

TOUBE, LOUIS, GERTY AND FAMILY

(Authored by Hilton Toubé & Edited by Leon Chonin – May 2021)



Louis, Gerty, Mervyn and Hilton Toubé

Louis, Gerty, Mervyn and Hilton

Louis and Gerty

Louis (Leopold) (whose Hebrew name was Leib ben rab Feiwel) was one of six sons and one daughter of Philip Toubé and Sophie Immelman. Philip's family emigrated from Latvia in the late 1800. Louis's brother Abraham (Abe) father to Trevor and Daphne Toubé also lived in Kimberley. The Toubé family lived in a number of towns in the Northern Cape including Douglas, Postmasburg and Kimberley. Louis was born in Hopetown in 1901 but spent his youth growing up in Douglas. Louis attended and matriculated from Kimberley Boys High School. Louis was an outstanding sportsman excelling in a number of sports and held the 100-yard dash record at school as well as representing the first team in rugby and tennis. Louis remained a keen lawn bowler and was a member of the Beaconsfield Park Bowling club for many years.

During World War II Louis volunteered for service with the Kimberley Regiment and spent a large part of the war in Egypt and Italy as an NCO.

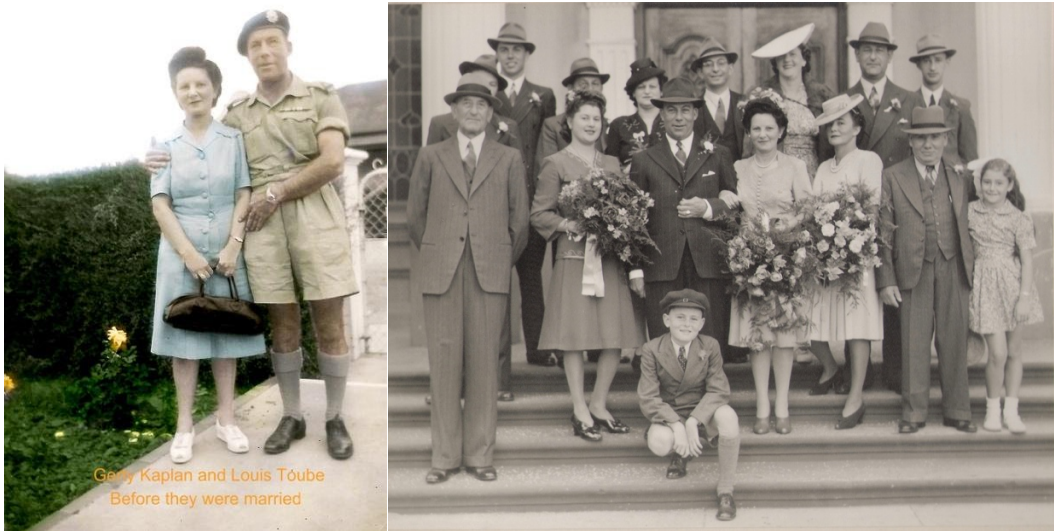
Louis business activities covered a variety of fields starting with a partnership with his brother Jack in Postmasburg followed by "OFF SALES" pub in Long Street, then owning and managing a car dealership (Fiat & Lambretta scooters) and Mobil (Pegasus) service station in Transvaal Road. He was also involved in a rock crushing plant just off the Cape Town Road. He had a keen interest and dabbled in minerals, mostly diamonds, most of his life. After he retired, he worked part time for a number of years for Awerbuck Brown and Company until his death in 1977.

Gerty born in 1912 in Cape Town was the daughter of Louis Kaplan and Hoda Feiga (nee Katzenelenbogen) and was raised in Simonstown. The family believe that Gerty family origins were from Eastern Europe either Lithuania or Russia. Louis Toubé married Gerty Kaplan in Cape Town in 1946, and they settled in Kimberley.

Gerty father lived with the Toubé family in Kimberley until his death in 1951. Louis's parents Philip and Sophie were buried in the old Kimberley cemetery in Stead Street.

The family at one time lived in a house behind their pub in Long Street before moving to Hemming Street in 1953.

In their early married years, Gerty was a housewife and mother but once their children Mervyn and Hilton were old enough, she went to work for a number of years for Bergers Ltd., and then later for Bargains Unlimited in DuToitspan Road until she retired. After Louis had passed away Gerty went to live with Mervyn and Lorna and spent some time every year with Hilton and Anne. She passed away in 1986 in Johannesburg and is buried in the West Park Cemetery.



