

FAMILY FOOTSTEPS IN FREMANTLE

Hilary Silbert

Forty years ago the iconic Barney Silbert's Shoe Store merged with the Cecil Brothers Shoe empire. Things had come full circle from the beginnings in 1892, when the Breckler Brothers began a boot business in Fremantle. This merger reunited the two businesses initially run through two sisters: Fanny Breckler (nee Masel) and Minnie Silbert, and their husbands. The story of Barney Silbert, his wife Minnie, her sister Fanny, and his sons Keith and Eric, has contributed much to Fremantle and Perth's rich history.

We must first go back to the 1890s, the Swan River Colony's gold boom decade. The *Daily News*¹ of 7 October 1892 ran an advertisement announcing the commencement of business for the Brecklers - Yoel and Woolf.

WANTED KNOWN!
 WANTED KNOWN!
 WANTED KNOWN!

WANTED KNOWN.—That Breckler Bros., Boot and Shoe Makers have started Business in Fremantle. Hand Sewn and Revitted Boots and Shoes made to order. Repairs neatly and punctually executed. First-class workmanship guaranteed. A trial solicited. Remember the address, Breckler Bros., next door to O. & M. Luber, Clothiers, opposite the Town Hall, Fremantle. 3092

Yoel and Woolf Breckler had arrived from Russia via England. Yoel, having served four years' military service in Russia, was to do a second term for the third brother, Morris, who had gone into hiding, but they fled to England to a distribution centre for displaced people, including their cousin, Gustus Luber. He left for Fremantle and encouraged the four brothers, including the youngest, Myer, to join him.²

Many Jewish families, including those in this story, had every reason to leave Europe. There were *pogroms* (massacres), serious discrimination and compulsory Russian national service. After 1827 they were allowed to emigrate. They willingly exchanged life in the area known as The Pale of Settlement, which extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, for an uncertain future in which they could at least use their skills. The most common trade was clothing; others went into boot making, food preparation and cabinet making. They all spoke Yiddish, the language of the ghetto.³

The brothers arrived in Fremantle, leaving their father, Yehoshua. Their mother, Chana, had died giving birth to Myer. Yoel, aged 28, and Woolf, 23, were boot makers. Their first Australian outlet was on the corner of High and William Streets, Fremantle, where they stayed until 1903. Significantly, a business neighbour was Joseph Masel and Son.⁴ Five years later, in 1897, Yoel, now 33, married Joseph and Bella's oldest daughter and second child, Fanny (Feigel) Masel, 20, in one of the earliest wedding ceremonies at Perth's synagogue. Yoel and Fanny lived first in Fremantle but by 1905 had moved to Perth. Another Breckler-Masel wedding connected the families. In September 1898 Woolf married Eva (Chave) Masel.

In 1912 Yoel died, leaving 35-year-old Fanny with four children: Vera 14, Alec 12, Cecil 10 and Minnie 5. Fanny was well able to run a business, having worked for her father before marrying. Now she had to prove herself, moving back to Fremantle to run the shop. Vera ran the home in Swanbourne Terrace. The oldest son, Alec, should have stayed at school but managed to avoid the truant officer so he could work for his Uncle Barney Silbert, who had married Fanny's younger sister, Minnie.

Fanny concentrated on shoes and by 1915 had left Fremantle and opened Dainty Walk Shoe Arcade in central Hay Street, Perth. Sister Minnie and her husband Barney had already joined the business, Minnie having had a shop at 94 High Street, Fremantle, from her engagement. She imported white china from Japan and painted it for sale.⁵ Barney and Minnie may have paid Fanny for Barney Silbert's Shoe Store, using the gold coin dowry. They built up the business in size and product until there were five departments, the sons adding branches. Fifty-six years later the business was to come full circle by merging back with the cousins.

BARNEY'S BACKGROUND

Barney, born Berel, was the youngest of four children of an arranged marriage between Jacob and Rachel Trinovsky. He was born in Bialystok, Russia, in 1886 and educated at a Jewish school to the age

of 14. He then worked in a textile factory to earn the fare to Fremantle.⁶ Three years later, in May 1903, he left the German port of Bremen on the *Karlsruhe*.⁷ He was 17 and spoke only Yiddish, but during the six-week voyage apparently learnt English from an Italian passenger. In Fremantle he joined his sister Fanny, who in 1900 had married her uncle, Abraham Silbert, and settled in Ord Street. Barney lived with his brother Solomon, who had also migrated to Australia.

