

BERRY,
Max

10-24-1941

MAX BERRY

Funeral services were held on Thursday in Miami Beach, Fla., for Max Berry, retired proprietor of Berry's Luggage Shop, 51 Weybosset street, this city, who died on Wednesday morning in Miami, following a lingering illness. Mr. Berry's local residence had been at 125 Lancaster street.

Mr. Berry originally opened a leather goods store at Market Square in 1896, but moved to Weybosset street in 1900, where he remained until 1938 when he retired.

He was a director of the Lincoln Trust Company, a member of the Roosevelt Lodge, F. and A. M., the Jewish Children's Home and the Jewish Home for Aged.

Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Fannie B. Berry; two daughters, Mrs. Gladys Saltzman of this city, and Mrs. Eunice Horowitz of Miami Beach; one sister, Mrs. Ida Shore of New York City, and three brothers, Morris and Jack Berry of Providence, and Abraham Berry of Brooklyn.

6/15/71

Providence Journal June 15, 1971

Melvin T. Berry Dies; Shipyard Developer

Melvin T. Berry, the former Cranston businessman who became a millionaire through his ownership of the commercial complex at the former shipyard at Fields Point, died yesterday in Miami, apparently of a heart attack. He was 52.

Mr. Berry, who moved to Florida three years ago in semi-retirement after at least two heart attacks, died in Jackson Memorial Hospital.

A short, thin, intense worker, Mr. Berry became a millionaire before he was 40 primarily by "actively partic-

ipating in something people said couldn't be done," a close friend and relative said.

Some of his better known ventures included the marina-movie - restaurant-commercial complex at the former Walsh-Kaiser Shipyard off Allens Avenue. Mr. Berry bought the 100-acre World War II shipyard in 1949 for \$410,000. He was in the process of selling some of the large warehouse buildings at his death.

He introduced ten-pin bowling in Rhode Island and, with a group of partners, built the former Colony Motor Hotel in Cranston. In 1966, he bought Crescent Park in East Providence, but sold that in 1968 shortly before leaving for Florida. The hotel was also sold and is now a part of the Hilton chain.

Acquaintances described Mr. Berry as a modern version of "What Makes Sammy Run?" He was "always occupied," one of them said. A worker who helped him in his expanding business interests said: "It was like starting in a new job all the time."

Despite the demands of land

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Berry

Berry

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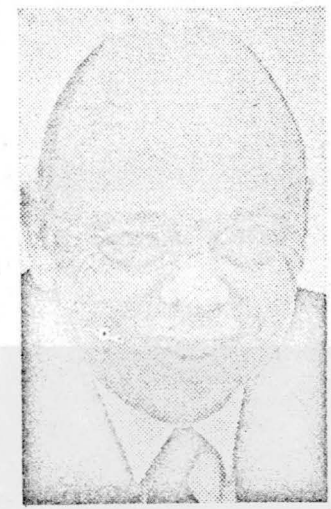
and commercial investments, Mr. Berry found time to build a stable of thoroughbreds, which he raced in Florida, New York and other parts of the country. He made several trips to Argentina and Uruguay to purchase horses.

He was usually open to new ideas, especially those that others shied away from, his friends said. A trip to Hawaii inspired him to build the Copper Galley Polynesian restaurant in the shipyard. When most people said big theaters were not profitable, he constructed the Shipyard Drive-in, one of the largest, and most profitable, open movies in New England. And when the hotel business was having difficulty, he went ahead and put up the Colony, which he sold in 1964.

The Shipyard Marina was also unusually large for a business of that type. Because of that investment, Mr. Berry owned a large power cruiser which he used whenever he entered the annual Tuna Derby at Galilee. He once came in with a record catch in keeping with his ability to do things well in new fields.

He was born in Boston, the son of the late Max and Ida (Gordon) Berry. His father was the president of the Berry Clothing Company in Pawtucket.

He moved to Rhode Island



Melvin T. Berry

and attended Hope High School. He was a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania. He worked in his father's business, then enlisted in the Navy in World War II. He served in the Pacific and came out an ensign.

His first business, opened shortly before the war, was a one-man military uniform store on Union Street in Providence. His wife, the former Janet Alper, ran the store while he was in the service.

Mr. Berry expanded the pressing and suit firm into three Gob Shops, which he sold in 1949 when he bought the Shipyard. From that investment, he moved into hotel and real estate operations here and in Massachusetts under the Berry Hill Corporation.

In an interview in 1967, while discussing the purchase of Crescent Park, he explained the theory that guided him in his successful operations: "I still have that creative urge—to give people something they cannot get."

Mr. Berry was a member of Big Brothers and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Besides his wife, survivors are two sons, David Berry of Cranston and Brian Berry of Providence; four daughters, Mrs. Donald Karp of Brockton, and Carol, Diane and Leslie Berry, all at home; three sisters, Mrs. Leonard Holland of Pawtucket, Mrs. Daniel Udell of Miami and Mrs. Myer Jacobs of Rye, N.Y. and three grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. in the Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, War-

rs. Leonard Holland, Fifi Holland,
s deceased, I thought maybe you

whose

would

he entered the Navy in 1943. He

as alr

PB: to Guadalcanal ...

FH: to Guadalcanal, and remained there for two years, and then he returned to the states and went to officers' training school at the University of Pennsylvania for two months. After that he went to Harvard to receive his commission ...

LH: [interjects] Advanced training for his commission.

FH: ... and at Harvard, peace was declared and Melvin never got his commission. He went home to his wife and children instead.

PB: Now tell me, what was his birthday and the date of his death.

FH: His birthday is January 6, 1919 he was born. He died at age 52 in 1972.

PB: And he was actually a native of Boston?

FH: He was born and bred in Boston.

PB: But he came to Providence ...

FH: At age ... right after his Bar Mitzvah. Thirteen or fourteen.

PB: And he met Janet ...

FH: He met Janet, fell in love with Janet, when he was, I think, in junior high. They were childhood sweethearts. And he went with her for all those years, and then after he graduated from the Warden School of Finance [Wharton School of Business?], which was in June of 1940, I believe, he was married that very June ...

PB: And he was not called up early because he was the father of two children, is that what hap-

pened?

FH: Oh, I suppose. He must have had some kind of deferment until they really needed more manpower.

PB: Right, thank you Fifi.

FH: You're very welcome.

PB: I'm back with Leonard Holland. He's telling me some stories.

[Side one ends — nothing on side two]