

by Heath Kellogg

Santa Fe 1950 to 1975

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, panel discussion at annual meeting, Taos New Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 10th, 2002

Looking back at the span of years 1950-1975 is remembering a nation and a world healing from the ravages of World War II, trying to understand the hell of the Holocaust, trying to absorb the concept of the creation of the modern State of Israel, surrounded by implacable enemies but providing a home for all declared Jews. Observing the small population of young marrieds in Santa Fe starting families and all of us becoming involved in the social structure that was emerging.

When I arrived in Santa Fe in 1943, at the request of Uncle Sam and was stationed at Bruns Army General Hospital, there were about 30 Jewish families which could have included some of the doctors at the base and their families who in fact remained in Santa Fe after the war.

Some of these early families were: The Gans, the Spitzs', the Kahns, 2 Bell families, 3 Pick families, the Taicherts, the Petcheskys', the Blatts', the Oppenheims', the Al Kaufmans, the H. Livingstons, Sternbergs, Vohs, Abrams, Schwartzs', Rubensteins, Kempenichs, Rosenthals, Stolaroffs', another Kaufman family, Nat Stern, Harvey Cornell, Steve Kitzes, May Spitz, Mrs. Gardesky, Morey Yashvin,

One of those families was Dr. Murray Friedman who had elected to remain in Santa Fe after his army stint at Bruns as a Radiologist. and his wife Anita also a Dr. They were bequeathed thousands of acres of land north of Cordova Road which had been purchased as a speculation by Nat Stern for little of nothing.