

Schools. Sylvia also taught in the Bangor school system prior to meeting James Shocket, also at Old Orchard. They married and settled in Rhode Island. Nate served for several terms as mayor and city councilman of Eastport, Maine. He was also a member of the Governor's Council, representing Aroostook and Washington Counties under the Curtis and Longley administrations. Ada became an instructor of German at the University of Maine; her husband, Herman (Sam) Silverman, was an instructor of mathematics at the University. He was teaching investment theory and had co-authored a book on the subject, which inspired him to try his hand at business. In the 1930's he became a Gofkauf auto supply franchisee in Calais, Maine and during the war established Silvermans, a wholesale and retail auto and hardware supply store. Eunice relocated to New York where she worked at New York University; she later settled in Rhode Island and became an executive with the American Association of Retired Persons.

S.H. Cohen closed his operations in Brownville and the Junction in the 1930's and retired to Bangor. His daughter Edna (b.1909) married Jack Rapaport, of Eagle Lake, Maine in 1930; Jack established Rapaport Tire in Bangor in 1933 and fifteen years later a Lincoln-Mercury automobile dealership was opened on Oak Street. Sam and Jack then formed C & R Realty for the purpose of purchasing Bangor properties.

The war years marked the return of prosperity to Bangor's citizens, who in 1945 enjoyed the eighth highest per capita income in the nation. The retail trade increased more than 25 percent over the previous fifteen years and the city boasted more than a thousand retail and wholesale establishments, and four hundred professional offices. Bangor appeared to be in the top of its post-lumber boom form. Exchange Street, which was the site of many Alpert-Cohen businesses, still exhibited the more colorful aspects of Bangor's past. In the three blocks that comprised this street - from Union Station on the banks of the Penobscot River to its termination at State Street - there were more than one hundred business establishments and offices. Old Bangor was represented by the offices of I.K. and I.G. Stetson (managers of timberlands), the Savage Lumber Company and the Sterns Lumber Company. The portion of the street closest to the train station was occupied by rooming houses, beer halls and small restaurants which existed in years past to serve the tastes of lumberjacks who came from the northern woods looking for relaxation and entertainment. Nine restaurants and four hotels also lined the street, including the Kern's Eastern Eating House. The Bangor Daily News offices were located there as were those of ten different labor unions, three insurance agents and several trucking companies. The Bangor-Brewer Lions Club, Brewer Kiwanis Club, Knights of Columbus Hall and Bijou Theater were situated a few doors from each other. Among Exchange Street's six clothing stores, were the Allan-Lewis store, which was ultimately moved to Main Street, and Louis Saltzman's shop.

Louis remained in the same location until retiring in 1956 when the building he rented was destroyed by fire. Three of the four Saltzman children left Bangor to pursue various activities. After graduating from the University of Maine, William (b.1916) began his journalism career with the *Bangor Daily News*. After tenures with the *Bangor Daily Commercial* and the Associated Press he relocated to Indiana where he spent thirty-seven years with the *South*



Exchange Street was the site of many Alpert-Cohen businesses, including Max Cohen's jewelry shop with its smoke-filled back room. *Bottom*: Bangor and Boston steamers passing each other on the Penobscot. (Author's collection)



Exchange Street was the site of many Alpert-Cohen businesses, including Max Cohen's jewelry shop with its smoke-filled back room. *Bottom:* Bangor and Boston steamers passing each other on the Penobscot. (Author's collection)

Bend Tribune, retiring as its News Editor in 1985. After graduating from the University of Maine, Ada (b.1918) married Harry Silverman, who was stationed at Dow Field in Bangor; after he returned from service in North Africa they relocated to Harry's home in Pennsylvania where a wholesale supply business was established. Upon graduating high school, Robert (b.1926), served in the Navy and returned to the University of Maine where he earned a degree in Engineering Physics. He has been with the DuPont Company since 1955 where he is a Research Fellow. After studying at the University of Maine, Elmer (b.1921) served in France during the war and then returned to Bangor where he worked with his father. After marrying, he operated a laundry in Old Town; he has since been involved in the real estate business in Bangor.

