

*By Brenda Lincke Fisseler*



As noted in the local newspapers on several occasions, the Finkelsteins had a reputation of never turning people away regardless of their ability to pay. Immigrants were encouraged to seek them out when they were in the area.



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# Fink Hotel

When the Fink Hotel was about to be razed to build a local post office, the Lavaca County Tribune ran a front page article detailing the history of the hotel in Hallettsville.

The article spoke of the wide recognition the hotel had around the country. The article also detailed “colorful” events attributed to the Fink Hotel especially with the part of the populace that the newspaper referred to as “tramps” and “gypsies”.

Wanderers or “tramps” as they were referred to, would leave notes on the back of gate posts and on the doors of the hotel. These notes told other sojourners that “Dad and Mother Finkelstein” would offer them a warm bed and a meal.

Immigrants were also welcomed at the Hotel. For example, one evening a weary young couple leading a donkey arrived at the hotel. The Finkelsteins learned that the couple had recently landed in Galveston after an ocean voyage of several weeks from Russia and had been told that they could find lodging at the Fink Hotel”

This couple was Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Tannenbaum, who became citizens of Hallettsville engaged in the mercantile business for many years.

In January of 1923, a fire broke out in the main kitchen building of the hotel and had made considerable headway before being notice. The hotel was threatened but was saved by the local fire department.

During the Depression, the Finkelsteins, despite many hardships, kept their hotel open serving food not only in the dining room, but also feeding hungry individuals free of charge at their back door.

After the deaths of Abraham Finkelstein in 1933 and Fannie Finkelstein in 1938, three of the couple’s children, Raye F. Greenebaum, Bessie F. Pinchin and Dave Finkelstein assumed running the hotel. The oldest daughter, Henrietta Rudnick, lived in California.

In 1946, the Fink Hotel closed and the property became the Lyon Hotel.

Next:  
The Lyon Hotel