

Its about 55 years ago 35 members of B'nai Jacob Shul from West Third Street decided to buy ground for a cemetery. There were several deaths in Liverpool, Ohio. We took the ladies to Pittsburgh on different cemeteries. We took ladies to Steubenville, Ohio. Some were buried in water. I don't mean they throw the ladies in water. Steubenville cemetery ground is low. Whena grave is dug, water used to come in the butter of the grave at the bottom the caskets used to be lowered in the water. According to Jewish law, we can not take a death body from the cemetery. A Rabbi has to give permission and special prayer had to be said. The same thing inthe Beaver Falls, Pa. cemetery. The cemetery there is also low. Ground and water comes in the graves after it is dug out. Pittsburgh cemeteries are on high ground but vary crowded at that time. Now they have bought more ground and the cemeteries look better. I used to go up with people from Liverpool that have their dear ones there. We had to walk, we are not allowed, on graves that are covered with cement with no walk between the graves. The last burial I attended that was buried in Pittsburgh was Mr. Harry Aronson. Although he bought 5 plots at our cemetery that was 29 years ago. When I made an appeal on Yom Kippur day in our shul. We needed it; I should say I needed it. We had about \$1500. in our treasury. Moe Stein was secretary-treasurer. I signed a contract for about \$35000 for the still _____ It was already installed. I had 30 days to pay for it. You will think and ask the question, how did we get the money/ That we had to spend close to ten thousand dollars. Lets begin at the beginning. The 35 members that decided to buy ground for a cemetery each one paid \$25.00.--they had \$750.00. that what they paid for the ground about 5 acres. Each member was to get a plot. They got a charter. It is in Lisbon, Ohio Court House under the name B'nai Jacob Cemetery, I believe. I could never find the charter. We had the ground they named it B'nai Jacob Cemetery. For years it was a wilderness. About 45 years ago a collector that was collecting money for some organization as we had them in the tence at that times, he dropped death in Midland, Pa. There was no ~~one~~ one that claimed his body. We made a collection in Midland and Liver-

pool, enough for a funeral as the cemetery was the schul's property. A plot was given for the body. We buried him on the side, why on the side I don't know, There was no road at that time. Later we bought a marker for the grave to know that it is a cemetery. Later, about 45 or 46 years ago Ida Gordon and Fanny Reich made a card party to raise money for the cemetery. They made \$65.00. Deposit it in the First National Bank not even on interest. It was there for a start. Since that ground was known as a cemetery my sister and her husband Sarah and Sam Manlovitz, lost 3 children, 2 girls and a boy an infant that died when they lived on Second Street in Liverpool. My sister Sarah was so heartbroken. She stood near the death infant and said OhG-d, why do you give me children and then take them away from me. If I will live to be 100 years I will not forget those words. They were the next three bodies in the cemetery. About a year later Rebecca and Mike Slyen lost a child. He died after an operation. That was my sister's grandson. He was buried there. In 1931 Sam Manlovitz, my sister's husband died. He was buried at one end of the 4 graves. At the other end of the 4 graves my sister picked it for herself. They put 5 markers on the graves, put 4 cement posts around the 6 plots and put a chain all around the graves. As it was an ambithy fild the chain was stolen. The markers on the graves were not touched. Later my sister moved to Florida, died there and was buried there. That wasn't her wish. She wanted to be buried near her children and husband. She paid for the 4 plots, not for hers. We sold her plot. Later my sister's grandson died. Rebecca and Mike Slyon he died from an operation. He was buried there in 1931. Sam Manlovitz died, he was buried there. For the upkeep of the cemetery the family in Florida used to send us from 35 to 75 dollars. About 3 years ago when we put the white stones on all the graves I asked Virginia Kaplan, a daughter to send ~~me~~ us \$125.00 for stones to cover the 5 graves. She send us a check. It didn't take that much money, they need at least 2 bags white tones to cover it. I also got \$60.0 from Dr. Wm. Shapiro from Washington, D.C. to cover Mr. & Mrs. J. Rudolph graves. Myer Reich grave we paid for the stones. Fanny Reich didn't want to pay. The grave next to Mr. Reich that Fanny Reich told us to save for her is not paid. If Harry Aronson bought and paid for,

when ever it happens that her body is brought to our cemetery you should charge them \$390.00 for the grave and of course for digging the grave and \$350.00 perpetual care. Get a check before she is buried.

