

# Uncle Sam Wants You



Abe's Certificate of Identity,  
with his signature.

**June 24, 1946**--Abe and sisters Sala, Ruthie, and Rachel arrive in New York via the *SS Marine Perch*. He immediately goes to work and to night school. During this time, Abe is mesmerized by the advertisements about Hollywood and the stars who live there.

**June, 1947--**Abe did not like NYC, so he decides to go to Los Angeles. He books a Greyhound ticket to California, with only \$30 in his pocket. Once arriving in California, he sees an ad by *Workmen's Circle* for those wanting to work. He is hired by a Jewish man to work in a wholesale shoe store. Since he is only 17, he goes to work and attends night school.

**Spring, 1948--**He meets a fellow Holocaust Survivor, Sam Hilton from Warsaw, and one day notices an (*Uncle Sam*) *Wants You* sign. Abe and Sam discuss where else could they get food, clothing, an education, and get paid for it.



Abe stationed at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, SC sometime between 1949-1950.

**April 1, 1948--**Abe joins the Air Force and is eventually stationed in Sumter, South Carolina at Shaw Air Force Base.

**Fall, 1948--**Abe attends Friday evening Sabbath services at the Sumter Temple Sinai. Abe is spotted there by Mrs. Max Edelsburg. She encourages her unmarried daughter, Rhea, to visit Sumter to meet Abe. Rhea's family is also from Poland, but immigrated prior to WWII.

**December 31, 1950--**Abe and Rhea are married by Rabbi Aaron Levy and have 3 children, Donna (1951), Nat (1954) and Sharon (1961).

**1952--**Abe is honorably discharged on March 31 and begins working for Max Edelsburg in the Sumter family business called *Jack's Department Store*, later called *Jack's Shoes*. He soon becomes a partner and opens additional stores in Columbia, Charleston and Florence. Abe works in this business for almost 60 years.

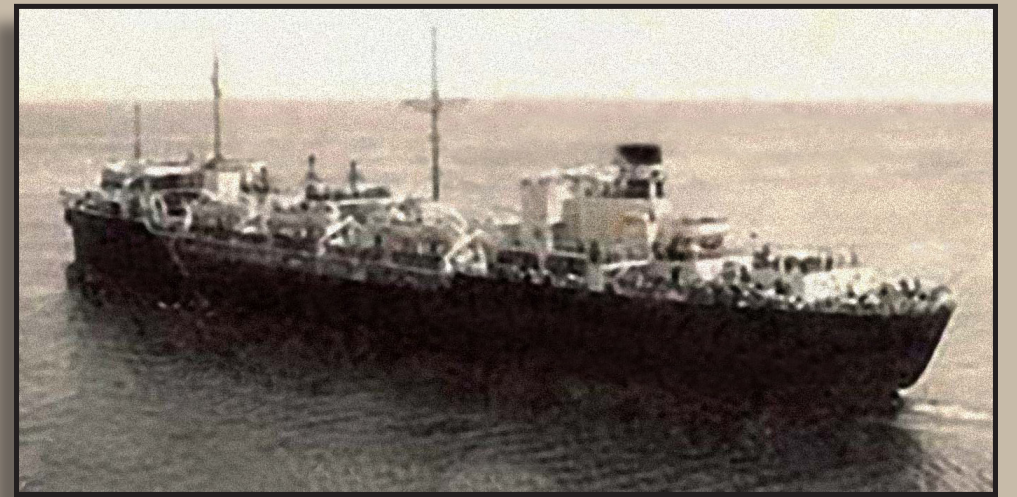


Abe and Rhea, September, 2010.  
Rhea Edelsburg Stern (84) died on November 9, 2012.



**Thanksgiving 2010:** Seated: Nat Stern; Donna Magaro; Rhea Stern; Abe Stern; Sharon Stern Back row: Ernie Magaro; Karen Oehme (Nat's wife); Abby Magaro; Sarah Stern; Mark Stern; Mark Magaro.

**October, 2018**--Abe is 89 years old, has 4 grandchildren and is still living in Sumter. His Holocaust experience is presented at the Sumter County Museum Jewish History Center. The Center is housed at Temple Sinai.



*SS Marine Perch* a C4-A3 former troop transport ship.  
Courtesy of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.



Established as a part of the U.S. Army on 1 August 1907, the USAF became a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces on 18 September 1947.

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Rhea's father, Max Edelsburg's  
Naturalization document.



Temple Sinai in Sumter, SC. *Courtesy of the SC Department of Archives and History.*