

# YANKEE FIDDLER



## A Man Called Suss

*By*

*Celia C. Risen*

YANKEE FIDDLER

A Man Called Suss

As told to CELIA C. RISEN by Julius G. and  
Lillian K. Sussman, three of their former  
employees and friends.

With photographs



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*The Clown Act - When Roger Katz spoke at the Memorial Tea and Musicale, he recalled the many children's parties he enjoyed where Suss entertained.*

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6-ft  
9-16-92

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Library of Congress Catalog  
Card Number 88- 90847

B 5964s 1988

Sussman, Julius G., 1895-  
1984.

Yankee fiddler.  
MAINE AUTHOR

478000A  
1988

Dedicated to CHAIM MERSON, who inspired me in 1974 to cherish the Jews who like him, came to Maine in their youth, made a contribution to the good life of its Yankees, and left a legacy of welcome for all people.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In addition to the nine hours of taped interviews and countless hours of socializing, Mr. Sussman was kind enough to give me newspaper clippings, pictures, music programs, letters, and certificates that his wife had not yet discarded in her housewifely desire to bring order to their large comfortable apartment.

I am indebted to Thelma and Bernard Lipman, the librarians of the Maine State Library and Archives (where scarcely anything pertaining to Jews is stored), Eleanor Sreb of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, and Dr. Edward D. Ives of the Northeast Folklore Society, University of Maine, Orono, for information and encouragement.

As usual, my husband, Isadore, was the behind-scenes-angel who made all this work possible.

In addition, Mary Florence Sigmond and her daughter Carol gave many hours of clerical and editorial help.

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## Foreward

Julius G. Sussman was a legend in his own time. He was in his eighties when I met him and his tiny wife Lillian but I had heard about him for many years before that wherever I went in Augusta, Winthrop, Readfield, Wayne and Manchester. Every church, senior citizen group, retarded citizen activity, concert and play somehow included the name, Sussman. Some of our friends referred to him as "Suss", the diminutive in English and the word "sweet" in German. Until the summer of 1981, however, I did not fully appreciate how deserving he was of that "Suss".

Since 1974, I have spent some time each summer interviewing Jews in their eighties and nineties for my own edification and I had called on Julius and Lillian in 1978 for one of these informal interviews. It was a delightful experience. When I decided to meet the requirements of the Northeast Folklore Society, "Suss" seemed to me would prove to be a good subject for an in-depth study of how a Jew adapted to the Yankee environment of Maine. Indeed he proved to be a charming, cooperative, patient, obliging person.

As I tried to fit in the bits and pieces of the 1978 interview, I realized that he and his wife wanted to talk about the bright parts of their experiences for the most part. All the troubles with the Watch and Ward Society over the sale of Spicy Stories were glossed over. Lil's terrible homesickness when she

came to live in Augusta at 42 years of age led to her motto, "Never compare what you have today with what you had before." The first six years of their mongoloid son's life at home were mixed with Julius' heart attacks and business reverses - yet there is no railing against God for their Job-like suffering. In between travail Suss gave of himself. He entertained in every church and civic group within thirty-five miles of Augusta. Some credit his wife with maintaining the business while he played the violin. Of course, she was the staff of life upon which the family depended. But is it not true of every artist that always supporting him is the unsung heroine who makes artistry possible? Yet there was a time when Lil was hurt and remained immobilized on a board in the hospital for 18 weeks before she was encased

in a cast for five months at home. Suss ran the business!

From the chronology I extracted, it does not seem possible that one man could have done so much! And between heart attacks! Suss modestly credited his co-workers and volunteers when he received awards, but having been a president of a Parent-Teacher Association myself, I have the feeling that he was the spark plug that generated much of the energy and ideas for his volunteer work.

Even at 86 years of age with an invalid wife and sister-in-law at home, he continued to play his violin when invited by civic associations. He still clowned for kindergarten classes. Unfortunately glaucoma made reading of music very trying and limited his driving to daytime neighborhood errands,

but he enjoyed outings to concerts and lectures when his many friends drove.

