

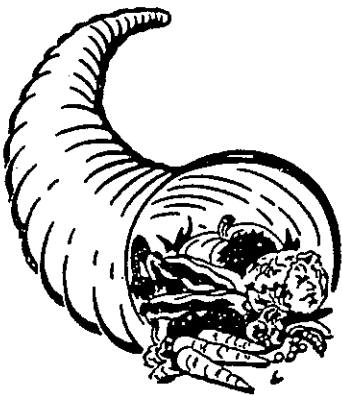
NOV., 1957

# BREAKSTONE

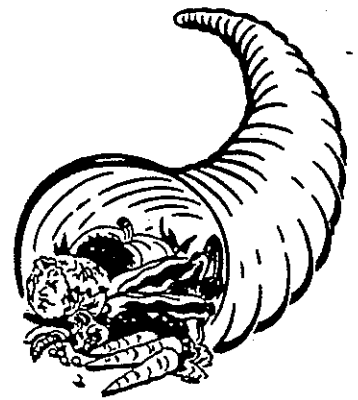
*Newsletter*

BREAKSTONE FAMILY

VOLUME I NUMBER II



## A THOUGHT FOR THANKSGIVING



There is much to be thankful for -- and now is the time to count our blessings and be glad.

Perhaps we should be thankful that America was discovered -- and that its growth and expansion have been the result of the determination and courage of the people of many lands.

We should be thankful that the early Americans valued liberty and individual freedom so much that the laws they established still protect those things.

We should be thankful that our laws allow us to be loyal Americans while still respecting the customs and religions of our forefathers.

We should be thankful for the history of millions of Americans of many races, creeds and colors, living in harmony together -- making our country the greatest and most prosperous in the world -- yet able to remember the source of our blessings and willing to share them with less fortunate peoples of the world.

We should be thankful for these things because they prove to the world that our proposals for peace in the world are not based on impractical dreams -- being rather an offering of our experience to others.

Our prayers at Thanksgiving time will be most appropriate when they are prayers for peace and continued plenty for all.

DH:41

## CALIFORNIANS HOLD GET TOGETHER

The first issue of the Breakstone Newsletter aroused so much interest among our West Coast cousins they immediately organized a family get-together.

This was held at the lovely home of Mildred and Sam Barbas who as the evening progressed won the title of the most perfect host and hostess. Many of these cousins had never met each other, but before the evening was half over, the need for restoring former ties was very evident and a beautiful feeling of kinship prevailed.

Following the get-acquainted period, a short business meeting was held. It was decided to hold quarterly meetings. The next one will be in January at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Weingarden. Plans were also made for an early spring picnic, this to include all the children. The suggestion was also made that at some future date the Reunion be held on the coast -- a wonderful idea!

Officers were elected. These include Dr. Gerald Breakstone, President; Mrs. Anna Oppenheim, Co-Chairman; Mrs. Phillip Becker, Social Secretary; Mr. Elmer Weingarden, Chairman, Financial Committee; Dr. Sam Hofmann and Mrs. Leslie Jay, Co-Chairmen, Entertainment Committee.

Many questions concerning the family poured forth. Elder statesman, Anna Oppenheim, recalled many stories heard in her childhood. One of these concerned her mother's early home, another of an incident of Napoleon and his army and a drawing which her aunt, Sarah Levy, had of a tree depicting all branches of the family. As Mrs. Oppenheim was relating these fascinating tales, her son-in-law, Dr. Sam Hoffman and Midge Jay filled in appropriate background music. This created considerable hilarity and as Marion Becker puts it, "from there on, it was one big ball".

Pictures were taken by Burton Jay. These should make an interesting addition to the Picture Board Sam Goodman is planning for the next Reunion.

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Anna Oppenheim feels quite confident there are many Breakstones on the West Coast other than those in and around Los Angeles. If you know of such members of the family, won't you send their names and addresses to your Editor. We'll add them to our mailing list and then forward them to Anna.

She is also interested in learning if anyone has the complete history of the family -- the one her Aunt Sarah Levy started but never lived to finish.

Could this be the family tree Frank Barcus showed and discussed at the 1957 Reunion? If it is, then the lost has been found. Will someone enlighten us on this, please?

NO POWER - NO BREAKS

Remember that swanky new Chrysler Sam Goodman was driving at this year's Reunion. Well, it is no more.

