HOFFMAN, DELMORE ELLIOT

PJB 2-4-03

Middletown

DELMORE ELLIOT HOFFMAN, 81, formerly of 47 Oak St., a proprietor of the former West End Cleaners of Newport, died yesterday at home at Metacom Manor, in Bristol.



He was the husband of Miriam (Meyerson) Hoffman; they had been married 55 years. Born in New York City, a son of the late Joseph and Gertrude (Meisels) Hoffman, he moved to Newport with his family in 1940, when his father was chief bandmaster at the Newport Naval station.

An accomplished musician even in his youth, he played the violin at Carnegie Hall at the age of 8.

He joined the Navy in 1942, serving first in the Lighter Than Air (LTA) Division, and later transferring to the aircraft carrier Bon Homme Richard, where he served until the end of World War II, and often played the violin for his shipmates.

Mr. Hoffman and his brother had owned and operated West End Cleaners, in Newport, from 1947 to 1967, when they lost their location to the construction of the Newport Bridge. Mr. Hoffman later had worked as a salesman at Alpert's Furniture, in Seekonk, until retiring in 1993.

He was a lifelong member of the Kiwanis Club, in Newport.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Debra H. Darkow of Tiverton; a brother, Jerry Hoffman of Hollywood, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the Beth Olam Cemetery, Wyatt Road.