

**SUSKY HARDIN**

**Eulogy**

*By Tom Hardin*

**Susky, the eldest of four children was born in a small town near Kiev, Russia in 1911 and came to Canada with our parents in 1913.**

**He attended Alex Taylor school and was apparently a very good student because he was skipped from grade six to grade eight. As a result our Mother would not consider having her children go to any other school no matter where in the city we lived, and we younger ones used to have to commute from Calder one year using a friend's address in order to avoid having to transfer. Another result, much to my annoyance was that when I reached grade six, Miss Sewell insisted on calling me Susky much as I resisted and tried to ignore her.**

**Susky was also very active in Young Judea which was quite a force in Western Canada at that time. He and a fellow named Bert Ramelson formed a very strong debating team and were sent to meetings in various Prairie cities to compete and quite often were victorious. Fortunately in those days he was quite active in track and field, because on one trip to I believe it was Saskatoon he got to the station as the train was pulling out and had to chase it for a couple of miles before he was able to get aboard.**

**His early Jewish education was in the home of Mr. Wershof long before the basement of the original Shul was used and the Talmud Torah was built on 103 St. He attended the U ofA just about the time of the depression and very often walked there and back from Calder across the High Level Bridge. The roads and sidewalks were not nearly as good as they are today and you know what they are like now. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1931 but due to the effects of the depression was unable to go further. He worked wherever he was able to find work**

**and probably his steadiest job for some time was with Friedman the Kosher butcher.**

**Eventually, around 1939 - 40 he opened a small clothing store on 101 St. which he operated until he joined the Air Force in 1942.**

**As siblings we were very close. When Izzy decided to enter the city high schools Oratorical contests Susky helped him prepare his speech and coached him to a successful victory. When Sarah or I needed help of any sort he was there with solid advice and backup. In my case he would point out my errors in a very straightforward but non-confrontational manner.**

**It was while he was taking his wireless course in Montreal that he met and married Rosalie. November 7 would have been their 60th anniversary.**

**After the war he worked for Mr. Satanove for a while then went out on his own until the property his shop was on was taken over for other developments. While this was pending he took night courses at the University which together with his B. A. qualified him to teach.**

**Initially he taught all grades in Fawcett in 1952 and 1953 commuting home for the weekends. He then returned to Edmonton and taught in Highlands Junior High from 1954 to 1964 and then taught at Victoria Composite until he retired in 1977. His principal subject was Social Studies but he also incorporated into his teaching his version of vocational preparation such as how to fill out and file tax forms, prepare job resumes and so forth. He also did adult education with dropouts who realized that they did need further education.**

**He would not promote students unless they earned it regardless of how it reflected on the school because as he put it he was not doing them or anyone else any favors by doing so.**

**He loved teaching, loved politics (hated politicians) and was a prolific writer of letters to whichever editor would publish them.**

**His enthusiasm and dedication were infectious as proven by the many grateful letters he received from former students and fellow staff members.**

**I, personally received many compliments on his behalf when it was learned that that wonderful letter writer was my brother from people who not only read his letters but also in many cases knew him. I have also met the occasional former student who had nothing but good things to say about him.**

**I am sure that he was extremely proud to know that he had been a significant factor in many young lives but in his very quiet modest manner would never blow his own horn.**

**He was a great Uncle to my children, their spouses and their children.**

**Above all though, he was primarily an extremely devoted family man, deeply in love with his wife and extremely proud of his daughters, his son-in-law and their accomplishments.**