Sam was driving on the Howard Bridge over the Expressway in Detroit. His right rear brake locked causing a failure of both the power steering and power brakes. The car swerved into a heavy steel guard rail that barely halted his plunge into the heavy northbound traffic lane on the Expressway below. Sam was unhurt, but as far as he is concerned, it was all too close to disaster for comfort.

### SHADES OF YESTERDAY

While cleaning out his desk, which he claims he does every twenty years or so, Sam Goodman found a copy of the "Breakstone World" published in October, 1937.

This contained a story of the testimonial dinner given in honor of Dr. Benjamin H. Breakstone commemorating his sixtieth birthday and the fortieth year of practice in medicine and surgery. Over 350 attended this affair including many dignitaries.

Dr. Breakstone was a truly great man, a man devoted to his profession. His contributions to the field of medicine -- he performed the first Siamese twin operation -- have had far-reaching effects.

In the Social Notes, we find that Mrs. Harold Nelson of Detroit was admitted to the bar; Zelig Breakstone of Pittsburgh was Chairman of the Constitution Day Committee in Atlantic City; Judd and Trude Breakstone spent part of the winter in Florida while sister Blanche visited friends and relatives in Pittsburgh and New York. Chicago seemed to claim the honor of having the greatest number of visitors, including Ben Stone of Carbondale, the Clasters and the Rodmans of New York and Florence Nelson, Mrs. Harry Becker and Sam Goodman of Detroit.

Lester Jay was picked by Rudy Vallee as the finest boy actor in radio while his brother Burton at the tender age of fourteen was part of the cast of the radio show "Raising Your Parents"!

Dr. Jack Dersavis and Miss Erna Feldman of Washington announced their engagement and Gertrude and Manny Breakstone the arrival of a daughter.

All this and plenty more while Walter and David Miller of Philadelphia were earning money selling vegetables from their garden during summer vacations.

We can almost hear you say -- "twenty years ago -- why I remember----".

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nathan Breckstein, father of Mrs. Arthur Klein of Honesdale, Pa., celebrated his ninetieth birthday on July 22, 1957. Congratulations Cousin Nathan and may you have many many more.

Congratulations to Flora Jacoby and her Granddaughter Adrienne who have a birthday Thanksgiving Day. Imagine! Pumpkin Pie and Birthday Cake all at one meal!

IN MEMORIAM

Is it not a beautiful fancy?

This sunset thought of mine,  
That the gates of heaven are always

Open at the day's decline.

That those whose days are ended

Of earthly woes and ills

Have passed to the morning brightness

That shines on the heavenly hills.

Rose Breakstone, wife of the late Dr. Benjamin Breakstone, passed away September 14 in Miami Beach, Florida. She was the mother of Mrs. Blanche Goldberg, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Annette Davis and Dr. Irving Breakstone, Chicago and Dr. Judd Breakstone, Miami Beach. Aunt Rose will always be remembered as a most gracious hostess. Her charm and personality made each visitor -- and there were many -- feel completely at home.

Sadie Breakstone Seder, wife of James Seder, Brooklyn, New York, died recently. Sadie was the sister of Harry and Morty Breakstone, Mrs. Birdie Stone and Mrs. Mollie Schenker.

Fanny Breakstone, wife of the late Max Breakstone, died this fall after a lingering illness. Fanny was a former President of the New York and Eastern Breakstone Group. She was active and instrumental in keeping the clan together through family gatherings. She gave most generously of her time to many worthy causes.

A BREAKSTONE SAVES NAPOLEON

When people of the Jewish faith in Russia had to take names of were given names, this communal group got the name from a huge rock at the bend of the Neiman River in Lithuania, then a part of Russia. Bend (Break) Stone (Stein). But the Russian spelling was used and they were known as Bregstein.

These people lived a communal life. They owned thousands of acres, part of which was always in cultivation. They operated a brewery, a distillery, a tannery, bakery, blacksmith shop and several warehouses.

When Napoleon, defeated at the Battle of Moscow, was retreating toward Paris, a part of the Czar's army had the emperor surrounded. One of Napoleon's sweethearts, Walewski, of Polish-Jewish origin, knowing of the wealthy Bregstein communal family, advised Napoleon to go there and hide until the Russians moved on.

