

Jewish Involvement in Valea Lui Mihai life

written by:

Szilagyi Istvan, Valea Lui Mihai

translated by:

Elly (née BERKOVITS) GROSS, USA

Once someone said, if a country is more colorful, it is because of the settlers who had more cultural, artistic and commercial success. And this was true of Valea lui Mihai.

Think of Radnoi Miklos, Zelk Zoltan the Hungarian literary, or Kalman Imre, Abraham Pal the well known musicians, Teller Eder the chemist and other outstanding individuals, whom contributed the cultural and academic development of Valea lui Mihai. Valea lui Mihai was special in the 1930's, but even prior years, many Jews lived there.

Commercial businesses, industrialists and land owners all contributed to the town's development, something today no one could doubt their involvement. The commercial businesses not only increased the commerce, but they created contact between producer and buyers. We feel how much we miss the Jewish business connection today when almost anything we try to sell is always accompanied with a lot of hassle.

The industrialists with their products supplied the town and the surrounding areas with their merchandise. Landowners, such as the Bauer, Salamon family and others, increased the production together with the larger companies owned by Weisz and Fish, Kahan, and Heller. More residents remember the well known craftsman Weisz pop, the tin, shoemakers Heskovit's, Teitelbam outstanding carpenter, Friedman the master baker with the best of bakeries and a fancy restaurant owned by the Schwartz family. Many other small merchants lived at Valea lui Mihai and those were supplied by the larger merchants. Their assistance to one another, we could use as an example today. In those times that lived, we remember, without their contribution, Valea lui Mihai would poorer.

Of the physicians of Valea lui Mihai, two are worth remembering. One was the old doctor in the years between the 1920's to the 1930's. In WWI, he was on the Italian front serving as military doctor. From him I learned that in 1848, his father Gorgey Arthur, fought for the Hungarian freedom. His tall bent body frame for many decades walked Valea lui Mihai streets curing the sick as his passion. Some elders still remember him. The other physician, Dr. Grosz Lajos with his family lived a long time in Valea lui Mihai. He was well learned; an outstanding doctor and a humanitarian with his knowledge honored by everyone and was loved in the town. During the Holocaust, he was deported with his family. Luckily he returned after the Holocaust to practice

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until his death. Between many of the elders, they will always remember his gratitude.