

Izzy

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"I knew them all," he said. And I can hear, even now just by reading the words, the smile in his voice, his warmth and friendly dignity. For the whole of that lovely day he named their names and nicknames. We scouted up their homes and haunts, then marched through the rows of stones in the four cemeteries in Duluth and Superior. I had a list and he was prepared: Who made it big, who went bust, the machars, community leaders, cheats and sharpies, big deals and small potatoes, sad and happy endings. And this is what he said...



I'll tell you how I got to know so many people...why I remember so much...I knew the children and...First of all the first store that my dad had...that was kind of a meeting place for all the Jewish people. We were about the...outside of a few mom and pop stores up on the hill..we were a kosher deli. My dad kept kosher, you know. And, so all the people used to come in so I got to know them. When I got a little older, I delivered. So I used to come to all the houses. Then for 10 years there, I was in insurance and I would meet a lot of people, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Plus, I was very active in the Jewish community and everything. I was president of the shul, vice president of the Jewish Center, aleph-gadol of AZA, president of Bnai Brith. You know, so through the years I got to know really a lot of people.

IN THE SUPERIOR CEMETERY

A lot of people from the Range are buried here...years ago they used to bring them down here...some in Duluth, but they had a lot of relatives here so they ah...there's Sherman and Arthur and Sadie and David Cohen...the whole family wiped out. How were they related to you? Well Sadie was your Dad's first cousin...just like my wife was...so that's how they were related...you know. Pomish's were leaders here, then you got a few families..the Berkovitzes and the Barkovich...Berkovich,

Barkovich...well, they're all one family in Superior. Witkin...they're an old family. Yah, you've got a lot of Pomish's there...a lot of Kaners here. Ethel has a lot of...her brothers, her mother and father are buried here. All these are Pomish's here...there's Israel Pomish there. Yah, and Superior had its group of Damon Runyon characters too, but I didn't know them too much. But they had 'em...yup. Rutstein, that's one of my wife's sisters. Years ago the Range for some reason or other, they had connections here...you know, family connections. But then they finally got a spot in Virginia.....lot of Levines, Lavines, Goldfines, Kaners, Marcovich's...Kempinski, Jacobs family....Oh, Hiatt...I've seen it someplace...I don't know if it's up in front or further back...is it? Oh yah, there you are by golly...there's Rabbi Hiatt...1955, sure that's his wife, and he died in '42. Yah, the Ansell family...look at that stone...isn't that something....haven't seen one like that. Well, they were active here in the furniture business and the grocery business...yah, they had some big Jewish-owned grocery stores here...sure. They were a successful group of people here...in Superior...

IN THE TEMPLE CEMETERY

Oh, oh...there's an old time..Loeb...Loeb, yah...sure I remember them. They were in the finance business, sure, bankers and that. Big bankers? Well, they're in Duluth, you know. But they were in the finance or real estate business...Samuel Loeb...see, L.S. and S. Loeb, I said. See, Louis S. and Samuel Loeb. See, look at this one died in 1940...unusual aren't they...and this one died in '28. See, but, I knew them both, very fine people. Yep, there are...look at the markers they had for them. Born in Kendallville, Indiana...1861. And this one was born in 1859. Sure, fine people. Isn't that funny...60 years...Louis S. and Sam Loeb...yup. See, there's the Silberstein...there...yah...see, and these people were Orthodox!...Ethel and Bert...they joined Temple in later years and this is where they wound up. Fanny and Jack...sure...and there's Jean and Ben....Sam Horowitz...

Ben was 88 and Jean was 86. There's the Eldots...yah. Sam Horowitz, 1982, wow, 14 years ago...he certainly wasn't Reform. Davidson...oh yah. There's Betsy Eldot, their daughter...gee, '65 to '93, only 28...yah, remember her? Short, stubby little gal...sure. There's Archie Weinberg...there's Jack Garber...and...Dorothy Davis, she just passed away. I wonder why they buried her here? I wonder who they're going to have next to her. Archie Weinberg...his wife is still living...she belongs to the Goldenberg family. And there's Beverly and Lou King. Now, Lou, his father was shamus at 4th St...but you know, in later years when they started to join the Temple, then this thing opened up. Bloom? Rich Bloom? Dr. Bloom...oh yah...when did he die? '82...sure. He came to Duluth from New York. She must be buried in New York, she's not living anymore. Yah, who's that over there? Alfred Weinberg, look at that...just a marker. What the hell is he doing here? He should be in 3rd St. That's where all his family is. Is it 5 years already since he died? Wow! He was never married, and then he married a...a non-Jewish woman, a widow with grown kids...he kinda got...lost himself. But his family is all in...he belongs to the Sher family...his mother was a Sher, from the meat company...P. Sher and Company...years ago. Yah, this was very sparse years ago. Norwich, sure...I knew them all...I knew them all. There's Charlene Friemuth...Lizette and Hugo...see. He was in the store and then he opened up his own store. Sam Finsky...Pearl Finsky was a daughter-in-law...their son's wife...she still lives in Minneapolis. Father, Hyman Joseph, born in 1869...and Etta...she was the Cook, Etta C...she was Ida Cook's daughter. Sure. Yup...yup. Louis Dick, oh yah, I remember him...sure, it was an odd name, Dick.... Benjamin Fox, Bessie fox...their son Bradley is in Minneapolis. Who's this? Oh yeah, Slonim, Suzie and Sam...their sons were both officers in the Navy...Gilman Slonim and Charlie Slonim. Ruby Shapiro...uh...he used to head the Jewish Boy Scouts, troop 17...everybody knew him. Krojanker? I'll have to ask somebody...if Doc Fink was here, he'd know right away. I've got a lot of stuff on Doc Fink. He wrote me over a period of years...I must have more than a hundred of them. Pearl Sher and Joe Sher...that's Jerry Sher's parents...used to be in the plumbing business...that was Nancy that was married to Jerry. Morris Steinmen...yes...he used to be an impresario, you know, he used to bring all kinds of entertainment and everything...to Duluth, he was originally from Minneapolis. Oh yes...that's what you call going down memory lane...