How did Berel become Barney? Family folklore says that on arrival he was told that with a name like Berel he would need to be able to run or fight. So when he asked the Irish official what name he should have, the response was 'Barney'.

His first job was as a labourer for his uncle, Abraham, who owned Silbert and Sharp, Fruiterers. Abraham had arrived in 1886, aged 22, in the Colony of Victoria. Barney's naturalisation papers in 1906 state his occupation as fruit packer.⁸ He was also a keen sportsman — a roller skater, sailed a yacht named *Vera* and rowed at Fremantle Rowing Club.

MEETING MINNIE MASEL

The woman he would eventually marry, Minnie Masel, was, as we have shown, the youngest daughter of Bella and Joseph. Minnie or Chaie Masel was born in December 1886. Joseph had gone to Adelaide ahead of his family. In October 1889, his wife left Bremen for Adelaide on the *Hohenzollern*, accompanied by her daughters, Fanny (10), Eva, Lena, Esther (Pese) and Minnie, sons Esau and Henry (Hirsch), and by Joseph's brother, Chaim Masel. The ship's manifest lists the nine Masels as 'British' and travelling steerage as 'labourers and domestics', even though they were Russian and included seven children aged between four and twelve.⁹

The family lived in Adelaide until 1893 when Joseph and Bella, their children and Joseph's brother and sister all moved to Fremantle. Minnie, known to her family as *Minox*, was educated at Loreto Convent and Princess May School. Her education in the widest sense was continued when in 1910 she was taken on a business trip to Europe, including Antwerp and Paris, with her father, a diamond buyer for Perth firms Levinsons, Stewart Dawson and Caris Brothers. Joseph was a champion chess player and while in France won competitions.

MARRIAGE

On 5 March 1913 Barney Silbert, storekeeper of 94 High Street, Fremantle, son of Jacob Sholam Silbert, 'retired gentleman' and



*Wedding group from the marriage of Esau Masel to Leah Cohen
13 October, 1897.*

*Back row L to R: Joseph Masel, Bella Masel, bride and groom,
Fanny Breckler (Masel) Yoel Breckler.*

Front row L to R: Minnie, Lena, Henry, Eva and Esther Masel

Tamarah Rachel Trinkovski, married Minnie Masel, daughter of Joseph Masel, storekeeper, and Bella Kabuk.¹⁰ In fact Minnie was in business in High Street but as was the custom, it was registered as Barney Silbert.

Their first home was 75 Solomon Street, Beaconsfield. In 1914 they bought land on the south side of Ellen Street from Mrs Alice Pearse and by 1920 had built a federation home at No. 74. Barney convinced Fremantle Council to allow him an 80 foot frontage and 3/8ths of an acre. Today the home exists as No. 55. The house was surrounded by an English garden of citrus trees, dahlias, grapes, arum lilies, jasmine, black-eyed Susan, German lilac, and 100 roses from Newman's Nursery.¹¹ There was a view of the port from the verandah. Less pleasant was the sound of inmates in the nearby asylum. Opposite was Western Australia's biggest playing field, Fremantle Oval, which included Fremantle Croquet Club and the bowling and tennis clubs.

Keith, their first born, was three when they moved in and in 1922 Eric was born in the front room. During World War II the home was requisitioned by the United States Navy, and Minnie and Barney moved to Nedlands, though they did not sell the Fremantle house until 1946. They bought land further down their street to build the Ellen Court flats that became the last set of approvals granted during the war for private dwellings.

MINNIE AS AN ADULT

Both Barney and Minnie were well known in Fremantle business and sports communities. She was on the committee of Fremantle Ladies Croquet Club. In four years of playing she won the novice championship, B grade State championship and in 1927 was A grade champion of the Fremantle Club.¹² She won first prize for mixed fours at East Fremantle Bowling Club; was the first secretary of the Fremantle Ladies' Bowling Club; and was in the 1938 Fremantle Women's Bowls A Grade pennant team.¹³ Minnie was also an accomplished musician. She was first violinist in the Fremantle and Perth Symphony Orchestra and gave many performances in Fremantle Town Hall.¹⁴ She also played golf and chess and was a prolific reader, being a member of the Fremantle Literary Institute.

