



Joseph Bearman

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Joseph M. Bearman, prominent Memphis attorney and past president of the Sam Schloss lodge of B'nai B'rith, was born in St. Louis, Mo., on November 29, 1893. When he was fifteen years old he came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bearman to Memphis, where he has lived since.

After graduating from Central High, he attended the Cincinnati Law School, where he made a record in public speaking. In his freshman year, Mr. Bearman made the debating team and was awarded first prize for a speech on "Universal Peace."

During the World War, in May 1918, he entered the army. In January of the next year, he was charged as Battalion Sergeant-Major. On returning home after the war, Mr. Bearman was married to Helen Straus, of Cincinnati, Ohio. They have one child, Jene Joe Bearman, age seven. Mr. Bearman has been very prominent in American Legion Work around the Memphis Territory. In 1927, he was executive Committeeman and in 1928, vice commander. In the National Contest for membership in 1928, he won first prize by getting more members for the Legion than any other man in the United States. While attending the National Convention of the American Legion in 1928 at San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Bearman was a member of the Guard of Honor for General Pershing and Lord Allenby, of England.

On May 1, 1929, Mr. Bearman was appointed on the Boxing and Wrestling Commission. Mr. Bearman is an active member of the Masons and Shrines, a director of the Mutual Building and Loan Association and Temple Men's Club and a trustee of the B'nai B'rith.

Since 1930, Mr. Bearman has written history in the annals of the B'nai B'rith. He became president with a membership of fifty-one and raised the membership to over six hundred and fifty. He infused a new working principal into the order and brought increased activity and interest to the membership as a whole.

In 1932-33, Mr. Bearman thru practically his own efforts, wiped out the deficit of the Mayor's Unemployment Relief Fund to the extent of thirty five hundred dollars. He raised seven truck loads of food and approximately five hundred dollars in cash for the Family Welfare Fund. And immediately afterwards, raised practically the same amount for the Community Kitchens.

He completed his fund raising work with a theatrical production for the B'nai B'rith Home for Aged in which he raised approximately fifteen hundred dollars.

At the present time, Mr. Bearman is the Chairman of the State Conference of the B'nai B'rith, and regarded as one of the outstanding leaders of the entire seventh district of the B'nai B'rith.