The Kerns maintained the Eastern Eating House, which was located near Union Station, until it was sold in the early 1950's.¹⁴ Nathan and Sophie then retired to Leighton Street. After completing his undergraduate work at Bowdoin and graduate studies at the University of Maine at Orono, Abraham (b.1915) relocated to the university's Portland campus where he served as a Professor of Biology.

Robert and Fannie Cohen's sons pursued careers in Maine. Edward (b.1917) attended the University of Maine, graduated from St. Johns Law School and maintained a practice at 44 Central Street in Bangor. George (b.1920) attended the Maine School of Commerce, served in the Army Air Force during the war and then worked with his father after being deactivated. He acquired the Economy Clothing Store at 88 Pickering Square which Robert helped him operate after closing his own store. When the block that housed Economy Clothing was torn down during the massive urban renewal project of the 1960's, George switched careers to real estate sales. One day after graduating from high school, Max (b.1925) was inducted into the service along with all the other male members of his class. After the war he attended the University of Maine and graduated from Boston University Law School. He practiced in Bangor for twenty-five years before joining the legal division of the Maine State Department of Transportation in Augusta.

Rusha Alpert, who survived her husband Mendel by twenty years, remained in Bangor as did several of their children. Ida (b.1900) married James Bell of Portland and together they maintained a small store at 160 Hancock Street for a number of years. Ida later became the proprietor of the State Street Cut Rate Store at 195 State. Jacob (b.1903) settled in Dover Foxcroft where he initially operated a jewelry store and then a dry goods store. He returned to the Bangor-Brewer area to establish an auto parts store and then a tire recapping business. Sylvia (b.1905) married Saul Nyer who had come to Dover Foxcroft in 1924 to work with the Alpert family clothing operation after Morris' death. The Nyers moved to Boston where they opened several Neighborhood Stores and then developed a chain of hosiery shops located throughout New England. After working for some time in New York they returned to Bangor for retirement. Sophie (b.1907) also settled in New York where her husband, Oscar Braverman, worked with Saul Nyer. Isidor (b.1909) changed his name to Irving, then to Albert Mariner after ships he was stationed on successfully completed the notoriously dangerous Murmansk supply mission on several

occasions during the war.¹⁵ He reached the rank of Commodore in the Merchant Marine.

By the late 1940's Isidor and Israel Alpert had sold their respective shops on Main Street and State Street with Izzy retiring to Leighton Street and his brother to Parkview Avenue. Five of Israel and Bessie's six children graduated from the University of Maine; they pursued a variety of careers, with some continuing in Bangor and others moving on. Maurice (b.1910), who graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacology, established Alpert's Pharmacy on the corner of Pine and Hancock Streets prior to joining his brother Isadore (b.1912), a chemical engineer, in the purchase of Priest Drug Company on Exchange Street. Within a few years they acquired Morin Tobacco, an Old Town-based wholesaler of candy, tobacco and sundries. Sylvia (b.1913) became one of only three women battery engineers in the country, spending her career in government service at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. Sidney (b.1916) graduated from the Chicago Medical School and then enlisted in the Army Medical Corps in 1942. After being discharged he opened a general practice in Chicago and later became a specialist in physical medicine. Over the course of his career he served as Medical Director of Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital and was a professor at the Rush Medical School. After graduating from the University of Maine, Myer (b.1918) spent a year at Brown University before entering the army. After the service he completed his graduate studies at Harvard and then taught for a short time at Wabash College in Indiana. He spent the early 1950's working as a petroleum economist with the Federal Trade Commission prior to moving to California where he worked for twenty-five years as an air transportation economist for Northrup Corporation in Los Angeles. Ada (b.1919) graduated from the University of Maine and was a social worker for the state in Machias and then Brewer. After completing her Master's degree she taught school in several small communities and then relocated to Presque Isle, Maine with her husband, who was a soil conservationist.