Suss and his wife had been regarded as the repository for information about Jewish holidays and Jews in the community. The Catholic Church called upon them to help with the Passover Seder. The summer residents depended upon Lil for memorial candles to observe the "Yahrzeit" (anniversary) of the death of a relative. She kept extra candles for Hanukah, the holiday observed by lighting a candle each day for eight days to remember the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. She saved newspapers for the Boy Scouts, interesting postage stamps for philatelists, clothing for church drives, etc. She was a small ball of humanity, but her large, brown eyes shone brightly for an eighty-nine year old. Her memory was great and her attitude

bed until lunch time. He did all the errands and shopping. He took Pat to the doctor when he and Lil had appointments. His sight was limited and his energy was decreasing, but he went to meetings almost every day. Lil could sit up most of the day, but found walking very difficult and rarely left the house. Pat suffered from diverticulosis and dental problems. Suss said he gave the drug store as much as \$40.00 per month for the family drugs. Yet people came to visit them often. They were alive and alert and made their visitors feel wanted. In fact, delighted!

## Community Activities

In his home the Augusta-Gardiner chapter of B'nai B'rith, the international brotherhood lodge, was founded. He served as president from 1958 to 1960 then became state president for one year in 1960. As an ex-officio member he served on the Board of Governors of District #1 (Northeast, New York and Canada) and was given the District award in 1961. After that he was awarded the Local Lodge Humanitarian and State B'nai B'rith awards in 1962 and 1963. He received a gavel from Colby College for his state presidency.

Sussman was a charter member of the American Legion Post in Waterville since 1919. He was a member wherever he lived - in Lowell,

Mass. and Poughkeepsie, N.Y., however briefly. A member of the Fitzgerald Post in Augusta for 42 years, the post honored him as a Humanitarian in 1956 and in 1963. In 1974 the State American Legion honored him.

He joined the Masons in 1937; the Shrine in 1938. Music played a role in all his affiliations. For the Kora Temple he sang with the Chanters and was president of the group in 1957-58. He received his 40 year pin in 1978.

At the U.S. Veterans Center at Togus he was not only a volunteer since 1945, but a patient for 14 weeks in 1940 recuperating from his second heart attack and he was the B'nai B'rith representative to entertain and assist patients for more than 30 years. In 1971 he was given the first citation as a non-employee for exceptional service.



The ADL (Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith) honored him in 1945 as representative for Maine in the Northeast and for many years of service.

The American Red Cross awarded Sussman, Mrs. Kenneth M. Curtis and Loretta Kahill the Clara Barton Medal at the Blaine House for many years of service as a volunteer.

Sussman received many citations for entertaining patients at the Augusta Mental Health Institute as part of the Cecilia Club Trio along with Florence Cross and Loretta Kahill. In 1977 he was named "Boy Angel" of the month by the Club.

He was a co-founder of the Augusta Coin Club and served several terms as president.

From time to time he accepted the chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal and altogether had served in that capacity more

than 20 years. For this he was honored in 1974.

Since there is no rabbi in Augusta, he was invited to represent Jews on the State of Maine Pastoral Board. From 1972 to 1982 he led the opening prayer in the State Senate once or twice each session.

The Readfield Senior Citizens made him an honorary member for his many years of entertainment.

He spoke and played for the Penney Memorial Men's Club since 1969. They made him an honorary member with dues paid through the year 2000.

The Maine Federation of Music Clubs asked Sussman to be Chairman of the Crusade for Strings. He received four biennial awards from the National Federation of Music Clubs. In 1970 he assumed the presidency of the state

federation and represented Maine as the only male at the national convention of music clubs in New Orleans. In 1972 he was elected president for four years. Colby also gave him a gavel for this second state presidency.

In 1959 Sussman was a charter member of the Kennebec Valley Council for Retarded Children. He served as president five times and was a member of the board for ten years. At the same time he was a director and treasurer of the Maine Association for Retarded Citizens. The Julius G. Sussman Scholarship Fund was established by the National Association for Retarded Citizens in 1975 and the school for retarded youth was named the Julius G. Sussman School.

