

Miles Lerman Oil Company

Miles & Rosalie Lerman



**You Expect More From
American . . . And You Get It!**

MILES LERMAN OIL CO.

**Local Distributor for all
American Oil Co. Petroleum Products**

We invite the attention of service stations, trucking fleets, farms and industries to the facilities of the Miles Lerman Oil Co.

We would like to serve you with the same efficiency, dependability and individual attention that our fuel oil customers have been enjoying in the past.

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|---|--|-----------------|
| AMOCO | UNLEADED SUPER PREMIUM | GASOLINE |
| AMERICAN Regular Gasoline | | |
| AMERICAN Motor Oils | AMERICAN Brand Heating Oils with Sta-clean | |
| AMERICAN Premier Diesel Fuel | AMERICAN Industrial and Automotive Lubricants | |

You'll Be Miles Ahead With

MILES LERMAN OIL CO.

Phone 691-9600 Weymouth Rd., Vineland

Location

Weymouth Road
Newfield, NJ
Cumberland County

Miles Lerman Oil Company

Miles and Rosalie Lerman arrived in New York City in 1947 and in 1948 moved to Vineland, NJ. They ran a poultry farm when they moved to the Vineland area. After a decade of farming, Miles began a small home heating business. Lerman Oil Company (later renamed Lerco Fuel Oil) grew into one of the region's top heating oil distributors, providing home heating oil to residential and commercial clients in the Cumberland County area.

Ad for Miles Lerman Oil Company,
March 4th 1963

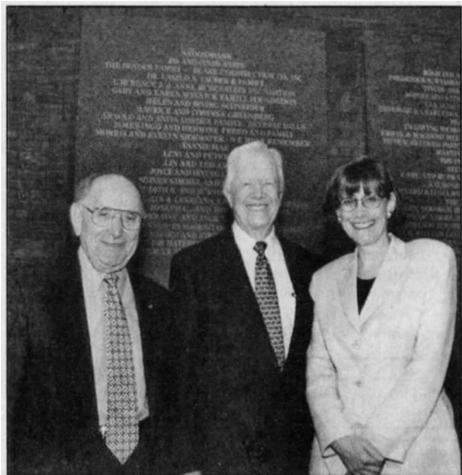
About Miles Lerman

Miles Lerman was born in Tomaszów Lubelski, Poland in 1920, which was occupied by Nazi Germany in 1941. Miles was forced into the Viniki work camp on the outskirts of L'vov (today L'viv, Ukraine). Miles and fellow prisoners found an opportunity to overpower their guards and escape into the forest. He spent the following twenty-three months around L'vov as a Jewish resistance fighter, using the region's dense woods as a base of operations. Miles became a commander of one of the Jewish partisan groups. After liberation, Miles went to a displaced persons center in Łódź, Poland, where he met and married Rosalie (Rozalia) Laks in 1945. Rosalie had endured Auschwitz with her two sisters, who also survived. She believed she only stayed alive because she was looking out for her family.

Lerman and Rosalie immigrated to the United States in 1947, and first lived in New York City. They later moved to Vineland, New Jersey, and ran a chicken farm.

After his success in business, Miles joined with various other cultural and business leaders across the country to establish the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He later retired from the oil business and dedicated his time to Holocaust education efforts and philanthropy. This included being a critical member of the Jewish Federation of Cumberland County.

Lerman became a founding member of the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. He traveled across the nation raising awareness and money for a \$200 million campaign. Lerman was involved in the Holocaust Memorial Museum from the planning stages.



Appointed to govern the museum by President Jimmy Carter, he was reappointed by the next three presidents (Regan, Bush Sr., and Clinton). The Museum opened in 1993.

Miles Lerman with Former President Jimmy Carter and USHMM Director Sara J. Bloomfield at the U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C

Lerman had a deep devotion to Israel. He served on the National Executive Board of the Israel Bond Organization since its inception in 1951, which funded the industrial infrastructure of Israel before the emerging nation had access to capital markets.

Miles Lerman led efforts to build a memorial at Belzec the third most lethal concentration camp in Poland, where 500,000 Jews, including Lerman's Mother, were murdered. In 10 months in 1942. Today the Belzec Museum and study center provide the world with a place to remember the atrocities committed at Belzec. The center has been open since 2004 and was dedicated by Pope John Paul II.



Miles Lerman with Pope John Paul II In 2002



Lerman always maintained a special place for his adopted hometown of Vineland. He was quoted in the *Vineland Daily Journal*: *"I will be a Vineland as long as I live, I am so proud of my hometown."*

Miles Lerman Obituary Photo in 2008, *Vineland Daily Journal*

Another quote about his life in Vineland gives us an insight into why Lerman fell in love with this community: "Friends and family said that Lerman loved Vineland because of how the city welcomed him in the late 1940s when he emigrated from Europe. His daughter Janette Neubauer said he loved how the neighbors all came together to help each other and build local projects such as Newcomb Hospital and Cumberland County Community College. Neubauer said when her father was new to the area, he organized a group of fellow farmers to give blood to the American Red Cross. "They wanted to express their gratitude, it was all that they could give." (Jannette Neubauer) Lerman passed away in 2008 at the age of 88.

For more information see

South Jersey Holocaust Survivor Digital Archive, Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University.

Bloomfield at the U.S Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

Miles Lerman Obituary, Vineland *Daily Journal* 24 Jan 2008, p. 1 (Newspapers.com).

"Miles Lerman with Former President Jimmy Carter and USHMM Director Sara J.

Pope backs city man's plans," Vineland *Daily Journal*, 25 Nov 2002, p. 1 (Newspapers.com).

Photo Sources: *Daily Journal*, Vineland, 1/24/2008, P. A12.

Profiles of South Jersey Holocaust Survivors by George D. Quinn (Project Lead), with contributions by Dr. Michael Hayse (Curator & Editor) and Biographical Information by Perscilla Bartley.