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Obituaries

KOLB, WILLIAM

W. Kolb dies; founder of Peerless stores

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — William Kolb, founder and former president of the Peerless Department Stores chain, died yesterday at Good Samaritan Hospital here after a one-year illness. He lived in New Seabury, Mass.

He began his merchandising career with a small women's shop in Troy, N.Y., but expanded his business until it included stores there and Springfield, Mass., and the Peerless Stores in Pawtucket, Providence and Warwick.

A former Pawtucket resident, he retired in 1970.

He was active in merchant groups in Rhode Island and supported renewal plans for Pawtucket and Providence.

Mr. Kolb, the husband of Florence (Braunstein) Kolb, was born in Illinois, a son of the late Isadore and Dorothy Kolb.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, William Kolb Jr. of California; three daughters, Mrs. Leslie Bejoya, Mrs. Lisa Liebert and Mrs. Sandra Keay; two brothers, Theodore Kolb and Philip Kolb; and five grandchildren.

His funeral will be held Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.