The Calumet Club (French-Canadian) gave him the Outstanding Citizen Award on March 27, 1976, in the presence of 400 guests. He was

especially pleased that Le Club Calumet invited the Kiwanian Bill Sprague, a Protestant, Senator Bennett Katz, a Jew and Maurice Violette, a Catholic Rotarian to assist his doctor and neighbor, as well as immediate past president Dr. M. Tieche Shelton. At this dinner Dr. John Bernard gave him the 3rd Humanitarian Award - only Father Curran and Dr. Barnard had ever received this award. In addition, Governor James Longley sent a citation signed by the senate president, Joseph Sewall, and the house speaker, John Martin, designating March 27, 1976 as Julius Sussman Day. The Calumet Club commissioned a painting done by Joseph Poulin of Sussman's head and shoulder which the artist presented to him. He was especially touched by the gift of a rose to his wife

accompanied by the record, "Only A Rose" sung by Mario Lanza.

The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) presented Sussman with their highest award - The National Medal of Honor in 1978. He was a member of the original musical trio that volunteered to perform at the Togus Veterans Center for 40 years. At the meeting when he was honored, he joined Mrs. A. Evariste Desjardens and Mrs. Basil W. Cross in a performance that included one of his compositions.

## Chronology

- 1891 - Father, Samuel Abramsky, came to Buffalo, N.Y., from Yanova, near Grodno, Poland.
- 1894 - Mother, Mary Zase, married Samuel in Cincinnati. Her family came from Suvalk, near Lodz, Poland.
- 1895 - (April 11) Julius born in Covington, KY.
- 1896 - Family moved to Lynn, Massachusetts.
- 1901 - Julius entered Talmud - Torah Hebrew School
- 1903 - Started violin lessons with Aaron Harris of Boston Symphony Orchestra
- 1908 - Bar Mitzvah
- 1909 - Graduated from 9th grade - Ingalls Grammer School
- 1909 - First job in Lynn

- 1911 - Second job in Boston
- 1912 - Parents moved to Dover, New Hampshire
- 1912 - Entered high school
- 1914 - Accepted at Colby College without high school diploma
- 1914-16 Set window panes and played violin for tuition and board
- 1915 - Summer job at Balsams - Dixville Notch, New Hampshire
- 1916 - Worked for General Electric in Lynn
- 1917 - Met future wife - Lil Kaplan
- 1916 - Summer at Balsams as head dishwasher
- 1917 - Returned to Colby for third year
- 1918 - (May 31) Enlisted in U.S. Navy
- 1918 - (December 13) Honorable Discharge
- 1917-19 Played in orchestras all over Maine
- 1919 - Graduated from Colby with B.S. degree
- 1919 - Joined American Legion in Waterville as charter member

- 1919 - Substituted in Boston and Columbia,  
Connecticut schools
- 1920 - Assistant Sales Manager - United Shoe  
Machinery Corp. in Lynn
- 1920 - (December 31) Wrote first musical  
composition
- 1921 - (January 31) Married Lil secretly
- 1921 - (March) Returned to Waterville to play  
in Barney Orchestra and teach violin
- 1921 - (Sept.) Began to teach in Waterville  
High School
- 1921 - (December) Announced marriage and went  
on honeymoon
- 1924 - Replaced at High School by Waterville  
girl - Returned to Lynn
- 1925 - Invested \$10,000 in shoe factory
- 1925 - Lost money and began 20 year struggle  
to pay off debt
- 1925 - Moved to Lowell - started Sussman



## Violin School

- 1926 - Joined B'nai B'rith in Lowell
- 1928 - Opened a restaurant in shoe factory  
where Lil was working
- 1930 - Sold Liberty and Delineator magazines  
with boys in cities in Massachusetts
- 1934 - Took over news dealership in Augusta,  
Maine
- 1935 - (December 7) Sidney John born  
Downs Syndrome
- 1936 - Charter Member - Atlantic Coast  
Distributors Association
- 1937 - (6-23) arrested on complaint of Watch  
and Ward Society
- 1937 - Joined Masons
- 1938 - President Colby Alumni Association  
(Southern Kennebec)
- 1938 - Joined Shrine
- 1939 - Started to play with Augusta Symphony

