

EB 6-4-73

Israel Chernick Dies; Bail Bondsman Was 84

Israel Chernick, 84, a professional bail bondsman whose activities occasionally got him in trouble with the courts with which he was familiar, died today at The Miriam Hospital after a two-month illness.

Mr. Chernick, who lived at 14 Sargent Ave., had over the years posted bonds that enabled hundreds of defendants in criminal cases to remain free pending trial. The bondsman, who in early years was a bill collector and later served briefly as a deputy sheriff, owned considerable property in Providence, much of it in the city's poorer neighborhoods.

On occasion over the years Mr. Chernick was barred temporarily from bonding persons by various judges. The usual reason was an excess of bail commitments over the value of his property. But Mr. Chernick managed after each such encounter to work his way back into the court's favor.

The bondsman, whose occupation was listed as the "insurance business" by his family, became known to thou-

sands of criminal defendants over the years. They, in turn, paid him thousands of dollars in fees for posting the bonds that enabled them to retain their freedom while awaiting trial on various charges.

Mr. Chernick in more recent years was a quiet figure, so familiar in the state's court rooms that he blended in with the decor. But the early days of his career were more checkered.

Mr. Chernick, in 1932, was lured to a Benefit Street house where he was beaten and robbed. Later that year he missed another beating by waiving a revolver and threatening to shoot his would-be attackers. He explained the incident:

"Every year I buy thousands of dollars worth of property at tax sales, and I make 20 per cent profit when the people want to buy them back. One fellow, whose house I bought, made some threats. So I thought I better go out and do something."

Mr. Chernick, while a deputy sheriff in the late 1930s, was indicted with several other persons for conspiracy to practice law. The indictments, brought in connection with Mr. Chernick's bill collection efforts in violation of a law restricting such work to lawyers, later were dropped.

Earlier, in the 1920s, Mr. Chernick was sentenced to three months imprisonment for assaulting a man from whom he was trying to collect money. The bail bondsman also was in trouble in that era for an insurance fraud involving an automobile that had been reported stolen though it had not been taken.

Mr. Chernick was the husband of the late Tillie (Berger) Chernick. He is survived by three sons, Melvin Chernick of Providence, Dr. Warren Chernick of Cherry Hill, N.J., and David Chernick of Cranston, who is also a bail bondsman; three daughters, Mrs. Frances Fishlock of Pawtucket, Mrs. Rosalie Gilstein and Miss Ethyl Chernick, both of Providence; a sister, Mrs. Anna Rakusin of Miami Beach; 15 grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

Mr. Chernick was born in Russia, a son of the late Abraham and Annie Chernick. He lived in East Providence for more than 50 years before he moved to Providence six years ago.

Active in community affairs, Mr. Chernick was a member of Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Home for the Aged. He also was a member of the Rhode Island chapter of the International Police Chiefs Association.

The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 453 Hope St. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

CHERNICK, Israel
June 4, 1973. Residence 14 Sargeant Ave., Providence. Widower of Tillie (Berger) Chernick. Funeral services to which relatives and friends are invited will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at The Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 453 Hope St., Providence. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to The Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, 1072 Park Ave., Cranston. Due to the holiday, Shiva will be observed until 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Chernick, 335 Doyle Ave., Providence.

CHERNICK,
Israel