The Providence Sunday Journal, May 15, 1983

# Obituaries

## William Laurans; board chairman of grocery firm

BOCA RATON, Fla. — William G. Laurans, 80, of 8515 Casa Del Lago, chairman of the board of Roger Williams Foods, Cumberland, died Thursday at Massachussets General Hospital, Boston, where he was taken upon arrival from Florida. He was the husband of Eudine (Biren) Laurans.

After graduation in 1924 from Brown University, Mr. Laurans joined his brother in the wholesale grocery business in New Bedford where they founded Laurans Brothers. In 1945, when his brother retired, Mr. Laurans purchased the grocery division of Brownell & Fields and changed the names of the firm to the Roger Williams Grocery Co.

In 1971, a fire destroyed the original firm in New Bedford and the two companies were combined to form the Roger Williams Foods.

Born in New York City, a son of the late Samuel and Bessie Laurans, he lived most of his early life in Fall River. He lived in Florida for more than five years.

Mr. Laurans established the Narragansett Foundation, a cancer and heart research organization based in Providence. He was a member of B'nai B'rith in New Bedford and Boca Raton, the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home and the United Jewish Federations of New Bedford and South Florida.

During World War II he was one of the developers of the national food rationing program and was in the Office of the Price Administration, Washington, D.C.

Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Dr. Penelope Fitzgerald of New Haven, Conn., and Constance Kolker of Barrington; a son, Scott B. Laurans of Providence, Roger Williams Foods executive vice president and treasurer; a sister, Mrs. Ruth Yantes of New Bedford, and three grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Swan Point Cemetery Chapel, Blackstone Boulevard, Providence.

LAURANS, WILLIAM