- 1939 - Charter Member Beth-El
- 1939 - (Dec.) First heart attack
- 1940 - (May 30) Second heart attack - 14 weeks  
in Togus U.S. Veterans Center
- 1941 - Sidney John sent to Bancroft School in  
New Jersey
- 1941 - Formed Cecilia Club Trio to perform at  
Augusta Mental Health Institute,  
Togus, Blaine House, etc.
- 1942 - 3rd heart attack in Florida
- 1942 - Lil injured spine
- 1944-58 President Beth-El
- 1945 - Volunteer at Togus
- 1945 - John Foss hired as manager
- 1950 - Clown group formed
- 1954 - Honored by Anti-Defamation League
- 1955 - Appointed by publishers to distribute  
magazines, replaced Penobscot News,  
new name, Magazines, Inc. Bangor

- 1957 - Sidney John transferred to Pineland
- 1957-58 President Kora Temple Chanters -  
Shrine
- 1957 - President Kiwanis
- 1958-60 President Augusta-Gardiner B'nai  
B'rith
- 1958 - Temple Beth-El dedicated own building
- 1958 - Honored by Beth-El
- 1959 - Charter member Kennebec Valley Council  
for Retarded Children
- 1959 - Delegate to National Conference Support  
of Churches, Dallas, Texas
- 1959 - Lt. Governor Kiwanis (delegate to  
Kiwanis International)
- 1960 - Started String Ensemble
- 1960-61 State President B'nai B'rith
- 1961 - Chairman B'nai B'rith District #1 -  
(New England) award received

- 1962-70 Chairman, Crusade for Strings - Maine  
Federation of Music Clubs
- 1962 - State Humanitarian Award B'nai B'rith
- 1963 - (November 7) Elected Man of the Year by  
B'nai B'rith
- 1963 - Augusta American Legion - Humanitarian  
Award
- 1963 - Fourth heart attack
- 1964-65 President Kennebec Valley Council for  
Retarded Citizens, 66-67-71
- 1966 - Sold the Augusta News Agency
- 1968 - Chairman of Support of Churches  
Committee for Kiwanis
- 1970 - John Foss bought Bangor News
- 1970-74 President State Federation of Music  
Clubs
- 1970 - String Ensemble joined Augusta Symphony  
Orchestra
- 1971 - Delegate to National Convention of

Federation of Music Clubs, New  
Orleans, LA.

1971 - Beth-El honored Julius and Lil on 50th  
wedding anniversary with banquet and  
television set

1971 - Togus awarded him (the first non-  
employee) the highest citation for  
service

1972 - Represented Jews on State Pastoral  
Board

1974 - State American Legion gave him  
Humanitarian Award

1974- Chairman United Jewish Appeal and  
honored for 20 years of previous  
service

1975 - Honored by Kennebec Unit of Youth,  
National Association for Retarded  
Citizens Julius G. Sussman  
Scholarship Fund

- 1976 - Banquet and 12th Outstanding Citizen  
Award by Le Club Calumet
- 1976 - (March 27) Julius Sussman Day at the  
State House by Governor Longley
- 1976 - Third Humanitarian Award by Le Club  
Calumet, original painting of head  
and shoulders of Julius by Joseph  
Poulin presented
- 1977 - Boy Angel of Month - Cecilia Trio
- 1977 - The Sussman School for Retarded  
Children named for him
- 1978 - Sidney John died
- 1978 - (September 11) Daughters of the  
American Revolution awarded National  
Medal of Honor, cited for  
leadership, service,  
trustworthiness, patriotism; only  
third awarded in Maine in 100 years

- 1978 - Colby brick for service to Colby  
College - two gavels awarded for  
presidency of state-wide  
organizations
- 1978 - Certificate for service as a volunteer  
at Togus and honored at Blaine House  
with Mrs. Kenneth Curtis and Loretta  
Kahill - Clara Barton Medal by  
American Red Cross
- 1980 - (February 19) Plaque awarded by Rotary  
for outstanding service in the  
Augusta area
- 1980-81 President - Augusta Symphony Orchestra  
Honorary Life Member - Friends of  
Lithgow Public Library given for 15  
years of service as trustee.  
Honorary Life Member - Senior  
Citizens of Readfield
- 1984 - Jefferson Bronze medal for service to

community

- 1984 - Senator George J. Mitchell entered  
abstract of book Yankee Fiddler in  
Congressional Record
- 1984 - Died April 4, 1984
- 1985 - Lil died
- 1985 - Commemorative Tea Musicale at Blaine  
House, August 12, sponsored by  
Friends of Lithgow Library, Le Club  
Calumet, Kiwanis, Joseph McCarthy  
and Isadore L. Risen
- 1985 - Portrait of Suss by Patricia Bradford,  
presented to Children's Room,  
Lithgow Library



