HOHENEMSER
Jacob

8-17-67

JACOB HOHENEMSER

Funeral services for Cantor Jacob Hohenemser of Temple Emanu-El, 52, of 274 Cole Avenue, who died unexpectedly on Aug. 6 while on vacation in Yosemite, Calif., were held Sunday at the temple. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

Cantor Hohenemser, who was Cantor as a youth in Germany's most famous synagogues, came to this country 25 years ago as a refugee after a term in the Dachau concentration camp.

Mr. Hohenemser personified the recent history of German Jewry. His family had been prominent in Munich for 300 years, but the cantor's father died in a concentration camp and the Great Synagogue of Munich, in which Mr. Hohenemser was cantor, was burned to the ground by Hitler.

Another building, world famous, in which Mr. Hohenemser sang, was the Rashi Synagogue in Worms. That was also razed during the Nazi regime.

Mr. Hohenemser came to this country penniless, hardly knowing any English, in 1939. His appearance on Major Edward Bowes' amateur radio program won him national attention.

One of the persons listening to the program was Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman of St. Louis. The rabbi was so impressed by the singer's rendition of several Hebrew liturgical melodies, that he offered him the position of cantor at his temple on the spot.

Mr. Hohenemser had managed to leave his native land four days before World War II began while it was still possible for Jews to emigrate.

The graduate of the Teachers Seminary at Wuerzberg and the music conservatory in Munich, he served in St. Louis before coming to Providence. He has been at Temple Emanu-El more than two decades.

He had chanted services at the temple in 1940 for Passover and later was invited to bring his rich background of liturgical music to this city. Mr. Hohenemser was widely known for his powerful baritone voice.

Mr. Hohensemser was born in Haigerloch, Germany. He was prominent in the Cantors Assembly of America and editor of the Cantors Voice. He also was president of the Zionist District of Providence, ZOA.

Mr. Hohenemser had a doctorate in sacred music from the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He is a graduate of the Trapp Conservatory of Music in Munich and the Rhode Island College of Education.

The cantor served on the national board of the United Synagogue of America.

Mr. Hohenemser preferred not to talk much about pre-war Germany, but he frequently said, "the poorest American is a rich man if he knows and understands what freedom and peace is."

In his capacity as a singer he the Munich Conservatory while a performance of "Rienzi" was being given.

The cantor said of the man who was to destroy many of his friends and members of his family, "I would not say that he looked or acted like either an intelligent man or a dope. The most dangerous persons sometimes do not look so. You cannot tell from the face what is the soul."

Mr. Hohenemser actively interested himself in new immigrants coming to the community. Several years ago the International Institute gave him a citation for outstanding service to newcomers.

Besides his wife, Mrs. Frieda (Baxt) Hohenemser, he leaves a brother, Manfred Hohenemser of Providence.

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EB 8/7/64

Jacob Hohenemser, Emanu-El Cantor, Dies



Cantor Jacob Hohenemser of Temple Emanu-El, who filled a similar position as a youth in Germany's most famous synagogues and came to this country 25 years ago as a refugee after a term in the Dachau concentration camp, died unexpectedly yesterday while on vacation in Yosemite, Calif.

Mr. Hohenemser, 52, resided at 274 Cole Ave. With him on the trip was his wife, the former Frieda Baxt. Death apparently was due to a heart attack.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete. The body is expected to arrive in Providence tomorrow.

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Mr. Hohenemser preferred not to talk much about pre-war Germany, but he frequently said, "the poorest American is a rich man if he knows and understands what freedom and peace is."

In his capacity as a singer he had seen Hitler many times. He once recalled that Hitler visited the Munich Conservatory while a performance of "Rienzi" was being given.

The cantor said of the man who was to destroy many of his friends and members of his family: "I would not say that he looked or acted like either an intelligent man or a dope. The most dangerous persons sometimes do not look so. You cannot tell from the face what is the soul."

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