



QUOTH THE MAVEN

BY BEVERLY KING POLLOCK

Family Get Together

When Family gets together there is lots of kissing and asking how the children are and reminiscing. Especially about the good old days when the family's "pilgrim fathers" came to America from Eastern Europe. And no matter how often I hear the stories about the small Pennsylvania town where my husband was born and grew up, I always enjoy.

I can picture the mining town (population: 3,000) where my husband's father had a store. With windows proclaiming "Hats, Shoes, Waists, Skirts." It was not what Menasha Skulnick would call A DEPARTMENT STORE; it was (what you shrug your shoulders and say) "a department store." With swayback aisles and sox hanging on strings from the ceiling and an overhead pulley system that shot charge accounts to the office which was on a level seven steps higher.

There were hats and boots and coats and shoes and linoleum and red handkerchiefs and work clothes. The hours were long. And a working knowledge of Polish, Italian and even English was vital for communicating with the customers.

The store was a training ground for most of the family's first generation Americans just off the boat; and the house was home for these same relatives for varying periods of time.

Uncle Shloimeh recalled for me his awe upon seeing the house for the first time. When he was shown to a bedroom of his own on the third floor he wiped his feet on the throw rug before entering. And when he spied the large brass bed with the patchwork quilt he fairly gasped. Surely Tsar Nicholas himself never had such a bed!

At the store Uncle Shloimeh got a first class course in practical business administration. His first course was in economics. Seems the store had a 2 watt bulb that burned all evening as a night light. And at the crack of dawn Uncle Shloimeh had to get up from his warm bed and shovel a path through the snow to the store to turn off the light. (He swore if the bulb burned all year it wouldn't use 7 cents of electricity.)

Uncle Shloimeh also got a course in Business Law. He had the law laid down to him: Shloimeh would be the one to carry wood and coal for the pot belly stove in the middle of the store. And he would serve as window trimmer, stock boy and salesman.

When he was able to count out change in

SHOLOM SENIORS

Beth Sholom Seniors announce a schedule of programs for each Monday in November. All are held at 1 p.m. in the Temple Social Hall.

Monday, Nov. 1, 1971 - Mr. Gene Francy, Director of Senior Citizens Employment Services, will speak on "Part Time Employment and Services Available for Seniors."

Monday, Nov. 8, 1971 - Mrs. Ann Fleigh, Supervisor of Vista Volunteers, affiliated with

E.O.B. also Mr. M. Mitchell, Attorney and others, in a panel discussion on "Food and Pharmaceuticals Buying Clubs, Clinics, Services, Etc. for Senior Citizens."

Monday, Nov. 15, 1971 - Open program, fun and games.

Monday, Nov. 22, 1971 - Mrs. Jean Dart, Univ. of Nevada Co-operative Extension Service, will speak on "Nutrition and Diets for Seniors."

Monday, Nov. 29, 1971 - Movie

dollars and cents, Uncle Shloimeh graduated into a business of his own in another small town. And he made good.

Forty years from now when my children are reminiscing will they refer to our life today as "The good old days?" And will the changes then be as great as the changes of the past 40 years?

I'd like to be around to find out.

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