## AUGUSTA BEFORE AND AFTER THE SUSSMANS CAME

Trade on the Kennebec River between white settlers from Massachusetts and Canibas Indians was profitable and frequent before 1700, but Cushnoc, now Augusta, was not settled until 1754 when Fort Western was built by the Plymouth Colony. Cushnoc and Hallowell were one settlement until they were separated in 1797 as the latter became the busier and more populated town. There the first newspaper was published in 1795 and stone for the erection of many buildings in both towns was quarried.

The Kennebec Arsenal, built in 1827 by the U.S. government, was later given to the State of Maine for an addition to the Augusta Mental Health Institute created in 1837.

too. The river served as a source of power, both water and electric, to the many mills that constructed dams between Moosehead Lake, 120 miles north and the Atlantic Ocean. Wood floated to the mills until 1976 when this form of pollution plus the town's wastes made the river an open sewer in Augusta. Even eels were forced from the river to find oxygen. The largest single polluter, the wood industry, stopped that activity by July 1, 1977. Only Hallowell, Farmingdale, Gardiner and Randolph, just south of Augusta were not able to meet the deadline because federal funds were lacking to construct waste treatment plants. The river has been cleaned up so well that Atlantic salmon have appeared again. By 1983 it was presumed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection that the Kennebec was swimmable-fishable again.

When the Sussmans came in 1934, they were unaware of the scare Augusta had experienced of a typhoid epidemic. It wasn't long however, before they had to live through one of the most devastating floods on record. Suss and the boys who worked for him drove through the submerged road between Augusta and Gardiner to deliver Boston papers to his dealers who sold them from the tail-gates of their trucks.

Paul S. Plumer, retired general manager of the Kennebec Journal, recalled the 1936 flood for the bicentennial issue in 1975; "A warm, heavy March rain on abnormally deep rivershed snow cover and thick ice turned rivers and streams into glaciers. Augusta was without rail service until July because of the Brunswick Bridge washout - statewide toll as reported by Governor Brann: five dead, 10,000

homeless, 25 million dollars damage, eight major and scores of smaller bridges out, thousands jobless by idled plants, 126 towns isolated, National Guard called out in nine counties." The marker on a Hallowell building shows 43 inches above the previous record of 1896.

Boats were used for transportation in the streets, no trains ran for six months. The water rose over the bridge in Gardiner. Oil drums landed on telephone poles. Suss drove to Waldoboro for the Sunday papers, a distance of more than 40 miles on washed out roads.

In 1934, the Republican newspaper, the Kennebec Journal, changed somewhat to cover Democratic news as well. It carried Elizabeth May Craig's column, "On the Inside in Washington" She pointed out that former

President Hoover "looks older, grayer, graver." He had come to the House Foreign Affairs Committee to ask for an immediate appropriation of 10 or 20 million dollars for food for Poland. (Three generations later Poland still needs food.) But the editor argues, Herbert Hoover's request for 10 or 20 million dollars in official aid for Poland on top of the granted 20 million poses questions that Americans must soon answer, "Shall we pay the bills for all the blundering diplomacy and corrupt politics in Europe? How long can our national treasury stand such a drain and is it fair to us to so weaken our own financial resources to repair damage done by gross mismanagement in other countries?"

The Kennebec Journal headlines in March 1940 read: 108 Persons Lost as Nazi Bomber Attacks British Liner - Three Bombs Strike

Ship, Kill Captain; Finns Move Back to New Defense Line; Nazis Promise Every Courtesy to U.S. Vessels; Italy's Protest May Rupture Diplomacy in Mediterranean. The editorial for this issue argues that American trade must be neutral because communism is the "spearhead of radicalism" in this country. There is constant criticism of our relations with Russia.