Napoleon and his staff of fifteen rode in the snow to the Bregstein community near Pennemunde. Moses Breakstone's grandfather who was the head of the House, offered the emperor shelter. Horse shoes were taken off the French horses and put onto old horses that were ready to go to the Tannery. These plugs were ridden by members of the Bregstein household, south and west on a route toward Paris. Valuable snuff boxes, sabers and other equipment provided by Napoleon and bearing his initials were dropped along the way to make it appear that he had traveled this route. This was done for a distance of more than thirty miles on property owned by the Bregstein family.

Then a heavy snow storm set in. The Russian troops who had followed the route strewn with the "evidence" of Napoleon's retreat lost the trail. The Bregsteins on their French shod plugs followed the frozen Neiman river back home.

Napoleon and his staff then moved safely on toward Paris on their Russian shod horses.

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This fascinating tale was sent to us by George and Elizabeth Breakstone Maines of Flint, Michigan. George also included some additional data that might be of interest to many of the family, especially the young adults.

It was Elizabeth Maines' great grandfather, Moses Bregstein, who gave Napoleon shelter.

When Napoleon left, he took one of the Bregstein family with him, making him a purchasing agent for Army supplies. Another one also went to Paris. Both followed Napoleon to Waterloo. After the emperor's defeat, one brother went to Sweden with one of Napoleon's leaders, Marshall Bernadotte, who later became the first king of Sweden.

The Bregstein brother who remained in Holland was the grandfather of the banker and shipbuilder who became Herbert Hoover's Food Administrator during World War I. His son now lives in New York City and uses the Americanized name of Breakstone.

The first Breakstones to arrive in the USA started a small dairy business near Ellenville, New York. In a few short years, it became a multi-million dollar corporation. Today it is part of the National Dairy Co., but Breakstone butter, eggs, cheese and milk are still on the market -- a true indication of the strength of a name of quality.

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As we prepared George and Elizabeth's story for publication, we couldn't help but feel that someone in this great family should write a book on its history. Life in the communal society. The adventures of the two brothers in Holland and Sweden. The establishment of the family in America. The contributions its various members have made to the arts and the science of medicine. Talk about adventure, romance and a great dynasty! It's all here waiting to flow from the point of a pen!

Imagine the thrill in just talking with some of the older members of the family and putting together their stories. Why the biographies of Andrew Carnegie, Andrew Mellon and Cornelius Vanderbilt would read like Nursery Stories in comparison! And think of what a terrific TV story could be developed -- it could put the Westerns in last place in nothing flat! Who will say, "Have Pen, Will Travel!"

And here's another idea. Why don't those of you are thinking about some skits for Amateur Night next year plan a few based on family history?

#### IT'S NOT THE SPUTNIK!

The buz-buz you Mid-Westerners are hearing overhead these days does not come from Sputnik, Mutnik or any other Nik. Neither does it come from all the automobile plants turning out those 1958 Dream Cars.

It's from the Detroit Group who are busy talking over plans for the 1958 Reunion! First step was a meeting at the home of Florence and Jack Schey to discuss general plans. Then according to Rochelle Goodman, her parents Sam and Edith hopped a few planes and visited several likely spots, actually staying overnight to get the feel of the places.

Now another meeting is scheduled for November 29 and the final choice will be made. From what we have heard, it's narrowed down to two, either of which would be just about super-perfect!

That Detroit Group is afire with enthusiasm. If just half of their ideas materialize, the '58 Reunion will be a humdinger or as Harvey Goodman would say, "It's the Mostest -- Real Gone!".

### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

DR. SAM HOFFMAN, California, is a well-known theremist. The theremin is an electronic instrument whose pitch and tone are controlled by moving the hands through the air at a certain distance. If you marvelled at the eerie background music in the picture "The Ten Commandments", you were listening to Cousin Sam.

SEYMOUR and CHIC BREAKSTONE who make their home in Orlando, Florida, spent the month of October in Chicago. In addition to taking care of their business interests in the Windy City, they found plenty of time to visit with friends and cousins.

JOE LEVY, New York, deeply regrets missing this year's Reunion. He is most enthusiastic about the Newsletter and thinks it is a grand communication -- a splendid way for families to become better acquainted.

