THE GUSDORF STORE IN TWINING, NEW MEXICO c.1900
PHOTO BY B. G. RANDALL
FROM THE CLIFF MILLS COLLECTION, NMJHS ARCHIVES
(Twining was a copper and gold mining town north of Taos, at the approximate site of the ski resort)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 6
ANNUAL CLEAN-UP OF CEMETERY MONTEFIORE, LAS VEGAS, NM
SEE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN ON P.2 FOR DETAILS

NOVEMBER 1, 2, 3
4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF NMJHS – TAOS, NM

NOVEMBER 2
ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP – LOS ALAMOS, NM
SEE STORY ON P.3 FOR DETAILS

JANUARY 25, 1992
ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP – ALBUQUERQUE, NM
SEE STORY ON P.3 FOR DETAILS
FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society's next program will be the annual Montefiore Cemetery clean-up, Sunday, October 6th. The Las Vegas cemetery is a treasure: its many stones preserve the memory and history of the dynamic Las Vegas Jewish community of the late 1800s and early 1900s. In the NMJHS book, Stones of Remembrance: The Historic Jewish Cemetery in Las Vegas, New Mexico (1990), Stan Hordes points out that "Today, few Jews remain in Las Vegas to carry on the traditions of their ancestors. Along with the fading paint on the buildings where Jewish merchants conducted their commercial business, the cemetery serves as a stark memorial to those who preceded us and established the first formal Jewish community in New Mexico."

This year, the Montefiore Cemetery Association will treat participants to a deli-style lunch after they pull weeds, level stones, and make monument rubbings. To make the day even more meaningful, Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe is sponsoring an educational program for its 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grade Sunday School classes, the teenage Youth Group, and the adult Singles Club. They will learn about the individuals buried in the cemetery before they travel to Las Vegas for the clean-up.

Young and old(er) are encouraged to attend this occasion of celebration and reverence. We will convene at the Temple Beth Shalom parking lot at 205 E. Barcelona Road at 9:00 Sunday morning, October 6th, and drive to Las Vegas in a convoy of private cars. If this isn't convenient, you may join other workers at the Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. If you have them, please bring rakes, shovels, trowels, pry-bars (to help level small stones), and other tools. Hats and gloves, too. For more information, please call Ellen Zieselman, 471-3033. We look forward to seeing you there, and to a wonderful day.

Suzan Campbell

MYSTERY OF PHOTO PARTLY SOLVED

Alvin Appel surely is one of our most involved, and knowledgable, NMJHS members these days. On the front page of our last newsletter, we ran a photo of a group of people standing on the steps of an imposing building and asked for help in identifying them and the building. Mr. Appel doesn't recognize the building, but doesn't think it is Temple Montefiore in Las Vegas. He believes that the man in the center of the back row is Rabbi Rasin, the woman to his left, Mrs. Cilo Rosenwald. Young Alvin Appel is on the step directly below Rabbi Rosin, Carl Ilfeld is to Alvin's left. Elise Rosenwald is at the far right of the photo, standing on a step by herself, and Miriam Nahm is the girl to the left on the lowest step. Mr. Appel doesn't recognize the others. Do you?
ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS

Oral history workshops are planned for November 2 in Los Alamos and January 25 in Albuquerque. Co-sponsored by the UNM Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) and the Southwest Oral History Association (SOHA), these introductory workshops are geared toward planning, organizing, and doing individual or community oral history projects.

Topics covered will include project planning, the use of audio and video equipment, the art of interviewing, and using and preserving the history which you capture.

For further information or to pre-register, please contact Nancy Swigger at Sound Portraits, 505/255-7964.

* * *

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR CRYPTO-JUDAIC STUDIES

On August 18-20, scholars and lay people from across the country met at Fort Burgvin Research Center near Taos to discuss the many problems involved in undertaking research into the topic of crypto-Judaism in the Iberian world.

Coming from such diverse places as Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Texas, California, Arizona and Oregon, as well as from various points in New Mexico, the group wrestled with problems of research ethics, definition of Jews, Hispanics and Chicanos, emotional strains of marginality among crypto-Jews, and funding difficulties for research. As expected, none of these problems was fully resolved, but the intense discussions that took place during the conference helped all who attended to more fully understand the nature and scope of the difficulties of the topic.