Of Izzy and Mary's children, Katya (b.1914) graduated from Radcliffe College and settled in Connecticut where she pursued a writing career in conjunction with her husband, Bert Gilden. Two novels were produced over a twenty-five year period: *Hurry Sundown*, which was a *New York Times* best-seller, and *Between the Hills and the Sea*. After graduating from the University of Maine, Sylvia (b.1916) traveled to Sioux City, Iowa where her brother Sidney (b.1917) served as an armaments instructor during the war. She married and raised three children there until moving to Florida in the 1970's. Sidney, who attended Bowdoin and graduated from the University of Maine, returned to Bangor after the war where he operated Morin Tobacco with his cousins Maurice and Isadore. In 1949 he acquired Priest Drug but sold it several years later and established the Broadway-Sunset Drug store on Broadway, which he operated with his wife, Sonia. Ten years later he moved his family to California where he earned another degree and became a teacher in the Los Angeles school system.

Three members of Hyman and Sarah Epstein's clan remained in Bangor where their children were born and raised; their fourth child married and moved to the Boston area. The Epstein store on Exchange Street proved to be the vehicle by which Samuel Kurson was introduced to his future wife, Min-

nie (b.1887). Samuel had come from Russia to Bar Harbor, Maine where his brother Julius had a store, but decided to relocate to Bangor where the business prospects were better. He established a clothing store on Exchange Street, a few doors down from the Epsteins, and the romance with Minnie ensued.

Sam Kurson ultimately formed a business partnership with one of Minnie's first cousins, Edwin Epstein - the son of Hyman's brother, Israel. They acquired the Graphic Theater Building on the corner of Exchange and York Streets and went on to purchase and develop theaters in small communities throughout central Maine. (In addition to a theater, this building housed a bowling alley and, ultimately, the Allan-Lewis store. It was one of the few survivors of the urban renewal project that ravaged Exchange Street, and most of downtown Bangor.) Sam's sons, Newell (b.1910), Kenneth (b.1913) and Robert (b.1915), expanded this business with Edwin's son, Sidney. Newell and Ken graduated from Dartmouth and Robert from Yale and Harvard Law School, though he did not practice law. Each settled in the Boston area and continued to be involved in business ventures in Maine.

Myer (b.1890) earned his law degree from the University of Maine and practiced for a time in partnership with his brother-in-law, James Cahners. He married and lived at 303 Essex until moving to Fountain Street concurrently with his parents, who lived next door.

By 1923 James Cahners had become the president of Eastern Furniture (which became Friedman Furniture) at 158 Exchange Street; he and Katherine (b.1893) lived on Center Street and then at 58 Broadway. He became president of the Bangor Gas Company and then founded the Modern Home Plan before moving to Boston in the late 1950's. Their eldest child, Charlotte (b.1913), was educated at Lasell College, then married and settled in Boston. After the death of her first husband she married Gerard Glass, whose family operated a farm in East Eddington, Maine. Norman (b.1914), Fulton (b.1917) and Walter (b.1925) graduated from Harvard and each served in the Navy during the war. While in the service, Norman created *The Palletizer*, which was the first in a series of successful trade and technical magazines published by the Cahners Publishing Company, which Norman founded in Boston after the war. After serving in the Navy, Fulton worked with his father-in-law's company, Union Underwear, a division of Fruit of the Loom. Later he formed the Boston Publishing Company with his brother-in-law, Gerard Glass, and after the sale of this business he was associated with Norman at Cahners Publishing. Walter also developed an enterprise with Gerard Glass, the Industrial Education Institute, which ran seminars. Subsequent to this he worked with Cahners Publishing, with which he is still associated.

The fourth and youngest Epstein child, Anna (b.1900), was introduced to Harry Feinberg of Boston through the Kursons after graduating from the University of Maine. Harry, whose family owned the Boston Paper Board Company, and Anna settled in Boston.

The stream of Alpert-Cohen immigration to Bangor concluded with the First World War and within a few years the first families began to depart from