

Bath forty years ago

BATH, May 21, 1935 — The Bar Mitzvah of Beth Israel Synagogue was observed Tuesday evening, Lag B'Omar night, in the synagogue, where gathered members of the community as well as out of town guests, some of them former residents of this city. Among the guests were Rabbi Morris H. Chapman of Lewiston, principal speaker of the evening, and Rabbi Greenfield of Auburn, who also addressed the gathering. Rev. Samuel Pincky of this city was another speaker.

Spiritual services were held in the synagogue proper, with Samuel Pfeffer as master of ceremonies. Rabbi Chapman spoke on what the synagogue has given to Judaism and of the spiritual ideals that have been carried down through the ages to the present time. A forceful speaker, Rabbi Chapman said that the ideals the synagogue has given to the people and which they in the main cling to, is the force which has overcome persecution, hate, intolerance and injustice. The great moral and spiritual ideal we call religion which has carried the people of Israel down through the ages was the ideal lacking in the ancient people.

Rabbi Greenfield spoke along lines similar to those of Rabbi Chapman, and both held the attention of their hearers. Morris H. Cohen sang one of the beautiful Psalms.

Later, in the vestry, a birthday cake baked by Mrs. David S. Cogan was lighted with 13 candles. The honor of lighting the candles went to Louis Abromson of Lewiston, formerly of this city, and a charter member of the synagogue. He called upon the men who were charter members and who had laid the cornerstone of the synagogue to light the candles. Two Jewish solos, one of them "The Prayer Shawl" (worn by boys for the first time on their 13th birthday, when they enter manhood), were sung by Mr. Cohen.

A short talk was given by Morris S. Povich, president of the Congregation. A Times clipping about the dedication of the synagogue 13 years ago was read by Mrs. Isadore Singer.

A short humorous skit was given by David S. Cogan and Arthur W. Gediman. Dancing followed and light refreshments were served.