Susan King of Houston was elected the first President of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, and NMJHS President-Elect Stan Hordes was named to the Executive Committee. The 1992 meeting of the SCJS is planned for Los Angeles in August. For more information call Stan Hordes in Santa Fe at (505)983-6564.

AUTHOR'S REQUEST:

The University of New Mexico Press will be publishing a paperback edition of The History of the Jews in New Mexico in 1992. The Press will allow me to correct simple factual errors. I will be grateful if anyone who has found errors would notify me at 793G Tramway Ln., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122. Thank you for your help.

Henry J. Tobias
This is the final installment of Alvin Appel's memoirs. The first two installments appeared in the March 1991 and June 1991 issues of the NMJHS newsletter. Mr. Appel, who was born in Las Vegas, NM, now lives in Palm Desert, CA. He has compiled for the NMJHS Archives a census of Las Vegas German Jews, ca. 1900-1930, maps of Jewish residences and businesses in Las Vegas of the same era, and the Appel family tree. We welcome all members' contributions of their memoirs and other material to our archives in order to better preserve and understand NM Jewish history.

Part III

The 1930s were the depression years. No one had any money. People all in the same boat were friendly. For recreation everyone went to Santa Monica beach on Sunday. There were two anti-semitic beach clubs and one for Jews. Dad joined the Jewish one. Olympic Boulevard was not a through street where 20th Century Fox now stands, so one had to go to Wilshire Boulevard or Pico to get to the beach.

Dad had arranged for me to go into the general insurance business with a leading Jewish firm; I did not seize the opportunity and renewed my NYLIC contract. I struggled to pay my debts. With no car and no money to buy one, I travelled by bus and street car. The $1.00 weekly pass made it possible for me to get around at a slow pace. I could make only one call at night. I made slow progress: made the $100,000 Club, and paid off my stock market losses. I bought a Willis Knight, very clean and in good working order. There was a German Jewish Refugee Club. I took Mother and Dad to one of their dances. This is where I MET RUTH. I started dating her. This sort of life went on until WWII. I was among the first drafted. I didn't try to beat the draft -- I looked forward to going after Hitler.

I was assigned to the 89th Infantry division stationed at Camp Carson, Colorado Springs, CO. It was originally to be a combat division trainee to go after the Japs. One thing after another kept it from reaching its full quota. We received draftees from Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Jersey, and had to go through basic training several times. After the first promotions, all the PFCs were sent to Europe and took part in the invasion of the French coast. I became Corporal Appel, company clerk, responsible for seeing that everyone got paid their $21.00 a month, bought GI insurance, etc.

It was about this time I met a Denver school teacher. As company clerk I was assured a pass every weekend. My school teacher used her gas rationing coupons to drive to Colorado Springs. Congress passed a law that all men over age 28 had to be discharged to go into war work. As company clerk it was my job to get about 40 men in K Company discharged, including myself, and go home. The condition of my discharge was that I go into the war effort. This I did by going to work for Lockheed Aircraft Co. My job was dispatcher, i.e., to locate parts that were not on schedule, find out why they were not, and get them on schedule again.
I courted Ruth and we were married February 13, 1944. Along came Lana, on April 19, 1945. Shortly afterward the war ended and I returned to New York Life. With peace things returned to normal, we enjoyed raising Lana. Lena died November 16, 1975 and Dad January 1, 1963. Life went on. School and social activities for Lana, vacations in the summer, Lake Arrowhead, a five-thousand mile tour of the Rockies, Canadian tour, etc. Ruth's health began to fail and we went from doctor to doctor but could not discover the cause of her illness. Ruth died five days after our 28th wedding anniversary, on February 18, 1972.

Ruth's great pleasures were seeing Lana graduate from USC, throwing a beautiful wedding for Lana and Alan Leavitt on August 19, 1967, giving them the wherewithal to buy their first house, and the arrival of LORIN on March 17, 1971.

# # #

SAD NEWS FROM LAS CRUCES

We note with sorrow the passing of our long-time member, Carmen Freudenthal, who died at ninety-two on July 14. For more than fifty years, Mrs. Freudenthal was one of the most prominent citizens of Las Cruces. She established the Woman's Improvement Association, the League of Women Voters, and Planned Parenthood. She started the library, the non-denominational cemetery, and Pioneer Women's Park.