PAULINE ZIMMER, Los Angeles, enjoyed a wonderful vacation in Mexico City, but returned home in time to welcome the David Singer Family of Grand Rapids and Jay Goodman of Detroit. Jay is participating in a National Bridge Tournament in Los Angeles. Cousin Jay, why don't you attend next year's Reunion? You could make expenses and then some by helping those of us who get mixed up on Goren -- not to mention a few other things.

JO BREAKSTONE, New York, wife of the late Milton Breakstone, spent a few days early in October in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

SUZANNE BARCUS who sang so beautifully at this year's Reunion, is teaching music and art in the Detroit Public Schools.

ELSIE BREAKSTONE, wife of the late Harry Breakstone, visited her son Morris in Traverse City, Michigan. Her other son, Jack and his wife Marlene, are temporarily living in Chicago.

MAURICE EISENBERG has fully recovered from ill health and is back at work again -- thanks mostly to Marie's good cooking and lovely voice.

VICTOR JACOBY, past columnist of "Ramblings" in The Breakstone World, his wife and their eight-year old daughter Adrienne, are planning to attend next year's Reunion.

RUTH BREAKSTONE POLINSKY and her husband Dr. Harold Polinsky, helped their daughter Myra celebrate her fourth birthday.

ELAINE LIVINGSTON, who laboriously started knitting a red turtle neck sweater on the porch at the Bedford Springs Hotel, had finally gotten up to the second long sleeve when she received a gift from one of her husband's patients. You guessed it -- a red turtle neck sweater!

SARAH SILVERMAN spent Yom Kippur and the following ten days in the hospital suffering from a gastro-intestinal disorder. Back home again, she has learned how to say "No, Thank You" when the Gefelte Fish is passed.

BESSIE WEINGARDEN, not to be outdone by her sister Sarah, was in the hospital in Detroit at the same time. A pesky ulcer too big and rambunctious for Bessie to handle had to be removed. After the operation, she was given strict orders by Harold and Ernest to start taking it easy. Think she will! Anyway, she is home now. If you would like to send her a card or little note, her address is 16773 Turner Street, Detroit 21, Michigan.

ELAINE AND HERMAN LIVINGSTON and Family plan to spend Thanksgiving on Cape Cod - true Thanksgiving atmosphere.

DR. and MRS. ARNOLD HEYMAN, a recently married couple from Glencoe, Illinois, are now living in Los Angeles where Arnold is taking a residency in Urology at Los Angeles County Hospital. Mrs. Arnold is the daughter of Phil Bregstein of Chicago.

GEORGE and IRENE BREAKSTONE have been producing TV shorts in Africa. Gail, their daughter, is in school in Switzerland. Jacqueline, George's mother, is head of the Wardrobe Department at Warner Bros.

BURTON and LESTER JAY are both in Los Angeles. Burt is in the Art Department at NBC-TV and Lester who is recovering from a severe polio attack is a specialist in the advertising field. Their father SAM is also with NBC-TV and CELE is still redecorating her home.

DR. SIDNEY SILVERMAN cut quite a figure as a Ballet Dancer at a Halloween party. His costume of Butter Yellow satin had a short full skirt and tight-fitting bodice. Long black lace stockings, gold sprayed tennis shoes and a lovely black coiffure a la ponytail completed the costume. He wasn't exactly a Margot Fonteyne, but he did win the prize!

How's about doing "Swan Lake" for us on Amateur Night next year Sidney?

DH:48



## JUNIOR JOTTINGS

### "For The Younger Breakstones"

Looks like we have a future Top Notch Public Relations gal in Rochelle Goodman! "Shelly", a Freshman at University of Michigan, has done so much talking and bragging about our family that the whole dorm wants to be adopted! How's about that?

Anyway, Shelly and another member of the Breakstone family sent along this note:

Hi!

This is Shelley Goodman and Marcia Nelson, two Breakstone co-eds at the University of Michigan. We both love it here and think that this is the best college around. After all, how many universities can boast of having two Breakstone girls at the same time, in the same dorm and on the same corridor? This alone makes Ann Arbor great! We're both looking forward to seeing everyone at the 1958 Reunion. And until the next paper, this is U. M. saying good-bye.

CAROL GOLDBERG, daughter of Maurice and Blanche Breakstone Goldberg, served as an apprentice at the Cincinnati Summer Playhouse. She played in "Jenny Kissed Me" with Charles Ruggles and also played the ingenue part in "The Tender Trap".

