RIHER 5-25-95

MAURICE GOLDSMITH

Excerpted from an obituary by Tom Long of the Boston Globe.

SALEM, Mass. — A funeral was held May 18 for Maurice Goldsmith of Swampscott, Mass., the pharmacist who was billed "the drugstore philosopher" as host of a Boston radio show in the 1940s and who wrote songs during the Big Band era.

He died May 16 in Grosvenor Park Nursing Center in Salem at the age of 92.

He was born in Kiev, Russia, and immigrated to the United States as a toddler.

"From Brooklyn my father had sent for us," he said in a story that ran in the Boston *Globe* on June 29, 1986. "He had come over a year before and was living on Essex Street, the Lower East Side, in two rooms."

He recalled that his mother "kissed the ground when we got off at Ellis Island."

The family lived in Brooklyn and then moved to Providence, where his father had a jewelry store above a pharmacy. He worked in the pharmacy after school and got a one-year scholarship to Rhode Island College of Pharmacy and Applied Sciences.

Eventually he opened Goldsmith Pharmacy in Providence. By 1930 he was living in Dorchester, working at Morton's Pharmacy, and by the 1940s helped open a chain of drugstores in locations from Boston to Fort Wayne, Ind.

He met and married Davida Glickstein of Chelsea, Mass., and they eventually settled in Belmont.

In the 1940s he hosted a weekly radio show, "A Druggist Speaks," out of the Back Bay. Billed "the drugstore philosopher," he would give health tips and advice.

He appeared on TV in Fred Allen's show, "Judge For Yourself," and Johnny Carson's "Who Do You Trust?"

He continued to write songs, including "If I Had Known," which was recorded by Guy Lombardo and featured on "The Hit Parade," and "I've Got a Hunch, Honeybunch."

He was also a published poet and journalist who interviewed Eddie Cantor and Albert Einstein, among others.

In the *Globe* article he recalled his interview with Einstein in 1937. "What most people never knew was that Einstein had a real sense of humor," he said. "We talked about the theory of relativity, and I said, 'Professor, people mention your theory of relativity all the time, but no one really knows what it is.'

"He said, 'Here, for you, a simple explanation. If you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it feels like two hours; if you're out with a good-looking girl, two hours seem two minutes. Jah, that's my theory of relativity.'"

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Philip of Peabody; a brother, James, of Seekonk; and two grandsons.

The funeral was held at the Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel in Salem. Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park.

GOLDSMITH, Maurice

GOLDSMITH, Maurice

May 16, 1995. Of Swampscott, MA. Beloved husband of Davida (Glickstein) Goldsmith. Devoted father of Philip and his wife Cynthia Goldsmith of Peabody. Loving brother of James Goldsmith of Seekonk, MA, and the late Esther Press and Rose Kunstler. Dear grandfather of Stephen and Benjamin Goldsmith. Services at the Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapels, 10 Vinnin St., Salem, MA, on Thursday, May 18 at 11:00 a.m. Memorial Observance through Sunday evening at his late residence. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in his memory may be donated to the American Cancer Society, 247 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02116.

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RIES

GOLDSMITH, Maurice

Maurice Goldsmith

Maurice Goldsmith of Swampscott died May 16. He was 92.

Born in Ukraine, he came to the United States at the age of 3. He grew up in Providence in an apartment above his father's Jewelry store.

A 1921 graduate of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, Mr. Goldsmith ran pharmacies in Providence and Boston and taught chemistry at Franklin Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

An avid song and poem composer, he hosted a radio show, "Your Druggist Speaks," in the early 1940s. In 1944 he married Davida Glickstein of Chelsea and settled in Belmont before moving to Swampscott.

He was a past supreme counselor of Rho Pi Phi, a pharmaceutical fraternity, and was a member of Roosevelt Lodge No. 42, F & AM, Providence, for 70 years. Through Rho Pi Phi, he was able to interview celebrities, including Albert Einstein and Gypsy Rose Lee.

Mr. Goldsmith was featured on the cover of the Boston Globe Magazine in 1986 as one of six immigrants interviewed in connection with the centennial of the Statue of Liberty.

Mr. Goldsmith leaves his wife; a brother, James Goldsmith of Seekonk; a son, Philip Goldsmith; a daughter–in–law, Cynthia; and two grandsons, Stephen and Benjamin. He was also the brother of the late Esther Press of Pawtucket and Rose Kunstler of Providence.

Funeral services were May 18 at the Stanetsky–Hymanson Memorial Chapel in Salem. Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park. Remembrances should be directed to the American Cancer Society.