

From Lloydminster to Leningrad
- Lloyd Robertson

My first summer job was as a "checker". You've seen gravel trucks dumping their loads to prepare roadbeds for paving. Well, someone has to be responsible enough to read the large number painted on the side of the truck, find that number on the list provided and place a "check" beside that number signifying the delivery of one load. Without this service the orderly system of payment to the truck owners would collapse. At the tender age of 16 I was responsible enough and skilled enough for this job.

After two days of sitting in the shade, attending to these responsibilities, I was ready for more, for working class manual labor. I swaggered into the hot July sun and, reaching up, pulled the lever that released the gate allowing truck #34 to dump its load. That is how I met "Tiny".

He liked his nickname even tho he must have weighed 340 pounds. The passenger side of his truck was always piled with chips, chocolate bars and pastries. I was six feet and weighed 115 pounds and Tiny was always trying to feed me. I would select chips, not bars. Then he would tell me about "the Jews".

Tiny had been driving truck in Lloydminster for about a dozen years and I guess he had come to the conclusion that he would never own his own truck. He blamed the Jews who controlled the banks and said that someone with a last name like his could never "make it".

I attempted to engage him in other topics. I raised the scandal that the premier of Alberta, Ernest C. Manning (Preston's father), was involved in at the time. It appears that a lumber company and some oil interests had provided a home, barn, fencing and stock for the Manning ranch. The elder Manning told the Alberta legislature it was just an old fashioned "barn raising". Some of his neighbors had just come over "to help out".

Tiny blamed Ernest's troubles on the Jews who controlled the media. He explained that the Jews were not Christian and they were out "to get" a god-fearing preacher like Mr. Manning. Then with a serious face he asked me if I was "saved". With a matching countenance I told him I was. He gave me another bag of chips.

Tiny said that the worst Jews were the Communists. When I said that the Communists were atheists he laughed that I should be sucked in by this "Jewish lie". He patiently explained to me that the Jews controlled both the governments in the Soviet Union and the United States. He said that the wars between them thru their proxies were all arranged to maximize profits and kill Christians.

I had not thought of Tiny for over a quarter of a century. Then I met an alternate "Tiny" from the other side of the world.

His degree said "University of Leningrad" but he insisted on calling it "St. Petersburg". He was fit, active and disciplined and when he learned that unemployment in the north reached 70% he wondered why Natives were too lazy to set up their own businesses. He talked about how the

Jews controlled the old Soviet Union and how they are responsible for Russia's collapse. He said that Canada was also controlled by the Jews.

By this time I had learned some non-Jewish names of very rich people. Tiny2 looked at me pityingly and explained about the Jewish - Mason conspiracy. I explained how the Masons were originally a craft guild from England and that would make them Anglican and he nodded, knowingly, and said that was another name for them. I suggested that the Masons were a pretty small lodge in Saskatchewan and that the Kinsmen were much larger. He explained that the Kinsmen are a branch of the Masons.

Tiny2 had come to Canada expecting to become wealthy. He had tried a number of business ventures without success. He still believed in capitalism and suggested one could not get ahead unless one was accepted by the local Mason-Jewish controlling group. He asked that I introduce him to that group in La Ronge.

The two "Tinys" had their ways of explaining the world. They needed to blame some one or some group for the chaos in their own lives. They picked an identifiable minority. That minority could have just as easily been Amerindian, Metis, Irish, "Paki", women, men, homosexuals or green-eyed left handed people. Such is the psychology of racism.