

PHOTOGRAPHS

Believe it or not, there are actually many more photos that didn't make the cut. In putting this book together one of my most difficult tasks was the selection of which were appropriate to include. The ones ultimately selected were, for the most part, picked to help bring to life some of the people mentioned in the book. My family is quite fortunate that my Mother saved things that no one else would ever dream of saving. That's not to say that she was a pack rat because her house was always immaculate and exceptionally well organized, and everything had its place. However, she had a penchant for saving any photos or memorabilia that were in any way related to her family.

Let me illustrate. How many women can you name that have a copy of a written invitation to their husband's circumcision? I'll wait. You go ahead and count, but we all know what the answer to that question is! Then there is the bill from my sister's wedding in 1957! I assume it was paid because I found no second invoice which she almost certainly would have kept. She also had telegrams from people who were not able to make it to the wedding as well as telegrams from my bar mitzvah.

While those bits of memorabilia may be unusual and even funny, her collection of photographs is truly something to behold. The number of photos she saved is well into the hundreds, and they are of all sorts of family and friends covering a time span of well over one hundred years. For example, how many people have photos of their great grandparents? I do! While most of the people in the photos have been identified, there are some who accompany a family member who were not, and they will continue to be forever unidentified because I have no idea who they are, and I doubt there is anyone else alive who could help.

When I first set about the task of selecting photos for the book, I was more than a bit overwhelmed by their numbers. While I was engaged in writing the book, I had not given any thought to photo selection criteria, and before long it became obvious that I needed to establish some guidelines. Not surprisingly, I decided to include, to the extent possible, photos which helped tell the story by showing the people mentioned in the book. In some instances, photos are accompanied by a very brief comment or two which not only identifies those in the photo, but also notes their relevance to the family or the book. Since one of the reasons for writing the book was to tell this generation and generations to come something about their ancestors, I decided that it was important to place an emphasis on my original family (Mom, Dad, Sally and me) and to show them at different ages as they progressed through their lives. There are also some people mentioned in the book for whom I was not able to find a photo. This is unfortunate because seeing the faces of those in the stories adds another dimension to the story telling. I guess you'll just need to use your imagination!

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