BARNEY AS AN ADULT

Barney could walk across the road to Fremantle Bowling Club, which he joined probably in 1919. He was in the team that toured New South Wales in 1931 and also won the Glick Trophy in 1935. From 1939 he belonged to Nedlands Bowling Club for 15 years until he died. The obituary in the Nedlands Bowling newsletter described him as 'a stalwart in play and splendid worker in club executive positions'¹⁵ Barney also contributed to other areas of public life besides sport. He was a member of the original Fremantle Businessmen's Association in 1919 as Treasurer¹⁶ and a Trustee and Foundation Member of the Fremantle Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes in 1939.¹⁷ In 1924 he joined the executive of the Ugly Men's Voluntary Workers Association of Western Australia, which had been formed in 1917 to help families who had lost breadwinners in World War I.¹⁸

In June 1937, following the arrival of the first escapees from Nazi Germany, Barney joined the new West Australian branch of Australian Jewish Welfare Society. His son Eric was also involved with migration decades later.¹⁹ In 1946 Barney was involved with the Advance Fremantle Association with son Keith.²⁰ He was one of the

first people in the metropolitan area with a car, a Willey's Overland Tourer number 124, which he already drove as an ambulance during World War I.²¹ His sense of humour is clear from this tribute to him:

Ode to Barney Silbert, 1930s

Everyone knows Barney Silbert,
from the city to the port,
And they all agree that Barney
is a jolly decent sort;
If you enter his emporium
you'll always find him in,
And you'll always find him ready,
too, a breezy yarn to spin.
You'll observe his genial features
cast in Israelitish style,
In keeping with his temper,
wear a most good-humoured smile,
And you'll never hear him croaking
if in trade there is a lull –
For there's nothing in the universe²²
that could make Barney dull.

A letter from Palestine, addressed: The Jewish Community, Fremantle, was delivered to Barney.²³ However, it was not always 'good-humoured smiles'. Antisemitic feelings in 1938 were such that Stan Perry, the District Governor of Rotary, requested that Solomon Street in Fremantle change its name because it lowered property values. The irony was that his wife was Jewish.²⁴

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSINESS

In 1913, when Minnie and Barney started work at the corner store, Herb Oxbrow, a local identity, established Pellews, a family owned business, across the road in Fremantle. This was four years after Frank Gibson opened Gibson's Pharmacy. These three were believed to be the oldest shops still operating in Fremantle as stated in the *Daily News* in its fifty-fifth anniversary feature in 1968²⁵ Minnie was closely involved in the business, serving in the store for many years and looking after the sales side during World War II when her sons were away in the services. Eric believed his mother worked because she liked it. 'Without doubt she enjoyed the business world and didn't like housekeeping.'²⁶

According to the Fremantle trade directories, by 1915-16 the

occupier of the corner of High and Market Streets was Breckler and Silbert, with the owner listed as Alfred Julian Manning and Florence Augustus Hall. The address was 131 High Street. The occupier of the Perth City shop that Fanny managed was also listed as Breckler and Silbert until 1921. The 1920-1 Fremantle rates list Fanny Breckler and Barney Silbert as the occupiers, this being the first mention of Barney by name. This was the longest running tenancy between Silbert and Manning, with one landlord, according to Ian Sanderson.²⁷

FREMANTLE TO-DAY

No. 123

Breckler & Silbert

THE PROGRESSIVE
Boot and Shoe Men

*/// We carry Large and Assorted
Stocks of*

MEN'S, WOMEN'S
and CHILDREN'S
FASHIONABLE FOOTWEAR

*and our Prices are the Most
Reasonable in the State.*

Breckler & Silbert
CORNER HIGH & MARKET STREETS
FREMANTLE



The Breckler and Silbert Emporium, 1913

Business expansion was reflected in newspaper advertisements and articles.²⁸

The shop grew and occupied 109-113 High Street, Fremantle. From 1926 to 1928 the business was referred to as Barney Silbert's Boot and Shoe Emporium. In 1927 Barney Silbert bought out D.P. Sullivans' menswear store, another local business, which became the men's and boys' clothing department and extended the Silbert business from footwear to clothing.

The 1930s were an interesting period and Barney's sense of humour is seen in some of the advertisements: 'dyeing', 'fire sale No'...and 'for Sensible Mothers'.²⁹ We also learn that in October 1931 Barney travelled to the eastern states and bought stock. The December newspapers announce a new Ladies Department.