Mrs. Craig wrote that 254 million pounds of food was doled out to New England needy. The bulk of this distribution was to families whose relief grants were insufficient to provide an adequate diet. The Sussmans never asked for help from a public agency. It was difficult to earn a living during these depression years, but they were able to manage by either living frugally or working long hours at low paying jobs. It was about this

time Suss was hospitalized in the Veterans Facility at Togus, about five miles east of Augusta. It was the first hospital established for the care of disabled military personnel in the United States in 1865. The facility has been modernized and established on a 500 acre tract of beautifully landscaped lawns with ponds and streams as well as spacious recreation areas. The hospital consists of 306 general medical and surgical beds and 468 beds in the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences section. The great variety of doctors from almost every country in the world attracted to this hospital contributes to the cultural life of Augusta and Gardiner, since Augusta has a population of only 21,000 and Gardiner has only 6300.

While Suss was in the hospital Lil took her five year old son to the small hotel on

Water Street run by their friends the Gelnows who had two retarded children in cribs, but they always had room for friends. Meantime Lil ran the business and ran to the hospital to visit Suss every day.

In local news, Howard Slosberg, later judge, was admitted to the bar. He is the second generation Jew who is now in the legal profession. He belongs to the families that pioneered as peddlers and storekeepers as well as ice carvers in the 1880's.

In the same March 6, 1940 issue is the headline: Russians Kill 50 Persons in Finland Air Raid. One of the editorials is about zoning. "Zoning in a city as old as Augusta always treads on many toes most painfully".

Another headline quotes Babson, "State Capitalism is Throttling Free Enterprise, 8



Million Idle Workers and 16 Billion Dollars is Strange Paradox."

Louis I. Naiman announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Kennebec County attorney. He was the youngest attorney at age 21. He had the highest rank in the bar examination and soon became a judge. He too was a second generation Jew. His brother, Frank, was a successful fruit merchant known for sending some Augusta boys through college and medical school. Suss was a friend of the Naimans. Frank's widow, Jean, was the founder of the Community Chest.

Roosevelt is quoted, "There are those who wishfully insist, in innocence or ignorance or both, that the USA as a self-contained unit can live happily and prosperously, its future secure inside a high wall of isolation while outside the rest of

civilization and the commerce and culture of mankind are shattered".

A Finnish Relief Committee met in Augusta to plan a drive for clothes and money.

The Civilian Conservation Corp was mapping and had enough to do until 1990. Maine had plenty of reason to be grateful to the CCC for help given during and after the 1936 flood.

On March 11, 1940, the headlines were: Hitler Sounds New War Cry; 500 Townsendites Hear Falmouth Man Expound Merits of Plan; Moose is seen on Brunswick Road; Henrick Van Loon Warns American Democracy is Not Too Secure; Atlantic Coast Fishermen Want Ban on Duty-Free Fish, Maine Men Complain Competition Will Force Them Out of Business.

In 1940 Augusta had nearly 20,000 people, mostly English and French Canadian.

Less than 12 perccent were foreign born. Augusta was the center of trade and amusement for nearly 100,000. In the surrounding area there were 20 boys camps and 18 girls camps. Kennebec County ended the year with a surplus of \$91,772, yet the salaries of teachers were among the lowest in the nation. Suss participated in a study group that found no high school had been built for 100 years in Augusta. The School Committee recommended complete revision of the school system with the result - the Cony High School was built. Mary Lovejoy, chairman of Suss's committee, had two sons in the Coin Club he founded.

The Hodgekins Junior High School behind Cony High was planned by a committee of ten people One of the three private citizens was Suss. When the school was finished and ready for dedication, John Lund, the chairman,

as County Attorney, was involved in a murder trial. Suss was persuaded to take Lund's place. He gladly pointed out that of \$75,000 allotted for the building, \$5 or 10 thousand would be returned. He forgot to call on Mrs. Hodgekins, the widow of the man for whom the school was named and his Kiwanian brothers made jokes about this for some time, but he was enthusiastically applauded at the ceremony. In the summer of 1979 Suss made a tape for radio to help Superintendent William D. Ealahan in his campaign for a new high school. The voters turned it down and the superintendent resigned.

