Kane Benjamin N.

# Benjamin Kane Philanthropist Dies At 77

Benjamin N. Kane of 500 Angell Street, a leader in Jewish cultural and philanthropic activities and builder of a business empire, died Wednesday at Bay Harbor Island, Miami Beach, Fla., at the age of 77. He was the husband of Esther (Markensohn) Kane.

In the hold of an immigrant ship, he came from Russia to New York City when he was nine years old. In 1963 he was able to write a check for $250,000 to the building fund of Miriam Hospital, of which he was a founder.

Mr. Kane's major business successes began about 1924 with the founding of the Interstate Home Equipment Company, which sold pots, pans, mattresses, silverware and other furnishings for as little as 50 cents down and 50 cents a week during the depression. With capital from this and other enterprises, he went into Florida real estate development. In 1936 he built the Belmar Hotel, one of the finest luxury hotels in Miami Beach, and was later the principal developer of Bay Harbor Island, where he had a winter home.

Before his business success, he was a newsboy on the Lower East Side of New York, New York policeman, salesman, store manager, and pharmacist who at one time owned six drug stores here. He also served on the Providence City Council for four terms beginning in 1923.

Mr. Kane was former chairman of the board of the Mercantile

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National Bank in Miami Beach. In Providence he headed the Kane Investment Company and owned major shares in the Lapham and Doris Buildings and in the Wayland Manor, where he lived. He also owned a farm in Seekonk, where he bred and owned a string of racing horses for about five years just before World War II. He gave about $75,000 worth of thoroughbreds, including a son of Man o' War, Kearsarge, to the Army in the 1940s.

Two years ago he estimated that the Benjamin N. Kane Foundation, which he had set up 17 years earlier, had contributed a million dollars to humanitarian projects. He also worked for many years to advance Jewish institutions. He was a founder, first president and honorary president of Temple Beth Israel, a founder and trustee of the Jewish Home for the Aged, a trustee of Miriam Hospital and a member of Temple Emanu-El.

He was born in Russia on July 3, 1887, a son of the late Nathan and Pauline (Woloshin) Kane, originally Kogen. He attended public schools in New York City, and moved to Providence after his marriage in 1908. Later he was graduated from the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy, of which Mrs. Kane is believed to be the first woman graduate.



BENJAMIN N. KANE

Mr. Kane is survived by his wife and three sons, Sidney Kane of Providence, Irwin Kane of Los Angeles, and Howard Kane of Miami Beach, Fla.; a brother, Matthew J. Kane of Scarsdale, N.Y.; a sister, Dr. Bella Brower of New York City, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday in Temple Emanu-El. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery.