or in Boro Park closed on Saturdays, except for kosher butcher shops, in those years. In the last few columns we have been gathering information about grocery stores closed on Saturdays, but so far none of them go back to 1920.

What is of further interest is the fact that currently just about all the stores on 13 Ave. are closed on Saturdays. Two exceptions are Adelman's (Hebrew National Restaurant) and the Chinese restaurant on the next block.

The following few ads will bring back fond memories to some of the Boro Park old timers.

"S. Bernstein & Sons Furniture Store at 3814-13 Ave. Borough Park."

"Mackta Brothers Shoes that are different. 4201-13 Ave. phone Blythebourne K-3125. Johnston & Murphy Shoes for Men. Physical

Culture & J.T. Cushion Shoes and Pumps for Women. Dr. Posner Shoes for infants and grown girls. We take great pleasure in wishing our friends and patrons a Happy and prosperous New Year." This ad provides additional information about the history of Eli Mackta Shoes in Boro Park, discussed in a recent column.

"Herzog's Quality Clothes Shop - Boro Park's leading clothier for dad and boy, 4101-13 Ave. Blythebourne 4185."

"Brooks Billiards, Max L. Brooks, Prop. 4109-Thirteenth Avenue."

"School Opening Sale on boys and girls wear at Bloom's Dept. Store, 42 St. & 13 Ave. Tel.: 4122 Sunset, no connection with any other store."

"S. Blum 13 Ave., cor. 45 St. Phone Blythbourne 3451, buy now and save money on underwear - we carry Roots, Carter, Forest Malls, Reis Underwear, Children & infant wear our specialty." Note the spelling of Blythbourne in the above ad.

"J. Groveman, Sunset 3443, 4314-13 Ave. Boro Park's Jewelers Silver-Smiths...Agents for 1847 Silver Community Silver-Corham Silver."

Many Boro Parkers will remember the very large clock on a pole on the sidewalk in front of Groveman's store. People would view it many blocks away in order to know the time.

We can't include or discuss all the ads, but it would be of historical interest to include those of a religious nature in order to compare the religious life in Boro Park, then and now. Since the paper was published a few days before the Jewish holidays, several ads for Jewish services appeared but there were none for church services.

"Orthodox Services at Royal Theatre, 4114-Thirteenth Ave. Conducted by Rev. A. Greenspan on the 13th, 14th and 22nd September. Tickets on sale all day up till 12th evening at Royal Theatre."

"Progressive Synagogue, 46 St. and 15 Avenue. Holiday Services. Services conducted by Rabbi Joseph Surochek, Musical Director, Gustave Freedman, Organ-Quartette. Tickets on sale at Synagogue every evening (except Friday and Saturday), also Sunday 10-12 a.m."

"Constructive Synagogue, Dr. David Levine, Rabbi Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Services, Sandulphon Hall, 46 St. Ft. Hamilton Parkway...Children Services from 9 to 10 a.m. All children welcome. Seats can be obtained from M.S. Gussner, 1536-51 St. or at the Hall."

Another ad for a school reads, "Teachers wanted, English Department, the Hebrew Institute of Borough Park. Curriculum same as public schools. Hours 1 to 4 p.m. Applicants must be licensed by Board of Education. Holders substitute license may inquire. Apply office the Hebrew Institute of Borough Park, 4521-14 Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y." Note where the office was located, then.

Although several of the large Orthodox Synagogues in Boro Park were already built in 1920, none of them advertised in this newspaper issue. That may be because the paper was published just a few days before the holidays and ads appeared in previous issues, or because they didn't find a need to advertise the services in the newspapers. We will discuss this newspaper further in the next month's column.

APRIL 11, 1986 • BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

VINCENT MAURO

In response to last month's column about the 16 Ave. trolley and about the Doctors Hospital, Vincent Mauro, an old timer in Boro Park called to offer information. In the interview that followed he made some valuable and interesting contributions to the history of Boro Park in general as well as to the two items mentioned. We thank Mr. Mauro for his contribution.

He recalled with excitement his fascination, as a boy, with the 16 Ave. trolley which ran near his home. He said there was only one trolley car that ran back and forth along 16 Ave. in those days. He even remembers the number of the car (-7144) that ran this route in the early 1920's. He remembers that one time, when he was about 10 years old, the trolley conductor let him drive the trolley car by himself. Vincent drove the car from 57 St. to 63 St., where it turned, and back to 57 St. He'll never forget the thrill he had driving the trolley car.

Vincent was born in Manhattan in 1913 and in 1914 his family moved to 6115-17 Ave., in the area called Mupleton but near the border of Boro Park. His family purchased, and moved to, his current residence at 1567-57 St. in 1922, where he has been living since, about 64 years. That must be a record. I wonder if there is anyone else in Boro Park today living in the same house for that length of time.

Mr. Mauro said that his house was built in 1917 by a Swedish man named Mr. Harvey. He built four houses in a row, all with modern improvements such as parquet floors.

The two-story brick house was purchased for \$10,500 at the time. He says he doesn't want to live anywhere else, very happy with his house and the neighborhood. His daughter, granddaughter and great grandson live upstairs in his house.

Vincent remembers the construction of P.S. 180, on 16 Ave. and 57 St., right on his corner, in 1923. He attended P.S. 48 on 60 St. and 18 Ave. and transferred to P.S. 180 in 1924. After that he attended Montauk J.H.S., then located on 18 Ave. and 48 St. and then to Continuation School to study electricity. In 1927, he began working for a mechanic of electric motor games and continued working as a mechanic in this field all his working years.

Mr. Mauro attended Holy Ghost Church on 17 Ave. and 46 St. & St. Frances De Chantal. He remembers his Confirmation at St. Rosalies Church at 14 Ave. and 63 St. And his marriage to another Boro Park girl, Mary Mirigliano who lived at 55 St. and 12 Ave.

Vincent remembers the Doctor's Hospital which was owned and operated by Dr. Minenberg. His six children were born there, the first one in 1936 and the last in 1957. Also Vincent's father was operated on there for gall bladder. Dr. Bunzig was the main surgeon there. The hospital was originally called the "Boro Park Maternity Hospital" and in later years "Doctor's Hospital". The total fee for delivering a child there was \$65.

One of his fond memories is related to the 66 Police Precinct. Vincent joined the Auxiliary Police in 1950 and in 1970 he became a Lieutenant in this division. He was present at the inauguration of the 66 Precinct station house on May 10, 1931 at 1430-49 St.

Some other memories of Boro Park include working for Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz for about 7 years, from 1977, as a repairman. He also recalls working for a local grocer, Joe Tiger, on 54 St. and 16 Ave., as a very small boy. He delivered groceries for 50 cents a week. He used 5 cents to attend the Eagle Theatre on 43 St. and 16 Ave. It had both an open air and closed theatre. He used another 5 cents to buy Cracker Jacks. Vivid in his mind was the memory of the shooting murder of Frankie Yale on July 4, 1928. Mr. Yale, also called the Robin Hood of the neighborhood because of his generous help to those in need, was shot on 44 St. between 9th and 10th Avenues, in front of "Kaufmans house."

Finally, Mr. Mauro recalls that in the 1920's the neighborhood was mixed in population, mostly Jewish and Italian but it also included many Swedish people. On his block he recalls there were several wealthy reformed Jewish families. He has lived through the many changes but still loves living in his home and community.

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June 1986 issue.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
DOCTOR'S HOSPITAL
REVISITED

In the March Issue we printed a letter from Mrs. Debbie Caine of Mass. requesting information about the former hospital on 15 Ave. and 45 St. which she heard was a hospital for unwed Jewish mothers. We have received a number of readers' responses to that letter, one of which we discussed in the April Issue. The following are several additional responses received.

Dear Editor:

In answer to Mrs. Debbie Caine, who asked for information about Brooklyn Doctor's Hospital, formerly located at 45th Street & 15th Avenue. Mrs. Caine believes this hospital was primarily for unwed Jewish mothers.

It was no such thing! It was a regular hospital, for all the usual types of illnesses, including pregnancy. (Incidentally, the number of unwed Jewish mothers in Boro Park is negligible, then and now!) In fact, my brother was born

there in August, 1933. My uncle, Dr. Morris Cohen, was on the staff for a time.

Glad to shed what light I can on this subject.

Yours truly,
Lucille Posner

Dear Editor:

In reference to the letter from Mass. inquiring about the former hospital which was located at 15 Ave. and 45 St. I have heard that Dr. Marcus who now has an office between 13 & 14 Ave. and 42 St. was chief surgeon in that hospital.

Yours truly,
S.S.

Dear Sir:

In regard to your article "I Remember Boro Park," the person who wrote that Doctor's Hospital in Boro Park was a home for unwed mothers is very wrong.

Dr. Minenberg was the doctor in charge there. My brother and cousins were born there. They are 55 years old today. My 2 children were born there and many of my friends' children also.

My parents moved to Boro Park when 16th Ave. was farm land. The

Eagle Theatre was built there. I lived 3 short blocks from the hospital as a matter of fact, for 27 years, and still live nearby.

Let it be known that Doctor's Hospital was a legitimate hospital.

Thank you,
Sarah Morgan

LILLIAN RICHARDS

The following information was supplied during a telephone interview in response to the hospital letter.

Lillian Richards of 1320 44 St. said that her son, Arnold David (second child) was born in Doctor's Hospital. Her other 3 children were born in Israel Zion (Maimonides) Hospital. Lillian's husband walked her to Doctor's Hospital at 5 a.m. as she only lived two blocks

away.

The reason why Arnold David was born in this hospital, she explained, was because her doctor, Dr. Burton, belonged to that hospital. His office was on 49 St. between 13 & 14 Ave., opposite Dr.

Shmirer. Total fee for delivery and 6 months baby care was \$50.

Lillian and husband Samuel moved to present apartment in 1930, from East New York. Her sister owned a candy store on 37 St. and 13 Ave., next to the Culver Line Station and wanted them to live near her. Samuel was a painter and decided to change his name from "Gorodowsky" to Richards because the former name was too difficult for customers to pronounce. He therefore used his son's name and called his company "Richards Painting and Decorating Co." His son Richard Jay had his name changed to Jay Richards.

Lillian said her husband Samuel was stabbed to death in 1974 in the

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

hallway of their 6 family building. He was ill and couldn't work himself, but ran the painting business through workers. He used to pay his workers every Friday by cash and was murdered on a Friday for his money! The story was written up in the Jewish Forwards paper. The murderers were caught. One was a former worker for Samuel who became a drug addict.

Lillian said her husband was very well liked. She heard the screams and ran downstairs and pulled the knife from his chest. He died on the way to the hospital.

Mrs. Richards indicated that they lived in that house as tenants all those years and she recently (1985) purchased the building from the former owner Mr. Rubin Goldberg. She said she loves Boro Park and doesn't want to leave it.

Her son Arnold David Richards, who was born in Doctor's Hospital, is now a psychiatrist. He had polio when he was 13 years old. Because of the polio, he couldn't climb the steps on the train and was therefore given special permission to attend Erasmus H.S. (by bus) instead of New Utrecht H.S. While at Erasmus, he earned 5 college scholarships.

Her third son, Jay Richards, lives in Boro Park with mother, the other children live out of town.

Mrs. Richards said that the service in Doctor's Hospital was wonderful and she never heard any mention of it being a hospital for unwed mothers.

Lillian worked for 18 years for Mary Solomon on 14 Ave. & 43 St., across from P.S. 164, in a factory for ladies wear. The building which was once called Crystal Palace, is now a Yeshivah.

Lillian now belongs to the Agudath Senior Citizens Center, the Ocean Parkway Senior Citizens Center and Maimonides Social Club.

This columnist has lived in B.P. all his life and was in fact born in the Doctor's Hospital, in 1927 before any other birth reported by our readers. We have never before heard the description "hospital for unwed Jewish mothers" applied to that hospital. We know of people who were there for gall bladder operations, appendicitis and childbirth. The hospital was well known and highly rated in those years. That should put to rest that rumor about the hospital.

GROCERIES REVISITED

In the past few issues we have been discussing groceries in B.P. that were closed on Shabbos (Saturdays). The following interesting information about this topic was supplied by Mr. Sam Wassner during a telephone interview. We thank him for this valuable contribution.

SAM WASSNER

Sam Wassner started to work in a grocery store in 1928, when he was a young 17 year boy. He immigrated to the U.S. from Galicia, Poland in that same year, lived on the Lower East Side, and traveled to his job in Boro Park daily. His starting salary was \$7 a week and he worked 6 days a week from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The grocery store

was located at 4702 16 Ave. (corner store) and owned by Mr. James, who was an Orthodox Jew. That store, even in 1928, was kept closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays. This seems to be the earliest grocery store in Boro Park, according to the information received so far, that was Sabbath observant.

Before Mr. James, the store was owned by Mrs. Barshe, whose husband was a well-known Judge. Mr. James sold his store in 1930 to Mr. Pasternack and the store continued to be closed on Saturdays. Sam Wassner in turn purchased a store on Pitkin Ave. in 1930. In 1935 Sam came back and purchased the same grocery store from Mr. Pasternack. He paid \$1100.00 for the store, including merchandise. Mr. Wassner sold the grocery store in 1970 because his wife passed away in 1964 and he himself was ill and couldn't handle the business anymore. The selling price was then \$3,000. for business and \$7,000. for stock. The store was kept Sabbath observant throughout the 35 years that he owned it.

Within one year after the sale, the store had three different owners. It later became a greeting card store, owned by Mr. Roth and is currently a shoe store, "Walking Pretty." The building owner during Mr. Wassner's years was Mr. Segal who also owned a butcher store on the same block. Later Mr. Roth purchased the building when he opened the card store.

Mr. Wassner moved to D.P. in 1935 when he married Helen Kurtz. His first address was 4301 16 Ave. In the apartment house, then he moved to 4702 16 Ave. above the store. In 1952 he purchased a two family house at 1569 45 St. and lived there until he sold it in 1982. He then moved to 5001 15 Ave. where he currently resides.

BORO PARK MEMORIES

Some of the local business establishments Mr. Wassner recalls are the following. The Bialy store on 47 St. and 16 Ave. near Schick's Bakery was previously a market owned by Mr. Levine. There was a candy store owned by Mr. Irving Ehrlich on the opposite corner of 47 St. and 16 Ave. where Fabulous Foto is now located. There was an auto service station on the corner of 47 St. & 16 Ave. where private homes are now located. Shick's bakery was previously a tailor store owned by Mr. Berger. The buildings on that block were sold by the bank at \$500 a piece, in those years. One was purchased by Mr. Davidson and one by Mrs. Schick. There was a coat store on 16 Ave. & 48 St. owned by Kohen Bros., (now Boro Fuel), which is now a fruit store. There was a small synagogue in the corner store at 4501 16 Ave. which later became Cohen's Roofing store and is now

Doris's Beauty Salon. Mr. Wassner's son was Bar Mitzvahed there.

At one time, another grocery store opened next door to Wassner's, at 4704 16 Ave. That store was open on Saturdays, featured large sales and specials and special displays on the sidewalk. However, the other store was not successful and had to close in about one year.

There was a drugstore owned by Mr. Guinis on 45 St. and 16 Ave., where Aronowitz Food Center is now located. The drugstore moved to 47 St. and 16 Ave., corner store, where Grunfeld's Hebrew Book Store is now located, in the 1940's. In 1955, there was an explosion and fire in the drugstore. An elderly couple living upstairs were killed. It happened on a Friday night.

Wassner's grocery store, just across 47 St. had some minor damages, but people came to his house to tell him about it and he had to go there swiftly to assess the damage. Mr. Guinis, who lived at 4702 15 Ave., never opened his store again in B.P.

There was also a tailor store at 4706 16 Ave., owned by Mr. Beer, now owned by Davidson Decorators. During the depression years, most of the stores on 16 Ave. were boarded up or painted, few of the stores were in operation.

PROMINENT PEOPLE

Mr. Wassner mentioned the names of a few prominent families in B.P. that were his customers. Mr. Louis Tortikoff was very active in Israel Zion Hospital in 1930. Mr. Louis Edison was active in Cong. B'nai Yehudah and Beth El.

• MAY 15, 1986 • BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

He remembers Yossele Rosenblatt, world famous cantor, who lived at 4701 15 Ave from 1928 to 1933. He kept two apartments and always had guests in his home especially other cantors. The cantor was one of his best customers and gave generous tips. Sam enjoyed delivering orders there and listening to the singing at the same time. Once the cantor invested a lot of money in a new Jewish newspaper "The Shtetn" (The Star). The paper was never published and he lost all his money. He then obtained a full time cantorial position in Harlem and moved there in 1933. While in B.P. Cantor Rosenblatt didn't have a full, annual position. He was hired in Cong. Anshel Sford on special occasions, such as holidays, concerts and the like. He refused a position in Temple Beth El because it didn't have a Bimah then.

Mr. Wassner has 2 sons born in B.P., who attended Yeshivah Etz Chaim and 1 daughter who attended Shulamith. One son now lives in Silver Springs, Md; and one in Staten Island. His daughter lives on Long Island. Mr. Wassner became active, as Gabbai, in Cong. Beth El

about 1960 and is still Gabbai and board member there.

He also recalls the electric buses on 16 Ave. Sometimes the electric overhead rod would slip off the electric wire and the driver would have to get out and put it back amid the sparks.

READERS COMMENTS INVITED

Many readers have memories and information about Boro Park. Why not share some of it with others? Send your information to this columnist c/o The Boro Park

Community News, 4424 8 Ave., B'klyn., N.Y. 11220. We would also appreciate your old photos with Boro Park scenes and other items relating to the community.

We invite our readers to join the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810 13 Ave. only \$5 a year.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Join us at the Second General Membership meeting May 19, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greater New York Savings Bank, 13 Ave. & 33 St. Admission free, interesting program, audience participation.

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following article about the Borgenicht family, one of the most prominent and respected families in Old Boro Park, was submitted by Mrs. Lucille Posner. We thank her and the writer Mrs. Pauline Mack for their efforts and valuable contribution.

Borgenicht Family

My family moved to Boro Park around 1910. It was mostly farmland then. There were mostly non-Orthodox Jews living in Boro Park, with a significant minority of Orthodox Jews.

We were 12 children in the Borgenicht family. We lived in a large house of 24 rooms at 1475 52nd Street. The ground extended on 15th Avenue from 52nd to 51st Street. There is no such address on 52nd Street today. A large apartment house occupies the site.

The grounds were so large that we children used to make an ice skating rink on the lawn, by building a wooden platform, then pouring water

on it and letting it freeze. Across the street from us was an empty lot with several tethered goats on it. However, within the space of a few years several homes were built on the lot. In fact, houses were being built throughout Boro Park. At that time there were many stores on 13th Avenue: groceries, stationery stores and an ice cream parlor. 16th Avenue, however, was farmland.

At that time (1910), there was no police precinct in Boro Park. Community leaders asked my parents if they would donate space on our large grounds to erect a small wooden building to be used for a police precinct. My parents were delighted to have police protection so nearby and agreed readily. This was the first police precinct in Boro Park.

My father was Louis Borgenicht, the first person to manufacture children's clothing for retail sale. Before that, mothers either had to sew their own children's clothes or pay a dressmaker. When my parents first arrived in the United States, my mother used to sew children's dresses

on her sewing machine and my father would peddle them door to door. As he became more successful, he borrowed \$10,000 and began to manufacture children's clothing in a factory. My father later wrote a book, *The Happiest Man*, an autobiography, which is now unfortunately out of print.

My father was one of the founding members of Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

At that time there was no Federation or any Jewish charities in existence. My father never forgot his Jewish background or the hardships he had suffered as an immigrant. He believed in helping others less for-

tunate than himself. Streams of people came to our house on Sundays for financial help and food. My father furnished a separate dining room for

these needy people, where we heard their stories and served them meals.

My father never permitted our servants to serve these people but insisted that his children do so. I remember my resentment at being woken early Sunday morning to serve these needy people. Now I am grateful for this training because it left me with a feeling of responsibility for my fellow man.

I was a student in P.S. 103. One time one of my teachers came to our house and asked for my mother. My mother took the teacher into her bedroom and closed the door. I later learned that my mother, who couldn't

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

speak English, was being taught to read and write English. The lessons were successful and my mother always read the *New York Times* for the rest of her life. My mother insisted her children all be educated and all of her 12 children went to school and most went to college. My mother, a Hungarian immigrant, felt education was of the utmost importance.

My parents were friendly with both the Horowitz and the Margareten families, the founders of the famous kosher food company, who also lived in Boro Park.

By 1920 we children had grown up. Because my father's business was in Manhattan and we children's social lives were also in Manhattan, we moved into Manhattan. However, I will never forget my happy years in Boro Park and the many wonderful families I knew.

Mrs. Pauline Mack
Park Ave., Manhattan

COMMENTS ON 16TH AVE. STREETCAR

In your April 1986 edition, Mr. Vincent Mauro recalled being in a streetcar numbered 7144 on the 16th Avenue streetcar line in the 1920's.

Mr. Mauro has an excellent memory because in the 7100 series cars were used on the 16th Avenue line in the 1920's. These cars were also used on the Montague Street, Sea Gate, Park Circle-Subway, Brooklyn Bridge and other less heavily used lines. These cars, such as car number 7144, were called Birney cars because they were designed by Charles O. Birney. They were short, had a low floor and steps and usually operated with a motorman only (no conductor). Maybe Mr. Mauro can confirm if car 7144 had a short, squat and rectangular appearance?

Steven R. Berger

• JUNE 18, 1986 • BORO PARK COMMUNITY NEWS

MORE ON DOCTOR'S HOSPITAL

Dear Sir:

In the May 15th issue you discussed a letter from Mrs. Debbie Coine referring to the hospital at 15th Ave. and 45 St. She said it was a hospital for unwed Jewish mothers.

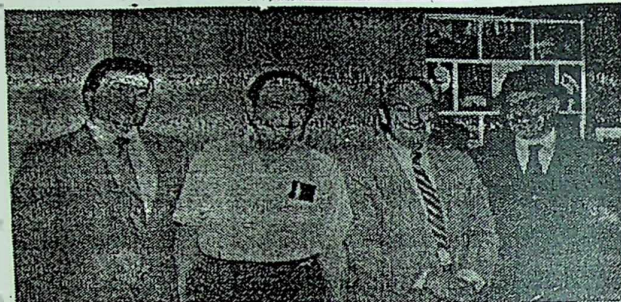
I arrived in Boro Park in January, 1931 and as far as I know, the hospital performed all kinds of operations. My nephew and niece were born there, their doctor was Dr. Marcus, a fine and dedicated man. I was also operated on there for a fatty tumor behind my left ear 30 years ago. My doctor was Dr. Alfred Marandino who has his office on 45 St. and New Utrecht Ave. I hope this clarifies the operations of the hospital for your readers.

Lawrence Cuomo GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Boro Park Historical Society had a very successful and interesting meeting on May 19, 1986 at the Greater New York Savings Bank.

There were numerous displays of photos and other memorabilia and presentations of different aspects of Boro History. One planned emphasis at this meeting was audience participation. Many residents of Boro Park who were present at the meeting contributed interesting information about Boro Park which was tape recorded. Some of this information will be shared with our readers in

future columns and added to our archives for storage and future publications. Greetings were presented by Mr. Franklyn Berkowitz Vice President of the Greater New York Savings Bank, who also happens to have a past family history in Boro Park.



L. to R. Participants in the program of B.P.H.S. meeting: V.P. Greater N.Y. Savings Bank, Sy Frankel, Pres. B.P. Community Council; Dominic Suplina, Treas. B.P.H.S.; Jacques Friedman, Publisher B.P.C.N.



Part of group present at meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society on May 19. Some of the displays visible in background.

READERS COMMENTS INVITED

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information about Boro Park. Why not share some of it with others? Send your information to this columnist c/o The Boro Park Community News, 4424 8 Ave., B'klyn., N.Y. 11220. We would also appreciate your old photos with Boro Park scenes and other items relating to the community.

We invite our readers to join the Boro Park Historical Society at 4810 13 Ave. only \$5 a year.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first General Membership meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society last year was a great success. The program was informative and interesting, the audience was captivated and participated enthusiastically; there was standing room only.

Another General Membership meeting is planned for Monday evening, May 19, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greater New York Savings Bank, 53rd St. and 13th Avenue. In the Community Meeting Room. A very informative and interesting program has been planned and time will be

allocated for audience participation. Please plan to attend and bring your memories and memorabilia. Admission is free.

Why not join the B.P.H.S., only \$5 a year. Support the work and activities of the B.P.H.S. Send your information, memorabilia or dues to B.P.H.S., 4810-13 Ave., B'klyn., N.Y. 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

Historical Highlights

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

INTERESTING TWIST TO DOCTOR'S HOSPITAL STORY

During the past year we have published a number of letters in response to the Doctor's Hospital story. We sent copies of all the responses to Mrs. Debbie Caine of Mass. who originally inquired about the hospital and indicated that she heard it was a hospital for Jewish unwed mothers. Many wondered why she was interested in the hospital and what kind of information she was seeking.

The following response we received from Mrs. Caine is very interesting and answers all the questions. It reveals an interesting twist to the story and a deeper more solemn human interest story. We thank Mrs. Caine for her full response and exploration, sympathize with her and hope our readers will be able to provide information that will help her.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I am sending this letter to thank

all those who responded to my plea which was published in your "I Remember Boro Park" column. I find it very interesting to note that I wrote to the Brooklyn (Pierrepont St.) Historical Society, they had no information or record of this place. In addition I wrote to approximately forty other sources/institutions, and received only one source who had any information about the Brooklyn Doctor's Hospital which closed in the mid-sixties. This person mentioned that it was an eighty bed proprietary facility. Would any of your readers care to comment or validate this? I have never been to Brooklyn in my life, and have had to rely on "Hearsay," hence this explains the misconception that this facility was for unwed mothers. I would like to apologize to any reader that was offended, or thought that I was "degrading" their town and hospital. As I have said previously, I have no knowledge of the area, and this is the reason that I am researching it, so that I may gather information

about my husband's biological family based on fact. If any one knows of anyone who had a baby on or about November 30, 1959, at this hospital, then I would plea to them on a humanitarian basis that they respond to an address, and I will in turn correspond to them for more in-depth details. I would also like pictures of the hospital, as my husband and I haven't the slightest idea of what it looked like in its heyday. His physician was a Dr. Chiteman, and is very old. He hasn't been of any help in our search for information about the hospital. I would like to find out more about an attorney by the

name of Baronoff. I understand from the woman who told me that it was a maternity facility for unwed mothers, that this man handled

most of the adoptions out of this hospital. Wouldn't you be led to believe that there were considerable "doings" after hearing this statement? Again I apologize for any people who felt slandered, and greatly appreciate the CORRECT information that I do receive. Any information of the whereabouts of its medical records, old photos, presently living hospital officials etc. would be appreciated. I also noticed in an old phone book, that a nurses' residence is listed. How many patients a year were served? I never saw any other advertisements for this place anywhere.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Well, I won't take any more of your time. Thank you once again, and feel free to print excerpts of this letter to convey my apologies to your fine readers.

You seem to have quite a few faithful, long term residents who read your paper. Maybe they could help us. Please print the following notice:

"We are looking for relatives of Michael Aronoff, who was born November 30, 1959 at Brooklyn Doctor's Hospital. Would anyone with information please send inquiries to him c/o Box 3208, So. Attleboro, MA 02703."

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Debbie Caine

JOSEPH CUTIE RESPONDS

We thank Mr. Cutie for the following interesting letter. As an old time Boro Parker he must have additional memories and information and 6 Olivite him to write again.

Dear Mr. Friedman,

The article "I Remember Boro Park" was the most nostalgic reading of my life. (Jan. 15, 1985)

I knew the family of Babich as a very young man and was very friendly with Eddie.

We both attended P.S. 179 and later were transferred to Montauk J.H.S. which was then located on 49th St. and 18th Ave.

We remained friendly until we graduated from Junior high school in 1927.

The description Mrs. Esther Kane has given you is amazingly

accurate as to streets, business, stores on the avenues, doctors, etc.

Reading this article reminds me of the wonderful days of our "Boro Park" from 1921 to 1960.

I have lived in Boro Park at 1362-38th St., 5205-12th Ave., 1160-59th St., 1468-58th St. and am currently living at 1372-58th St. since 1941.

Though Mrs. Kane was accurate in every detail - she omitted one incident. The Pilgrim Laundry delivered their laundry in electric propelled mid-sized trucks. Sometimes I would meet Eddie by his restaurant and the driver would take us to school (Montauk).

Sixty years have gone by I hope this letter finds Eddie well.

Regards
Joseph T. Cutie

INFORMATION

May 21st, 1986

Dear Sir,

If there is anyway that I can obtain Lucille Posner's address or phone number (I Love Boro Park") I would like to inform her that her uncle "Dr. Morris Cohen" was our family doctor and that he sold us his 1949 Dodge in 1959. I have a few memorabilia from it, which she may like to have.

Sincerely,

S.J. Mannucci

We referred Mr. Mannucci's message to Mrs. Posner and she said she will get in touch with him. Thank you for writing.

We invite all our readers to send in their own memories and information about Boro Park. We also invite our readers to help support

the work of the Boro Park Historical Society by becoming members, only \$5 a year, and by sending in information and photos. Send to B.P.H.S., 4810-13th Ave. Help preserve the history and community of Boro Park.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following articles about the history of Congregation Sons of Judah, was researched and written by Mr. B.M. Selevan. Mr. Selevan is a member of the Boro Park Historical Society and has done extensive research on the history of this community. We thank him for this very important contribution.

SOME HISTORY OF CONGREGATION BNEI YEHUDA (SONS OF JUDAH)

OF 5311-16 AVE., BOROUGH
PARK,

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, USA

By B.M. Selevan

The history of Cong. Bnei Yehuda has been discussed previously in the "I Remember Boro Park" column, but in a relatively superficial way. I will attempt to improve on past accounts and to add information. It is of special interest now because this summer marked the 65th year since the organization of this Congregation.

The Cong. Bnei Yehuda was organized on August 16, 1921. Prominent among the organizers were Solomon Hollander, other Hollanders, their relative Mr. Koch, as well as others. The Hollanders had just come to Borough Park from the lower East side of Manhattan. They named the new Cong. Bnei Yehuda. The Hollanders were in some sort of steel-junk business, Mr. Y. Parnes reported.

WHY BNEI YEHUDA?

According to Mrs. M. Dyckman in "I Remember B.P." of a few years ago, the new Cong. was named after her grandmother who had died around that time (July 31, 1920) whose name was Yehudis. In the beginning the Cong. didn't have a finished building of its' own and services were held in the Hollander's house and possibly elsewhere. The Cong. acquired a site and then started to build a house of worship. The building was ready in 1924 and a Chanukas Habayis (dedication) was held on Sunday, June 15, 1924. First though, the new building was opened for services on Friday night and

Shabbos preceding. Advertisements were placed in the Morgen Journal Jewish paper, announcing the dedication and inviting people to attend. Chazan Moshe Seits from Toronto, Canada, who was a Cantor in Europe previously in Lemberg, led the Sabbath services with a 'double choir', under the direction of Professor R. Kasimirski. The program for the official dedication on Sunday was as follows- 1. Automobile parade 2. Official opening of the Synagogue. 3. Chazan Seits singing with the double choir under Prof. Kasimirski with a large orchestra under the direction of Ben Bergman. 4. Prominent speakers to address. 5. Refreshments to be served.

The next day, the Brooklyn Eagle gave the following report-Headlined "BNEI JUDAH HOLDS 6 HOUR CELEBRATION" and subtitled

"Dedication of New Synagogue Witnessed by Many." The report continued as follows-"The congregation Bnei Judah staged a six-hour celebration of the dedication of the new synagogue at 16th Ave. and 53d St. Sunday afternoon, June 15. At 2 o'clock members of the congregation gathered in front of the building with motor cars gaily decorated and paraded over the city. In this they were assisted by the Boy Scouts under the direction of Scoutmaster J.M. McAuliff and assistant Scoutmaster Simeon Cohen. After an extensive parade for more than two hours the parties returned to the synagogue for.

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exercises under the direction of Chairman I. Hollander of the building committee. These exercises were held on the steps, where gathered the trustees, Scouts, musicians and school children, first to take the oath to the flag, followed by the singing of 'America' and the 'Hatikva.' The key of the building was then turned over to the congregation. In accepting the key, President Reubin spoke gratefully of the honor, promising to guard it and to see that the building was used for the purpose for which the exercises would dedicate it.

"Services within were preceded by the singing of the dedicatory hymn, with the congregation waiting outside. Within, the exercises were in charge of the officers of the congregation. Councilor George R. Reubin presiding. Officiating were Rabbis Rosen, Peikus, Hirshoren and Weinberger of Boro Park, Rabbi Harry Halpern of Flatbush, and Rabbi A. Gootblat of Brooklyn and Rabbi Goodman of Harlem. Rabbi Weinberger acted as master of ceremonies.

"The key of the building was sold by S. Hollander to I. Hollander for \$300. The honor of taking the Seder Torah, or Book of Laws, presented by Mrs. Kass, went to the son of the donor for \$100. Other honors sold were the privileges of first carrying the scrolls into the Holy of Holies and the first five places in the Golden Book of the Synagogue.

"Cantor Moses J. Seits of Toronto, assisted by R. Kasimirski and his choir, rendered the hymns and anthems for the service."

The chazan (cantor) of the Cong. in 1924 was the famous Samuel (Shmuel) Molovsky, who incidentally just died a few months ago at the age of 91. At that time he was not as well known as he became later, but it seems he was still well known and perhaps seen as a rising star. A story in the Morgen Journal Jewish newspaper said (translations by author) "The Bnei Yehuda Shul, of 16th Ave. and 53rd St., Borough Park, is proud of the fact that it was able to get as its' yearly cantor, Chazan Molovsky. With such a nice building and Chazan Molovsky the Bnei Yehuda Shul takes a most prominent place among the large Synagogues of Greater New York."

The Shul also put an advertisement in the above paper before Selichos services which went as follows: "A 'Treat' For Borough Park! The Bnei Yehuda Shul, 16th avenue and 53rd st., Borough Park, is the youngest of the large Congregations, that are found in Borough Park. It is a new Synagogue and its' yearly Chazan, Chazan Molovsky is still new in Borough Park. We are giving therefore a 'treat' to the people of Borough Park and invite them tomorrow, Shabbos night (after Shabbos) September 20th, to come and hear Selichos of Chazan Molovsky in the Bnei Yehuda Shul. Admission is free!

This is the treat of the Shul to the people of Borough Park. They should come hear Chazan Molovsky with his double choir under the leadership of the famous composer, A. Cantor. His true Jewish rendering of the prayers that touch the Jewish heart, his wondrous tenor voice which is full of mesikus (sweetness), and you will agree that Chazan Molovsky is a new star in the sky of Chazanus, signed

by the Pres. and V.P." This was followed a few days later by a story in the same paper entitled "Audience Crises By Chazan Molovsky's Selichos" which told how after midnight the Shul was filled and how the Selichos made a great impression on people, etc., etc., and that tickets for the Yomim Noraim (High Holy Days) were just about sold out, etc., due to the strong interest in hearing the new 'star' Chazan Molovsky, etc., etc., which was lavish in praise for the new Chazan.

The next major event came in 1926 when the Cong. got its' first official Rabbi. Until then, I was told by Mr. Emert, Sexton of the Cong., it seems that there was perhaps not an official Rabbi, but that a Rabbi Weinberger officiated 'de-facto'. On Tuesday night, August 31, 1926 the Cong. unanimously selected Rabbi Mordechai A. (Aaron) Kaplan as its' Rabbi. Shortly afterward, the Morgen Journal reported "Rabbi Mordechai Aaron Kaplan elected Rav in Borough Park." The article reported Rabbi Kaplan was five years in East New York where he acquired an excellent reputation and the Cong. Nachlas Tzvi, the oldest and one of the most important Congregations in Harlem took him as their Rabbi. The Shul is filled every Shabbos from the big crowd that comes to hear the honored Rav's Drashos. Rabbi Kaplan acquired a reputation in Harlem. There is not one National and Tzedakah (Charity) project in which Rabbi Kaplan was not in the forefront with his work for it. Ten years Rabbi Kaplan was Rav in the Nachlas Tzvi Shul and now he was unanimously appointed to be Rabbi in one of the largest Congregations in the nice community in Borough Park. There was also an advertisement placed by Cong. Bnei Yehuda in the above paper announcing the new Rabbi, which among other things, mentioned Rabbi Kaplan as an author of important seforim (religious books) and said among other things that the Congregation Bnei Yehuda and the people of Borough Park and vicinity can congratulate themselves on having acquired such an important Rabbi. Borough Park will surely gain much from his settling and working in our area.

There is then a gap in my information until 1944 when a new constitution was adopted and Rabbi Kaplan was given a "life contract." In 1945 the mortgage of the Congregation was redeemed (see plaque in back of upstairs Shul). Possibly around that time the Cong. sold the house corner 54 st. and 16th ave. which it seems was originally the Rabbis' residence possibly to redeem the mortgage? Rabbi Kaplan moved a house or two over, it seems.

On 25 Shvat, February 1, 1951, Rabbi Kaplan passed away at a relatively young age. Obituaries appeared in various newspapers such as the New York Times, New York Herald Tribune, Brooklyn Eagle, Der Morgen Journal, etc. The Congregation and family put notices in the Jewish 'Der Tag' newspaper. There were also a good amount of notices from various organizations in the Morgen Journal newspaper. The Brooklyn Eagle said on Feb. 1, 1951, "Rabbi Mordechai A. Kaplan, spiritual leader of Congregation Sons of Judah, 16th Ave. and 53d St. died this morning in Beth Moses Hospital, after an illness of one week...."

"One of the country's outstanding orthodox clergymen, Rabbi Kaplan was president of the Rabbinical Board of Borough Park and was widely known as an educator. He was especially interested in the development of the Hebrew School attached to the synagogue and often remarked that his chief aim in life was to perpetuate Judaism through youth.

"Rabbi Kaplan was born and educated in Russia. He came to the United States early in life."

Surviving are his wife..., three daughters...and seven grandchildren. The Morgen Journal had the passing of Rabbi Kaplan a front page story and had a long and detailed article with a picture of the deceased (niftar). The article contained important information. Following is a translation of parts of the article. "Yesterday, Thursday, 2 am, at the age of 60 years, was niftar (died) the known Rabbi of the Bnei Yehuda Shul in Borough Park and head of the Vaad Harabonim of Borough Park, Rav. Mordechai Aharon Kaplan."

"Rabbi Kaplan was one of the most famous Rabbis in America a great lamdan (scholar), a Great baal tzedakah (man of charity), and a great baal midos (man of character)."

"Rabbi M.A. Kaplan was born in the town Lechovitz, Minsk province, At a very young age he became an orphan..."

"The niftar (deceased) learned in the great Lithuanian Yeshivos where he was known as a prodigy.

"Recently, he campaigned for Shemiras Shabbos on 16th Ave. in Brooklyn, where thank to his influence stores were closed."

Approximately one year after the passing of Rabbi Kaplan the Congregation took a new Rabbi who is still affiliated with the Congregation, presently as Rabbi Emeritus, the well known Rabbi Dr. Eliezer W. Kirzner, 'Shlitia' (may he live to 120).

Rabbi Kirzner came originally from the town of Onix in the area of Lithuania. He studied in the great Yeshivos of Europe and also was awarded an advanced 'Doctorate' degree. He was Rabbi in London, then in the 1940's in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, and in the area of 1950 came to the USA. He was taken as Rabbi in Cong. Bnei Yehuda app. 1952.

He was the translator of one tractate of Talmud into English for Soncino Press, was active previously in the Vaad Harabonim (Council of Rabbis) of Borough Park, and well known generally as a great Talmid Chacham (scholar).

At this time the Chazan (Cantor) was Chazan Moshe Price. Later in the 1950's he left Bnei Yehuda for another post in the New York area which he left after a short stay for a post in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, where he still resides. I have been told that he is still in contact with Cong. Bnei Yehuda.

In the early 1960's the Hebrew School, Talmud Torah of the Cong. ceased formal operation. This was discussed in "I Remember Borough Park" a while ago in greater detail.

In the late 1960's, perhaps 1967, Rabbi Kirzner took a 'Sabbatical' leave, going to England. His son, the present Rav, officiated in his father's absence.

In 1975 app., the Cong. had a large celebration celebrating the completion of Mesachim (Talmudic tractate) Baba Basra by the twice weekly shiur (Talmud class).

In 1984, app., Rabbi Kirzner resigned from active duty as Rabbi and became Rabbi Emeritus. This happened after Rebbeiz Kirzner passed away the previous year. She was descended from the prominent Lopian family. Also, Rabbi Kirzner had after that been in the hospital and not in the best of health.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

Historical Highlights
By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
**BORO PARK REUNION
IN ISRAEL**

The following letter is self-explanatory and we thank Mrs. Edith Lieberman for her interesting contribution. Readers may recall our previous articles about the Boro Park reunion in Israel following our trip and interviews there over a year ago.

Dear Mr. Kipust,

I am glad that I met your wife this summer on 13th Ave., and as such, was able to get your address.

It is with interest that I read the various copies of the Boro Park News, which also mentioned the reunion of Boro Parkers in Netanya Israel, which I organized.

By chance this week a nice gentleman walked into my office at Laniado Hospital where I work already for 13 years in the Public Relations Department. This gentleman was none other than Mr. Wallach from the Wallach store on 41st and 13th, who is visiting Netanya and working as a volunteer in our Chronic Disease facility.

It was a most memorable re-union, for we had not seen each other for many years, and he recalled when I, as a young woman came into his store to shop with our five sons.

Another interesting feature, Hadassah Ebstein, the daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Ebstein, is presently doing voluntary work at Laniado Hospital instead of Army service. Rabbi & Mrs. Ebstein lived on 51st St. & 15th Ave., before making Aliyah, and he was the founder of the Jewish School for the Deaf, which originated in their basement in Boro Park.

On September 17th, in Jerusalem, I attended the wedding of Aviva, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harold Greenberg, and Avram, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Malek of Boro Park. Of course there were many Boro Parkers amongst the guests, including my husband and myself and also Rabbi & Mrs. Joseph Kaminitzky.

It would be my extreme pleasure to have any Boro Parkers who visit Netanya Israel, to visit the hospital, and I would personally give them

"the Tour".

I would like to keep the contact alive with Boro Park, and Boro Parkers, where we lived for 30 enjoyable years, and had "Edith's" hosiery on 13th Ave.

In November I am planning the 3rd Boro Park re-union at the Galci Sanz Hotel in Netanya Israel.

I will send you a report after the affair.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to you and your entire family.

Yours sincerely,
Edith Lieberman
Laniado Hospital

MRS. SCIGLIANO AND DOCTORS' HOSPITAL

The following letter from Mrs. D.

Scigliano provides additional information about Doctors' Hospital on 15 Ave. & 45 St. We thank her for her interesting contribution to the discussion. Readers will recall the previous articles and discussions dealing with this controversy.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I remember Doctor's Hospital. My daughter, Mary Jane was born there on July 22, 1951.

I remember the bright wall papered room I shared with 3 other new mothers. It was a private hospital.

At the time I was living in Flatbush and my doctor Vincent P. Di Mauro was attached to that hospital. His of-

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

five was corner of 56 St. and New Utrecht Ave. over a drug store which is now Millers Restaurant. (He died on December 30, 1963.) (Ed. -5602-N.U. Ave.)

When I moved to Boro Park my husband's parent's house still had a coal stove in the kitchen. Rent was \$28. a month with hot water.

I remember the milkman delivering milk, the fishman on Fridays, also Loresen and Dugan. Cake and bread deliveries to the flour and vegetable wagons.

My husband was born on 59 St. and will be 75 years old next year. He has many memories of P.S. 105, then called chicken coop, and all the laundries in the neighborhood. His father had a banana wagon and a barn on 60 St. He is still a member of TROGA Social Club on 13 Ave.

I have many memories of dirt roads, trip to Steeplechase, the ice man 2 cents ice and 5 cents ice cream cone.

Our children of today don't have the good times that we had years ago. Sorry I have no pictures.

Yours truly,
Mrs. D. Scigliano

The next article dealing with the history of transportation in Boro Park, specifically the Church Ave. Trolley, was submitted by Mr. Steven R. Berger. Readers may recall the previous fact filled articles submitted by Mr. Berger dealing with the history of transportation in Boro Park. We thank him for his well researched and interesting contribution to the history of Boro Park.

THE CHURCH AVENUE TROLLEY

By Steven R. Berger

It is hard to believe that this past October was the 30th anniversary of the demise of the Church Avenue trolley. This line, one of the busiest in Brooklyn, served Boro Parkers from 1895 to 1956. It is fitting that at this time we should review the history of this important line with a special emphasis on the portion that runs through Boro Park.

The Church Avenue line started its life on July 28, 1895. This line was never a humorous line and was first named the 39TH STREET LINE or the 39TH STREET-SHEEPSHEAD BAY LINE. The line followed a different path from the bus route in existence today. It ran from the 39th Street Ferry, along a private-right-of-way (today a pipe yard), 39th Street, 13th Avenue, 37th Street, Church Lane (now Church Avenue), Rogers Avenue, Avenue F (Farquhar Rd), Ocean Avenue to Sheepshead Bay at Emmons Avenue. The 39th Street line first used the tunnel under Ocean Parkway on September 21st, 1895.

On June 1, 1896, the 39th Street Line became a summer season line only. On that same date, a new route also used the tracks on 39th Street. This line, originally called the CROSTOWN LINE (1896-1899), followed the present day bus route. The Crostown Line started at the 39th Street Ferry at 38 Street and 2nd Avenue and ran via 2nd Avenue, 39th Street, 13th Avenue, 37 Street, Church Avenue, East Broadway (the eastern portion of Church Avenue?), East 98 Street and a private-right-of-way to Rockaway and Hegeman Avenues.

In 1899, the name of the line was officially changed to CHURCH AVENUE. During the summers of 1899 to 1905, the line was extended to the Coney Island shore. In September 1908, the 39TH STREET-SHEEPSHEAD BAY line which ran only during the summer months was terminated.

Some Boro Parkers might remember the trolley tunnel at Ocean Parkway and Church Avenue. This tunnel was first placed into service on September 21, 1895 as a one track tunnel. It was widened from a single track to double track width in 1912 and officially opened as a two way tunnel on May 20th, 1913.

In 1938, a loop at Hegeman and Chester Street was placed into service. On February 11, 1951, the line was entirely equipped with modern streamlined streetcars (PCC cars). Six years later, on October 21, 1956, the line was terminated (along with the McDonald Avenue line and the 16th Avenue trolley bus). The Church Avenue line was the last City owned streetcar line to operate in New York City.

The Church Avenue line used several route numbers during its life. In 1907, its route number was 11. In 1930, its line number was 8 and in 1949, its route number was 35—the same number used by the Church Avenue bus today.

An early depot for the Church Avenue trolley was located at 37th Street and Church Avenue. This depot housed not only the Church Avenue line, but also the Sea Gate (1897-1898), Marcy Avenue (1895-1898 and 86th Street lines). Around 15 years ago, an ancient red brick lumber yard building existed at 37 Street and Church Avenue (eastern side of Church Avenue). This red brick building may have been part of 37th Street yard. Today, one may see part of a truck diagonally crossing 37th Street near the foot of Church Avenue, leading to a wall of a warehouse. This truck leads to the former site of the 37th Street yard which is now occupied by the block long one story modern warehouse. Before the warehouse was built (either in the late 60's or early 70's), the site was occupied by a block long series of automobile garages. While the garage site was being bulldozed for the new warehouse, I remember railroad rails sticking out of the debris. These rails may have been buried for years under the automobile garages and may have been part of the 37th Street depot.

The 86th Street, Sea Gate and Marcy Avenue lines operated very far away from Boro Park. Why would these lines use a depot at the beginning of 13th Avenue in Boro Park? The answer is that these lines (along with the Church Avenue) were either owned or leased for a period of time by the Nassau Electric Railroad (1895-1929). Therefore, the Nassau Electric Railroad operated the 37th Street depot at least between 1895 and 1899 and that yard was probably important for their trolley operations.

Travelers on the Church Avenue trolley passed such Boro Park landmarks as the Live Chicken Market at 39th Street and 13th Avenue, the 13th Avenue Retail Market and the famous fruit stand directly across from the chicken market. We could imagine what a summer traveler on the 39th

STREET-SHEEPSHEAD BAY trolley, saw in 1905 as his or her trolley turned left off 13th Avenue from 39th Street on his or her way in Sheepshead Bay. They probably saw a young, green and rural Boro Park.

Today, the Church Avenue trolley is gone for thirty years. It served the people of Boro Park well throughout the years; making it possible to make connections with ferries to Manhattan and streetcars to every part of Brooklyn. The only reminder of streetcar operation in Boro Park are

the curved shadow of trucks under layers of asphalt at the historic intersection of 13th Avenue and 39th Street.

Reader, please send in information about your own memories in Boro Park. Photos, documents and other literature pertaining to the community are especially welcome.

Join the Boro Park Historical Society and help us collect, research, preserve and publicize the history of Boro Park. Membership of \$5 may be mailed to B.P.S. 4810-13 Ave. 11219 Brooklyn, New York 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following two letters by Dario S. Marotta, contain valuable information about Boro Park history. We thank Mr. Marotta for his interesting and important contributions.

LETTER 1

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DOCTORS HOSPITAL

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Your "I Remember Boro Park" column has evoked a great deal of interest lately, especially as it pertains to a letter from a Mrs. Debbie Caine, wanting information on Brooklyn Doctors Hospital. I would like to add the following general information on the subject:

Brooklyn Doctors Hospital, opened in 1925 in a brick building located at 4421 15th Avenue, under the name of the Boro Park Maternity Hospital. At that time, specialized maternity hospitals were very common in Brooklyn, (and may be the reason for Mrs. Caine's misconception of it as a

hospital for unwed mothers). The telephone number of the hospital at that time was (ULster 4-1600).

In 1942, as specialized maternity hospitals were going out of fashion, an additional building was constructed, adjoining it on the north, and its name was changed to Brooklyn Doctors Hospital, (presumably a general hospital).

A private home, across 15th Avenue, at 4420 15th Avenue was taken over as a Nurses Home. The telephone number was GEdney 8-9555. Later the private home next door was also acquired. Both have now been demolished.

The hospital closed its doors in 1962. Again, because small private hospitals were going out of fashion, and could not compete with the large voluntary (non-profit) hospitals. The building is now Beth Jacob (High School) Seminary.

I hope that this information will be of some value to Mrs. Debbie Caine as well as to the readers of your column, whose own memories of Boro Park will be

refreshed and stimulated.

Very truly yours,
DARIO S. MAROTTA

LETTER 2

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Several letters in the "I Remember Boro Park" column referred to the names of telephone exchanges that have served the Boro Park area in years past. Here is some additional information on early telephone service that may be of interest to present day Boro Parkers.

The earliest telephone, perhaps the first in the area, was that of the Blythebourne Improvement Company, located at New Utrecht

Avenue near 56th Street. The year was 1892 and the telephone number was: Blythebourne 213 (via South). The telephone company servicing the area was the New

York and New Jersey Telephone Company. The area was known as Blythebourne, Long Island, New York, since it still was part of the Town of New Utrecht. The name Boro Park, was unknown at that time.

By 1894, the Town of New Utrecht had been annexed to Brooklyn. The Frederick F. Stevens drug store, located on 56th Street and New Utrecht Avenue had a pay telephone whose number was Blythebourne 359b. The local doctor also had a telephone. By 1898-Brooklyn had become a part of the City of New York and the area was serviced by telephone

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

exchanges with colorful geographical names such as: Boro Park, Bath Beach, Bay Ridge and Sunset.

Telephone connections were accomplished by operators at each exchange. In the simplest example, when you picked up your phone, a light would light up on the exchange board. You told the operator the number you were trying to reach and she in turn would connect you with the number or the requested exchange.

In the 1920's, in preparation for automatic dialing, the names of the local exchanges were listed with three capital letters instead of two. Thus, the 7-digit telephone came into use, composed of three letters and four numbers.

DECEMBER 5, 1986

Although letters appear on the phone dials, even to the present, the equipment only recognizes numbers. As the system expanded and the need for additional numbers became urgent, the colorful geographical names of telephone exchanges gradually gave way to an all number system. But, for a long time BORO - PARK, BLYthebourne, SUNset, BEAch View, BERKshire, WINDsor and AMBassador were the colorful names of the telephone exchanges that serviced our area.

Very truly yours,
DARIO S. MAROTTA

LETTER 3

BORO PARKER IN ISRAEL

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I appreciate your lengthy letter to me, and the information on Boro Park Historical Society. On November 13th, we are having our get-together, and this time, I will try and tape the program, and send a cassette to you.

I certainly will stay in touch with you from now on.

With sincerest best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Edith Lieberman
Laniado Hospital

OLDEST LIVING BORO PARKER

In the past we asked for information from our readers about living Boro Parkers who were over 90 years of age. We were trying to determine who were the oldest living Boro Parkers and do something to recognize or honor them in some way. We received very few responses.

Perhaps if we repeat this request now we will be able to obtain more information and rejuvenate this project.

The following letter was received from Mrs. Esther Kane, an active and charming senior citizen herself. Esther Kane has made interesting and valuable contributions to this column and to the B.P. Historical Society in the past and we are grateful to her.

• DECEMBER 5, 1986 •

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I enjoy reading the Boro Park Community News and look forward to every issue. Your readers sure can recall many interesting things and it brings back so many memories. As we get older these memories play a very important part in our lives. Continue your good work.

I visited Max Roth recently and he was happy to see me. Now that he is approaching his 100th birthday, may he live in good health. I asked him for a few highlights. This was his response. "Now that I am going on to my 100 year birthday, I am looking forward to good health and happiness from my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. My great grandson recently received his Masters Degree in Business Administration and will be married in May. My great grand daughter manages a chain of stores in ladies wear all over the country."

Max was honored recently as the oldest living Mason in New York State by the Radiant Loyalty Masonic Lodge. When asked, "What do you owe your longevity to?" he answered with a smile, "Good bourbon."

Warmest regards,
Eather Kane

We have written about Max Roth in the past but contacted him again upon receiving the above letter. He said he has been a member of the Radiant Loyalty Masonic Lodge in Manhattan for 75 years. Max still lives at 4800-14 Ave., where he has lived for the last 50 years. He moved into the house while it was new, before it was completely finished. He hopes to celebrate his 100th birthday in September, 1987. We wish him well.

From all the information at hand it appears that Max Roth is now the oldest living Boro Parker. We invite our readers to offer suggestions as to how the Boro Park Historical Society and the Boro Park Community News may show proper recognition to this man.

POST SCRIPT ON CONG. BNEI YEHUDA

In October we printed an article about the history of Cong. Bnei Yehuda which was written by B.M. Selevan who has done extensive research on the history of B.P. Mr. Selevan has submitted the following additional comments for which we thank him.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

I am sending some additional information about Cong. Bnei Yehuda.

Another Chazan (cantor) not mentioned was Mr. J. Neches, who I believe came from Israel (Jerusalem), and was with the Congregation in the 1940's and 1950's.

Also, it was recently stated that the first time Rabbi E.Z. Kirzner, Rabbi Emeritus, came and spoke to the Congregation in 1951, Parshas Bamidbar was the reading of the week. The Haftorah (secondary reading) was 'Venikbitzu Bnei Yehuda', appropriately similar to the name of the Congregation.

Also, Mr. Morris Leibowitz, former first trustee and a senior member of the Congregation, told me that when Rabbi E.Z. Kirzner was installed as Rabbi, he remembers that the Ponovizher Rav, Rabbi Kahaneman, came and attended. At that time he was known widely just having come not long before from helping refugees and displaced persons in Europe.

Also, I was called by a Mrs. Friedman, of 48th Street, who was very happy to see in the article the name of her father, Rabbi Gootblat, of blessed memory, and wondered how I got the name and information. She told me that her father was at that time, 1924, Rabbi of the Hooper Street Shul (synagogue) in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. He was also a Rabbi in East New York, Brooklyn, and was Rabbi at the Brooklyn Hebrew Home for the Aged (BHHA), in that area (which later became the Metropolitan Jewish Geriatric Center of Borough Park). He passed away in 1940, and was ultimately buried in Israel, near the late chief Rabbi Kook, of blessed memory.

Perhaps in the future, more will be written, but that's it at the moment.

Yours truly,
B.M. Selevan

CANTOR MOSES PREIS

One of the cantors mentioned by Mr. Selevan, who officiated in Cong. Bnei Yehuda, was Cantor Moses (Moshe) Preis. Interestingly enough, this past summer when we traveled to Van Couver, B.C. to see Expo, we met Cantor Preis there. He is the cantor in Cong. Schara Tzedek in Vancouver.

During a brief interview he informed us that he was cantor in Cong. Bnei Yehuda during the years 1951-53, and has been cantor in Van Couver ever since. He came originally from Manchester, England when he received a contract from Bnei Yehuda. He

arrived during the mourning period of the late Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, the first Rabbi of that synagogue. Cantor Preis was followed by Cantor Hecht, who is retired and still residing on 45th Street in Boro Park. Mr. Preis said that he followed Cantor Trainer in the Bnei Yehuda shule. Cantor Trainer's son, Harry, is the well known photographer in Boro Park. While in Boro Park Cantor Preis resided at 1615 54th Street.

Cantor Preis mentioned that Cong. Bnei Yehuda was the first synagogue he was in where they read the weekly Haftora from a Klaf (parchment scroll). It was read weekly by Mr. Rubin.

Rabbi Ervin Preis, son of the cantor, is currently a Rabbi in a congregation in Baltimore. We met him in Van Couver at the same time. He informed us that he arrived in Boro Park from England in December, 1951 while his father arrived a little earlier, in September, 1951.

It seems that one can find former Boro Parkers all over the world. If you happen to meet any in your travels perhaps you can interview them and submit the information to this column. Better still why not submit information, photos and documents about you photos and documents about your own history in Boro Park.

All information can be sent to the Boro Park Historical Society 4810-13th Ave. Brooklyn, N.Y. Join the B.P.H.S., annual dues only \$5.00, and help us in this fascinating project.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust NOMINEE FOR OLDEST RESIDENT

The following letter by Lucille Posner is in response to our request for information about Boro Parkers who are over 90 for our oldest residents of Boro Park Honor Roll. The writer nominates Regina Spiegel for this category and we thank Ms. Posner for her valuable contribution.

To the Editor:

For oldest resident of Boro Park, I would like to submit the name of Regina Spiegel, who became 98 on November 13, 1986. Fifteen of her neighbors threw her a surprise party — with cake, greeting cards, presents, and a large Happy Birthday sign.

Mrs. Spiegel was born in Wadowice, Poland, a small town on the Poland/Czechoslovakia border. She married a man whose last name was Bakun. During World War II, Mrs. Bakun, her husband, her daughter, her daughter's husband, and her daughter's child were taken to Theresienstadt Concentration

Camp in Czechoslovakia, a way station on the road to Auschwitz. Mrs. Bakun's husband, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild were subsequently transported to Auschwitz, where they were murdered. By a stroke of fate, Mrs. Bakun was not taken to Auschwitz and lived to come to the United States in 1946. Her two sons had come to the United States in 1939, thus escaping being murdered by the Germans. One son subsequently moved to Jerusalem and the other son, Isaac Bacon, lives in Brooklyn.

Mrs. Spiegel has 15 great-grandchildren, both in the United States and in Israel. Her second marriage was to a Mr. Spiegel, after she came to the U.S.; he died 14 years ago.

Mrs. Spiegel has all her faculties but does tire easily. She speaks English, Yiddish and Polish and regularly reads the *Algemeiner Journal* (a Yiddish newspaper) and the *New York Post* and discusses the political scene in Israel and the U.S. with insight and intelligence. She lives with a devoted companion, Branislava Lenart. Mrs. Spiegel enjoys TV and is particularly fond of

programs devoted to ballet.

Thank you, Mrs. Spiegel, for being with us!

Submitted by Lucille Posner
RESPONSE TO

BNEI YEHUDA ARTICLE

The following letter is from Miriam Dickman who was the first to inform us that the congregation Sons of Judah or Bnei Yehuda was named after grandmother. We thank her for that and the following contribution of valuable information.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Many thanks for sending the article which I found to be of tremendous interest since it touched on many people and events with which I am familiar and others which are new to me. It sure adds to my knowledge of

family and Boro Park history.

I am wondering if you have uncovered anything on the history of Yeshiva Toras Emes, since my father was very active there in the early days and I remember many of the hard-

ships which those pioneers endured.

Also to set the record straight - the Hollanders were in the bridal veil manufacturing business not the steel junk business as stated in the article. The relatives of Solomon Hollander who helped him in organizing the shule were his sons Irwin and Samuel and sons-in-law Charles Koch and David B. Cohen (my father). Best regards.

Sincerely,
Miriam Dickman

THE FRANK YALE MURDER

The following letter was submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevon one of the main researchers of Boro Park history, for the Boro Park Historical Society. He discusses some of his research

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

discoveries on the opening of the 66th Precinct. We thank Mr. Selevon for his valuable research and contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

In "I Remember Boro Park" of April, 1986 a discussion with Mr. Vincent Mauro was printed, which contained interesting and important information upon which I would like to comment. By the way, I remember Mr. Mauro because he worked at Yeshiva Toras Emes Kamenitz.

Mr. Mauro mentioned the story of the end of the life of the famous or infamous Frankie Yale in July 1928. I did some research on this matter and have the following to report. Firstly recording to the old Brooklyn Eagle the correct spelling was Frank Yale, although pronounced as Yale. The story seems to have been a major story at the time. The actual crime was a front page headline story in the Brooklyn Eagle and the story of the investigation of the crime, etc., was front page news for quite a few days and was in the news even longer.

Frank Yale was, according to the Brooklyn Eagle, "Brooklyn's most notorious gang leader, strikebreaker and underworld character." He was killed on Sunday, July 1, 1928, at about 4 p.m. in the area of 923 44th Street, while driving a car, by shots from another car with Illinois license plates. After being shot he lost control of his car and it crashed into the brick porch of the house of Mr. Solomon Kaufman at 923 44th Street.

He had originally started his "career" in the Brooklyn area. Later he got friendly with Al Capone and went to Chicago where he learned some "tricks of the business" and got involved with gang activity there. Then, he came back to Brooklyn where he met his end.

He was officially an undertaker and had interests in a few Brooklyn restaurants. Actually, though, he was involved in bootlegging (in the prohibition era), strikebreaking and various such things. He had been suspected and caught, etc., in various crimes but managed to "get off the hook" many times in various ways. In other words he was a "typical" gangster.

It was believed that he may have been killed because of a feud which had developed between him and "Scarface" Al Capone, though it was not certain that this was the case because he had many enemies. I don't know what the ultimate conclusion was in respect to solving the crime, as the crime was not immediately solved.

Also interesting was the fact that two people came forward after the crime, both claiming to be Mrs. Uale.

Mr. Mauro also mentioned that Mr. Uale was called a "Robin Hood." This is an interesting comment, which has also been made in reference to other criminals. In the newspaper story in the Brooklyn Eagle on the incident this aspect was touched upon. It was reported that "Down near 1406 66th St. where he lived, he was called 'a good man.' He gave \$6,000 to St. Rosalie's R.C. Church" and "broke ground for its new parochial school in May. He gave coal and wood to the poor in winter. He gave outings to childrens. He was considered to be 'a good man.'" Also Mrs. Uale was quoted in part as saying "He was always pay-

ing rent for somebody or doing things like that. He ran a boxing carnival for a church and paid \$1,500 out of his own pocket so it would be a success," for example.

However, the story is not over yet. As a finale to the story the Brooklyn Eagle on July 5, 1928, page 1, reported "GANGLAND PAYS TRIBUTE TO UALE IN HUGE FUNERAL." It stated that "One hundred and four coaches filled with friends and relatives and 38 other coaches open to the air and loaded down with flowers followed the casket through the streets of Brooklyn..."

"From 9:30 this morning until shortly after 1 o'clock, Brooklyn's supposed underworld-in fact Manhattan's, Philadelphia's, Boston's and even Chicago's - paid tribute to the heavy set gang leader who was so well known. There were hundreds of policemen about their tribute..."

The above is a summary of a great deal of news coverage in the Brooklyn Eagle at the time of the event(s). I hope that I have shed some light upon this part of Boro Park history.

Another thing mentioned by Mr. Mauro was the inauguration of the 66th Pol. station house in 1931 at 1430 49 St. I located a small newspaper item in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle of Sunday, May 17, 1931, (p. 6A) which reported as follows - The report was entitled "Police Station In Boro Park Opened Monday" and subtitled "Mulrooney to Attend Ceremony - Matthew Davey, to Command Precinct." It stated that "Police Commissioner Mulrooney will officiate at the opening of the new Borough Park precinct at 1430 49th St. Monday at 4 p.m."

"The precinct, which takes in a part of Parkville, 4th Ave., Bath Beach and Fort Hamilton stations will be commanded by Matthew Davey, who comes from an upper Manhattan station. Sergeant John Osnato, now of Bath Beach, will be in charge of

"The new station was established because of the section, being on the tail end of four precincts, was hard to patrol."

"The station house is located in a private dwelling, for which the city will pay \$1,500 a year on a two year lease. The city has the right to renew the lease upon its completion."

This gives us some interesting and important information about police affairs in early Borough Park to add to previous information such as the recently printed story about a police hut in the report on the Borgenicht family. It seems that this was an issue for quite some time, of the area asking for better police coverage, until the neighborhood obtained a police station of its own. I have found newspaper accounts discussing this problem at various times in early

Borough Park.

Yours truly,
H.M. Selevan

Send in your own memories and information about Boro Park. You are invited to help in this project by joining the Boro Park Historical Society. Annual membership \$5, retired \$3, business organizations \$10. Boro Park is you..

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK-HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

SAD NOTE

Dear Dr. Kipust,

Mrs. Pauline Mack, who sent in her reminiscences of Boro Park some months ago, died the night of Dec. 30, 1986.

Sincerely,

Lucille Posner

The New York Times carried three death notices on Jan. 1, 1987 placed by different chapters of Hadassah, since she was a member of the prominent Borgenicht family of early Boro Park history, the following excerpts of the death notices will provide additional information and may elicit some additional information from readers.

"Mack - Pauline Borgenicht. Widow of Irving. Beloved mother of David and George. Cherished mother-in-law of Olga. Adored grandmother of Julia and Larry Levine; Joshua, Susan, Aaron. Erro and the late Aaron Jacob Mack. Also survived by sisters Fannie Greenfield, Beatrice

Feuer, Estelle Zeckhauser and Deborah Flynn and brother Jack. Burial will be January 1st in Hunter, N.Y. A lifelong member of Hadassah, she devoted her life to the welfare of the Jewish people...past president of the New York Chapter, member of the National Board and Honorary Council...her commitment to the Jewish people and the Jewish nation, her loving wisdom and generous spirit inspired all who knew and worked beside her."

PLEASANT NOTE

We received an excited telephone call from Leila Wrubel requesting to know the address or phone of Miriam Dickman. Mrs. Dickman had written to this column about her family involvement in the establishment of Congregation Sons of Judah (Bnei Yehuda) and the interesting fact that the Congregation was named after her grandmother Judith Hollander. Mrs. Wrubel, who is now 81 years old, excitedly related the fact that Miriam Dickman was her cousin

whom she hadn't seen since childhood in Boro Park. Their mothers were sisters. We were happy to have been instrumental in this reunion.

Leila Wrubel informed us that she first moved to B.P. in 1917 when she was 12 years old. Her grandfather, Solomon Hollander, purchased the house at 1651-51 St. where the family lived. Her father Charles Koch made a poor living and she had to quit Bay Ridge High School at an early age to go to work. She worked for her grandfather and uncles in the bridal veil manufacturing business.

She remembers Boro Park in the early years as having many

farms and one family houses. The area beyond 17 Ave. was all woods and undeveloped lands.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT RESPONDS

Mr. Dominic Suplina, Treasurer of the Boro Park Historical Society, noticed a news item in which the President of the University of Minnesota, Dr. Kenneth H. Keller, had indicated that he grew up in Boro Park. Mr. Suplina therefore wrote to Dr. Keller inquiring about his Boro Park roots. The following is the beautiful response he received. We thank Mr. Suplina and Dr. Keller for this interesting and valuable contribution to the history of Boro Park.

Dear Mr. Suplina:

Thank you for your letter of November 23, 1986. My

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK
 memories of growing up in Brooklyn and in Boro Park are warm and still clear. I am happy to provide you with a little more information about it.

I was born on October 19, 1934 in Boro Park - indeed I believe at Israel Zion Hospital, the dedication of which is pictured on the newsletter you sent to me. I lived in Boro Park all through my youth; first in an apartment building at 654 Dahill Road, then in a three family home at 1771 - 46th Street, and finally in a two family home my father bought at 5906 - 15th Avenue. Just last spring, about a dozen of us who had grown up together in the neighborhood around 46th Street had a wonderful reunion in Garden City that brought us back from all over the country.

I attended elementary school at PS 192, junior high school at Montauk; and high school at Stuyvesant. Those were the 32 1/2 days when the Culver line still ran that took us to Bay 8 at Coney Island every day of the summer. We spent our Saturdays at the Culver Theatre or the Walker Theatre and most afternoons playing punch ball on 46th Street at 17th Avenue. I can still remember most of the storekeepers along 18th Avenue although big shopping days took us to 13th Avenue and, frequently, to Róthstein's.

My parents, Benjamin and Pearl Keller, lived in Brooklyn until 1961 when they moved out to Suffolk County where they still live. My brother, Donald, who is four years younger than I am, went to all the same schools and now lives in Wayland, Massachusetts, where he heads a small manufacturing firm.

I left New York in 1957, after graduating from Columbia University, and wound up in 1964 in Minnesota, where I have lived ever since. The enclosed magazine provides you with a good deal more information on what happened between 1957

and now, undoubtedly much more than you need or want to know. However, it does complete the story.

Good luck in your efforts. The history of a neighborhood is worth preserving. It provides us all with a sense of continuity.

Sincerely yours,
 Kenneth H. Keller
 President - University of Minnesota

OLYMPIA BORO PARK ATHLETIC CLUB

The following information was submitted by Mr. Dominic Suplina. We thank him for this important contribution as well.

In 1925 a group of teenagers 15 to 16 years old formed a baseball team. Most of the individuals involved lived on 49th and 50th St. between 11th Ave. and New Utrecht Ave. and on 11th Ave. between 49th and 50th St.

The original members were Matty Lundberg, Harold Christie, Herman Erlanger, Mike Acerne, Larry Lundberg, Bill Natalie, Vincent Fischelli, Andy Belucci, Joe Matera and a few others whose names cannot be recalled.

This team with some changes took the name of "OLYMPIA" and in 1934 were incorporated as the "OLYMPIA B.P.A.C." (Olympia Boro Park Athletic Club)

The team eventually played in the "INTER-COMMUNITY LEAGUE," playing most of its games at Parade Grounds (Park Circle) and in 1929 won the Class B championship and in 1930 took second place in its division.

The members of the 1929 winning team were Andy Belucci, Bill Natalie, Lou Sndallah, Larry Lundberg, Fred DeVito, Vinny Fischelli, Matty Lundberg, Dominic Suplina, Joe Adonizzio, Herman Erlanger, Harold Christie, Joe Matera, Fred Liaanti, Mike Acerne.

In 1930 the OLYMPIAS were invited to play a game, against the OLYMPICS of Flatbush, at the Yankee Stadium. This took place in the morning, prior to a Yankee afternoon game. The OLYMPIAS of Boro Park won the game 9-5. It was the thrill of a life time.

The team with numerous changes played well into the thirties.

In 1934 (approximately) the Olympia Club was formed into a Social Club and had its club rooms above a store at 4910 New Utrecht Ave.

We had many socials and "Barn Dances" and ran Annual Dances, held at Menorah Temple (14th Ave.), Bossert Hotel and the St. George Hotel.

In the late thirties, due to marriages and members moving away, the Club was disbanded.

At present, to the best of my knowledge, there are only two members still living in Boro Park.

We welcome our readers comments and memories about Boro Park. Help us research, preserve and publicize the history of Boro Park. Join the B.P. Historical Society by sending membership dues \$5 per year (\$3 for retired) to the B.P.H.S., 4810-13 Ave. 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

I REMEMBER BORO PARK HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

SENATOR MARTIN

SOLOMON

The following letter was received

from Senator Martin

Solomon, who is the state

Senator of the 19th District

covering Boro Park. Senator

Solomon has demonstrated a

strong and sincere interest in the

work of the Boro Park Historical

Society (BPHS). He has discussed

the history with us and contributed

material several times

for the B.P.H.S. archives. More

than that, the Senator has

helped the B.P.H.S. obtain a

modest State Grant which will

pay for some of the expenses in-

volved in two important projects

undertaken by the B.P.H.S. On

behalf of the members of the

B.P.H.S. and the readers of this

column we extend our sincere

thanks to Senator Solomon for

his active interest in the history

of our community and for his

help in obtaining the much need-

ed funds to help carry on the

work of the B.P.H.S.

OCEAN PARKWAY

JEWISH CENTER

Dear Dr. Kipust:

Enclosed please find a copy of

a brief history of the Ocean

Parkway Jewish Center. As you

might be aware, the center is

celebrating its 80th Anniversary

this year.

Of particular interest as per

the attached is the picture of the

building on the upper left-hand

corner. I am sure that you

recognize this building as having

once housed the Yavneh

Yeshiva. I bet you never knew

that it was originally built for

the Ocean Parkway Jewish

Center.

I do hope you will find the at-

tached of interest to yourself, the

Boro Park Historical Society and

your readers.

Please extend to your readers

my best regards. If you or they

require more information you

can call Mr. Sherman Alpert at

435-0700.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN M. SOLOMON

Senator 19th District

The following are excerpts of
the article submitted by Senator
Solomon.

THE OCEAN PARKWAY JEWISH CENTER

During June, 1907, Harry Falk soon after he settled in Kensington, went out "to seek his brethren" in that section. As he approached the spot now known as 18th Avenue and Gravesend Avenue, he noticed a venerable Jew seated in front of a small shanty that was used as a real estate office. After the usual greetings and a short discussion about the values of real estate, Falk began a conversation on the subject of Judaism in

Kensington.

"Do you have Minyan here at all?" asked Mr. Falk. "No," replied Mr. Rafflowich, who was one of the first Jews to settle in this part of Brooklyn. "We can

never get enough Jews in this section for a Minyan." Mr. Falk then decided to get in touch with the few scattered Jews of Kensington and establish the first congregation. With the assistance of Mr. Rafflowich and Morris Haber, he assembled twelve Jews out of a total of thirty-three, who resided in the vicinity, in the home of Morris Haber at 669 East Second Street. Among the others present were D. Bass and S. Greenberg. Mr. Haber presided at the meeting. An election of officers was later held and Mr. Rafflowich was elected to the presidency of Con-

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 2

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

gregation of Kensington, as the new organization was called.

Public services were held at 205 Ditmas Avenue. The high holy day services were celebrated in September, 1907, at Bleichner's Hall on the corner of Cortelyou Road and East Fourth Street. The total worshippers at the time numbered forty.

Rapid progress was made, and, early in 1911, the building of a synagogue at the corner of Ditmas Avenue and Dahill Road was begun. The cornerstone was laid in July of that year, and services for the high holidays were held in the building in September, 1911. The president at the time was S.S. Raymond, and Harry Falk was the chairman of the Building Committee.

The first spiritual leader of the congregation was Rabbi Jacob Katz who ministered to the wants of the little community from 1914 to 1920. He was succeeded by Rabbi Hyman Landau from 1920-1922. In September, 1922, Rabbi Jacob Bosniak assumed his duties.

The congregation experienced rapid growth both materially and spiritually. In October, 1922, the congregation acquired title to the adjoining building which was used as a schoolhouse and by the various clubs of the congregation. In October, 1924, the congregation acquired the property at 646 East Second Street through amalgamation with the West Flatbush Center. That building was altered to provide a meeting place for the steadily growing auxiliary organizations.

With the three buildings at the disposal of the members, the religious, social and educational needs of the community could not be satisfied. The synagogue proper was too small to accommodate all those coming to worship. Because of lack of room, scores of children could not be admitted to the religious, daily and Sunday schools, or, on the Sabbath, to worship with the Children's Congregation. The congregation decided, therefore, to build the Ocean Parkway Jewish Center, a modern building with all facilities to satisfy the needs of the community. In September, 1924, title was acquired to seven lots at 546-548 Ocean Parkway. Ground was broken on October, 1924. The cornerstone was laid on April 19, 1925, by Mr. and Mrs. David Green, and, with the help of God, the splendid edifice was dedicated in the fall of 1926. The cost of construction was about \$450,000. The official name of the Center is The Ocean Parkway Jewish Center of the First Congregation of Kensington, Tiphereth Israel.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the First Congregation of Kensington was organized in 1907 by a handful of public spirited women with the determination to do all in their power to assist in the upbuilding of the Jewish community of Kensington. Their first gathering, which was attended by fourteen ladies, took

place at 205 Ditmas Avenue, and was presided over by Mr. Harry Falk, who also assisted in the organization of the Auxiliary. The first president of the Ladies' Auxiliary was Mrs. L. Raff, and the first vice-president was the late Mrs. L. Kantor, who died in August, 1924. Among the others present at the organization meeting were Mrs. Dicker, Mrs. Falk, Mrs. Haber, Mrs. Steinberg, Mrs. Struhs and Mrs. J. Wechsler.

The first achievement of the Ladies' Auxiliary was the presentation of a Sefer Torah to the congregation. By 1911, the membership of the Sisterhood had increased to 125. When the Center was ready for occupancy, a Sunday School was started with an initial attendance of fifty children under the supervision of the Auxiliary. The daughters of the members acted as volunteer teachers and fine progress was made. The ladies were in charge of the school until the arrival of Rabbi Jacob Katz in 1914.

When the edifice was completed, the Ladies' Auxiliary undertook to pay the cost of the furniture and pews amounting to many hundreds of dollars. When this was accomplished, they decided to shoulder the burden of removing the indebtedness on the building, amounting to \$7500. The burning of the mortgage took place on December 6, 1924, at a brilliant banquet and ball in Hotel Commodore, N.Y.

During the early years of struggle in the maintenance of the Congregation, the Ladies' Auxiliary undertook the noble work of charity.

From the above material and other articles we have gathered and published we can readily see how the history of Boro Park is intertwined with the history of the surrounding area. It is for that reason that we are interested in and collect such information.

Although the article refers to the building formerly Yavneh Yeshiva - currently Yeshiva Zichron Melech on Dahill Rd. corner Ditmas Ave. as situated in Kensington, we maintain that it is situated in Boro Park. This again points to the unofficial and unclear border demarcation surrounding Boro Park on all sides.

ADELMAN'S DELICATESSEN

We thank Mrs. Thelma Fox for the following interesting letter contributing information about the store we had discussed last year.

Dear Mr. Kipust,

"Adelman's Delicatessen" store on 13th Avenue between 45th and 46th Streets was called

"Rheingold Delicatessen" up to about 1940. It was owned by a family whose last name was Landesman. Al Landesman, their son, lived at 1455-49th St. until 1974. His daughter "Sandy" is married to a lawyer, who is well known in Boro Park, although he now lives on Ocean Parkway. I spoke to "Sandy" about a month ago and she told me she would contact her father, who now resides in Florida, and would try to get further information from him about the "Deli." So far, I have not as yet heard from her. If someone knows her husband, Ed Rappoport, perhaps he can help obtain further information.

Thelma Fox

VIDEO FILMING HELP NEEDED

The Boro Park Historical Society is planning to do several videos on the Boro Park Community. The videos will include various Boro Park buildings and scenes and will be narrated. The finished product is planned for use and presentation at B.P.H.S. meetings and will be available for school or community use.

We are in need of help from people experienced in this area in planning, arranging and filming the material. We do not at present have any video equipment but will be able to cover general expenses involved.

If anyone is willing to help, in this project please call the Boro Park Community News at 854-1033 or even, at 436-7729. Join the Boro Park Historical Society!

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

THIRD BORO PARK WEEKEND IN ISRAEL

On November 13 - Thursday through November 15 - Saturday Eve 1986, the third Boro Park weekend was held in Netanya at the Galei Sanz Hotel, in Israel. These weekends were organized for former Boro Parkers living in Israel.

Sixty-one former Boro Parkers who made Aliyah to Israel attended: Joe & Ruth Aron, Mr. & Mrs. David Alexander, Miriam Berman, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Zion Bluming, Mr. & Mrs. Moshe Elefant, Nan & Joe Parkash (Deutsch), Dr. Sidney & Gaby Finkelstein, Rabbi Moshe & Bea Furst, Rabbi Bernard & Shirley Goldenberg, Dr. Fred & Deena Goodman, Rabbi & Mrs. Bezalel Harbater, Dr. & Mrs. Aaron Krumbein, Shoshana & Chanina Landsberg (Iseroff), Harry Levenglick, Abraham & Edith Lieberman, Max & Gladys Levine, Rifka & Al Malek, Pearl Paneth, Philip & Judy Pearlman, Hesby & Esther Resnick, Ernst & Elsa Ruvel, Moshe & Grace Sanders, Goldie & Lou Schimmelman, Harriet Silber, Mimi Mishkoff, Jack & Muriel Steinmetz, David & Grace Tauber, Herman & Bertha Tenenbaum, Irene & Zoli Weiss, Mrs. Karnofsky (Parnes), (Rabbi & Mrs. Tabory cancelled due to illness.) (See photos.)

The Thursday night Program was started with Greetings of Welcome by the chairlady, Edith Lieberman. This was followed by a group of panelists including Rifka Malek, Dr. Finkelstein, Miriam Berman, Dr. Fred Goodman, and David Alexander as participants, and Rachel Katzman, Editor of the Counterpoint, as Moderator. The discussion, questions and answers dealt with such issues as Zionism, Education, and living in harmony with Jews of all levels of Religiosity. Special emphasis was given to these topics by Dr. A. Krumbein and Rabbi Moshe Furst.

Following Friday night's supper, a most inspiring talk was given by Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg on Parshat Lech Lecho. David Alexander was Master of Ceremonies, and led in entertaining the guests with his story-telling. Chazan Joe Parkash, sang a few renditions with deep feeling and volume which left everyone with a spiritual uplift.

Continued from Page 2

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Following lunch, Rabbi Bezalel Harbater spoke on three issues among world Jewry and Israel.

Rabbi Dr. Aaron Krumbein gave the Shiur on Shabbat afternoon. There were many informal discussions about Boro Park memories and earlier immigrants reminisced with more recent arrivals to compare stories and find out about recent changes in Boro Park. The participants enjoyed meeting old friends and acquaintances in the relaxed atmosphere of the hotel and weekend, and agreed to continue these get togethers.

We thank Edith Lieberman, who organized these Boro Park Weekends, for submitting the interesting photos and report to the Boro Park Historical Society.



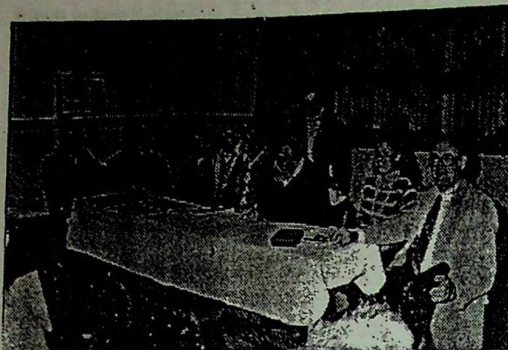
Boro Park Weekend

Nov. 1986 in Netanya, Israel

First Row - L to R - Pearl Paneth, Dr. Aron Krumbein, Mrs. Krumbein, Mrs. Furst, Rabbi Moshe Furst, Dr. Sidney Finkelstein, Gabby Finkelstein.

Second Row - Mr. & Mrs. Tenenbaum, Grace and Dave Tauber, Cantor & Mrs. Joe Parkash, Harriet Silber, Mrs. Alexander, Mimi Mishkoff, Dave Alexander.

Front facing Audience - Edith Lieberman, chairman.



L to R - Moshe Sanders, Rifka Malek, Mirian Berman, Dr. Sidney Finkelstein, David Alexander, Dr. Fred Goodman, Rachel Katzman (editor Counterpoint), Abraham Lieberman, Standing - Edith Leiberman, chairman.

EARLY HADASSAH MEMBERS

We thank Lucille Posner for the following interesting contribution to the history of our community.

Dear Phil:

Attached is a copy of a page from the 1925 issue of New Palestine, which was published in honor of the opening of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

This page lists officers of various Brooklyn chapters of Hadassah, including Boro Park. Perhaps it might be of use to Boro Park Historical Society.

With best regards,

Sincerely,
Lucille Posner

P.S. Moshe Pearlman, the first American killed in the 1948 Israel War of Independence, lived on my block, 51 St. between 14 & 15 Ave. His mother was a member of Boro Park Hadassah chapter.

1925

The Brooklyn Chapter of Hadassah — a unit in the Organization founded and inspired by Miss Henrietta Szold, joins with its fellow Zionists in expressing its happiness on the occasion of the opening of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus. We call upon our sisters in Israel to dedicate themselves to the labor which we have made our own, and which has added lustre to the name and glory of our people.

Borough Park

Mrs. J. Lurie	Chairman
Mrs. S. Radden	First Vice-President
Mrs. S.M. Schwartzchild	Second Vice-President
Miss R. Natelson	Third Vice-President
Mrs. J. Goldstein	Financial Secretary
Mrs. D. Korenman	Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. M. Weiner	Recording Secretary
Mrs. R. Kalmanowitz	Treasurer

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

The third annual membership meeting of the Boro Park Historical Society (BPHS) is scheduled to take place on Monday evening, May 18, 1987 at 7:30 p.m.

It will take place in the Greater New York Savings Bank, Community Meeting Room downstairs.

This year the B.P.H.S. Executive Board has planned to show a video film of Boro Park which it is now developing. It will also feature displays of old photos and Boro Park memorabilia.

Plan to attend this popular and interesting meeting at which time you will have an opportunity to exchange information and memories about the Boro Park you remember. Admission is free and there is no solicitation of funds.

DEATH OF STEWART McDUGALL

(The following interesting article was researched and submitted by B.M. Selevan who is well known to our readers for his important previous research and contributions.)

Stewart McDougall, an important figure in Borough Park history, died in June 1918.

The Brooklyn Eagle of June 15, 1918, reported on the topic as follows. The report was entitled "STEWART McDUGALL, LAND OWNER, DIES," subtitled "Bought Large Sections of Borough Park When It Was Only Grazing Land," further entitled "FORESAW CITY DEVELOPMENT," subtitled "Sold His Holdings When Subway Was Built, and Reaped a Large Fortune." It was reported that "Stewart McDougall, a pioneer land owner and real estate dealer of the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, died yesterday afternoon at his residence, 1114 Forty-fourth street, in his 82nd year, of Bright's disease. A Masonic funeral service will be held in the rooms of Sandalphon Lodge No. 836, F. and A.M., Fort Hamilton Parkway and Forty-sixth street, of which he had long been an honorary member, on Sunday afternoon, at 4 o'clock. The interment will be in Argyle, N.Y., on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. McDougall was also a member of Excelsior Lodge No. 195, F. and A.M. He is survived by a nephew, Winfield S McDougall, who came to Brooklyn forty-eight years ago to take charge of his uncle's then extensive grazing land; three nieces, Anne E., Helen G. and Marion West. Stewart McDougall was the only survivor of a family of two sisters and five brothers. He leaves behind, however, many other nieces and nephews, scattered all over the country, from Maine to California.

"Mr. McDougall was one of the original landowners of Borough Park section, and real estate transactions of that district during the last fifteen years prove conclusively that he was also one of the most far-seeing of land proprietors. At one time he held the greatest extent of pasture and farm land of any private owner in what is now the Borough of Brooklyn. He purchased his first farm in 1864, when South Brooklyn was a vast expanse of unoccupied, untilled soil. Even at that early date, although never a professional dealer in real estate, he appreciated the future needs of the country's great and ever growing metropolis. So great was his faith in his judgement and the power of Brooklyn as a growing, expanding community of homes that he patiently held on to most of the land he acquired in his earlier years, through a transitional period of twenty-five years, again and again refusing to heed the exhortations of his friends and advisers and asserting that the time was not yet ripe for the profitable disposal of his property.

Waited for the Subway

"The city authorities and transportation companies finally began to fall in line with him. They saw that in South Brooklyn lay the most attractive and practical sites for the homes of its teeming, bustling millions. The city boundary advanced. Homes sprang up all around him and with the rapid erection of dwellings came the urgent necessity for an adequate means of transportation. The Fourth Avenue subway became a necessity, then a reality. Stewart McDougall saw all this with a keen and intuitive foresight that aroused the wonder and amazement of his fellow citizens. It was just such a contingency as developed to which he had looked forward patiently and doggedly. He knew that soon his section would be vitally necessary to the welfare of Brooklyn, and he was willing to wait.

"As the Fourth Avenue subway was being laid out, in 1914, the engineers thought so much of Stewart McDougall that they placed the Fort Hamilton Parkway station directly in the center of his large tracts of land, and whatever of his fortune was in doubt from that moment became assured. The psychological moment had arrived and Mr. McDougall lost no time in placing the major portion of his land on the market. His lots, which included the choicest locations of the section, were eagerly brought up. He reaped an immense profit and was hence forth the acknowledged real estate seer of Borough Park.

"Stewart McDougall was born in Argyle, Washington County, N.Y. In his early youth he came to New York, settling in Manhattan. He engaged in the game and poultry business, being for many years located in Washington Market. Finding his

(Continued on Page 11)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK- (Continued from Page 8)

profits from the business piling up, he looked about for a suitable means of investment and the verdant fields of South Brooklyn caught his keen eye. His first purchase lay from what is now Forty-Second Street to Forty-Fourth, between First and Second Avenues. He gradually extended his purchases in all directions until he finally possessed a very extensive tract. He lived on Forty-Third Street, between Second and Third Avenues, until 1916, when he moved to Borough Park. He retired from the game and poultry business in 1900 and devoted his time to the consideration and disposal of his land."

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

Historical Highlight

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
BORO PARK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY GENERAL
MEETING

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DR. VICTOR GENCO

The following letter was obtained and submitted by Lucille Posner. We thank her for this interesting and important contribution. Our thanks also to Dr. Genco for this valuable contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

My parents moved to Boro Park from the East New York area in 1932, after my father's produce business failed during the depression. The family's first home was 1269-63rd Street. After we moved to Boro Park, my father worked as a tailor in the garment industry. My parents had three children, all boys.

In 1936 my father bought a house for \$5,000 at 6406 14th Avenue. (My dental office is still at that address.) My grandparents, uncles and aunts also lived in this house. We were one of the first Italian American families to live in Boro Park.

I attended P.S. 103, Montauk Junior High School, and

New Utrecht High School. I was a Bby Scout and we met in the basement of the Lutheran Church at 53rd Street and 14th Avenue (no longer in existence). My whole family attended St. Francis de Chantel Church, 67th Street and 13th Avenue.

There was an ice cream parlor, owned by a German-American named Mr. Schmeelitz, on 13th Avenue between 62nd and 63rd Street, who made his own ice cream. I was in love with his daughter, a beautiful blonde little girl. However, I was too shy to even speak to her! This drugstore later became

Meyers Ice Cream Parlor. Boro Park was originally settled by German-American families.

Life was different in those

days. I remember the pretzel man who came to the neighborhood once a day. Pretzels cost 1 cent in those days — and we couldn't afford them! I remember the man who bought used clothing, who walked through Boro Park calling, "I cash clothes." The milk man made deliveries by horse and buggy, selling either Bordens or Sheffield's milk. I remember his horse got stuck in the snow one winter. The snows were much deeper years ago. There were high drifts and the snow did not thaw until March.

(Continued on Page 5)

Continued from Page 2

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

There was an organ grinder with a monkey who played in front of various houses, at whom people threw pennies. In those days, before refrigerators, the ice man made regular deliveries. People who wanted ice delivered hung a sign in the window.

My brothers Albert and Ernest and I played ball in the schoolyard of P.S. 103, 14th Avenue and 53rd Street. I was friendly with Buddy Hackett, the comedian, who lived at 14th Avenue and 53rd Street, in an apartment house. The family dog nipped him one day and tore his pants and we had to pay him damages.

Dane Clark's parents (he was a popular movie star in the 1940's and 1950's) owned a candy store on New Utrecht Avenue between 54th and 55th Street. My brothers were friendly with Harvey Lipton, who is now an industrial tycoon. I played ball with Artie Modell, who at one time owned the Cleveland Browns. Sandy Koufax also lived in Boro Park — my brothers were friendly with him. I also played ball with Harvey Lembeck, the comedian.

We boys used to work for Rabbi Schrader, who ran a catering hall at his home at 5415 14th Avenue, a private house. Rabbi Schrader and his family lived on the top floor of this private house and the catering hall was on the ground floor. Rabbi Schrader's sons, Arnold, Harold, and Walter, became rabbis and cantors. We boys worked as waiters and busboys.

One of my brothers and myself became dentists and one is a chiropractor. Both my parents were uneducated, but my mother was an especially forceful influence in our lives and placed great value on education. Another important factor was that, living in a mostly Jewish neighborhood, the Jewish value on education rubbed off on us boys. A different environment could just as easily have stimulated us to become bums.

I have many pleasant memories of Boro Park. There was a good community feeling — everyone knew everyone else. There were genuinely warm feelings between Italian and Jewish families. More than half of our close friends were Jewish.

Dr. Victor Genco
5406-14 Ave.

THE STORY CONTINUES

Dear Phil:

I'm sure that at the time you undertook to write the history of Boro Park, you couldn't possibly envisage that you would be instrumental in uniting two long lost cousins. However, that is exactly what has occurred!

Through your column, on the history of the Bnai

Yehudah Shul, my cousin Lila Wrubel was fortunate in locating and contacting me. Since then we have had a grand reunion. Picture two senior citizens, first cousins, meeting each other for the first time is about sixty years. It was quite thrilling.

How did it happen that we had lost contact? Unfortunately, my mother passed away when I was five years old and I was then raised by my father's family. Since we lived in the Bronx during those years, I rarely saw any of my Boro Park relatives. Surprisingly enough, we did recognize each other (since we both resemble our mothers who were sisters).

Through Lila, I am now looking forward to meeting two other cousins, formerly of Boro Park and now residing in Queens. Perhaps, through them, we may be able to locate other cousins. I am also looking forward to meeting Lila's niece, who is my second cousin.

May I take this opportunity, once again, to thank you for your help in making all this possible keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Miriam Dickman

We thank Mrs. Dickman for her letter. We are certainly pleased to know that this column has been helpful in uniting people.

The next article about famous crimes in Boro Park was submitted by Mr. B.M. Selevan. Mr. Selevan is currently one of the main researchers of the Boro Park history for the Boro Park Historical Society. He has submitted several articles in the past. We thank him for his important contribution.

FAMOUS CRIMES IN BORO PARK

Dear Dr. Kipust:

As a companion story to the Frank Uale murder recently discussed, I would like to discuss two other similar crimes that happened in the Borough Park area in past years. I am referring to the famous (infamous) West End double murder holdup of November 1923 and the notorious killing of Arnold Schuster (who had 'found' the notorious bank robber Willie Sutton) of March 1952. Both events have been mentioned in your column in the past, but they have not been written about in great detail.

Without burdening the readers with excessive detail, I will try to tell both stories in a concise manner. Anyone interested in more detail may consult old newspapers.

The first crime took place in the morning of November 14, 1923. The Brooklyn Eagle of that day told the news on its front page in the following headlines: "TWO BANK MESSENGERS KILLED BY BANDITS: WHO ESCAPE WITH \$43,600; HOLDUP ON 'L' STATION," subtitled

"Murderers Traced to Spot Where They Abandoned Car—W.H. McLoughlin, Assistant Teller, and W.S. Barlow, ex-Police Lieutenant, Victims of Gunmen, Who Lay in Wait for Them Near Boro Park Bank." It was reported that "Two bank messengers of the Bath Beach Branch of the West End Bank, at 20th Ave. and 88th St., carrying \$48,807.87 in a bag, were shot dead in the high light of day on the stairway of the West End subway station at 55th St. and New Utrecht Ave. this morning.

THE MONEY WAS STOLEN

It was the most sensational and startling of the present series of holdups.....

"The dead men are William S. Barlow, an ex-police lieutenant, of 2139 96th St., and William H. McLoughlin, of 142 E. 25th St. They had just alighted from a West End train on their way to the New Utrecht branch of the Irving National Bank at 53rd St. and New Utrecht Ave. when the attack was made.....

BANDITS IN WAITING

The bandits were waiting on the platform. They had gone to the scene in a high powered car which was in waiting below, and after the shooting they escaped at great speed.

No more public place could have been selected by the thieves of their attack. The hour was 9:35 A.M. when the trains bound cityward are filled with passengers. Passengers were alighting at the farther end of the platform from the very train that the Bank messengers had detrained from when the attack was made.....

"The bandits, of whom there were three, were on the platform above as the train drew in and Barlow and McLoughlin got off."

"As Barlow and McLoughlin got off the train the three bandits, all of whom wore caps and who appeared to be latins, trailed in the rear: an eye witness...got off the train and descended the stairs behind the messengers. Just as he reached the mezzanine gallery, the robbers pushed him violently aside and he heard a gruff voice cry out sharply:

"There they are: Go get them!"

Emptied Guns Into Victims.

One of the two messengers was on the point of opening the door...when the bandits shot so fast that the reports of their gunfire blended into a sound like the tattle of machine gunfire. They emptied their weapons. Several bullets took effect in each victim.

The firing was at close range in the narrow confines of the iron-railed gallery and the two

messengers had not a chance," though "Both bank messengers were armed...."

"The bandits seized the bags, clattered down the stairway to the street and leaped into a high powered car maroon colored and of the sedan type. "The car was later found.

One can go into much more detail on this case but I think this is enough for now.

The second crime took place on March 8, 1952.

The Brooklyn Eagle of the following day had a large headline on page on which "screamed" "SUTTON 'FINGER MAN' SLAIN NEAR HOME IN BOROUGH PARK." It was reported (By KEN JOHNSTON) that "Arnold Schuster, the Brooklynite who put the finger on bank robber Willie Sutton, was shot to death at 9 o'clock last night."

Schuster had been instrumental in the capture of bank robber Willie Sutton a few weeks before.

He was killed in the area of 913-45th Street, Brooklyn, seemingly as revenge for what he had done. He was a "sharp eyed, 24-year-old Borough Park clothing salesman," who lived at 941-45 St.

The story of the crime, investigation, etc., was prominent in the news for quite a while. Large amounts of money, totalling at least \$38,000 were offered for the capture of the killer. Anyone interested can find a wealth of information on this story in contemporary news media. It even has been discussed previously in "I Remember R.P.", though not too much documented information, was given. Since this case is better known, I believe, than the 1923 case, being more recent, I will not go into too much detail here.

Crime is history too. Thankfully, we do not have too much of this type of history of major crimes, in the community today.

Yours' truly,
B.M. Selevan

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The first article was submitted by Lucille Posner, who has recently become very active in the Boro Park Historical Society (B.P.H.S.). Ms. Posner interviewed the party to obtain the following information. We thank Ms. Posner for her interesting contribution and help.

SONIA SHOOK

My husband, Louis Shook, our 2 1/2 year old son, my mother and myself moved to Boro Park from Boston in 1926. (My husband, my mother, and I had immigrated to the United States from Pinsk, Russia a few years earlier.) My mother lived with us for many years.

Our first home was at 13th Avenue and 36th Street, in a private house. At that time, 13th Avenue was lined with cottages and trees. There were very few stores. Pushcarts selling produce were lined up in front of cottages, from 39th Street to 42 Street & 13th Avenue. Gradually, the trees and cottages were torn

down and replaced with stores.

Boro Park was then served by trolley cars, as there were no buses yet. I remember the movie house on 15th Avenue & 40th Street, the Windsor Theatre.

I shopped at a small grocery store at 36th Street and 13th Avenue. At that time, dairy food was not pre-packaged and butter was measured out from a tub. There was a live chicken market on 39th Street and 13th Avenue, where I bought a chicken for Shabbos. I plucked it myself, because a plucked chicken was 10 cents extra and I couldn't afford it!

We patronized a durggist on 13th Avenue and 42nd Street, a redhead named Mr. Snow. These two stores were some of the first stores in Boro Park, to the best of my recollection.

The first synagogue we attended was a small one at 36th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. Most of the synagogues were Orthodox; however, most of the residents of Boro Park at that time were not Orthodox. We next

attended a synagogue at 45th Street and 14th Avenue.

Our next address was at 52nd Street and 16th Avenue. We lived at many addresses in Boro Park — I can't remember them all.

Both my children attended P.S. 103. My son took Hebrew lessons after public school hours at Mackzikel Talmud Torah on 43rd Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. This building is still in existence today. My daughter attended a Yiddish school after public school hours, located someplace on 14th Avenue.

My husband and I had many struggles to make a living for our family. I worked at home as a

dressmaker and my husband worked as a salesman of raw materials to bakeries — flour, sugar, oil, etc. We saved our money and eventually managed to send three of my sister's children (they were living in

Russia) the fare to Israel. They still live there today. The rest of my own and my husband's family stayed in Russia and were killed by the Germans during the Holocaust.

My husband, may he rest in peace, was a wonderful salesman. He finally landed a job as a salesman to a wholesaler of raw materials to bakeries and gradually worked his way up to a partnership. Our days of financial troubles were over. Life was much easier for us.

I have been a member of Boro Park Hadassah for 35 years (I have made many trips to Israel).

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

and a member of Temple Emanuel for 35 years. I still sit in the same seat today, as I have done for the past 35 years.

I have lived in Boro Park most of my life, and love it. The people are concerned with one another and there is a good community feeling.

SONIA SHOOK

The next article was submitted by B.M. Selavan who is now the main researcher for the B.P.H.S. We thank him for his important contribution to this project.

Y.M.H.A. OF

BOROUGH PARK DEDICATION

In June 1918, the Y.M.H.A. of Borough Park was officially dedicated. The Brooklyn Eagle of June 10, 1918, reported on the event as follows: "The report was entitled 'DEDICATE Y.M.H.A. IN BOROUGH PARK,' subtitled '\$75,000 Structure Formally Opened at Dinner — Prominent Citizens There.' further entitled '\$5,250 RAISED AT FEAST,' subtitled '\$3,000 More Needed for Equipment. Speeches Tell of Jewish Activity.' It was reported that a dinner attended by more than two hundred of Borough Park's prominent citizens, at which speeches were made by Judge Marcus B. Campbell, Magistrate Alexander H. Geismar and Aaron W. Levy, marked the dedication of Brooklyn's new \$75,000 Y.M.H.A. at Borough Park. An appeal by Justice Geismar for contributions to lessen the outstanding debt for equipment of \$7,800 was answered by those present to the amount of \$5,250, in contributions from \$50 to \$1,000.

"The building is of white stone, four stories high, and has a gymnasium sixty feet square, in which the dinner was held. On the front wall of the room back of the guests' table, hung an evidence of the patriotism of the members of the Borough Park Y.M.H.A., a sixty-five star service flag.

"On the floor with the gymnasium are the offices and the coat rooms. Upstairs are eight clubrooms and a number of classrooms, which may be thrown open so that they connect and form large rooms. Physical culture classes have been formed, including one for business men and one for women.

"William Sugarman, president of the new branch and toastmaster at the dinner, proposed a toast to the President, our Allies and our soldiers and sailors, which was given with a will and topped off with a cheer. Mr. Sugarman told of the work which he hoped to accomplish with 'Brooklyn's fine Y.M.H.A.' and said that all those who came under the supervision of the new branch would be taught that we are all created equal.

"In congratulating residents of Borough Park upon their splendid accomplishment in bringing about the erection of a beautiful building and such a source of good in a community, Judge Marcus B. Campbell said, in part:

"Unless we find places for our boys to spend their time, they will find them themselves and we can do that better than they can. A center such as this for the dissemination of learning and clean sport goes a long way

toward turning out healthy and patriotic Americans. This is a great accomplishment for the residents of Borough Park and it will be a great opportunity for them to bring their children into closer association for the purpose of learning how to become better Americans and better Jews."

"William Aaron Levy, president of the Hebrew Alliance of Brownsville, announced that the Borough Park Y.M.H.A. has been accepted a member of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities.

Magistrate Geismar told of the aid which would be extended to the new branch, and made an appeal to the diners to wipe out the outstanding debt on the equipment in the building, right then and there. The first con-

tribution was one of \$500 by Ernest Bernstein, which was quickly followed by an offer of \$250 if nine others would do likewise. After these contributions, \$5,250 was raised in contributions of \$50 up, a contribution being obtained from every table. A committee composed of Mr. Geismar, Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Sugarman volunteered to canvass the district in the near future and obtain the remaining \$3,000."

MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECEIVES RAVING REVIEWS

The General Membership Meeting of the B.P.H.S. which took place on May 18, 1987 was given very high ratings by the community members who attended. The experimental video presentation of historical scenes in Boro Park, narrated by members

of the Executive Committee of the B.P.H.S., was very well received by the overflowing crowd. The main criticism of the 30 minute long video presentation was that it wasn't long enough. It did not include enough important Boro Park scenes and institutions. The audience was informed that this was only the first installment of a planned series of video presentations of Boro Park history. Future videos would include many other important historical buildings, businesses and sites.

The program also included greetings from Ms. Ellen Snyder, one of the directors of the Brooklyn Historical Society (formerly the Long Island Historical Society). She was noticeably impressed with the meeting and expressed her astonishment at how much the B.P.H.S. had accomplished in terms of researching, preparing and presenting local history. She

indicated that she would want to continue an ongoing exchange of information with the B.P.H.S. and would want to pay a special visit to review our archives.

"Famous Boro Parkers" was the topic masterfully discussed by Joseph Fuchs, one of the active officers of the B.P.H.S. His very interesting, eloquent, stimulating and witty presentation kept the audience spellbound and encouraged audience participation.

Many of the people in the audience impressed with the work of the B.P.H.S. and wishing to see the work continue and expand, willingly paid their dues which were unsolicited.

Readers are invited to join and help in the work of the B.P.H.S. Annual dues are only \$5, (\$3 for retired people). Dues can be mailed to the B.P.H.S., 4810 13th Aven., Bklyn., N.Y. 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Dr. Philip J. Kipust
More On The May Membership Meeting

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I want to thank you and your organization for inviting me to your meeting last night and for allowing me to say a few words. I enjoyed the evening thoroughly and was glad to have the opportunity to view the video and see the displays.

As I mentioned, we too are trying to document people and communities for our new gallery on the history of Brooklyn. Although we're trying to include as many different people as we possibly can, one area we're especially weak in is the representation of Orthodox and Hasidic Jews. We are trying to locate original photographs, printed material, memorabilia and artifacts that relate to the lives that people have made here in Brooklyn. I'm looking forward to looking through your archives this summer, but wonder if in the meantime you might spread

the word about our search, or advise us on how we might go about it in the meantime? Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated!

Once again, many thanks to you. I will look forward to talking with you again.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Marie Snyder
Director, Brooklyn History
Gallery Project

The Brooklyn Historical Society

We thank Ms. Snyder for attending and participating. She indicated at the time how impressed she was with the accomplishments of our Boro Park Historical Society.

If anyone would like to submit materials she requested or offer information or suggestions, please send them to B.P.H.S. and the materials will be forwarded.

Dear Dr. Kipust,

The 3rd general membership meeting of the B.P. Historical Society on May 18, 1987 at the Greater New York Savings Bank on 13 Ave. & 53 St. will long be

remembered by all the people who came out to see, hear and really enjoy the beautiful evening that was arranged. The many pictures, and documents displayed, the very special video about B.P. was thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed. Yes to recap some of the highlights Dr. Kipust, your warm welcome to everyone (a packed room), audience participation - old and new B.P. - famous B.P. people and the trivia quiz about B.P. A very special thank you to you and to everyone who helped put this event together to make this a very interesting B.P. meeting. I know the work and effort involved and I want you to know

it was most appreciated. Many people signed up for membership. Come on - B.P. it is your community take pride in its wonderful heritage join this dedicated group by becoming a member.

A special thank you to our energetic, always ready to help, Jacques Friedman, originator and chairman of the Board of B.P. Community Council.

May you all continue in good health and have success in all your endeavors.

With warmest regards,

Esther B. Kane

We thank Mrs. Esther Kane for her letter, for her wonderful words of encouragement and for her help in obtaining new members for the B.P.H.S.

Mr. Anthony Prince
Shoe Repair Shop

I interviewed Anthony Prince who is the owner of the Shoe Repair Shop at 5106 12th Ave.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

Mr. Prince was born in Calabria, Italy in 1907 and came to the United States in 1932, his father was already here at the time.

Mr. Prince came to Boro Park in 1928 and opened his first shop next the now extinct Boro Park Theatre on 51st Street and New Utrecht Avenue. He then moved to the Northwest corner of 51st Street and 12th Avenue where the laundromat is now located. In 1934 he moved his shop to 5106 12th Avenue where he is now located. 53 years in the same shop - it's amazing.

Mr. Prince returned to Italy in 1936 to get married. There were four children born to this union.

His son, John, works with him and remembers starting when about 10 years old. In those days the sole was cut out of a large piece of leather and it was John's job to soak these soles overnight in water in order to make the leather more flexible, therefore more workable. I was also informed that before machines the sewing was done by hand. Each shop had a can of wax which was heated by a gas flame. The thread was passed through the wax, enabling the cobbler to pass the thread a little easier through the leather. The wax also strengthened the thread.

At the present time the soles come pre-cut and with machinery the cobblers work is a little easier. I understand that the cost of soles and heels in 1928 was about \$3.50 and presently the cost is about \$17.00.

The son John was born at 5106 12th Avenue in 1939 and attended P.S. 160, Pershing Junior High and a Trade School where he learned Orthopedic work which he utilizes from time to time. John lives in Stony Point, N.Y. and has four children.

Mr. Prince indicated that he encouraged his son to stay in the business as he foresaw the day when there would be very few new people coming into the trade, thereby making these tradesmen more valuable.

I have been told that a video documentary was made in the shop about twelve years ago and that Mr. Prince also appeared on Channel 5 at the time of the Statue of Liberty celebration, when that Channel was showing "American Moments."

When Mr. Prince became an American Citizen in 1930 his sponsor was James Petrosino. He is a relative of the American Detective Petrosino who went to Italy in connection with the "Black Hands" an Italian Crime organization. Petrosino was shot and killed in Italy by the "Black Hands."

Mr. Prince is 80 years old but still puts a full day in the shop. The way he appears it looks like he will be repairing shoes for a while to come.

Dominick Suplina

We thank Mr. Dominic Suplina, officer of the B.P.H.S. for his interesting interview and article and for all his important work on behalf of the B.P.H.S.

MORE ON CONG. BNEI YEADA Dear Dr. Kipust,

An old time friend from Boro Park has given me a few issues of your fascinating paper and column depicting the Boro Park of years gone by. Perhaps I can add to the history. Born in 1918, I moved to Boro Park in the fall of 1925 in order to attend ETZ Chaim yeshivah. My family joined the Bnei Yehuda Schul since we lived at 1878 52 St.

Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan officiated at my bar mitzvah and also when I was married May 26, 1943 while serving in the U.S. Air Force.

By the way, I made copies of your Oct. 7, 1986 article about Rabbi Kaplan and mailed one to his granddaughter who in turn showed it to her mother and aunts (all daughters of Rabbi Kaplan).

I remember Ehazon Molovsky well in the late 1920's. I also remember the names of other cantors, who served the congregation until the Second World War namely:

- 1) Arele Diamond, who had his own choir.
- 2) Chazon Schraeder, who was also a mohel (performing circumcisions). However, he was not a rabbi.
- 3) Chazon Fisher.

In one of the issues Mr. Neches is mentioned as the "Cantor." Mr. Neches actually was the chazan Shynnen (2nd cantor). He also was the Baal Kohrey (he read the Torah on the Sabbath).

One of his sons, Bill, and I are good friends to this day.

If Boro Park sports of the 1930's and 40's are of interest to you, please let me know so that I will detail what sports were played in the Boro Park streets and some of the athletes who went further to make good in high school, college and the pros.

Enclosed is a check for my dues.

Sincerely,

Arthur Steinmetz

We thank Mr. Steinmetz for his very interesting contribution and for his dues payment. Every little bit helps in our work.

We certainly would be interested in receiving information about Boro Park sports, that's part of the history also.

HANNAH HARRIS

The following interview and article was arranged and submitted by Lucille Posner a member of the exec. committee of the B.P.H.S. We thank her for another interesting contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I moved to Boro Park when it really was a park!

Boro Park received its name from the fact that it looked like a park — there were many beautiful trees. There were no attached houses, each house was surrounded by a garden, whether large or small. There were no apartment houses then, but there were some four-story walk-ups. There were some unpaved and mud gutters, in addition to paved sidewalks.

This was in 1912. I was just a toddler when I, together with my

father, Chaim Harris, my mother, Frieda, and my younger sister, moved to Boro Park from Harlem. My parents had emigrated from Poland a few years before. (Eventually two other children were born, making a total of three girls and one boy.)

Our first rented apartment was around 42nd Street, which was then the Jewish section. There was no elevated subway. A railroad ran along the ground on the route of the present B train.

My estimate is that at that time the Jewish population of Boro Park was about 25 percent of the total. I remember many Italians, but am not sure of the nationality or religion of the others.

My parents were Orthodox and attended Temple Beth-El, then located at 42nd Street and 12th Avenue.

We attended P.S. 164. After school, we attended Machzke Talmud Torah, then located on 43rd Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. (The building is still there.) It was a co-ed Talmud Torah. We studied the Hebrew language and Jewish history. We also belonged to clubs sponsored by the Talmud Torah: music clubs, writing clubs, and Young Judaea. There was also a children's choir, which performed at services on Jewish holidays. Special services were held for children. The clubs were co-ed but seating at the services was separate for boys and girls.

Movies were 5 cents in those days. The Garden Movie Theater, located at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue (where the lumber yard is now) had a yard where open air movies were shown. This was an important feature in those days of no air conditioning. A movie theatre located on 43rd Street and 16th Avenue also had a yard where open air movies were shown. We children had a friend who lived next door to this theater — we leaned out of her window and saw movies free! It didn't matter if we weren't able to hear because movies were silent then anyway.

Dr. Margaretten, of the famous Horowitz-Margaretten family of prepared kosher foods, had his practice on 13th Avenue between 61st Street and 62nd Street. Dr. Schwartz, our family doctor, had his office on 46th Street and 13th Avenue. 16th Avenue was more desirable for offices at that time because a trolley car ran along its entire length. Although Dr. Schwartz would have preferred having his office on 16th

Avenue, the rents were higher there, so Dr. Schwartz settled for 13th Avenue. Dr. Schwartz was also a Hebrew poet and a book of his poetry was published. I am submitting a copy for the archives of the B.P.H.S.

Israel Zion Hospital was already in existence, but it was very small. There were no ambulances in Boro Park. One Shabbos afternoon, during a Chanukah party at the Menorah Temple, a man ate too many potato pancakes and took sick. A doctor borrowed a wheelbarrow and wheeled the man to his office.

I enjoyed watching the lamplighters lighting the gas lamps. Some lamplighters wore roller skates.

As there were very few stores in Boro Park in those days, housewives depended heavily on horses and wagons for produce, milk, and baked goods, such as Dugan's cakes.

Boro Park was largely farmland. It wasn't unusual to see chickens in peoples' yards. On 39th Street and 13th Avenue there was a farm where people bought eggs and milk.

I remember when there was a Christian country club on 13th Avenue. Together with its large garden, it extended from 60th Street to 61st Street. My father was one of a group of people who bought it and turned it into Etz Chaim Yeshiva. Many Jews moved to Boro Park so their children could attend Etz Chaim, whose Hebrew language and secular programs were equally excellent. Later, I myself taught kindergarten at Etz Chaim.

People didn't lock their doors in those days; people weren't concerned about thieves. Children felt free to walk into friends' houses if no one was at home and help themselves to a snack in the icebox. On hot nights doors were left ajar. In those days, before air conditioning, people slept on their porches and in their backyards.

When I was a child, the Boro Park Library was located on 56th Street between New Utrecht and 14th Avenues, directly across from the Infants Home, in one small room in a wooden storefront. (I heard the library was originally housed in a room at one of the Protestant churches.) The library had very few books — for a larger selection, we children used to go to the Kensington Library. To get there, we walked along Old New Utrecht Road. To the best of my recollection, Old Utrecht Road began where it does now, on 52nd Street between 16th and 17th

Avenues, and then ran at a slant through Boro Park. Old New Utrecht Road was then an unpaved dirt road. As many people had already built houses directly on Old Utrecht Road, there was the right of passage through private property, close to the sides of peoples' houses.

Old New Utrecht Road reached 16th Avenue at 44th Street. There are three frame houses still standing on 44th Street and 16th Avenue, which are built on a slant: 1603, 1605, and 1607 44th Street. In those days, these three houses all faced toward Old New Utrecht Road (which now ends at 48th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues). Old New Utrecht Road then continued at a slant until it reached 37th Street and 14th Avenue where, to the best of my recollection, it ended.

Incidentally, New Utrecht Avenue is the other avenue which runs at a slant through Boro Park.

The Boro Park Library soon moved into a larger storefront on 13th Avenue between 62nd and 63rd Streets, and consequently carried many more books. As many intellectual Jews and Italians were moving into Boro Park, the library received heavy use.

The Boro Park Library was a beautiful place, a friendly place, a good place for children to grow up in. There was never any strife between Jews and non-Jews. We children played together in the streets. There were friendly feelings between people of different religions.

Send us your memories of family and business histories in B.P. Join the Boro Park Historical Society. Membership dues of \$5 per year may be sent to 4810 13th Ave. Bklyn., N.Y. 11219

Dear Dr. Kipust,

It is with deep sorrow that I am writing this letter to you, to tell you that our very dear friend Bill Stern passed away in his sleep on July 8, 1987. He was really a rare gem of a person — a man who lived life and lived every minute of it.

The article which was written in your column about William Stern brought much pleasure to him. He really basked in the glory.

He was radiant in his personality, had a sense of humor and had deep concern for all the people who came to him for counseling. Nothing was too hard for him — he loved a challenge in his work — that was his trademark. At 87 years young, he went to his eternal rest.

I visited Max Roth on Aug. 1, 1987. He will be 100 years young on Sept. 26. His mind is very good and his sense of humor as keen as ever. "How does it feel to approach 100, Max?" I asked. He smiled and answered, "No different."

To you Dr. Kipust, a healthy and sweet New Year, with success in all your endeavors.

With warmest regards,
Esther Kane

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS
By Dr. Philip Kipust
BORO PARKERS AROUND THE WORLD

In past columns we have brought information about former Boro Parkers, my wife and I have met and interviewed during travels in Canada, Israel and in different parts of this country.

This past summer during our travels to Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark as well as Los Angeles we attempted to locate and interview past and present Boro Parkers. We succeeded in finding a few in Los Angeles, but in the Scandinavian countries we were not successful in locating residents who came from Boro Park. We did make several contacts, though to have news releases placed in local newspapers to help locate such residents. We were also successful in meeting several former Boro Parkers amongst the tourists in those countries.

During one interview of a tourist in a hotel lobby in

Sweden, she remarked, "I can't believe this, here I am standing in a hotel lobby in Sweden half way across the world from Flatbush being interviewed about my memories of Boro Park." These interviews have been great icebreakers, and interesting conversation pieces when socializing during trips or sitting at a table with strangers at weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, conventions and other social situations. Its been fun for both the interviewee and myself. Try it, you'll like it and send us the results.

We have been receiving many letters and articles about Boro Park. We ask our readers to be patient and understanding if they don't see their letter or article published. It may take several months to get to them. Also, some materials that we can't fit into the columns will be filed in our historical articles for future research and publication. We do thank all the contributors and urge our readers to continue sending these letters.

DEAR DR. KIPUST:

The Borough Park Public Library has been discussed several times over the past several years in your "I Remember Boro Park" column, but always in an incomplete and superficial manner. Here is a more complete history of the library.

The Borough Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library has its origin in: the Edgewood Reformed Chapel, a quaint little church at Couwenhoven Lane, near 64th St. and 14th Ave., which had been erected in 1868. Several friends secured use of the chapel as a library, and asked local residents to donate books to stock it.

In 1907, The Brooklyn Public Library took charge of the library, with local residents supplying rent and heat. This was considered a "station," with the library finally achieving "branch" status in 1910.

In 1915, the library moved to a frame building, located at 1325 66th Street, near New Utrecht Ave. Again, in 1926, the library moved to larger quarters at 5211 13th Avenue. Heavy use, made it necessary to enlarge the premises to 1,400 square feet in 1937.

Finally in 1953, ground was broken for the present library at 1271 43rd St. and opened on Nov. 28, 1955.

The two-story brick and limestone building was designed by architect, Vito P. Battista and cost \$620,000. \$40,000 for additional books was also spent. In 1957, the library had more than 63,000 books.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

The Borough Park Library was upgraded to "Regional" status in 1968. Circulation increased steadily and dramatically from 30,000 in 1910 to 382,000 in 1968. The library has always been a strong force in meeting the everchanging cultural needs of the dynamic Boro Park community.

Very truly yours,
Dario S. Marotta

We thank Mr. Marotta, a member of the B.P.H.S. Executive Committee for his interesting contribution.

DEAR DR. KIPUST:

The general membership meeting you chaired on May 18, 1987 was educational and enjoyable and, as the audience participation showed, was quite stimulating. This letter has the dual purpose of encouraging you to continue your fruitful and beneficial work of the Boro Park Historical Society and to request that you send me here in Israel the Society's written material including its newspaper in which you write a column. That will help me maintain a link with "the old country" and with my former community.

I moved into Boro Park in 1964, into the legendary community of my somewhat wealthy upper-middle class and not very religious relatives and left it in 1976 to go on Aliyah to Israel. By then, most of my relatives had moved to Long Island, the last Boro Park movie house had closed, of the three fur shops, only one remained.

In place of my relatives came hundreds and then thousands of deeply religious Chasidim who changed and invigorated the community. By their very numbers they brought a religious furor that pervaded not only their own families but the entire community.

With peaceful demonstrations and persuasive flyers, they urged, and finally convinced the store keepers on 13th Avenue to stay closed on Shabbos in order not to disturb the newly created, religious atmosphere of Boro Park.

Although there were a number of Shuls in Boro Park in which I felt quite comfortable, I became active in the Young Israel on 60th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. In 1965, as president of the Young Adults Group of the Young Israel, I helped revitalize that group by having on-going Shabbos afternoon meetings that were study socials, as well as monthly evening socials.

During that year, 1966, I spoke before the entire congregation about the activities of the Young Adults and described the group as "singles who want to be doubles." One result of becoming known was that the general membership that year elected me Vice-president of the Synagogues.

A year later, in 1966, when the paid executive director left for a year, I took on that position, and the following year, 1967, the general membership elected me

president of the synagogue. The next year I married and left Boro Park for a couple of years.

As president, I ran a very active and somewhat controversial administration, sending out monthly bulletins informing the membership not only of the educational and social functions of the Young Israel but also the decisions being made by the executive board that affected the members and their rights and urging everyone to actively participate.

The attendance at general membership meetings for years had barely reached the quorum of 20, but during that year, 1967, we had 100 to 150 members at each meeting. It was an exciting time.

The general membership of the Young Israel at that time was over 400 families and each Shabbos we had an attendance of over 600 people, which meant many standees. By the end of Shabbos morning services, both sides of the shul where the women sat, were lined with standing women, and the back of the synagogue was crowded with standing men.

By 1976, 12 years after I had

first come to Boro park and the year Israel became my home, the entire community was in flux with many new synagogues opening up, some small, often converted private apartments, and some quite large and becoming larger.

These new shules drew their membership not only from the newer arrivals to Boro park, but also from the older established shules. I vividly recall the concern expressed by the administrators of the older larger shules about their declining membership.

For April and May of this year, I was back visiting in Boro Park and saw the many changes since 1976 with hints of further changes to come some of the

larger chasidic shules have become gigantic. Some of the older established shules are gone, and some, such as the Young Israel, are talking of merging.

Many one and two family homes have been replaced by larger much more expensive homes. Apartment houses have been converted to condominiums. There's even a hotel. When I left, one of the outer boundaries of Boro Park was 56th Street. Today it is easily 60th Street, with indications of its going beyond in the near future.

Along with the many new people, many fast-food stores have moved in, as have additional

banks and Yeshivas. Perhaps another sign of the changing times is that the Young Israel no longer has a Young Adults group, but around the corner, on 50th and 14th, the YMHA has a religious Single-Parents Group that meets Wednesdays and draws people from as far away as Staten Island.

In Israel, especially in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, I have met a number of former Young Israel members, and during my New York visit I met other former members now living in Flatbush. Just as some of my not very-religious relatives moved when the Chasidim came, some of my religious non-Chasidic friends also moved.

But Boro Park has nothing to fear. It is alive and bubbling and with G-d's help will continue its growth from strength to strength.

From what I saw, the Boro Park Historical Society, activated only a few years ago, is doing an outstanding job of recording the past and present of the community, and I look forward to their first book.

Continued On Page 5

1 REMEMBER BORO PARK

At the May meeting, we saw a well-made video tape detailing Boro Park's past, some of the changes that have taken place in recent years, and places of current activity in the community.

The lively audience discussion after the video demonstrated that the people want more of what the Society's Committee is doing. A hearty mazal-tov to every member of the Boro Park Historical Society's Executive Committee and to all who lend a hand and give support. More power to you all, or as we say here in Israel, Kol Hakavod.

Sincerely yours,

Moshe Bomzer
(Formerly Murray Bomzer,
a former New York City

public-school teacher of English)
P.S. Enclosed is a check to cover costs of mailings in addition to the membership dues I paid at the meeting.

Our thanks to Mr. Bomzer for his interesting article, encouragement and general interest in the work of the B.P.H.S.

HENRIKSON FAMILY

The following article was submitted by Esther Henrikson, who was born in Boro Park. Thelma Fox, who is one of our contributors to the I Remember Boro Park column, and a member of the Boro park Historical Society Committee, at one time taught in the same school with Miss Henrikson - P.S. 176 at 12th Avenue and 68th Street. Mrs. Fox felt that Miss Henrikson knew a great deal about "old" Boro Park, that would jar the memories of our long time residents, and help the newer residents to get a glimpse of Boro Park as it used to be.

Our thanks to Thelma Fox and Esther Henrikson for this interesting contribution.

ARRIVED IN 1903.

The beginning of these memories are things that were told to me by my father, when I was a little girl.

My dad, Wilhelm Henrikson, came to Boro Park with my mother, a new bride in 1903. He, with another friend, built two attached two-family houses on 44th Street between 12th and 13th Avenues in 1904. These were the first two-family houses on the block and there was much opposition from those owning the large one family homes.

My sister, Elin Johnson and I,

still occupy one of the houses. The other was subsequently sold and is still occupied by descendants of the buyer.

My father told us how the Streets were unpaved; there were no sewers and on 13th Avenue roamed cabs.

As I remember our Street, it was lined on both sides with maple trees, which formed the most beautiful fresh green arch, in the spring, shade in the sum-

mer, red, yellow and gold in the fall, and a white fairyland in winter when covered with snow.

Our family grew and there were four children we all attended P.S. 131 up to the 6B. The two older ones then graduated from P.S. 160, and my younger sister and brother, graduated from Peshing Jr. High. Then we went on to high school and college.

The people of Boro Park at that time, although they were of many

ethnic back-grounds, believed in English first. When we were outside or in the shops, English was always spoken, even though it might have had an accent. That is one way Boro Park grew to be such a fine community.

I remember two of Boro park's finest families, that rented in our house before they bought their own homes. They were the Pankins and the Tartakoffs. I'm certain many old timers remember them.

I remember as a little girl, how my mother loved shopping at

Enker's, first when they had open shelves on the corner and then later when they became interior decorators. Of course, I was always embarrassed when my mother bargained with Mrs. Enker but I think both enjoyed it, because they became great friends.

I remember the store of Mr. & Mrs. Weiss on 13th Avenue. Now, Sidney Weiss, their son, has his fine store of men's wear and I wouldn't miss going in, to shop and say hello.

Continued On Page A D

Continuation of I Remember Boro Park

Do you remember Passon's Chicken Market on 41st Street and 9th Avenue? Mom was a very close friend of Mrs. Passon and her daughter, Mrs. Berelsen. Both lived on our Street, in one of the big houses. My brother, Bill, and Mrs. Berelsen's son, Irving, were great pals when they grew up. Irving, a Harvard graduate, is now practicing law and Bill a graduate engineer, went to live in Michigan, doing design work for a large seating company.

Do you remember when men with wagons or push carts, came at least twice a week along the streets, hawking their vegetables, fruit, cake, bread and sometimes fish?

Some of the early stores on 13th Ave. that I remember are a shoe store on the corner of 44th St. and 13th Ave. called the White House. There, we bought our shoes. There was a drug store called Mishkin. Herzog was a men's and boys' clothing store, where my mother bought my brothers their suits. There was a fish store with a live fish tank in the window, where you could choose your own fresh fish. I also remember how we bought milk from a dairy store, where it was ladled out of a great big can into your own container. Then, of course, there was the open air push cart market with fruits, vegetables and sundry articles, which may not have met the Board of Health standards today, but it certainly had its charm.

Many of the large one family houses have now been demolished and brick buildings have taken their place. The trees are gone, but the Park Department has been co-operating and planting new ones. We try to keep our homes and gardens in good condition. We are proud of Boro Park.

Esther Henrikson
Still a Boro Parker

DEAR DR. KIPUST:

Thanks for printing previous submissions of mine.

I am now sending to you a long piece of work on the history of Congregation Beth-El of Borough Park, the oldest Shul (synagogue) in Borough Park to my knowledge, which reaches the venerable age of 85 years (1Y"Y) this year, (ken yirbul). Please be so kind as to print it in your column as I think it will be quite interesting and educational.

The Congregation was organized on August 28, 1902, when Theodore Roosevelt was in the early part of his presidency of the USA. At first, services were held

in Forest Hall, Thirteenth avenue and Thirty-ninth street. In 1906 construction was started on a building for the congregation at Twelfth avenue and Forty-first street.

Following is SOME of the history of the Congregation. First the beginning of the Congregation, will be discussed and later there will be some information on Rabbis and Chazanim (Cantors) of the famous and prominent Congregation.

B.M. Selevan

Our thanks to Mr. B.M. Selevan a member of the Executive Committee of the B.P.H.S. for his serious and extensive research and valuable article. Due to the length of this important article we will print it in three installments.

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF BOROUGH PARK

We will discuss what seems to have been the first Jewish Congregation in the area and its history. Besides being important in and of itself, it also marked the beginning of a Jewish presence in the area, which has been quite substantial for many years.

The Brooklyn Eagle of June 3, 1906, page 11, under a title "HEBREW NOTES," reported that "Plans have been filed with the building department for a temple to be erected at the northwest corner of Twelfth avenue and Forty-first street by the Congregation Beth El of Borough Park. The building will be of Moorish Design, half brick-half frame and according to present arrangements is to be completed by the middle of August next, J.C. Walsh is the architect. Michael Furst will on Sunday, June 1 (this seems to be a mistake-B.M.S.) lay the cornerstone with appropriate ceremonies. The congregation, which was the first one in the section, was organized about four years ago by a few men and was chartered August 28, 1902. Its present membership numbers nearly one hundred.

"The building committee, of which Henry Lyons is the chairman, is working hard to bring the undertaking to a successful conclusion."

The American Hebrew of June 8, 1906, page 873, reported on the Congregations' planned new synagogue, and added that the synagogue "is to be completed in time for the fall holidays."

The cornerstone of the new temple was laid on June 10, 1905. The Brooklyn Eagle, in the following days' paper, page 10, reported on the event under a heading of "LAID A CORNERSTONE," subtitled "Con-

gregation Beth El Starts a Synagogue in the Borough Park Section," as follows: "Borough President Bird S. Coler was the principal speaker at the ceremonies attending the laying of the cornerstone of the Temple Beth El which is being erected at Twelfth avenue and Forty-first street, yesterday afternoon.

"The new temple is being erected by the Congregation Beth El, which comprises most of the Hebrews of the Martense and Borough Park sections.

Michael Furst laid the cornerstone with a silver trowel made especially for the occasion, while the borough president and a thousand Hebrews looked on.

Henry Lyons, who is financial secretary of the congregation, and chairman of the building committee, was master of ceremonies. After prayer by the Rev. H. Weasler, rabbi of Temple Beth El, Mr. Lyons introduced Borough President Coler, who said, among other things:

"It is always a pleasure to me to attend at the opening of any enterprise that will tend toward the elevating and uplifting of the citizens. There are more Jews in this great city of ours than in any other city of the earth, and as time goes on you are beginning to play an important part in the workings of this great nation. If we are to have good citizens, it must be through the religious organizations, and I hope that the Jews will be in the forefront of that work. It is your duty to do all you can to help raise this synagogue.

"Your people are in a position where they can do a great deal of good for this city and for the entire nation. By living exemplary lives, by pushing ever onward and making the most of your time and your talent, you can urge your Gentile brethren on to greater efforts and make them realize that they have reputations to maintain, and that if they would make a success of life they must do as you do, work while there is work to be done, and in the interim devise methods by which that work may be done quicker and better."

Mr. Coler was heartily applauded.

Michael Furst was then introduced. He was given a great ovation. He spoke of the onward march in the progress of the Jews in this country, saying in part:

"Fifty years ago there was but one Jewish congregation in the then City of Brooklyn. But since those early days there have come to us people who have so utilized their meager resources that the Jewish race to-day plays a very important part in the affairs of our city, state and national government.

"This event we celebrate today is of great import. It will mean much to the Jewish people of this Borough Park section, when the builders will have finished this synagogue, where we will worship God according to the most ancient customs. Our religion was old when various other creeds sprang into being. But while we are doing our duty in perpetuating our belief let us not forget that, aside from religion, we are citizens of the United States of America, our country, the greatest nation on earth." (Applause.)

With the silver trowel Mr. Furst then spread the mortar that held in place the cornerstone. Speeches were then made by M. Napelbaum, the president of the congregation, and Henry Lyons, the chairman of the building committee.

The congregation Beth El was organized in the early part of 1902, and chartered August 28 of that year. Since its inception ser-

vices have been held in Forst Hall, Thirteenth avenue and Thirtieth street."

The American Hebrew, in its issue of September 21 1906, page 395, reported in a 'Brooklyn News' column, that "The synagogue of Congregation Beth El, of Borough Park, at Twelfth ave. and Forty-first street was sufficiently advanced in construction to permit holding services on September 20, and the congregation, which has made such wonderful growth in a short time, has abandoned its little hall of worship. Rabbi Westler, who came here about eighteen months since, and the Ladies' Auxiliary, did good work in making possible this \$10,000 edifice. The congregation's officers, are: President, Moses Napelbaum; 1st Vice-President, A. Rappaport; 2nd Vice-president, H. Schafschick; Treasurer, Philip Gourian, Sr.; Secretary, W. Wasserstrom; Financial Secretary, Henry Lyons, and Trustee, S. Kabatzky."

JOIN THE B.P.H.S.

Your own personal histories and memories. Dues of \$5 articles, Photos and memorabilia may be sent to the Boro Park Historical Society 4810-13 Ave. Bklyn, NY 11219.

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Dr. Philip J. Kipust

The following interview and family history was submitted by Dominic Supina, officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank him and Arthur Spagna for this interesting and valuable contribution.

SPAGNA FAMILY

Boro Park has been home to me, since 1920-1921. My family consisting of my father, mother, 5 brothers and 2 sisters moved from the east side of Manhattan to 1126-51st Street Brooklyn, New York.

Fifty first Street between 11th and 12th Avenue as well as the surrounding blocks was inhabited by families of Irish and German backgrounds.

There were many open areas. Farm lands extending southerly to 60th Street and beyond towards Bensonhurst. My mother would often buy fresh vegetables from the farms in this area. One by one these farms were sold to builders who put up 2, 3 and 4 family homes that are

abundant in this area. The house we moved to, 1126-51st Street, was newly constructed and part of this farmland.

As a teenager, I would walk to 49th Street past Ft. Hamilton Parkway toward 9th Ave. where there was a lake on a hill overlooking the entire area. This lake was fed by an underground stream. Evidence of this spring are still visible as noted by the alteration of the corner building on the northeast corner of 50th Street and 11th Avenue. The foundation of this house was directly over the stream and you can see that the house was practically rebuilt to bolster the original foundation. Imaonides Hospital formerly Israel Zion Hospital now occupies the exact spot where the lake existed. The only structure outstanding in this general area was the Most Precious Blood Monastery at 64th St. & Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. From the fringe of the lake at 49th St. which was on top of a hill, one could see into the gardens of the grounds of the Precious Blood.

I attended P.S. 160 and during those early days in this neighborhood we had access to several movie houses. There was the West End on 52nd St. & New Utrecht, the Boro Park on 51st & New Utrecht, the Garden on 46th St. & New Utrecht and then the Loew's 46th St. on 46th St. & New Utrecht Ave.

My parents were hard working people. My father and mother had a barber supply business in Manhattan and soon after moved to Boro Park. My father went into the real estate business with an office with Nicola Gentile on the corner of 44th St. & Ft. Hamilton Pkwy.

My oldest brother, Joseph became a lawyer attending schools in Manhattan, City College, and Fordham Law School. He was later appointed by Mayor Wagner, Commissioner of Purchases of the City of N.Y. My brother Angelo attended schools in Manhattan, N.Y. University

and Long Island College Hospital Medical School in Brooklyn. He became a physician in 1932 and engaged in general practice of medicine at 1168 67th St., Bklyn. He passed away in 1980. My brother Silvio attended P.S. 160 in Bklyn, New Utrecht H.S., Lincoln University in L.A. and became a lawyer in 1932. He was killed in an auto accident in California.

My sister Theresa attended P.S. 160, Erasmus H.S. and graduated from New Utrecht H.S. and N.Y.U. Law School in 1933. She practiced law in an office with her husband on 54th St. & New Utrecht Ave. from 1945 to 1983, she died in 1983.

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I REMEMBER BORO PARK

The undersigned, Arthur O. Spagna attended P.S. 160, New Utrecht H.S., St. Johns College and St. Johns Law School (graduating 1932). I have been practicing law since that time at 4504 New Utrecht Ave. and now at 4502 New Utrecht Ave. I recently celebrated 50 years admission to the bar.

My brother Richard attended P.S. 160 & P.S. 220 junior high, New Utrecht H.S., NYU College & NYU School of Dentistry graduating in 1941 and practiced dentistry at 2148 57th St. Bklyn until his death in 1982.

My sister Virginia, the last of the children attended P.S. 106, Ft. Hamilton H.S., and Bklyn College graduating with a teachers degree. Now married to Dr. Henry Amen, a dentist practicing at 9721 4th Ave., Bklyn.

In 1925 my family moved to L.A. California for an 18 month stay and then returned to Bklyn at 1168 67th St., where we maintained the house until 1981. When the house was sold it was torn down by a builder and replaced with 2 new houses.

My father engaged in the real estate business at 4401 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy. and later with my brother Joseph and myself at 4504 New Utrecht Ave. until his death in 1958. My mother kept the family together after my father's death and she passed away in 1974.

My brother Joseph has since retired and I keep myself busy with a restricted practice in real

estate at 4502 New Utrecht Ave. Bklyn.

I cannot help but think of all the changes I have seen in the neighborhood. First it was occupied by the German & Irish, then the Jewish and Italians, then we had a sprinkling of Puerto Ricans and lately we have the Hasidim, Russian and Polish who are now outnumbering all other in Boro Park 1987.

Arthur O. Spagna
NAOMI GURIN

The following interview and article was submitted by Lucille Posner an officer in the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank her and Naomi Gurin for this interesting and important contribution.

Dear Dr. Kipust:

I have been reading your column with great nostalgia. I, too, am a long-time resident of Boro Park. My family moved here when I was three years old, after World War I. I married a Boro Park man and still live here.

When I was a child there were farms with goats and chickens on lower 14th Avenue and the highest buildings were four-story, walk-up apartment houses. The small, lovely private dwellings were very charming; all were surrounded by many trees and gardens — quite different from the current scene! Much has been written about that situation, and I shall not belabor it.

The purpose of this letter is to stress the Machazekie Talmud Torah. I am aware that there have been several letters on that subject. However, no one has

mentioned the marvelous teaching staff and the very capable administrative staff.

The Principal, Samuel Borowsky, was a most innovative educator. When he left, his place was taken by Dr. David Ginsburg, a very soft-spoken, poetically inclined teacher. Both these men gave extra-curricular special sessions on Sundays on the study of some of the prophets, to students who were interested. The lectures were very inspiring and left a permanent imprint.

There was Zipporah Feinerman (later Birnbaum), a very young teacher who was a joy to be with. She personally influenced me to continue my Hebrew studies. I subsequently graduated from Herzliah Teachers Seminary.

There was Mr. Persky (a brother of Daniel Persky). He was a very dignified, quiet individual who knew how to teach young people and made his subjects very interesting.

There was Mr. Premysler (who can forget him?) He had a fierce exterior, but he was oh-so-gentle

a teacher. Last, but not least, there was Avraham Hirsch, an inspired personality whose pedagogical approach was absolutely perfect. He made aliyah in the early 1930's and was appointed Assistant Minister of Agriculture in the first Provisional Government of Israel. I have named but a few of that wonderful teaching staff. There were many others equally good.

There were ten hours of instruction per week, after public school classes, and we really learned in the full sense of the word.

It has been said that memory is the thread upon which the beads of life are strung. One of my brighter beads is the time I spent at the Machazekie Talmud Torah. It influenced the rest of my life.

Naomi Gurin nee Davidoff CONGREGATION HISTORY

The following article on the history of Congregation Agudath Avreichim was researched and written by Joseph B. Fuchs an officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank him for this

interesting, in-depth study of this synagogue.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH AVREICHIM: PAST, PRESENT AND PERFECT

By Joseph B. Fuchs [Executive Board Member of Congregation]

It was during the vicissitudes of the divisive Viet Nam War that many of the disillusioned, sought spiritual succor and haven, and undoubtedly, this was one of the factors in the founding of Congregation Agudath Avreichim in 1969. From a simple synagogue, it quickly evolved into a multi-faceted religious center.

It is most appropos that during its 17th year which is the Hebrew numerical equivalent of "tov" or good, that for the first time we dedicate a brief historical sketch of the good works and workers emanating from the Congregation Agudath Avreichim.

In September 1969, the synagogue very modestly began as a Shabbos "chabura" (small religious Jewish grouping) which was made possible by the gracious offer of the home facilities of Mr. Feuerwerker at 969 Fiftieth Street. It was immediately named Congregation Agudath Avreichim which reflected its predominant membership of very young mostly unmarried Torah scholars

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (Continued from page 4)

with their commonality of experiences and interests, the first such specialized synagogue in Boro Park West. In fact, it also became informally known as Torah Vodaas Minyan II, since many of its original members had attended this noted yeshiva, with its unique blend of

Mithnadic and Chassidic faculty and pupils, which was one of the first five to be founded in the U.S. and became the second such synagogue started mainly by its alumni. One of its more illustrious ordained pupils and synagogue members who has always had an active roll here over the past 17 years as congregation officer, president and original constitution drafter, is Rabbi Judah Dick, who has a Boro Park law practice and was also one of the founder of C.O.L.P.A., the Orthodox Jewish law organization which zealously guards the rights of co-religionists. Another member here since the first year is Berish Miller.

Within months, the minyan outgrew its first home and moved into the ground level assembly hall of the historic stone-structured Rabbi Bialik Synagogue at the corner of Ft. Hamilton Parkway and 49th Street, one of the earliest houses of worship in all of Boro Park, which was razed during the late 1970's. A new medical and dental office complex was built on the former site (an archival collection of photos and information on this structure can be found at the Boro Park Historical Society). As I personally recall the setting here when I joined the congregation 13 years ago, it was a commodious hall with many tables to conveniently accommodate the shiurim and the many festive kiddushim which took place during this transitory time when a great number of the members married.

(Continued on page 8)

After almost three full years at this location, in June 1972, the congregation moved to its present location at 667 Fifth Street, and is about to complete its 14th year here. At this locale, the membership median age increased resulting from a combination of original members growing older along with the attraction of primarily married new members, so that it was characterized mainly by families with young children. Among the notable new members immediately gained as we moved here and still active were our former President and present Executive Board member Nathan (Nota) Kranz and our former

President and present recording secretary Jacob Klass, the advertising manager of Jewish Press and community activist. In 1975, Congregation Agudath Avreichim affiliated with the national Agudath and also became known as Agudath Israel of Boro Park West. During the past few years, a goodly member of Chassidic and old people have joined and mixed among the younger professionals, business people and educator congregants

so that by now, the synagogue is populated by a broad spectrum of Orthodox Jewry.

Unlike most synagogues in the area which are limited to organized prayer services, Agudath Avreichim is truly a Torah family center because of varied religious programs offered to all members of the family. It sponsors the Nshel Agudath Israel which conducts the only weekly guest lecture series in the neighborhood every Shabbos at 3 p.m., as well as many meetings, teas, charity drives and sponsors the Bnos Agudath Israel, the Shabbos afternoon religious information and entertainment groups for girls.

Incidentally, the first Bnos groups were started here a few years ago by Mrs. Nechi Gold, a former active member of our congregation. This unique youth program is paralleled by the Pirchei Agudath Israel groups for boys which meets in the beautiful assembly rooms of West End Gardens (10th Avenue and 44th Street) thanks to the cooperation of the Southern

Brooklyn Community Organization of Agudath Israel popularly known as SBCCO and is organized by another religious educator, Rabbi Joseph Schwinder. This Pirchei has served our community for over 10 years and has featured such noted past leaders as the nationally renowned storyteller spellbinder and mime, Yitzky Erps, mesmerizing hundreds of boys at a time. These youth groups also sponsor holiday adventure outings and Melave Malka assemblies. For the past decade, there has also been a Pirchei Shabbos minyan totally run by teenagers, which has been graciously housed by Rabbi David Helberg, at his pre-school Baia Isaac Tzvi, at 1019 46th Street. Additionally, men and boys attend a morning and evening shiur (religious class) daily. In the morning, the Daf Yomi is delivered by Rabbi Judah Dick and in the evening, a German shiur is taught by the congregation's rabbi, the brilliant educator, Rabbi Elazar Yona Ginsberg. The rabbi also delivers interesting weekly shiurim in Chumash and Mussar. Many years ago, the Agudath Avreichim membership collected funds to start our own Gemilas Chesed (free loan society) which continues to confidentially aid many in our area with financial contingencies. This O'mach is continually replenished by generous contributions from the membership. Finally, our congregation maintains an impressive religious reference library with the largest collection of combined English-Hebrew language volumes of any synagogue in Boro Park West.

Our synagogue is a constituent member of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park (C.O.J.O.). Many of our community-minded members as Meir Fleischman and Abraham Sprei are active in such organizations as the Boro Park Bikur

Cholim, running everything from blood drives to the Chevra Kaddisha, as well as being board members of a host of other important community religious, social and political organizations.

Over the years, Agudath Avreichim was selected as a spiritual center by many people of prominence. It is hopefully anticipated that future journal editions will elaborate on these people and their work, such as the largest computer employer in Boro Park, the orchestra leader, the noted English-Hebrew Judaica editors the recorded niggunim composer who led our Yomim Noraim services, the community organization activists as well as a host of past and present medical, legal and other professional. In 1984, Rabbi Elazar Yona Ginsberg, a scholar with abstruse erudition, was selected as present Rabbi of the synagogue. Since then, many have been attracted to his daily shiurim by his radiant enthusiasm, profundity and clarity. He constantly lends immediacy to the timeless Talmud, by injecting modern Halachic applications and brings with him a rich blend of Mithnagdic and Chassidic strengths.

This then is Agudath Avreichim; its past, its present and its striving for perfection.

TEMPLE BETH-EL OF BOROUGH PARK PART II

(This is a continuation of the history of Temple Beth-El researched and written by Mr. B.M. Slevean, officer of the Boro Park Historical Society. We thank Mr. Selevan for this thorough and important contribution.)

The reason is not completely known to me, but in 1920, it seems, Temple Beth-El of Borough Park, which was discussed earlier and which had built a Synagogue in 1906, decided to move and erect a much larger, magnificent house of worship in another section of the neighborhood, moving from its earlier location of 12th Ave. and 41 St.

Two possible reasons for the move are a shift in the neighborhood (and presumably the members of the Congrega-

tion) to the new, more open area being developed then and a desire to build a much larger, more imposing house of worship.

The Brooklyn Eagle of June 13, 1920, page 9, section 5, reported on the proposed new Temple under a title of "IMPOSING JEWISH TEMPLE." Subtitled "\$750,000 Structure to Be Built in Borough Park." "as follows." Another noteworthy addition to Brooklyn's religious edifices will be the new Temple Beth El, which is to be erected at the southwest corner of 15th Ave. and 48th St. The structure, which is thoroughly fireproof, is to be 85 feet in width by 110 feet in depth, to be erected upon a plot of 100 feet by 120 feet, and will have an elevation of 85 feet from the grade to the uppermost point of the dome. The facades of the Temple have been designed with the blending of several styles and periods of architecture, more or less related, and is termed a First Century design. To carry out this feeling and to give the temple an antique effect as if the same were an ancient temple in Palestine, the architects have selected a seam face granite which has a natural texture and will run in colors of yellow, buff, tan and dusty purple, which when completed will show an influence of Egyptian stone work.

The predominating feature of the front will be the main portal richly ornated with suggestions from Moorish and Egyptian sources which will ease the severity of the facade. The main lobby, is treated with simplicity, the walls to be finished with a buff cast stone and the floor with buff colored brick floor tile. At opposite ends of the main lobby marble staircases with cast stone railings ascend to the balcony and descend to the basement, which is utilized for a large auditorium for (next few rods unclear) daily services accommodations, trustees room, social room, janitor's quarters, coal storage, heating and artificial ventilation rooms.

The main auditorium in plan is square, with groupings of pilasters spaced around the walls highly enriched with low relief

ornaments from which decorative pendentive brackets are projected for the supporting of a perpendicular circular wall which elevates to carry the large ceiling dome. The perpendicular wall is perforated with circular arched openings where concealed lighting will throw electrical rays reflecting a sunlight effect upon the main ceiling dome. The entire ceiling as well as the main dome will be a series of coffers having a stalactitic effect.

The front of the Holy Ark, which is situated directly in back of the sanctuary, is richly ornamented and is the compartment safeguarding the Holy Moorish feeling displaying a Semitic character. The main auditorium contains a large balcony which has been designed with cantilever construction, thereby obviating the necessity of all columns in the auditorium. Careful attention has been given to the sight liner as well as to acoustical conditions. The main auditorium and balcony proper, will accommodate a seating capacity of 1,500.

M. Nattelbaum is chairman of the building committee, Morris Beinstock president of the congregation, and I. Robbins, treasurer.

Shampan & Shampan, who are the architects, have been commissioned to supervise the entire construction and they estimate the cost of the building when completed, including equipment will approximate \$750,000.

June 13, 1920, at 2 p.m., has been set as the date for the ceremonies of laying the cornerstones. Quite a number of well known speakers have been invited to attend.

A report on the laying of the cornerstones, etc., of the new Temple was carried in the Brooklyn Eagle of June 14, 1920, page 5, under a title of "SELL CORNERSTONES AT TEMPLE EXERCISE", subtitled "Two for New Beth-El Edifice in Boro Park Brought \$4,000 Each- Throng at Ceremony." It was reported that "A distinct innovation appeared in the program for the laying of the cornerstones of the new Temple Beth-El, 15th Ave. and 48th St., Boro Park, yesterday afternoon, when the cornerstones facing 15th Ave. were sold at auction to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Kutack and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Meiselman for \$4,000 each. The purchasers obtained the privilege of laying the stones and will have the further distinction of having their names inscribed thereon.

Scores of automobiles formed the procession that moved from the old temple at 12th Ave. and 41 St. to the new site, where the ceremony took place. Moses Napelbaum, chairman of the building committee, made the introductory address, introduced the various speakers and officiated as auctioneer during the sale. Rabbi Hirschowitz of Temple Beth-El offered prayer.

I.J. Zevin, a journalist, who writes under the name of Tashrak, was the first speaker introduced. He told of the

(Continued on page 10)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK

velopment of the Boro Park section during the past 12 years and the prominent part played in his development by the Beth-El congregation. According to Mr. Zevin the Temple Beth-El has been responsible for the many Jewish institutions that have sprung up in the Boro Park section of late years. The wealth of its members has made possible the schools, hospitals and other institutions in this section of Brooklyn. He spoke of the outward movement of home-building activities along 15th Ave. which made a new location for the temple desirable.

Others who spoke briefly were Rabbi Pikes, M. Bienenstock, president of the Beth-El congregation, Jacob Lieberman, former president of the congregation, Rabbi Gordon and Rabbi B. Reuben Wellerstein of Temple Emanuel, Boro Park. The Rev. Jacob Rapaport, cantor of the congregation Beth-El, officiated during the ceremony of laying the two cornerstones. Musical numbers interspersed the speaking."

A few days later, the Eagle of June 21, 1920, page 12, showed a picture of the "PROPOSED TEMPLE BETH-EL."

A report on the planned cornerstone laying was also contained in the Jewish Morgen Journal (Morning Journal) newspaper of June 13, 1920. The report added that at night a banquet would be given for the members of Congregation in the Borough Park Club House.

BORO PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Boro Park Historical Society has already achieved many important accomplishments in the research, preserving publicity and recording of the history of the Boro

Park Community. But there is still much more to be done, we've only scratched the surface.

One of the important needs of the historical society is a good copy machine needed for copying newspaper articles in order to preserve the materials, making copies of materials for the many student and adult requests, making copies of the abundant materials in our files for cross filing and reference purposed etc.

The B.P.H.S. has written to the banks in the community requesting donations towards the purchase of a good copy machine. We are happy to report that several banks have already responded. Community Bank on 13th Ave. and 60th St. and Anchor Savings Bank on 13th Ave. and 48th St. have sent in generous contributions. The Chase Manhattan Bank on 13th Ave. & 47th St. has given the BPHS generous Neighborhood Grants for three consecutive years and the Greater New York Savings Bank started the BPHS with its first generous grant. We thank these institutions for their contributions towards this worthy communal project. The copy machine with maintenance should cost about \$2,500. We still need \$1700. to go.

We appeal to other business establishments and community residents to send us contributions towards the purchase of the copy machine and help the BPHS continue its work. Membership in the B.P.H.S. is only \$5 per year for residents, \$10 for business and \$3 for retired. Send contributions and/or membership dues to the Boro Park Historical Society 4810-13th Ave. 11219.

Remember - "Boro Park is You."

"I REMEMBER BORO PARK"

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS By Dr. Philip J. Kipust BORO PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A Planning Committee of Community leaders is being formed to help plan and organize the Centennial Celebration of Boro Park in 1988. Leaders of government, community organizations, schools, religious institutions and business, are invited to participate in the first planning Committee meeting scheduled for December 28, 1987 at 7:45 pm the Greater New York Savings Bank, 13th Ave. and 53rd Street, in the Community Room downstairs. At this first meeting election of celebration officers will take place, suggestions for celebration activities will be heard and approved, and a calendar of events will be formulated.

Encourage your organization leader to attend or send his representative. Lets plan for a great Boro Park Celebration.

"...AND NONE SHALL
MAKE HIM AFRAID"

A Boro Park Memoir By Melvin I. Cooperman

(The following article was submitted by Jacques Friedman, member of the Boro Park Historical Society Executive Committee. We thank him for this interesting contribution. There are many famous personalities who were raised or lived in Boro Park this article tells the story of one of them.)

Melvin I. Cooperman lived in Boro Park from 1938 to 1944 and now lives in Roslyn, L.I. He served on the staff of the Anti-Defamation League from 1961 to 1983, the last ten years as Director of ADL's Long Island Regional Office. In 1983, he entered the service of the State of New York, and serves as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Human Rights. He is also a playwright. In 1981, his play "The Military History of the Family Gross" won the first annual national Lucy Wolpaw prize offered by the Cleveland Jewish Community Center for the best new play on the American

Jewish Experience. His "Dispatches from Hell: A Holocaust Triptych" was produced in 1983 and again in 1987 at Actor's Outlet Theater in Manhattan, and will be produced in 1988 at Hofstra University in commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Month.

There is a verse from Isaiah which has special meaning for me because I grew up in Boro Park in the years before and during World War II. Harvey Zevin lived across 15th Avenue and one of my best friends was Bobby Winkler whose family owned Winkler's ice cream parlor on New Utrecht Avenue. I was "barred" from the "elevator

building" on the corner of 56th and 15th where my classmate Freddy Gidan lived, after we were apprehended playing "bombardier" by dropping clothespins off the roof into the empty trashcans below in the alleyway.

My Boy Scout troop met in the "Y" on 14th Avenue and my Bar Mitzvah happened at Cong. Tifereth Israel on 16th Avenue.

I say "happened" because it was an ordeal. (There was the time when the teacher of the Haftarah class caught us looking at "dirty pictures" tucked between the pages, but that's for another time.)

Oh, yes, I remember the prophetic passage well. It began, "Rani v'simchi bat taion...Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion" and ended "Lo v'chayil v'lo vakoach, ki im b'ruchi...Not by arms nor by power, but through my spirit..."

The big house on the corner of
(Continued on pg. 5)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (Continued from pg. 2)

15th Avenue and 58th Street was owned by our Sicilian landlady, Mrs. Neglia. She, and her sister Marnie, used the vast (well, it seemed vast to me at age 10) enclosed front porch as a dressmaking salon. Her kitchen was in the basement. Oh, the aromas that exuded from that basement! Anise and almond, the pungent combination of cheese and garlic covered her pizzas, gnocchi and pastas faggiole (which she called 'pastafazool' and which I thought was a Sicilian imprecation). She would sometimes ask me to get bread or biscotti for her from Luigi Alba's on New Utrecht Avenue on the way home from the Loew's, Boro Park. (A vivid memory consists of trying to reproduce the lush sound of the French Horns in the "Waltz of the Flowers" on the way home from seeing "Fantasia" as I passed the wrought iron fence around Yeshiva Etz Chayim on 13th Avenue.)

We lived on the top floor in what were the servants quarters in the years before the Great Crash disposed the wealthy family that built the house at 1501 58th Street. There was a turret at the corner off the living room which we called the "music room" (but in which there was no music), and where our dog "Panda" used to watch for my daily, homecoming before racing down the three flights of stairs to greet me with a garland of wet doggy kisses. There was also a truly vast kitchen up there, and an ell shaped butler's pantry that many a modern Brooklynite would give any eye tooth to have.

We stored our canned goods on the ample shelves in the pantry. We had inherited an old wine barrel with the apartment. Mrs. Neglia didn't know where it came from. And thereby hangs a worthy digression.

My grandpa, who lived on 46th Street between 16th and 17th Avenues, had a little bit of bootlegger in him. One year he made kvass, the Russian fruit beer you buy on Moscow Street corners. The neighbors liked it, so he bought bottles, and a bottling press, and was selling it in the neighborhood. The next chapter should be entitled "The Rev'n'ors Come to Boro Park." One day, a stranger came to the door. He flashed a badge identifying him as an agent for the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He had a warrant for illegal sale of untaxed alcohol. Grandpa was in Federal Court in downtown Brooklyn some weeks later (after posting

\$100 bail). He paid a \$100 fine (a lot of money then) and quit the kvass business for good, except for the small amount he made for home consumption.

About the barrel. On Sunday mornings, he made the breakfast rounds between Uncle Charlie and Aunt Lee on Fort Hamilton Parkway, Aunt Jean and Uncle Harry (who was off in the Navy) and our place. He was resplendent in a straw skimmer and gray spats on those rounds in the Spring and Summer. It was juice at one stop, eggs at the next and coffee and toast at our place. One Sunday, he showed up early at our house. He carried three large bags. In one there were two baskets of Concord grapes. In the second was another basket of grapes and in the third were two five pound bags of sugar.

We took the barrel into the large bathroom, put it in the bathtub and ran water through it. It was surprisingly clean, except for a little deposit of lees. Having completed the cleansing, we moved it back into the pantry, where he loaded the grapes, the sugar and a bit of yeast into it, popping the cork into place with a paper napkin wedged in for breathing space.

Now, this was in 1942. My mother was very nervous about the war. We had blackout drills, and air raid drills.

At about 3 AM one summer morning about a week after Grandpa loaded the barrel, we were awakened by a pronounced "thunk." My mother was certain that the Nazi Luftwaffe was bombing Boro Park. We ran to the windows. All was still except

for a rustling of the trees in preparation for an impending cloudburst. We went back to bed. My mother was still convinced that New York was undergoing a blitz and that Nazi paratroopers (presumably led by former boxer Max Schmeling) would be occupying Brooklyn by daybreak. After all, just a few blocks up on 16th Avenue there was a factory making radios. If they could bomb Coventry, they certainly could bomb a radio factory in Boro Park!

I was awakened by a scream. I rushed into the kitchen. My mother was in the pantry with my father. It seems that Grandpa had not left any opening in (Continued on pg. 8)

I REMEMBER BORO PARK (Continued from pg. 5)

the hole at the top of the barrel, and had put too many grapes in besides, so that, in the heat of summer, the liquid had filled the barrel and under the pressure of the gas generated by the fermenting mish mash, the paper mapkin had yielded to a stream of gas driven liquid which had quite efficiently soaked the labels off the cans on the two shelves within its range.

We had no phones then. Only the one in Mrs. Neglia's atelier. Grandpa did not have a phone. In those days, my primary transportation around Boro Park was on roller skates. I was sent skating from 58th Street to 46th Street to fetch the miscreant grandparent, who enlisted me in the cleanup job.

For some months, eating was an adventure into the unknown. One took a can off the shelf with the expectation of peas but got peaches instead.

Oh yes, the verse in Isaiah.

"And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks...The lion shall lie down with the lamb. And every man shall sit under his vine and his fig tree, and none shall make him afraid."

In the front yard, there was an arbor overgrown with a grapevine which yielded tart white grapes (chardonnay, perhaps?) under which my mother would hostess her monthly turn at Mah Jongg under a yellow light in the warm summer nights there on the corner of 58th Street and 15th Avenue. In the dark corner behind the back of the house, there was a fig tree from which we ate the freshest of fresh figs.

But we were Jewish, and we knew what was happening in the Europe of the Third Reich long before the awful images following the liberation of the camps burned themselves into our souls. And we had had our encounters, on the way home from Talmud Torah with bat wielding kids who called us "Yid" and "Jew bastard."

We had our vine and our fig tree, but we were afraid in those war years.

The third part of the series on the history of Temple Beth El will continue in the next issue. **SUBMIT YOUR OWN STORIES**

Readers are invited to submit their own family histories and "memories" of Boro Park. Photos and other memorabilia are welcome.

Join the Boro Park Historical Society, dues \$5 a year, retired \$3. Help research, preserve and publish the history of this community.

Boro Park Historical Society
4810-13th Ave.
Bklyn, Ny 11219

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