Louis & Gerty Toube

Their wedding in Cape Town

Mervyn Toube

Mervyn Toube (whose Hebrew name is Moshe ben rab Leib) was born in Kimberley in 1947 and attended Kimberley Boys High School.

After matriculating in 1966, Mervyn moved to Port Elizabeth, and joined General Motors as a student.

While entering an apprenticeship with the intention of joining his father in the dealership he completed various courses at the P.E Technical College graduating with a NTC 4. He was then promoted to Service Engineer becoming a District Manager in the OFS. He had various promotions until he became the Senior District Marketing, Service and Parts manager for Johannesburg, and the metro area. He married Lorna (Mendelow) in 1976, and in 1988 they made Aliyah to Israel. They have two children Leanne, who is married to Liron with two grandchildren, Rotem and Idan. Leanne now lives in Vancouver, completing her Doctorate in Genetic Cancer Research at the University of British Columbia.

Their son Neil lives in Israel and is an Electronics/Electrical Engineer specializing in Optics.

Mervyn was a member of the Hebrew Order of David in Port Elizabeth from 1978 to 1981

In Israel Mervyn was manager of the warranty claims department for the Ford Importer for 10 years, and then Import, Export, Supply and Logistics manager for the Toyota Importer until his retirement in 2014.

He enjoys restoring vintage/classic cars, radio control model airplanes, and recently large-scale models of tall sailing pirate and war ships from the 1800's.



Leanne (daughter), Lorna, Hilton and his son Neil

Hilton Toubé

Hilton (whose Hebrew name is Hillel ben rab Leib) was born in Kimberley in 1949 and attended Kimberley Boys High School. He played cricket for the school and for the last two years of his schooling was selected to play for the first XI. While at school, from the age of about 14, he became very involved in martial arts particularly Karate. Hilton matriculated in 1967 after which he was called up to do compulsory military service. He was posted to The South African Navy in Saldanha Bay to do his basic training.



Hilton during his Navy training

After 3 or 4 months of basics he was re-posted to Simonstown where he trained and became a diver in the SA Navy and spent the balance of his service as a diver. During his military service he represented the South African Defense Force Karate Team.



In 1969 Hilton was fortunate enough to be selected for the Griqualand West Karate side to compete in the South African games in Bloemfontein with some success.

On his return to civilian life, he was employed by LTA Construction and Engineering in Kimberley. LTA then sent him to Wits University in Johannesburg to study production engineering. He dated Anne Lazer while at university and they were married in Johannesburg in December 1975. They have a daughter, Tamara married to Lonnie and 3 grandchildren, Bailey, Ashton and Jesse and a son Larry married to Gina and 2 grandsons, Luca and Devon.



Anne, Hilton, Larry and Tamara

Hilton worked for about 7 or 8 years for an electronics company and was transferred to Bloemfontein. After living in Bloemfontein for about a year he resigned from Lovel Procter having bought a small retail business of his own. He had previously done an apprenticeship and qualified in watch repair, and then put his knowledge into practice by spending most of his time repairing watches while Anne managed the store.

Hilton and Anne ran the business for about 4 years. He then sold the business and bought a bigger retail business and petrol station in East London. They lived there until he sold his business at the end of 1985 and moved to Johannesburg for a few months as they were making Aliyah in early 1986.

Hilton was a member of B'nai Brith in Bloemfontein from 1979 to 1982.

Hilton had always wanted to try kibbutz life so they went onto a Kibbutz ulpan for 6 months and eventually were invited to join a kibbutz near Afula in Israel. They returned to South Africa late in 1988 to visit his parents in law and decided to remain in Johannesburg. He went into an equal partnership with his brother-in-law and they purchased an engineering and powder coating factory in Johannesburg. In 1998 they decided to leave South Africa again and moved to Vancouver Canada.

Shortly after returning to South Africa from Israel, he had done his pilots license and built his own microlight aircraft which he flew all over South Africa. (He shipped his microlight to Canada and had to do 10 hours flight time to maintain his pilot's license in Canada.)



Anne and Hilton started a retail store in downtown Vancouver and sold it after about four years, by which time Anne had started a wholesale import and export business. He joined a fellow South African on a contract basis who had purchased an engineering factory. Hilton contracted to him for about 6 months and was then approached by a large sport lighting company with head office in the USA to manage the province of British Columbia in Canada and after 10 years retired from Musco Sports Lighting towards the end of 2017.

He has been a keen motorcyclist since getting his motorcycle license in Kimberley in 1968 and has been riding motorcycles continuously since then and intend to do so for as long as he is able.



*Hilton and Mervyn in front of their home in Hemming Street,
Kimberley in 1997*