

Edmonton businessman Jake Samuels dies at 93

Former Edmontonian, Jacob H. Samuels, 93, a leader in the business and Jewish communities, died June 27 in Los Angeles.

The founder of Parker Sportswear, Ltd., Mr. Samuels, known as "Jake," conducted business in Alberta for 75 years, beginning in Lamont, where he ran the Lamont Mercantile Company Ltd. until 1913.

He then moved to Edmonton, beginning a small wholesale operation on 97th Street opposite what was then the Great West Garment Co. factory.

After the First World War, he re-opened as Western Drygoods, Ltd. which he merged in 1928 with Dower Brothers, of which he became the senior partner.

Mr. Samuels, who will be remembered by people

throughout Canada and parts of the Northwest Territories for his generosity and involvement in the Zionist movement, remained a partner with Dower Brothers and Sterling Shoes until 1938 when he went into business for himself as J.H. Samuels & Co.

While developing a line of northern clothing, part of which was the parka, he founded Parker Sportswear, Ltd., a company still active under different management.

He was the first of many Samuels brothers to come to Canada, followed by brothers Keva, Joseph and Ralph of Edmonton, and A.D. Samuels of Regina.

The list of his Zionist activities is lengthy and brought him into contact with all Jewish leaders of the future state of Israel. He was

friends with men such as Morris Samuels, Channarya Levine and Jacob deHass.

He began his Zionist involvement as early as 1914, prior to the Balfour Declaration of 1918.

He went on to become president of the Edmonton chapter of the Zionist organization and held that post for about 30 years.

He was active in two synagogues, the Beth Israel and the Beth Shalom, the latter which he helped found.

Mr. Samuels was a great fan of cantorial music and it's primarily due to his efforts that many of the best-known cantors throughout America, including Sagoda and Hirschman, came to Edmonton.

His wife, nee Lea Parker, died in 1957. The couple had four chil-



Jake Samuels

dren, all of whom are living: Ralph, J. and Dr. Arthur, both of Los Angeles; Mrs. Dorothy Curtis of Vancouver, and Gertrude Sarah of Jerusalem.

In addition to the four surviving children, there are five grandchildren.

Mr. Samuels was buried Sunday at the Jewish Cemetery in Edmonton.