

David Eisenberg, 95; retired tobacconist

PROVIDENCE — David Eisenberg, 95, of the Jewish Home for the Aged, 99 Hillside Ave., owner of the former Dave's Smoke Shop, Broad Street, Pawtucket, for more than 50 years before retiring in 1988, died yesterday at Miriam Hospital.

Born in Woonsocket, a son of the late Harris and Fenney (Eisenberg) Eisenberg, he lived in Pawtucket for 90 years before moving to Providence three years ago.

Mr. Eisenberg's father established Dave's Smoke Shop, originally on Exchange Street, Pawtucket, in 1910. The shop featured corncob pipes, Cuban and other high-priced cigars, pipe tobaccos, snuff, rolling papers, lighters and cigarettes.

The Eisenberg family had been in the tobacco business since the turn of the century. Mr. Eisenberg's father also started the French & Turkish Tobacco Co., Humes Street, Pawtucket, in 1910. The family was mainly wholesalers, buying tobacco in huge hogsheds, cutting it on machines, and selling it to stores in Fall River, Woonsocket and other French-Canadian enclaves.

When Mr. Eisenberg opened the Broad Street shop, he converted it almost completely to retail sales.

In a *Journal-Bulletin* interview in 1980, he disclosed that he had never smoked, saying, "I never took a puff from a pipe, cigar or cigarette in my life. I used to cut a lot of tobacco, mix it, and the dust would come out of it and I'd have to gargle water in my throat. I guess I got enough to satisfy me."

Explaining why he continued to work well into his 80s, he said, "I really don't need the store, to be honest with you. It's something to do. I'm not married — what am I going to do — get up in the morning and twiddle my fingers? So I come down here and meet the people, talk to the people — and I make a dollar, sure I do."

He leaves three sisters, Rebecca Levine of Providence, Freeda Cossock of North Providence, and Catherine Levin of Plymouth, Minn.

The funeral procession will depart tomorrow at 9 a.m. from Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., for a 10 o'clock graveside service at Mishkan Tefilah Memorial Park, Center Street, West Roxbury, Mass.

EISENBERG, David

October 16, 1990. Residence: "The Jewish Home"; formerly of Pawtucket. Brother of Rebecca Levine, Providence; Freeda Cossock, North Providence; Catherine Levin, Plymouth, MN. Uncle of several nieces and nephews. Funeral procession will depart 9 a.m. Thursday from MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 825 Hope at 4th Sts. for the 10 a.m. graveside services at Mishkan Tefilah Memorial Park, W. Roxbury, MA. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Jewish Home for Aged. Memorial observance to be private.

EISENBERG, DAVID