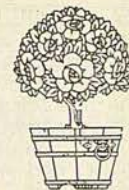




# Monongahela City Jewish Community



Monongahela was settled in 1792 and incorporated in 1873. This city is located in the heart of a great productive coal district and is the trade center of the Monongahela Valley Coal mines. The population is estimated at about 12,000. Like all Pennsylvania industrial communities it contains iron and steel mills, but its industries are quite varied. Coke ovens, glass and lamp factories, machine shops, flour mills, foundries, planing mills, paper mills, dry docks, fire brick plants, boiler works, etc., all contribute to the manufacturing life of this busy little city.

Churches and schools are well represented and the standard of citizenship is unusually high. There is a distinct civic spirit in the community which makes for well-kept streets, good water supply, and first class police and fire protection. There is a fine high school which ranks with the best in the larger cities and this school contains an exceptionally good library. There are two newspapers, several banks, a hundred or more retail stores, hotels, restaurants, and all the other commercial features that belong to any first class city. The business men of the city take an active interest through their organization for community co-operative effort which tends to promote the welfare of Monongahela. Like all other Pennsylvania cities it has wonderful opportunity for growth because it produces the things that are needed in the industrial and commercial life of the nation.

There are only thirty-five Jewish families in Monongahela City, but they have made a deep impression upon the life of the community; while they are small in number they are big in achievement, and this is not an idle phrase. It is rather difficult to name the first Jew who came to Monongahela City, but the best records available give that credit to Mr. A. B. Cowan, who settled there in 1890, some 29 years ago. Despite the fact that the number of families in the community is so small yet they have a Rabbi, S. Berger, who came there some four years ago. This shows that the proper spirit is present in the community. There can be no question that when this group of Jews have added a little more to their number that they will have a well organized congregation and a synagogue because they have the enthusiasm and aggressiveness necessary to promote any undertaking.

But they are unquestionably making the best of the situation and are neglecting no opportunity to maintain the ties that bind them to their re-

ligion. Despite the fact that there is no building that can be used for Sabbath School purposes the children meet at the homes of the different members and are taught the principles of their faith by Miss Molly Goldstein and Mrs. Perchesky, two volunteers. This is a great deal more than is done by communities much larger and who have adequate facilities for a Sabbath School.

One of the most important, if not the most important Jewish organization, is the Hebrew Relief Society, which has done splendid work in bringing succor to those in distress. Whether it has been some member of the community in adverse circumstances or some stranger this society has always been ready to extend a helping hand. The officers are: H. Weinberg, President; Arthur Ginsberg, Secretary, and B. Kamen, Treasurer. In War Relief, too, the Monongahela Jews have shown a keen appreciation of their responsibility and through the able leadership of William Oppenheim and B. Weissberg this committee rendered a good account of itself. And a very unusual act was the sending of \$50 monthly to New York to help the children who were orphaned by the Flu epidemic. This is the first time that such relief has come to our attention and our coreligionists of Monongahela City surely have shown that their sympathies are of the broadest possible character.

In the United War Work Campaign, a team captained by Mr. Herman Weinberg collected \$1,200, which is a splendid sum to procure from so small a number. And in this campaign he was ably assisted by Mr. Brody. But in all war activities the small Jewish community contributed its share and while no special credit is due any one for doing his duty during the war, yet it is gratifying to note that our friends in the smaller communities were workers and not slackers.

Ambition is popular in Monongahela City and we find the men working hard to establish a B'nai B'rith Lodge and while they have not been successful as yet they have determined to link themselves with the great Jewish Order and they will succeed. It has been mentioned that for some reason or other the charter which they applied for has never been forthcoming, but they expect to soon enter the ranks of B'nai B'rithdom.