When Ida Gordon died March 22, 1949, she said she wants to be buried near the family. We had a hard time to take her up to the cemetery; the road was muddy. We couldn't drive up or carry the casket up. Mike Turk brought

After she was buried in the field of wilderness, I built an iron fence around her grave that horses, cows and dogs should not tromp over her grave. That is when we three people, Moe, Nellie Stein and Harry Gordon, begin to raise money for the cemetery. We made card parties, were raffling off items, were making dinners. The hardest part was selling tickets at 50 cents and a dollar. Dinners were \$1.50. Still we were chased out from homes and stores. They used to call us the schnorers. It didn't mean anything to us. Our pleasure was when we saw our fund increasing that is when we already had fifteen hundred dollars when I signed a contract for the fence. I was the happiest man living. I knew when I will go up to see Ida's grave there wouldn't be any bums near Ida's grave, as there was when I asked them what are you doing here they said who are you get the hell off this ground or we'll break your head. When I buried Ida on the wilderness, where horses, cows, pigs and dogs run around on the field. I put a 3 foot steel fence around her grave. the animals should not be able to tromp on the grave. I am a poor speaker now and then. When I made an appeal on Yom Kippur our members responded willingly. and we had in donations and selling plots and the 5 graves that Mr. Aronson bought at a hundred dollars a plot we have raised 12 ~~thousand~~ hundred dollars through my appeal and the willingness of our members to support us three to ake our dream. Hard work and the respect to our loved ones that were there. To my sorrow all those 35 members that have paid in \$25.00 for a plot for themselves, there is only one family that is buried there. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rudolph. The rest of them are all gone to their everlasting homes on different cemeteries where they had dear ones. Oh yes, the 5 plots that Mr. Harry Aronson bought and paid for,

Mr. George Aronson donated to the cemetery. Mr. Harry Aronson was buried in a Pittsburgh cemetery. He wanted to be layed near his parents.

Our cemetery is the same as other institutions that promise and don't pay. We have good hearted people that promise good size amo nts. They either forget to pay or they ~~lxxx~~ leave it for after their death. As we've had two cases that promised while they were living. First one was Mrs. Lewanda, Mrs. Breckstone's daughter. A few days before she died, we know her days were short. Ida Gordon, Mrs. Aronson and myself bisited her in Mrs. Breckstone's hotel on Second Street where she was living. A few months. She lived in Midland many years, had property there. She promised us three people and Mrs. Breckstone was with us and heard her mother promising \$500.00 for the cemetery on condition we build a drive in gate to the cemetery. We, I blame myself, for being dumb, for not having signed a promise note by Mrs. Lewanda to be able to collect the promised amount after she died. We let her be buried on the cemetery without getting paid for the frave. A few weeks later we built the drive in gate. I went to Mrs. Breckstone to collect the amount Mrs. Lewanda promised and for the grave on the cemetery. Mrs. Breckstone said her mother didn't have or left any money and she hasn't got any money to pay us. I talked to Midland people, they said Mrs. Lewanda had money and property in Midland. We couldn't do anything as I didn't have anything signed by Mrs. Lewanda or by Mrs. Breckstone. An attorney told me we can't collect what she promised without a signed note. For the grave the attorney said you might collect. We have to bring suit against Mrs. Breckstone. We decided not to bring the case to court. The Midland people collected enought to pay for a name plate This is case #1. Case #2. We had a religous man in Liverpool that was liberal in promising money to the cemetery. He had nephews and nieces on the cemetery. He used to promise a hundred dollars at a time. Mr. Morris Manlovitz. It gathered up to a sum of \$600.00. When we needed money I asked him for some money. He said, I have no money now. You will get the money after I die. He died, his body was taken to New York where his wife was buried. The cemetery never got a dollar That shows that we can't trust a religious man. What happened

to his money I don't know except one man knows.