A graduate of Smith College, she was a leader of the American Association of University Women. She is survived by her daughter, Elsa Altshool, and granddaughter, Janet Altshool.

NEEDED

Donation of a Video Camcorder to be used for archival documentation of NMJHS programs and oral history projects. Anyone with information, please contact Suzan Campbell at 983-9516.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AT DISCOUNT

We still have a few copies of "A HISTORY OF THE JEWS IN NEW MEXICO" written by our board member, Henry Tobias. This book, which was published by the University of New Mexico Press, is available to our members at a discount of 20% off the publisher's price of $24.95. If you would like a copy, please send a check (payable to NMJHS) for $22.00 ($19.95 plus $2.05 postage and handling) to: NMJHS, PO Box 15598, Santa Fe, NM 87506.
4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN TAOS
TO EXPLORE ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDIC ROOTS

The 4th annual New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Conference which will be held in Taos promises to be the most exciting to date, featuring lectures, a walking tour, the reading of a new play, a panel discussion, and concerts of Sephardic music.

The conference will be held from Friday evening, November 1, to Sunday afternoon, November 3 at the Kachina Lodge.

Following a welcoming reception at 7:00 PM, Neil Poese, Director of the Kit Carson Historic Museums, will set the context for the Conference by presenting an overview of the history of Taos. Later that evening, the internationally renowned folk singer, Consuelo Luz, will entertain the attendees with traditional Ladino songs from different parts of the Sephardic world.

Saturday morning's program will feature a talk by Cliff Mills, dealing with Taos at the turn of the century. NMJHS President Suzan Campbell will follow, sharing her research on the history of the Gudorf family, based on records from the Society's archives.

After lunch, local historian Charlotte Graebner will conduct a walking tour of historic Taos, pointing out architectural landmarks downtown, Jewish and non-Jewish alike.

Highlighting the afternoon is a dramatic reading of a stimulating and provocative play, "Once a Bright Fire", just completed by noted New York playwright, Rena Down. The play examines the anxieties and feelings of marginality experienced by descendants of crypto-Jews in New Mexico.

At the Saturday evening reception, several NMJHS members who have written books of relevance to the Jewish experience in the Southwest will autograph copies of their books. This will be followed by a banquet and performance by singer José Griego, who will perform a selection of Catholic alabados, discussing the hypothesis that these songs are of Sephardic Jewish origin.

On Sunday morning, there will be gathered a group of past and present Jewish residents of and visitors to Taos, sharing reminiscences of the Jewish community of the town in the early and mid-twentieth century.

The Conference will conclude with a lox and bagel luncheon at noon.

You should already have in your possession a detailed program, as outlined above, and registration and hotel information. A pre-registration form appears on the next page. A block of rooms at the discounted rate of $45.00 single or double, $55.00 triple and $65.00 quadruple has been reserved at the Kachina Lodge. You may call directly (1-800-522-4462) to reserve rooms.
CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Please accept the following registrations for the Fourth Annual New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Conference to be held at the Kachina Lodge in Taos, New Mexico, on Nov. 1, 2, 3 of 1991.

Number of Members ____________ @ $38.00 = $__________
Number of Non-members ____________ @ $43.00 = $__________
Check Enclosed $__________

The above rates are effective through Oct. 25, 1991. Make checks payable to NMJHS, and mail (together with this form) to:
New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
P.O. Box 15598
Santa Fe, NM 87506

IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED, PLEASE CALL THE CONFERENCE CHAIR, STAN HORDES AT 983-6564 OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RALPH THALER AT 471-6461.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New
Renewal

NAME

ADDRESS

__________________________________________

Phone(day)____________________________________(evening)

AMOUNT PAID: Regular - $20.00_______ Supporting - $50.00_______

Sustaining- $100.00_______ Patron - $250.00_______

Other - $____________________


IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRING?

To see if you are one of those whose membership has expired or is about to expire, check the date which appears on the bottom of your address label. If the date is 10/31 or earlier, please renew your membership NOW. Fill out the above Renewal Form and return it to the Society with your check payable to NMJHS. In that way, you will continue to participate in the important work which the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is engaged in.

THE NEW MEXICO JEWISH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 15598 Cielo Court Station.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506