The women too are not one whit behind the men in their ambitious aims and they have formed a Jewish women's club, which, while it can boast of only twenty members, yet it makes up in interest what it lacks in numbers. They did their share in the

Red Cross work and in the Liberty Loan Drives. They have taken an active interest in the Denver Society for Jewish Consumptives and have raised funds to help those unfortunates who have been obliged to seek relief from the White Plague. Their programs are social and educational and it would be of value if the women's organizations in the larger cities would assist and co-operate with these smaller groups to promote the interest of the Jewish woman. There are so many vital problems today which closely affect the Jewish woman that there should be a closer relationship between the sisters in the big and the little communities. It might be possible that in a community such as Monongahela City, where the soil is ripe for such an undertaking, that the Council of Jewish Women might interest itself to advantage. The Council sometimes endeavors to form sections in more pretentious communities with less success than they might

achieve if they directed their attention and energies to such a group as this. The men could be encouraged too, by a more intimate relationship with the Jewish leaders in the cities. It is essential in these days when the position of the Jews is not any too secure to develop and strengthen even in the smallest groups a deeper Jewish consciousness. And in these days of closer communion it should be the aim of all Jewish leaders to work to help the Jew in the neighboring towns. This thought has become more emphasized of late since the CRITERION has begun to bring to light and to discover to its readers the splendid organizations and the activities that are to be found in so many sister communities in this section. And we surely trust that it will be productive of much good.

Continued on Page 34

## SUTMAN'S Bread and Ice Cream

Lead the Valley

Wholesale and Retail  
Phone Main 122

Monongahela, Pa.



Only Non-Sulphating Storage Battery  
BATTERIES INSPECTED FREE!

204 Fourth Street

## Monongahela Electric Repair Co.

The Eveready Battery Service  
Station

The EVEREADY means a Hotter spark, a quicker start, Brighter lights and vitality to carry overload and work overtime. There is none better than the EVEREADY BATTERY.

We repair and recharge all kinds of Batteries. Testing free. We are distributors for TYRIAN RED TIRES and FEDERAL TIRES; Accessories and Auto Supplies.

Points & Brushes for Magnetos & Generators

JOHN T. WALTERS, Prop.

Monongahela

# Mazda Lamps

National Electric Supply Co.

C. McPherson, Mgr.

Electrical Contractors, Supplies, Construction, Fixtures. House Wiring a Specialty.

214 Main St.

Phone 500

Monongahela, Pa.



give a great deal of their time to the work. Mr. Moses Miller is Superintendent; and Miss Moskowitz, Miss Irwin, Miss Heatter, Miss Miller and Miss Silverman are the teachers. It is not usual to find in such small groups so many young women capable and willing to undertake this task. And too much credit cannot be given them for their efforts in the most important of all branches of Jewish teaching.

Probably the next important organization is the Y. M. H. A. which was organized some six months ago and now has a membership of 150. This is a remarkable showing and the young men are to be congratulated upon their support of such an organization in such splendid numbers. The association of course has no quarters of its own as yet and their meetings are in the synagogue. We are sure knowing as we do the spirit of Donora that it won't be long before the young men have a building of their own and they are sure to give a good account of themselves in every phase of Jewish activity in the community. H. Silverman is the President; M. Roth, Vice President; H. Pearlman, Treasurer; and S. Paul, Secretary. The following members of the "Y" were in the service: Ben Silverman, David Schnitzer, Emanuel Lieber, Joseph Roth, Ben Friedlander, Hyman Silverman, Joseph Ruben and Max Heatter.