There is another case with a different problem. Living in the community for 61 years, being active in the community and in different work. In certain work it was demanded from me to make my own decisions. This wasn't my decision, it was a mixed up case. This happened a few years ago. You know Mrs. Fanny Rubin, her daughter, Esther Rubin Burns. I forgot her married name, we have it on our cemetery, her husband that she was married to. He was working for Montgomery Ward for many years, was making good wages not a micster in the community. A couple year before he died he went to work for Smith and Phillips Furniture Store. The Smith boys were fanatic church members. He was a lonesome man, no family life, no community life. The Smith boys find in him a weak spot to his religion. As far as I remember, I saw him once or twice in the Shul. He came with Mr. Abe Rubin, not by their will, by Fanny Rubin's will. The Smith Brothers find the weak spot in him, they give him a higher wages and he went to work for Smith and Phillips. After a short time working the Smith boys lured him to their church. In a short time he was converted. A few months later his father who lived in Chicago, was a good Jew not orthodox. He was a Reform member, he came to see his son and asked him why did he do it. He said he was baptized by the Smith boys. For the Smith boys to convert a Jew was a great honor. He cried for his father and asked his father to forgive him and when he dies he wants to be buried in a Jewish cemetery. That was the story his father told us, Dr. Fisher and I, with tears in his eyes. When I heard he died I went to Martins Funeral home to pay respect to him and his family, as I did and do it now when there is a death in Liverpool or surrounding our community. I do it now in Chester when there is a death in Chester. I go to Arner Funeral Home to visit the body and sign my name. After living in Chester for 59 years and being in business for many years I know a lot of people. I didn't mean to solicit business for our cemetery. Dr. Fisher was already there. I suppose his father talked to Dr. Fisher about a Jewish cemetery that he can ~~be/buried~~ bury his son when I came into the Funeral home Dr. Fisher said, you can talk to this man. He introduced me and

and said he is the head of a Jewish cemetery. He told us what his son's request was before he died. His father, with tears in his eyes retold us the story. I didn't promise him anything. I went to our Rabbi Weinberger. He said he knows already, he was already in the funeral home. I asked him his opinion what we can do to satisfy his old father to bury Mr. Burns in our cemetery. He said Mr. Gordon I can't tell you anything. I don't want to take upon myself. I will call a few rabbis. He was on the phone several hours. First he called two rabbis in Pittsburgh, an orthodox rabbi and a reform rabbi. Both rabbis told him the same thin. To satisfy his old father we should give him a plot on our cemetery. Our Rabbi Weinbren (Weinberger?) at hatime a very orthodoz nice man wasn't satisfied with the opinion of the two rabbis ~~in~~ in Pitts. He called New York rabbis. Their opinion was to satisfy his old father and believing that his son's last will was true that he was sorry what he did, to bury him on our cemetery. The Rabbi and I went to Mrs. Rubin, his wire and children weren't there, and said that we will bury him on our cemetery. The next day the funeral was held. Our committee did the rights to his body, ~~was~~ washed and dressed him in shrouds and buried him on our cemetery where he is there now. I got plenty Hell from some of the Liverpool people. I was used to that. Neither his wife or his three children were in the funeral parlor or on the cemetery. Mrs. Fanny Ruben attended the funeral. Afterwards we went to Mrs. Rubens house and had services. The two boys weren't there to say Kaddish for their dad. Mrs. Rubin asked me how much for the plot. I told her \$200. She gave me a check for \$250. Then she asked me how much should she give Rabbi Weinberger. I told her \$50. she gave him a check. Later she gave me Hell. Why was he entitled for such large amount. Rabbi Weinberger paid nearly that amount for the telephone calls to Pittsburgh and New York. That was all the money the cemetery got from the Burns or Rubens. About two months later I got a check from his father from Chicago for the cemetery for \$19.00. That must be all he could afford to give. That showed how much money his son left him in his will or how much he supported him while he was living. He was making nice wages in the

store where he was working. The monument on his grave the Smith brothers paid for. They called me and asked what size stone they can put up. That is why on the stone his name is spelled Bierencrantz. The price of the plot was not set by me while I was in the funeral home with Dr. Fisher and the father. The father said if you bury him on your cemetery how much would a plot be. Dr. Fisher said \$200. will be enough. That shocked me, I would tell him \$500.00. That is the price even now with perpetual care. On our cemetery people that have their dear ones there pay a yearly upkeep for the ground. It cost us 5-6 hundred dollars a summer to keep the grass cut, the trees and shrubs cut. The majority of the people that have their dear ones there. It was a long story to explain to people if that will ever be typed and read by people they should understand how much responsibility it takes for a public _____. Our cemetery is now well taken care. We have to thank many times Dave Feldman for the time and the work during summer he spends there days and weeks and the whole summer with hard work of himself and boys that help him. We should understand what effort and work it takes to get the tools. Dave has to drive up from his home on Church Alley to St. Clair Street to Ben Feldman's home, load the tools in his car and take it to the cemetery. Then when they are through working on the cemetery, Dave takes the tools back to Ben Feldman's home. Our own equipments, we would have to build a building on the cemetery ground to keep it under roof it would cost the cemetery hundreds of dollars, where we don't have the extra money. I am happy that we are getting along that well without asking for any help from the community thanks to Dave Feldman for all the work he does. A large ground as the cemetery is to keep it nice the graves with the white stones clean. If anybody wants to see, come some summer day, watch Dave and his help working. We shouldn't forget we haven't any tools or equipment to do the work. We have to thank Mr. Ben Feldman that he lets them use his equipment to cut the grass, trim the trees or any tools they need. Mr. Ben Feldman does not only supply the tools for the cemetery, he is very liberal, he gives a lot of money to keep the cemetery nice. He paid for

