



MYER MINSKY

Myer Minsky, Noted Bangor Resident, Dies

Myer Minsky, 82, of 46 Leighton Street, Bangor, died April 15 at his residence following a period of ill health.

He came here as a Russian immigrant in 1904, founded the city's first Zionist organization and remained a life-long activist in Bangor's Jewish Community.

Mr. Minsky was born in Kreva, Russia, Aug. 16, 1888, the son of Hillel and Leah (Epstein) Minsky. Four years after immigrating to Bangor he started a store in Brownville Junction with a few kerosene lamps and \$150 worth of candy. He returned to Bangor in 1916 to open Eastern Furniture Company and later, National Confectionery Company, a firm that manufactured and wholesaled candy. He also was founder and president of Superior Paper Company.

A member of the underground Zionist movement in Russia, Mr. Minsky organized and was president of Bangor first Zionist group. The organization eventually sponsored social activities and was renamed the Sons and Daughters of Zion.

In 1917, when the First Jewish Brigade traveled from New York to Halifax en route to Europe, the Sons and Daughters of Zion greeted its members in Bangor with a band and refreshments. David Ben-Gurion was one of several Israeli leaders aboard the train and decades later referred to the event in a Boston speech after he became prime minister.

Mr. Minsky was president of the State Zionist Organization and vice president of the New England Zionist organization. Long active in the Jewish National Fund, he was vice president for New England of the JNF. He was vice president of Beth Israel Synagogue; past president of the Bangor Hebrew School; and was a charter member and past president of B'nai B'rith. He was instrumental in the organization of the Jewish Community Center and the Young Judah youth group, and was local and state-wide advisor for the AZA, the youth organization of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. Minsky was a mason for 60 years and also was active in the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and the Elks. He was a World War I veteran.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Bess (Goldsmith) Minsky of Bangor; two sons, Leonard E. and Norman Minsky, both of Bangor; one sister, Mrs. Anna Kaminsky of Bangor; one granddaughter; several nieces and nephews.

Myer Minsky To Be Feted At Testimonial Dinner Here

Myer Minsky, one of the most outstanding members of Bangor's Jewish Community, will be honored at a testimonial dinner at the Jewish Community Center Sunday November 10.

Mr. Minsky was born in Kreva, Russia, in 1888. He was the son and grandson of ordained rabbis although they never practiced. His mother ran a small grocery store and his father devoted all of his time to study.

He came to Boston in 1904 where he spent a few years with a brother. Following that he came to Bangor where he had four uncles living and his first employment was in a bakery operated by a cousin. He next became associated with the Sterns Lumber Company and about four years after coming to Bangor, Mr. Minsky went to Brownville Jct. and opened a store. He returned to Bangor in 1916 where with the late James A. Cahners he opened the Eastern Furniture Compa-



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ny. They were later joined by A. B. Friedman. He left that

business and went into the Army in 1918.

Upon his return he opened the National Confectionery Company which he still operates. In the beginning, with Edward Epstein, candy was both manufactured and wholesaled.

His Zionist activities began in Europe as a child of 15 or 16 when he worked with the underground labor Zionist group and it was at this age that he envisioned the Jewish return to Palestine. Through the years since the organization of the Zionists in Bangor the group has been headed, except for a brief period, by Mr. Minsky.

He has been active in the Jewish National Fund, and his zest for Zionism has carried him throughout the State organizing groups. He is a past president of the State Zionist group, a vice president of the New England Zionist Region, vice president of the New England Region of the Jewish National

Fund, and has served on various national advisory committees.

He has been a member of the Brownville Masonic Lodge, F. and A.M. for more than 52 years and while there was also a member of the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Elks.

He is a charter member of Pine Tree Lodge of B'nai B'rith and is a past president.

He has served as vice president of the Beth Israel Synagogue and is presently a member of its board of directors, a post he has held for many years.

Always interested in Hebrew education he is a past president of the Hebrew School and still continues to serve on its board.

There will be an outstanding musical performance in conjunction with the testimonial dinner.

Funeral services will be held at the Jewish Funeral Chapel, Center Street, Bangor, Sunday at 2 p.m. Rabbi David Berent of Lewiston will officiate.