When we said that the "Y" was the next important organization we had no intention of slighting the body of earnest women who are organized as a Ladies Aid Society. For in every community the women do the best work. And in Donora they not alone consider the needs of those in want but they strive to develop the standard of their membership along educational lines. During the war this Aid society rendered excellent service in Red Cross work as well as war relief. In addition to their other functions they are affiliated as an auxiliary of the congregation and in divers ways they serve to the advantage of the congregation. The officers of this society are Mrs. M. D. Cohen, President; Mrs. J. Silverman, Vice President; Mrs. S. Appelbaum, Treasurer, and Mrs. J. Lautman, Secretary. These ladies individually as well as members of the society are among the foremost in all worthy community effort. There is another woman's organization and that is the Y. W. H. A. It is very unusual to find a Young Woman's Hebrew Association in a small community but it seems that Donora Jewry don't overlook any grouping that may serve a good purpose to develop and improve the communal spirit. So this association of 40 young women are doing their part in the Jewish life of Donora. We are sure that this association will increase in membership and activity as soon as they receive such encouragement as can come from their sister organizations. As Donora works very much in cooperation with Pittsburgh Jewish leaders we are sure that as soon as

the Pittsburgh Young Women's Hebrew Association develops that it will have a very beneficial effect upon the Donora group and we are confident that the Pittsburgh women will not be averse to assisting their sisters in the smaller community.

The fraternal organization that invites the attention of the Donora Jews is the Sons of David which has a membership of 60 and which functions purely as a fraternal body. We would think that Donora would be ripe for a B'nai B'rith Lodge which has a broader platform and more idealistic aims than an organization which is solely fraternal in character. Perhaps some of the progressive leaders of the community may be induced to consider the formation of such a Lodge. The officers of the Sons of David are John Lautman, President; Max Moskowitz, Vice-President; Adolph Moskowitz, Secretary, and Morris Wise, Treasurer. Jacob Heatter is Trustee.

There is another rather out of the ordinary organization known as the Observation Society to which almost every Jewish child in Donora belongs. The purpose as the name indicates is to promote the observing faculties of the children and those who have witnessed the sessions of the youngsters say that it is very interesting and very educational. Leonard Freed is President and Bernard Wise is Vice-President.

In the war activities it might be noted that \$2,500 was raised for Jewish War Relief as well as other contributions for non-sectarian causes. The Congregation contributed one hundred dollars as a congregation to the Red Cross, which was the largest sum raised for that purpose by any church body in Donora; in addition every member of the congregation became members of the Red Cross and also subscribed additionally. So excellent was the work done by Rabbi Elifant that he has received from the Government a special acknowledgment.

So all in all Donora Jewry has real reason to be proud of their efforts. Not many groups of equal number can boast of so many and so varied activities. And we are glad to know that interest in this up-to-date community is being taken by some of our Pittsburgh friends who have had occasion to visit their and take part in their different gatherings.

#### MONONGAHELA CITY, PA.

Continued from page 32

It would not be fair to bring to a close even this brief sketch of Monongahela Jewry without mentioning the fact that one family contributed three sons to the service of Uncle Sam; they were Herman, Harry and Meyer Kohn, and as they were all the Jewish boys from this community in war service, it seems rather an unique circumstance that one family contributed a community's entire quota.

We feel sure that when Monongahela City Jewry overcomes the handicap of small numbers that they will become one of the most progressive and important influences upon Jewish life in their section; and they will not be behind in making their influence felt in the larger Jewish problems that are of a national and international character.

We hope that when occasion again arises for a recapitulation of the activities of the Jews of Monongahela City that they will have increased to the size the intentions and interest of the community justifies.

## The Home of "Tasty" Products

# Modern Baking Company



### DONORA, PA.

Bell Phone 170

## Donora Construction Co., Inc.

DONORA, PA.

*Road Builders and General Contractors.  
Retail Dealers in Coal, Sand, Gravel, Cement  
and Sewer Pipe.*

OFFICE: 1st Street and Meldon

# FALLER'S

Always Best for

Furniture, Pianos, Carpets,  
Sewing Machines, Home  
Furnishings.

564-578 McKean Ave. DONORA, PA.

Bell Phone 193-R

*Autos for all Occasions*

## Ford-Whitehill Co.

O. E. Whitehill - Funeral Director

### UNDERTAKERS

Motor Ambulance

Phone 7

DONORA, PA.