IN THE 4TH ST. AND 3RD ST. CEMETERIES

What a community we had...ish tam v' yosher...shem tov. These were all the oldtimers...the Shenowsky's and the Klatsky's, the Horowitz's and Davis's...the early days of the shul...see. I'll show you Uncle Harry's grave, and at that point there...uh...let's see...Sander...that was an oldtimer at the shul, he was very active...'32...here she is, that was his wife. C'mon down here for a minute, we'll...let's see...Goldstein...Kerness...Sol...yah...Chaim Levine back in 1935...A. Y. Litman, he was one of the Arbiter Ring people...Pinio and Etta and Stanley...they were Morris Levine's...let's see, here's the Davis'...this is Harry and his first wife...this is mother, Esther...that's who Lester's named after. They couldn't transpose "Esther" so Sarah decided she wanted to call him "Lester"...see, he died in '69...there's only one daughter left, see...there won't be anybody around. Now right here, there used to be a fence...and they had a little house here where they took care of the bodies, you know, before they buried them. Here's the pump...I don't if it still works...no...but this is where it was, right there. And this where a lot of the oldtimers are...this is all 3rd St. and it goes all the way back and this is where you really get some oldtimers. There's Leibovitz, Casmir, Goldfine, Klatsky...those were the names...Stein...that must be from the Range, I'm sure...there's Maury Rosenberg...he's got a couple brothers living in Mpls...looks just like him...yah...Breitbords...yup. They were in the grocery business...matter of fact, at one time, they were in business with Uncle Her. Averbrook, Kosoff...sure...yah these are all oldtimers...they go back 50 years or so. Look at this thing here, 1939...Littman, sure...yah...that used to be the whole Polinsky plot...they finally, I think someone bought them out...all that's there is Viola and Nat...they tore down...they had all kinds of big trees there...tore em down...and there's Seiler...and there's your grandparents, Sam and Ida Berman...and these are the Stewarts...yah...Lazar Levine, Borken, sure...Pegler, that's part of the family...Tobacks, I knew them, Bill and Gussie...Art Gurovitch...yah...How old was Dad?...1987...64...yah...Yale Byron...Yankel Berel...see, this is the balance of 4th St...and there's Sarah, my mother and dad...and, I've got a spot waiting for me here...yah...yup...there's Vi and Nat over there...Seilers...Henry Heller...there's an Oreckovsky stone back there...He worked for Minnesota Woolen for many years...and then when he retired or when they sold out, he did lapidary work...you know...cut and polished stones...but I wanted to show you the Oreckovsky...this was a big one because they were people with money...there it is...they were money people, you know, big Joe...he's the one that owned the department store...and he had son who got killed or killed himself, one or the other. I think his name was David...yah, Dovid bar Yosef...that's right, see I remembered...

isn't that something...1923...and there's father Joseph and mother Annie...but, you know, that was money in those days. Now, there's another young Oreckovsky that accidentally killed himself, got electrocuted...he was a nephew and....Eve Oreckovsky, Joe Oreckovsky...these were the parents of Jimmy...these were Jimmy's parents... yup...let's just go back a little bit...let's see that big Cook...that could be...Ida Cook...1945...she died in '45...that's 50 years ago...

IN THE 9TH ST. CEMETERY

You see the little hill I'm talking about...Temple Israel?...I don't know why they don't keep the same name...Sharey Tzedek? They bought this place many, many years ago...probably bought it for a little nothing. They keep it up very good...these people are very conscious about this cemetery...sure...there it is, Larry Goldberg. Let's see who's here? Oh, Ostroviak, yah....there's Bergal, you know, Lise, Fishman...Randy...his name was Fishman too...he changed it to Randy, he used to be a prize-fighter. Fishman...Fishman...Fishman....see. Carl Davis...he was a handsome guy...yah...Karsner...Goldberg...here's Tom Davis...that's one of your cousins...Tom, Eva...sure...Fred Karsner...Oh my G-d...he was some basketball player...he was an all-around sport...he made big honors at school...good-lookin guy...he was only 37 years old. David Steinberg...sure...there's all the Taran's....Harry Taran, Sarah Taran...oh boy...Bessy Steinberg...yep...Jake Fishman...look at all the Fishman's...now, here's your London's...Rose London, Hyman London...Sam London...I remember him very well...Goldfarb...that's another one...sure...yep...all the Goldfarbs...there's the Berman's...Hymie and Sadie Selnick...they lived in Superior as I recall. Boy if you want to go down memory lane, this is the place. Ben Fishman is buried here someplace...he worked for me...wonderful guy.....I'm looking for Ted Call, he died in the early '30's....Oh yah, I see it...he lived right next door to me when I first got married...and here's Freddy Gallop...he died a young man...he had cancer...he used to be a waiter at the Ritz....and there's Ted...Theodore J. Call...Yitzchak was his name...he died in 1940...we moved in...Francis Call...she was a pretty woman...yep, yep, yep...this was quite a family...the only thing I can tell you about them is...not speaking...very interesting...