1933 saw the Silberts expand up High Street by buying out a hardware store with the women's shoe department moved to this site.³⁰ They also purchased the bankrupt stock. The business survived the Depression despite operating at a loss for three years, according to Eric.³¹ The next step, in 1936, took in Maxwell's stationers that became the Barney Silbert's children's department. By 1938 articles in the *Fremantle Advocate* highlight the Silbert expansions and announce: 'Confidence in Fremantle'. On 4 November came 'a new era in shopping – the special opening of the extended and modernised emporium'. All departments increased in size: 'The new men's and boys' mercery and clothing departments are a revelation of an irresistible attraction. It is now three times its original size and covers over 5,300 square feet.'³²

By 1939-40 the trade directory entries listed the business as 'boot & shoe merchants and boot & shoe repairers'.³³ In 1951 the Fremantle rate books – the first to be typed rather than handwritten – record Eric Silbert as the contact person for Barney Silbert's. The former billiard hall upstairs was used for receiving goods and was added in 1961. By the fiftieth anniversary in 1963 the claim was made that the store was four times the original area with a staff of 28. On this special birthday the business gave itself a thoroughly well deserved pat on the back with a feature article:

Thanks to Store Staff for a Fine Public Image

A firm's image depends very largely on its staff. It is through the staff with such long service that we are able to project our policy of "friendly service because we care".

"Longest serving is Mr Ken Wilson, controller of the men's shoes department since 1935. (32 years) Mrs Vi Cruickshank, the administration secretary (31 years) and 21 years John (Jack) Keenan – coordinator of the branches and controls the women's and children's shoes."³⁴

BARNEY BOWLS A WINNER

Barney's passion for lawn bowls gave him an idea on sports attire. He suggested to a major manufacturer, Sargood and Gardener, they make a sleeveless pullover. 'They thought it was just another one of Dad's funny ideas,' Eric recalls. 'Nevertheless they sewed him a cardigan and left the sleeves off – forerunner to the slip-on. Dad's shop sold cream ones to bowling mates. Sargood and Gardener added edging for smartness, producing samples in navy blue and other colours. Fremantle had produced a world first.'³⁵ Barney's influence was spreading:

Mr. Barney Silbert, one of Fremantle's popular bootmen who had his "annual" at Mandurah recently, is enthusiastic regarding the well-patronised holiday place and its people. Mr Silbert lays great stress on the wonderful condition of the road to Mandurah, which he says can be reached in 65 minutes from Fremantle. During his stay at the seaside resort Mr Silbert acted as a Fremantle boomster, and he is confident that his efforts will bring much business to Fremantle.³⁶

Thirty years later, the press was still writing about Barney's unique approach at Barney Silbert's shoe shop:

Friendly service is the keynote of Barney Silbert's. This well-developed use of the personal touch is mainly a result of the late Silbert Senior's own remarkable personality. Many of Fremantle's older residents can remember the times when they went to the Silbert store to buy a pair of shoes – and stayed for unscheduled hours listening to his stories.³⁷

THE NEXT GENERATION

Eric, born in July 1922, always knew he would go into the family business. He would drop into the shop after school at Christian Brothers College, Ellen Street. At 17, in 1939, he joined brother Keith, who had joined five years previously, at the same age, after completing schooling at Perth Modern School. Eric wrote:

It was a smart young businessman who commenced work in his new three-piece navy suit and felt hat. This was the essential dress of anyone engaged in commercial enterprise... the minimum standard. I had a new image with a white two-collar fashion shirt; colours were not even available ...and twenty-two inch cuff bottom trousers really identified me as a young retailer.³⁸

As Keith had concentrated on footwear, Eric was pleased to work in clothing:

My first chore each morning was to hang out the sticks and racks and flog them. A flogger was made of discarded ends of tailor's cloth attached to a round stick. The display methods in this era were above and between the windows and in doorways. The goods were hung so the public could touch, or see at close hand, the merchandise. They were put out for the day, ticketed, dusted and secured and made to look attractive.³⁹

Pre-war clothing fashion changed very little. Silbert and Co sold men's underwear - athletic singlets for the young, and woollen, fleecy or brushed cotton half sleeve, for older customers, with long or short underpants. For Fremantle's many industrial workers there was grey flannel. Oxford cloth shirts in grey or black stripes on white, a grey flannel without a collar, cotton tweed trousers, bib and brace overalls plus aprons and cloth caps.⁴⁰

