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There were three personalities in Roodepoort who deserve special mention:

## **Dr Abe (Jock) Beron, Morris Hockman and Dr Simon (Sabse) Spiro**

1. Dr Jock Beron was an outstanding educator, who grew up and eventually taught in Roodepoort before becoming Principal of a leading school in Johannesburg.
  2. Mr Morris Hockman was the leader of the community for several years and contributed financially to maintaining the community.
  3. Dr Sabse Spiro was a GP and served the medical needs of the community over the period of many years.
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### **Dr Abe (Jock) Beron**

Jock Beron has described his family as moving from Maraisburg to Roodepoort in 1916 and he was then admitted to the Roodepoort Town School. He went on to matriculate at the Krugersdorp High School in 1925. He then became a teacher, studying at Wits University and the Normal College in Johannesburg. He then obtained a position in a small 3-man Afrikaans school in what he described as the Bushveld.

After a few years he returned to teach at the Roodepoort Town School. During this period, he also spent a year on exchange in the UK. This was followed by active service overseas in the South African Armed Forces from 1939 to 1945.

After returning to South Africa, he continued his studies to obtain a MA and a PhD. He was then appointed vice-principal in Roodepoort and after a six-month stint as the Principal of the English medium school in Witbank; he received the post of Principal of the Roodepoort Town School in 1948 and remained there until 1959. During this period, he proved himself to be an outstanding educator and school administrator. I clearly remember my last two years at the school when he was principal. He stimulated the scholars to pursue their studies. On one memorable occasion he gave us a lesson on the importance of Geoffrey Chaucer in old English literature.

In 1959 he was appointed Principal of the King David Primary School and eventually Principal of the High School. One of his major contributions was the inclusion of scholars with difficulties in hearing in the regular classes. Dr. Beron was a major educator, having lived a large part of his life in Roodepoort and then leading one of the outstanding schools in Johannesburg. He was married with two sons, one of whom was killed in an accident and a daughter.



## Morris Hockman

Morris Hockman spent most of his life in Roodepoort and owned a successful jewelry store in the center of the town. He was married to Dolly and they had no children. He died in 1956. Morris Hockman was the chairman of the Shul committee for many years and one of the main contributors to the community. When it was decided to build a communal hall in the late 1940's, it was decided to name the hall after Morris Hockman in honor of his service and contribution to the community.



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Dr Simon (Sabse) Spiro

Sabse Spiro was born in Kroonstad in 1910 and studied at the Grey College in Bloemfontein. The family lived in Bultfontein in the Orange Free State. After, completing his medical studies at the Witwatersrand University in 1934, he started practicing as Assistant District Surgeon in Heidelberg. At about this time he married Gladys Sack, from La Rochelle in Johannesburg. The family moved to Roodepoort in 1936, and he opened his General Practice offices in Bonvin house above the Boner pharmacy. As a GP at that time, Sabse Spiro provided all the medical services, including obstetrics and surgery, for many in the town of Roodepoort and especially for the Jewish population. With the growth of his practice over the years Sabse Spiro, with other investors built a larger building in Berlandina Street with sufficient office space for his consulting rooms. Sabse Spiro retired in 1964. He was appointed president of the South African Medical

Association in 1972. Sabse and Gladys had three children, two daughters and the oldest child, a son, Farrell, who became an outstanding interventional radiologist in South Africa.

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**MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

INLIGTINGSLEËR : INFORMATION FILE

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dr Simon (Sabse) Spiro was inducted as President of the Medical Association of South Africa at the Adjourned Annual General Meeting held in Johannesburg on 25 May. Dr Spiro is a Federal Councillor from the Southern Transvaal Branch of the Association, and succeeds Dr K. Goldswain of East London as President.

Sabse Spiro was born in Kroonstad and was educated at Grey College School in Bloemfontein where he matriculated in 1928. He received the degree M.B., B.Ch. from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1934, and after 18 months in Heidelberg, Transvaal, he commenced general practice in Roodepoort where he has practised for the past 24 years.



Dr S. Spiro

Dr Spiro was elected to Federal Council in 1958 and since 1963 has been Chairman of the Central Committee for Contract Practice. He has served on several of Federal Council's Committees and has been a member of the Executive Committee since 1966.

Dr Spiro was President of the Southern Transvaal Branch of the Medical Association during 1970 - 71. Sabse has an active interest in cricket and bowls and serves on various committees. He has been a Rotarian for 25 years, and for 29 years has been a member of the Roodepoort Hebrew Congregation, as well as being President of the Congregation in 1962.

Sabse and his wife Gladys have 3 married children and 7 grandchildren.