

Fraternity Shatters Precedents, Bernard Silberstein Made Life Member of Order of B'nai B'rith

Precedents of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith were shattered last night at the Spalding hotel, when a life membership in the organization was presented to Bernard Silberstein as tribute to his fiftieth anniversary of membership in the order.

Three hundred Jewish residents of Duluth and vicinity met to extol the honorary guest and to listen to Henry Monsky of Omaha, Neb., first vice president of the district grand lodge, who delivered the principal address.

For the first time in the history of the largest representative Jewish association in the world, a member was singled out to have a life honorary membership conferred on him. This member, Mr. Silberstein, well-known Duluth department store owner, served as commissioner of public safety for four years, having been elected in April, 1915.

Sixty candidates were initiated into membership at a special afternoon program in which the initiatory rites were conferred by Mr. Monsky. Responding on behalf of the candidates, W. M. Abrahamson, spoke briefly of the responsibility of accepting the obligations of the order.

Intolerance Today.

In his evening address, which followed a dinner, Mr. Monsky developed as his theme the phase of intolerance as affecting the Jew today.

"The B'nai B'rith," he said, "furnishes a common meeting ground where the pious and non-pious Jew may meet for their mutual advancement.

"If we would seek the toleration of all creeds, we must learn to tolerate all creeds," he continued.

Sketching the philanthropic work of the order in its support of various orphan homes and other charitable institutions, the speaker then touched on the "anti-defamation" scope of the work of the lodge. It was in connection with this phase of his subject that he spoke of the need for toleration and the evils of intolerance.

Produce Happiness.

"The greatest happiness man can achieve," he said, "is to produce happiness in lives of others. Mr. Silberstein has been endowed with great ability, great wealth and great happiness. In these respects, God has made him a trustee for the dissemination of happiness and he has distinguished himself nobly."

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Monsky was applauded for several minutes, being obliged to acknowledge the ovation repeatedly. Following the program there was dancing in the ball room.

Fifty years ago Mr. Silberstein joined the Detroit, Mich. lodge of the L. O. B. B., prior to his departure for Duluth. Since then he has been an active member in the local order. In 1908 he was its president.

The Covenant degree team which conducted the afternoon initiatory ceremonial is composed of A. B. Kapplin, president; Charles D. Oreckovsky, monitor; D. P. Fieldman, vice president; Dave Miller, treasurer; Harry Gordon, assistant monitor.

Patriotic Singing.

Following the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," Rabbi Israel Lebediger delivered the evening prayer, whereupon the banquet was served.

The program was opened by S. B. Copilowisch, president of Duluth lodge, who welcomed the guests and presented Charles D. Oreckovsky as toastmaster.

Mr. Oreckovsky dwelt particularly at length on the splendid work of A. B. Kapplin, chairman of the jubilee committee, who directed the arrangements for the function. Mr. Kapplin, responding, paid a remarkable tribute to Mr. Silberstein and in concluding, made the presentation of the life membership, an event which guests and members undoubtedly will recall as impressive.

Mr. Silberstein, in accepting the testimonial, spoke briefly, apparently affected by the unprecedented tribute. Mr. Monsky's address concluded the program.

Assisting Mr. Kapplin on the jubilee committee were D. P. Fieldman, Ben Miller, Samuel Nides, S. B. Copilowisch, Jessa Cohen and C. D. Oreckovsky. A pleasing feature of the event was "The Jew-Bull-EE," a miniature newspaper edited by Mr. Kapplin and Mr. Nides.

New Members.

Newly elected members: William M. Abrahamson, J. J. Abram, Harry E. Altman, Al Aron, Mortimer W. Bondy, Harold J. Brody, Joseph E. Coll, Charles M. Cohen, Harry Lewis Cohen, Jacob Crystal, Michael Danesiko, Louis Fishman, Louis Gallop, Morris Garrison, Oscar Goldstein, Samuel Gotkin, B. Louis Green, Monte A. Greenblat, Ben J. Kenner, Herman N. Kramer, Frank Krupitzky, Morris Krupitzky, Louis J. Lasky, Samuel C. Latts, Jack Levine, Morris Levine, Irving M. Levinson, Sam Levinson, L. S. Lugoff, Abe H. Miller, Isadore Mogelson, S. Natelson, Percy E. Oreck, David Oreckovsky, Max D. Orinstein, David B. Pollack, D. Rathill, Frank M. Riskin, Mandy Rosenberg, Chas. A. Saksanoff, Samuel Sander, Robert Schway, Hyman L. Segal, Hyman W. Segal, Jack E. Segal, Sam J. Segal, Chas. S. M. Segalbaum, Samuel Shore, Sam Simon, Morris Slavoot, J. Slonim, Abe L. Solon, John L. Sosnosky, Joseph Steinman, Harry Vertelney, Louis Weisberg, Ed. Zalk, Samuel Zalk, Wolf B. Zien, A. Zurovsky.