Felt hats were in fashion and in 1939 the 'porkpie' shape had emerged - circular and not dented at the front or back. They were stacked in sixes and Eric had to learn to shape them correctly, brush the rabbit fur the right way and show the customer how to wear them. Socks were heavy black or grey, and black cashmere for military uniforms. Braces kept up trousers, which all had side straps and button fly. Sports trousers were either silver grey melange or the new colour, light fawn. For Fremantle's young fashion conscious males of the day, there were naval trousers with bell bottoms and drop front flaps. Arm bands were an essential article and there were front and back studs for separate collars, black silk armbands for mourners. No one would go to a funeral without a black tie. Men's swimwear was essentially knitted wool and usually black. Silbert's sold wool half-skirt trunks and a range of light cotton for competitors - these still full-length by competition regulations. The most popular men's shoes were patent leather elastic sided pumps, in either black or brown in calf or kid, Oxford style or Derby. All sales were wrapped in brown paper from rolls and tied with string attached to the ceiling.

As soon as Eric turned 17 and had a driver's licence he drove the Nash, one of Barney's cars, to Perth on Tuesdays. Removing the back seat enabled him to transport 200 empty boxes tied up in dozens for credit. He later wrote:

The shop was rather quaint. The store and windows were lit by incandescent lights but we still retained gas lamps in case of a power failure. Posts held up the verandah in front of all shops; window dressing was crowded and basic with little artistic effort. Trams noisily passed and turned at regular intervals. The neighbouring shop was Coles and previously, the Majestic Picture Theatre, complete with a good looking French spruiker called Maurice.⁴¹

World War II brought great change. All businesses had to board up windows. Keith was in the army for the entire war. Eric joined the R.A.F when he was old enough. He recorded his religion as Church of England, and second name as Adrian instead of Abraham, in case he

was shot down. He was in England when Prime Minister John Curtin died in 1945 and had the honour of being invited to the memorial service at Westminster Abbey.⁴²

Former staff member Betty Jarvis recalls Barney offering to supply champagne when the war was over. This promise was kept and drunk out of the oddment crockery/glassware available in the store! Betty was a young girl at the time and had never tasted it before. She also told of the other girls making holes in a shoe box before going to Coles for ice cream cones and carrying them back concealed to hopefully be eaten before a customer had to be served! And she believed Mrs Silbert knew exactly what they were doing!⁴³

AFTER THE WAR

In 1946 Keith and Eric, who had not seen each other for three years, returned to work. Barney, now 60, took the opportunity to retire immediately. He had heart trouble and died eight years later, in March 1954, during the polio scare that coincided with the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth's visit to Western Australia. Minnie died five years later.

All their working life, the brothers travelled together to work in Fremantle. They had separate duties but shared a mezzanine office. Eric dealt with staffing, including casuals taken on in summer. These included a future senior policeman in Hong Kong, lawyers, teachers and two priests, Don Hughes and Brian Gore. Brian was the longest serving of any casual through school and seminary training. Eric and his wife Joan were the only non-Catholics invited to Brian Gore's ordination. For 20 years Keith had lunch at noon and Eric at 1pm at the Boronia Tea Rooms, in Atwell Arcade off High Street Mall. Every Tuesday they visited warehouses and to see the Breckler brothers, Cecil (Keith) and Alec (Eric). Eric was involved with clothing and general office work and Keith, merchandising of footwear and displays. They initially worked at night to do the window dressing, and then employed a full-time window dresser, Ken Allen, uncle of Laurie Packham.

Their office girl, Vi Maloney, who became Mrs Cruickshank on marrying, stayed 30 years. Annual leave was two weeks, salaries were paid each Friday – cash in a yellow envelope. Twice a year the female staff chose the uniform material made into their own design. If particular shoes were needed in the branches near the railway line, they were taken to the guard's van for staff from the other branch to collect at their station.

