

### FIRST RUSSIAN BAS MITZVAH

WALTHAM, Mass. - (WNS) -- The first known Bas Mitzvah ceremony in Leningrad was celebrated recently by 13-year-old Ann Cogan, the Union of Council for Soviet

Jews reported here. The girl's mother, Sophie Cogan, described the ceremony attended by 37 persons in a letter to members of the Union of Council. "When we

first began to prepare the Bas Mitzvah, we learned that we had no information how to do it," the letter said.

"Old people knew only the Bar Mitzvah..." Ann discussed a portion of the Torah dealing with the giving

of charity. Her father, Izaak Cogan, explained the significance of Ann's Hebrew name,

Hannah, and her mother spoke about why in Jewish tradition children come of age

so early.

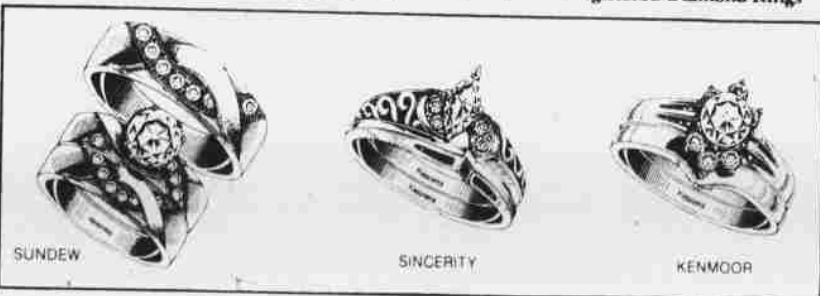
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