the shrubs that was planted about two years ago. The shrubs that is on the left side when we drive up and we keep to ^{the} right. He paid for the blacktopping and widening the drive in that two cars can pass each other. He paid for a wide gate in the back of the fence if we get crowded when we have a funeral we can open the back gate and drive up on the back ground that Ben Feldman bought to protect our cemetery. He heard that someone bought the ground close to our cemetery and they will build homes. He bought the ground from them they shouldn't get close to our cemetery. I thank you very very much Mr. Ben Feldman, What you did and do to keep our cemetery clean and nice. As for our officers I have no words how to say and praise them for the good work they are doing. Dave Feldman and Harriette Feldman, secretary-treasurer. She is very good to keep the books. I often ask for a report, she says wait a minute, opens the books and tells me what our balance is. We had a good secretary-treasurer, Fritzie. G-d took her from us in her early young life. Harriette stepped in her shoes. I pray for you dear Harriette, you and your family should be in good health for many tens of years.

Now a few words for the approach to the cemetery and to widen Shady Ave. It took us, not me I was what you call the pusher. I had my friend Mr. Louis Tobin, Judge, as he knew the commissioner he went ~~after~~ after them. It took years before they got through the red tape. I talked to the commissioners several times. The answer was first we don't have the money yet. Then when they got the money it was the red tape with the engineers, contractors and many other obstacles. We finally got the road widened. Then we had to have the road when we make a left turn by the store. It was broken up, it needed to be cindered and black topped. I went to my friend Judge Louis Tobin, he went to the commissioners again. It took months, we finally got that road blacktopped. Then we had that short approach when we make a right turn to our cemetery. I went to my friend again Judge Tobin. I believe for that work Mr. Ben Feldman helped us. The commissioners, to get ready (rid) of us, they said they will do it. We have to pay the cost \$300.00. We didn't had to pay it at one time. A hundred

dollars a year. We agreed and paid. Now we have the road widened, blacktopped to our gate, widened and blacktopped in our cemetery. Now we should all be well and live for many years in good health, the saying is. I know many people they don't want to go to a cemetery. I say to go up to our cemetery is a pleasure to see how beautiful it looks. We go up we can see miles around beautiful scenery. Our dear ones should rest in peace. You all know a cemetery isn't like a business with an open door for customers to come in. There is cemeterys they send out salesmen to sell lots. We don't do that; still we need a cemetery. We are on this world not for ever. When our time comes to go from this beautiful world we need a place to put our dear ones. That is why we have to keep our cemetery clean cut with green grass and trees. It should look like a park. This is the way our cemetery looks. When people come to a funeral they should thank their dear ones have an everlasting nice home. They can come to visit their dear ones anytime. With a key to the gate that is closed in for people only to keep up our cemetery nice and clean. It takes money and help. We often get a small donation. Sometimes a large donation like the one we got from the Braslawscce brothers. One thousand dollars in memory of their parents. That came in time when we needed a plaque for the temple to put nameplates for our dear ones to remember their yahrzeit when a prayer is read on Fridays by the rabbi and Yom Kippur when we say Yiskor and all the names are read. The two plaques we have in the temple cost us at that time about \$600. a piece, the new one cost us \$1800. We all knew how high everything is. About 15 years ago we have the fence from the cemetery painted inside and outside. Our fence is getting rusty in some spots. At that time we paid \$275. Last year I had a bid \$2200. and our paint. Now when we say to people, when they ask how much is a name plate we tell them \$100. Why so high. The name plates that we used to get charge \$50. We used to pay \$4.75 and \$5.00. Now a name plate cost us \$25. except postage. A customer called me to find out how much we charge for a name plate. I told them \$100. so you went up with the high price. Bulbs for the tables we used to get them for 5 cent. Last year I got 50 bulbs at Sayre for \$80.00.