

# Jewish Mothers of Irvington Fear For Children After Brutality to Boy

By Louise Mitchell

IRVINGTON, N. J., Oct. 14.—"No mother can feel her child is safe any more when Jewish children are attacked on the streets," said Mrs. Rappoport, mother of three young children at 165 Augusta St. She is a neighbor of the Cohen family whose son Bernard was recently attacked by two hooligans and branded with a crude swastika on his forearm.

"I remember it was this Tuesday night," Mrs. Rappoport told the Daily Worker, "Mr. Cohen asked Bernard to go out to get the evening papers and on his way he was knocked down. I know it couldn't be his fault. Bernard is such a nice boy."

On his way back from an errand Bernard stopped to play in the park for a few minutes when two rough-necks twice his size began beating him, wounding him in the arm.

"I'll be worried every time I know my children are out on the street playing," said another neighbor. "Things have certainly come to a pretty pass when you have to worry about these things too. We knew there were Nazis in Irvington but we didn't think that their children would take it out on our children."

The Jewish population of Irvington has suddenly been awakened by this attack of cruelty and everywhere mothers and fathers are talking about it. Ask anyone on the street who was the Jewish boy who was hurt and they will tell you it is Bernard Cohen, son of S. Cohen, attorney for the Alcohol Tax Unit of Newark.

## FAMILY LEAVE TOWN

There has been so much comment that Bernard's father and mother have left town for the week so that Bernard can get over the shock and recover from the wound.

Judge Thomas J. Holleran, who presided over the case when it came to court in Irvington, severely reprimanded the two tormentors of German and Italian descent for their vile deed. He lectured them on the true meaning of American-

ism and told them that the symbol of the American flag was liberty and decency while the swastika was symbolic of "bestiality and bullying" and that there was no place in America for this kind of action. The parents stood by and also received a lesson in the principles of American sportsmanship.

Judge Holleran is well known in Irvington for his treatment of juvenile delinquency. Never are delinquents brought up in the regular session of court. The judge talks to the boys individually and behind closed doors and tries by personal guidance to achieve what the strong arm of the law often fails to do with juvenile delinquents. Irvington is a town of 60,000

population several miles from Newark with a Jewish population of 25,000 and a German population of 20,000. This is the first evident outbreak of anti-Semitism for several years. The last one occurred in 1934 when the Nazi groups paraded in full regalia through the town and a riot was started where many men and women were severely hurt. Since then, the Nazi groups have been forced to continue their work behind closed doors but all the Jews in town knew that their activities go on and fear that with new developments here and abroad many more unforeseen developments may occur in Irvington.

"Yes, that business of the Cohen boy was a terrible thing and even though I know that my children may be safe for a while, I don't

like that kind of thing going on in this town. Nobody does," one of the local business men told this reporter.

Another store keeper was quick to add, "I wonder why the whole thing was kept out of the papers so long. It happened Tuesday night and here it is Friday and we just hear the first thing about it. I wonder if it was kept out for some reason. In fact the Irvington Herald hasn't said a thing about it yet."

An old Jewish woman told a crowd who had gathered to talk about the whole thing, "I guess you can't say much about the boys who did it. They don't know better. But what we can say about the parents is that not until all the Nazis have been forced out of here, can we feel safe for everybody's children."

D. W.  
10/15/38