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OBITUARIES

Richard I. Komisser dies at 95; ex-owner of Dick's Book Shop

PROVIDENCE — Richard I. Komisser, 95, of the Bay Tower Nursing Center, Plain Street, owner of Dick's Book Shop, Richmond Street, for more than 50 years before retiring, died Monday at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Charlotte (Davis) Komisser.

Mr. Kommiser opened the second-hand bookstore in 1931. Over the years, it was a favorite haunt for those with an hour or two to spare, who wanted to talk about mundane matters, as well as weighty worldy issues of the time.

"There's a little of everything here," he often said, and in 1974, the shop was described as an unexplored attic, a musty conglomeration of everything from great literature to outdated teenage magazines.

A little more than five years ago, his eyesight deteriorated to the point where he no longer felt he could operate the business, and one day he quietly hung a sign in the window of the front door: "Closed today."

And a few weeks ago, Mr. Komisser's grandson, Dan Fontes, reopened the store, intending, he said, "to preserve it's traditions."

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, a son of the late Harry and Rose Komisser, he lived in Providence for more than 85 years.

He was a member of the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, and had been a member of the former Temple Beth Israel. He was an Army veteran of World War I.

Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Martha Fontes of East Greenwich and Barbara Bauman of Hickory, N.C.; two sisters, Anna Rioles of Johnston, Alice Lamontagne of Providence, and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was private.

KOMISSER, RICHARD