

J. Lee Bonoff dies at age 62; former president of Carol Cable

PROVIDENCE — J. Lee Bonoff, 62, a former president of Carol Cable Co., who was a key figure in an alleged Defense Department fraud scheme, died Saturday.

Mr. Bonoff, of 130 Morris Ave., Providence, died in Madison, Conn., where he was staying overnight after visiting his mother in Stratford. He was the husband of Helene (Yale) Bonoff.

Mr. Bonoff was president of Pawtucket-based Carol Cable from 1981 until May 1986. He was indicted in February on charges linked to an alleged fraud and kickback scheme involving the sale of substandard cable to the Defense Department.

The status of the charges against Mr. Bonoff, filed in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, was unclear this morning.

Two other Carol Cable employees pleaded guilty to charges in the scheme. The company, while admitting no wrongdoing, paid \$1.5 million in September 1988 to settle a civil suit filed by the federal government.

Born in Providence, he was a son of Sally (Goldberg) Bonoff of Stratford, and the late Leo E. Bonoff. He



lived in Madison before returning to Providence to attend Brown University.

Mr. Bonoff was an Army veteran of World War II. He graduated from Brown in 1950.

Previously, Mr. Bonoff was associated with the Miller Electric Co. and the Royal Electric Co. He served as a member of the board of directors of Avnet Inc., New York, and the Canada Wire & Cable Co., Toronto, Canada. He was a former member of the advisory board of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Bank.

Mr. Bonoff was a member of the Rhode Island Commodores, the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Miriam Hospital. He was a member of the University Club of the Brown Club of Rhode Island, and the Brown University Faculty Club.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves a daughter, Lauren B. Fessenden of New York; a son, Douglas Y. Bonoff of Sunrise, Fla.; a sister, Rhoda B. Lehman of Stratford; a brother, Burton L. "Buster" Bonoff of Phoenix, Ariz., and a granddaughter.

The funeral service was to be held today at 2 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, Orchard Avenue. Burial was to be in Congregation Sons of Israel & David Cemetery.

Bonoff, J. Lee