

OBITUARY

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Abraham Axelrod dies at 88; music store owner, botanist

PROVIDENCE — Abraham Axelrod, 88, a musician, music store owner and botanist, died yesterday at the Oak Hill Nursing Home, Pawtucket. A former resident of Medway Street, he was the husband of the late Rose (Bernstein) Axelrod.

Born April 30, 1887, in Philadelphia, son of the late Joseph and Sophie Axelrod, he was a Providence resident for more than 65 years and the founder and former president of Axelrod Music Inc., which is still located in the downtown section.

"Most men throw away the best part of life, the last part," Axelrod said in an interview many years ago. He didn't fall into that trap.

A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, he played the violin and piano and was one of the first orchestra leaders to play in the old Narragansett Hotel.

When he decided he "wasn't fitted to be a successful musician," he opened his music store at 120 North Main St., the day he was married.

Within 15 years the store had moved to 45 Snow St. where it remained until the early 1950s when it relocated at 251 Weybosset St., its current location.

In 1939, when he was 52, Axelrod returned to his interest in nature, enrolling in a Brown University extension course in gardening. He subsequently received permission from the dean of the school to become a



Abraham Axelrod

special student in botany, and he graduated in 1943.

Also a boatsman, he was a former member of the Edgewood Yacht Club. He was also a member of Temple Beth-El.

He is survived by two sons, Paul and Walter Axelrod, both of Providence; two daughters, Mrs. Evelyn Mines of Providence, and Mrs. Belle Stern of Cranston; and by eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

The funeral will be held tomorrow with a noon service at Sugerman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

AXELROD, ABRAHAM