

*Sam Schloss Lodge No. 35,
B'nai B'rith*

The B'nai B'rith Home for the Aged was opened in Memphis in 1927 during the administration of Leo Bearman. At that time, the membership of the Sam Schloss Lodge was eleven hundred and five members representing the largest membership in the history of the order. Honorable Alfred M. Cohen, international president, visited Memphis for the occasion. Maurice Hirsch, of Houston, Texas, was present for the opening ceremonies.

In 1927, the Hillel Club, composed of the Jewish College Students in residence in Memphis was organized under the sponsorship of the Sam Schloss Lodge. Its object was to bring together for social and educational purposes the Jewish College students modeled on the plan of the Hillel Foundation which is sponsored by the B'nai B'rith in many of the larger universities in America.

This year marked also the formation of the B'nai B'rith Auxiliary under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur Jacobs. The Auxiliary has functioned since that time. Its major activity has been the sponsorship of canned goods showers for the B'nai B'rith Home.

The administration of Leo Bearman gave rise to the formation of the first A. Z. A. Chapter in Memphis. The A. Z. A. letters come from the Hebrew letters Aleph Zadek Aleph. The order, itself, is a fraternity of Jewish boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty one. The original chapter of the A. Z. A. came into existence in Omaha, Nebraska in 1925.

The presidency of District, No. 7, of the B'nai B'rith, came to Memphis in 1931 with the election of Leo Bearman at New Orleans.

A general survey of the work of the B'nai B'rith should be considered next. The B'nai B'rith was founded in New York ninety years ago. The work of the order has always been to promote harmony and brotherly love. The name B'nai B'rith signifies "Sons of the Covenant."

The B'nai B'rith is international in scope, and the world is divided into districts. Memphis is located in District, No. 7 which includes eight southern states. Each district maintains institutions for the less fortunate of our people. District No. 7 maintains a Home for the Aged in Memphis, a Children's Home in New Orleans, the Leo N. Levi Hospital in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and gives support to other B'nai B'rith institutions of a national scope.

Some years ago, the B'nai B'rith decided to go beyond the charitable and philanthropic endeavors, and accordingly, the Wider Scope Committee came into being. The purpose of the Wider Scope is to provide for the needs of the Jewish youth thru the A. Z. A. Fraternity; to stimulate the Jewish spirit in the College students thru the Hillel Foundation; to care for immigrant Jews in Mexico; to safeguard the Jewish name thru the Anti-Defamation League; to provide homes for Jewish settlers in Palestine on long time repayment plan; and to cater to the spiritual and cultural needs of the Jewish people thru the publication of the B'nai B'rith Magazine.

The outstanding donation to the Sam Schloss Lodge during its entire history was made by B. W. Hirsch, Sr. The donation was ten thousand dollars to be paid one thousand dollars per year for ten years. At the conclusion of this period of time, the money with the accumulated interest was to be paid to the lodge.

The most recent development in B'nai B'rith history was the formation of the State Conference of the order at Jackson, Tennessee on April 26, 1933. Joseph M. Bearman, of Memphis was elected as the first state chairman.

The Memphis Lodge, No. 35, took its name Sam Schloss from one of the oldest and hardest workers that the lodge has ever had. Sam Schloss was the originator and a charter member of the Simon Tuska Lodge which was instituted on March 16, 1873. Mr. Schloss was a past president of this lodge, and a member for approximately sixty three years. He lived to the ripe age of ninety three years, and before he passed into the great beyond, he was the oldest living member of the B'nai B'rith. In grateful appreciation of the many services which he had rendered and for his splendid exemplification of the teaching of B'nai B'rith, the Memphis lodge assumed his name, and became officially known as the Sam Schloss Lodge.

The name of Henry Henochsberg was linked with the history of the B'nai B'rith over a period of fifty years. He served the lodge in every capacity, but it was in his role of secretary that he performed his longest service. He held this office for more than twenty-five years, and faithfully executed his duties during this entire time. After fifty years of membership, he was awarded an honorary membership for life. He died on his eighty-first birthday and was mourned by the entire community.