A real honest-to-goodness actress in our midst. Carol, you are hired right now for next year's skit!

PETER LIVINGSTON, before returning to Taft's College, offered to clean up his Dad's messy workshop. This was easily done by dumping everything, sawdust and all into the Play-Room Basement. When that got so full he couldn't move, he emptied the Play-Room into the Garage. This necessitated moving cars, tools, bicycles, ladders, etc. from the garage onto the Play-Area of the lawn. The 18-foot boat, swings, slides there had to go over to the Barbecue Terrace which had to be relieved of all its furniture.

At this point, Pete took off for school. The Workshop is a "dream", but -- MAN, you shure did it the hard way!

FREDERICA LIVINGSTON was selected to model in a Fashion Show Benefit which was definitely not beneficial to her parents. There was just no living with this young lady until Elaine bought her all the clothes she wore in the Show. Some of you older gals might try this trick!

ALAN ROSENBERG'S chief worry these past two years has been getting into Medical School next September. Well, his worries are over. Most fellows are lucky to be accepted at just one school, Alan was accepted at two! Both Jefferson Medical School and the University of Pittsburgh wanted him, but Alan has decided on Pitt. With their broad expansion program especially in the field of Medicine, Alan feels Pitt offers the greater opportunity. Congratulations Alan, we are all cheering for you.

JUNIOR JOTTINGS is short this month, first because you Kids didn't send us any news and secondly, because both the Co-Editors are having a bout with Asian Flu!

### CO-ED'S MAY GET NEWSLETTER

We shall be happy to send a copy of the Newsletter to any member of your family who is away at school.

If you will forward their name and address to your Editor right away, we will mail them a copy of this issue as well as all future ones at no extra charge.

### LAST CHANCE

You recall in the last NEWSLETTER, we stated future copies would be mailed only to those who paid their 1957-58 dues. The response has been quite good, but the Executive Board thinks it could be better.

So we are mailing this issue of the NEWSLETTER to everyone on our Mailing List. To those who haven't paid their dues, we hope it will serve as a reminder to send their \$5.00 along to Mrs. Elaine Livingston, 150 Lovell Road, New Rochelle, New York.

Future issues will definitely be sent only to paid-up members.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Our sincere thanks to Elaine Livingston, Jo Breakstone, Edith and Rochelle Goodman, Anna Oppenheim, Marion Becker, George Maines and Blanche Goldberg for supplying the news for this issue of the Newsletter. Without your splendid help, there just wouldn't have been a Newsletter.

And now, we would like to ask each of you to carefully read the following letter. A decision needs to be made and it is yours to make.

Dear Cousins:

When David, Alan and I took on the job as Editors for the Breakstone Newsletter at this year's Reunion, we were assured by all those present at the business meeting that each and everyone would see to it that news would be sent regularly.

Again in the first issue we made a plea for news. We thought we made it quite clear that without news there could be no Newsletter. In fact, David and I were concerned as to just what we could do should we get too much! So high were our hopes!

But, alas the results have been quite the reverse. We received news items from only Eight members of the family and four of these were cousins who were

not at the Reunion I

We even wrote special letters to cousins in the different areas of the country asking, begging, pleading for news. To date not one single acknowledgment of these letters has been received and there were at least a dozen sent. It's almost impossible to believe that in approximately 200 families there hasn't been a birth, wedding, an engagement, a trip, a party or a special event. Yet not one has been reported.

This can only lead us to believe that you don't want a Newsletter as badly as you thought you did or that you are not sufficiently interested in one to take a few minutes to send us NEWS. The many congratulatory letters we received on the first issue were most encouraging, but your enthusiasm seems to have waned.

So unless you BESTIR yourself between now and February 1, when the next issue will be due, and start sending us little news items, we will assume you don't want a NEWSLETTER and it will be discontinued.

We enjoy our job as Editors even if it takes hours and hours of work. We want to continue, but it's up to you.

What do YOU say?

Sincerely,

ELSIE SILVERMAN - Editor

DAVID BREAKSTONE  
ALAN ROSENBERG - Co-Editors

Send all Mail to:

Elsie Silverman  
211 Clarendon Ave.  
New Kensington, Pa.

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