

Frank Samuel Salinger 1904-88



Frank Salinger, HM, T 68-71;
Found. mem. but rejoined 1965

Accountant; leader of Jewish community

* Foundation mem., rejoined 1965; treasurer 1968-71; hon. mem.

Frank was born in N.W. London of a Jewish family. He emigrated as a 21 yr-old to New Zealand in 1925 and settled in Dunedin where he studied accountancy at the university, subsequently setting up his own accountancy business. During WW II he attained the rank of captain in the Territorial Army's Coastal Guard in Fiji. During & after the war he helped refugees from Europe settle in Dunedin. In 1947 he opened a business and retailing outlet, known as *London Mantle Manufacturing*, making women's coats.

Frank was a leader of the Jewish community in Dunedin for over 60 years, acting as president and secretary for many of those years. After WW II some Jewish families moved north making the huge five-storey synagogue in Moray Place too large. Frank oversaw the movement to the present site in North Dunedin and maintained the Jewish community as an active and cohesive group.

Both Frank & Fay came from card-playing families. Fay was a cousin of Leslie Schneideman, former president of NZCBA, npc of NZ team 1971-2, former editor of NZB & a well-known Wellington player. Fay's side of the family are also related to the Cahn family, Charles being a member of the club in student days (*see p.105, 155*). Frank was a great bridge theorist and read numerous bridge books and magazines and was always keen to try out different bidding methods. Thus, I was presented with several pages of notes on the Baron System to learn by the end of the week for my very first tournament in Gore in 1969 where we finished 2nd. *The Baron System was the brainchild of British professionals, Leo Baron & Adam Meredith in the 1940s. Adam 'Plum' Meredith was a member of the only British team (Reese, Shapiro, Dodds, Konstam, Meredith & Pavlides) to win the Bermuda Bowl - in 1955 in New York.* Many of the Baron system initiatives (Weak NT & a 15-16 NT rebid, bidding 4-card suits 'up the line', 2♥ over 1♠ showing a 5+card suit, change of suit by opener forcing at 1 level, 3♣ convention over 2NT opener to find a fit by bidding suits up-the-line, the lead of A from AK & others & K from AK bare) were picked up by the designers of Acol in the 1950s. Baron also used the popular canapé principle (much used at the OBC with the Hudson system) with 5♥/4♠ s.

Frank did excellent service as treasurer of the Club, 1968-71, when it was growing fast. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Balmacewen Bowling Club & built a bowling green at his holiday home at Warrington, which was used by the locals for many years.

His wife, Fay, was a good natural bridge player and a member of the Club 1965-71. She was also an excellent pianist and I well remember attending a recital of Beethoven's *Kreuze Sonata* given by their son, Peter (violin) accompanied by Fay (piano).



Fay & Frank Salinger at home in Maheno St, Maori Hill

Source: *Otago Daily Times*, 06/04/88, obituary; Dr M.J. Salinger (NIWA, Auckland)