In the 1950s Russian fishing and whaling ships began visiting Fremantle. Shoes and clothing were in short supply in Russia so the



Eric and Keith Silbert in 1997

crews would buy from Silbert's. Eric remembered that 'Ken Wilson was marvellous with foreign people, without knowing their language – he could communicate with them in ways we couldn't.'⁴⁴

Ken, who says, 'I was almost part of the family,' was the seventh child of a family of nine. The Depression and his father Alexander's poor health meant that in 1935, aged 14, he left school to become shop boy for Barney. He had borrowed shoes for his interview. He described his employer as a good business man and excellent tutor, often kind to him and his family. In 1938 his father died and Barney opened the shop to dress the family for the funeral and paid Ken an extra five shillings a week. Barney decided there was room for two businesses to supply ships, when Jenkins and Co had a monopoly, so Ken was delegated to take samples to the ship to get orders. He joined the Australian Imperial Force in August 1942 and returned to Silberts in April 1946. After marrying he had a flat at the Ellen Street block the Silberts owned.⁴⁵

UNIQUELY BARNEY SILBERT AND CO.

A stock control system helped buying and merchandising, using their own code for cost price of articles. An example of the codes was:

- F1 - black fashion shoe
- F3 - coloured
- F11 - flat sandals⁴⁶

Eric described the new look for men:

Men's clothing had become very colourful for the very first time. It was fascinating to see that within a season or two they would follow the women. Who would have thought that our tough males would be wearing pillar box red pullovers? This had been the ladies' fashion leader two years before. Men's clothing did not take long to go to extreme so we opened a new section called *Las Vegas Cabana*. It catered for the young who wanted way-out pullovers, sport shirts and reversible swim trunks. We designed and created a lot ourselves and had them exclusively made up. Leopard skin inserts in sleeves, exaggerated contrasts and strong colours: all this following years of greys, fawns and marls.⁴⁷

However, growing competition in clothing made the brothers opt to continue only with footwear.

The store became the focal point for rugby in Fremantle as Eric became involved in re-forming the local club. Silberts also sponsored East Fremantle and South Fremantle Football Clubs. And in Fremantle Week there was the Barney Silbert Cup for yachts.⁴⁸

In 1969, when the Garden City Shopping Complex was proposed, Keith and Eric were approached by Cecil Breckler because there was a gentlemen's agreement on territorial grounds. The arrangement was that Barney's would develop south of the river and Brecklers, the remainder. The phasing out of clothing made it more compatible to join the two entities. At the time of the discussions with Alec and Cecil Breckler, Barney Silbert's Shoe Stores had four sites, including the corner of High and Market Street, Fremantle.

An initial meeting in April led to an offer for the Silbert brothers, as partners in Barney Silberts, to become shareholders in Cecil Brothers (Suburban) Proprietary Limited.⁴⁹ Keith worked for the rest of his career as the children's shoe buyer. Eric was 47 and began a role equivalent to human resources manager. In fact he went on to create a new life now he was no longer one of just two partners. Both men became directors ending 30 years, minus the war period, in which they drove to and from work together and shared the small mezzanine office overlooking the original shoe shop and lunching locally in Fremantle. It was only in March 1971 that the corner store was converted to Betts and Betts. In 1986 the sign 'Barney Silbert's Corner' was placed on what had long been referred to by that name.⁵⁰ This is a permanent reminder of the earlier history of this corner in Fremantle.

THE SPIRIT OF BARNEY LIVES ON.

March 1994 saw a reunion of former staff at the Esplanade Reserve, Fremantle. The oldest was Mary Muir (nee Mark) who had joined in 1920. Eric commented: 'The reunion roll-up showed that working at the family-run store was more than just a job to many of the former employees.'⁵¹ One person still works at Betts and Betts to this day.

From Barney to the next generation, it was recognised that the strength of the business was the staff. They were often local to Fremantle and either related or known to the family. There were sisters, father and sons, uncle and niece and marriages amongst staff. Staff even named their children after Silbert children. Forty years after Barney Silberts ceased to exist; former staff are still in contact with each other.

CONCLUSION

From the first day the Russian-born Silbert family arrived in the Swan River Colony, many streets of Fremantle and its metropolitan area have been trodden by people wearing footwear provided by the business their founding father had established. So - what's in a name? - Breckler Bros, Breckler and Silbert, Barney Silbert's Boot Palace, Barney Silbert's Shoe and Clothing Emporium and Barney Silbert's and Co.....gone but not forgotten. Their story is indicative of the contribution made by Jewish migrants to the development of Australia's commercial and business life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ENDNOTES

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