EB 4-1-86

Leo Horvitz, 76; chemist, pioneer in oil exploration

HOUSTON, Tex. — Leo Horvitz, 76, of 5207 South Braeswood Blvd., a pioneer in oil exploration techniques, died last Tuesday at Methodist Hospital. He was the husband of Sarah (Deluty) Horvitz.

Born in Central Falls, he was a son of the late Samuel and Pearl Horvitz. He lived in Pawtucket for 15 years, until 1932.

Mr. Horvitz received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in chemistry from Brown University, and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1935. He began his career as a research chemist for the Femker Co.

From 1937 to 1941, he was chief chemist for Subterrex Laboratories. In 1942 and 1943, he was with the National Defense Research Committee, as a group leader on a World War II research project at the University of Chicago.

After the war, he returned to Houston, and founded Horvitz Research Laboratories. He devoted his career to the development of near-surface and surface prospecting methods.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Ephrem P., Sigmund A. and Ira S. Horvitz, all of Houston; a sister, Mrs. Theresa Nalibow of Cranston; two brothers, David Horvitz of Pawtucket and Louis Horvitz of Cranston, and four grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. Burial was in Beth Yeshuruan Cemetery.

HORVITZ, LEO