In the first few years, Suss could read that Roosevelt was cheered by an overwhelming endorsement of his program. Soon the headline read: Senator Borah (R of Idaho) Creates Capital Stir by Demanding Investigation of

"Shameful Waste in Relief Fund Expenditure". Suss had no trouble keeping help in his news dealership and knew of no one who abused the relief agency. The news from Berlin was, "Nazis Try to Stop Rising Clamor Against Higher Food Prices." In Augusta, Webber and Hewett were selling salmon for 35 cents, mackerel at 18 cents, oranges two dozen for 49 cents and sweet potatoes 12 pounds for 25 cents. Max Slosberg was selling men's fleeced-lined union suits for one dollar and men's heavy all wool pants for \$1.98.

In Geneva the League of Nations heard that Nazis had armed forces working secretly in the Saar Basin. Father Charles E. Coughlin, the anti-Semitic radio priest said, "The Old Republican Party with its rugged individualism is as dead as Benedict Arnold". In Hallowell a plaque shows where Arnold took

off for his famous boat and walking expedition to Canada. Fort Western records his visit there. In Maine he is a hero.

The Kennebec Journal ran a long story headlined, Mill Workers Propose Joint Effort for Textile Workers, Would Work with Employers to Secure Increased Consumption of American Textile Products. The Sussmans had gone through a shoe mill strike and had been sent to scan the area around Lowell for possible relocation of the mill. They felt the story outlined a last ditch effort of the workers to save their jobs.

The R. P. Hazzard Company, a factory in Gardiner announced it would discontinue operation as soon as the shoes then in progress were finished. This was the story of the shoe business in New England and it had a depressing effect on other businesses too.

In the Opera House, Norma Shearer, Frederick March and Charles Laughton were featured in Barretts of Wimpole St. This was the kind of film the Sussmans would attend. They preferred concerts. Suss went to Blue Hill when a friend drove to hear internationally known musicians like Leslie Parnas.

Willa Cather - Possible Winner of Nobel Prize in Literature; this would interest Lil who loved literature.

Mrs. Carl Wilson testified that Krutschen Salts helped her reduce. The prevalence of obesity among young women is still noticeable to most newcomers to Maine.

Drunken driving was a problem. Finally in the summer of 1981 a law was passed making driving while under the influence of alcohol a

serious crime in an effort to eliminate 90 percent of highway accidents.

Dr. Arthur A. Hauck was appointed president of the University of Maine, Orono. Suss played at the University of Maine, Orono, shortly thereafter.

In the spring of 1941, Miss Caroline Fenno Chase, music teacher, founder of the Cecilia Club, announced a concert in her studio. Suss was invited to play and later formed a trio of the club that played for over 40 years at the Veterans Center and the Augusta Mental Hospital.

Miss Elizabeth Curry came from Boston to speak to the Business and Professional Women's Club. She claimed minimum wage laws for women would hurt men as well. She praised the Maine chapter for having seven women in



the state legislature; Massachusetts never had more than three at any one time.

The August 20, 1941 headline - Lindberg Tells America First Rally-U.S. and Germany Cannot Fight; Fires Rage in Finnish Cities as Russians Bomb Southern Zone, sold many papers.

In August 27, 1941-British Grab Iran Oil. Two days later: Britain, Russia Invade Iran to Rid that Country of Nazis; Argentina Arrests 36 Nazi Officials. German welfare societies had the same officers as the National Socialist Party which had been collecting money for welfare and sending it to Germany.

Maryland and Pennsylvania experts were coming to address a meeting of the Maine Poultry Improvement Association because of a defense effort to combat gizzard erosion in baby chicks. Meat and poultry had been

shipped in to Jewish families for years from either Portland or Bangor. In 1950 the Lipman brothers were invited to move their Bangor chicken processing plant to Augusta. When the three brothers came and other members of the family followed, the Temple Beth-El that Suss helped to establish became a viable religious entity in Augusta. The poultry industry has fallen on hard times in Maine - of the five large plants, only one remains. The Lipman plant closed in June 1981.

Pétain Proclaims Willing Collaboration-Democracy in France Dead; this news was a bitter pill for Suss' French Canadian friends to take. Many drives for clothing and money were aided by the Sussmans.

Michigan Summer Visitor Lands 600 Pound Tuna off Bailey's Island; this was not far from where Suss played in a band while he was