LEACH, Harry

July 4, 1973. Widower of Pauline (Greenberg) Leach. Residence 36 Lincoln Ave., Providence. Funeral services to which relatives and friends are invited will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. in Temple Emanu-El, Providence. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. Shiva will be observed at his late residence.

obituaries

Providence Evening Bulletin, Thursday, July 5, 1973

H. Leach; Founded Machine Tool Firm

Harry Leach, 86, founder and treasurer of the H. Leach Machinery Co. here, uncle of former Gov. Frank Licht and a well-known philanthropist, died yesterday in his home at 36 Lincoln Ave.

He was the husband of the late Pauline (Greenberg) Leach.

The H. Leach Machinery Co., which he established in 1907, is now located on Corliss Street in the West River Industrial Park, and is one of the most modern facilities of its kind ever built. It is nationally known for its sales of new, used and rebuilt machine tools and production equipment.

At the time of his death, Mr. Leach was treasurer of the family company. One of his sons, Oscar A. Leach of Providence, is president of the firm and another son, Max Leach of Providence, is vice president.

Mr. Leach, who donated his money and time to many organizations, was known as a pioneer in the development of large mill complexes for use by several different manufacturers. In 1938, he purchased the sprawling Silver Springs branch of the U.S. Finishing Co. on Charles Street, used part of the space for his own business and rented the rest to dozens of other firms.

Like other members of the family, Mr. Leach gave generously to charity. His son, Max, observed yesterday that his father always explained his charity by saying: "It isn't mine, it's God's. God gave it to me."

Mr. Leach made contributions to many organizations, among them orphanages, the Jewish Home for the Aged, the Miriam Hospital and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Several years ago, he donatod a complete machine shop to the Providence Boys Club.



Harry Leach

member of the board of trustees of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and was one of the early leaders of the Zionist movement in the United States.

Besides his sons, Oscar and Max, and his brother, Jacob, he is survived by another son, John Leach of Cranston; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Oster of Providence, 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

His funeral will be 2 p.m. today at Temple Emanu-El. Following the funeral, he will be buried at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

Harry Leach worked his way over to the United States on a cattle boat from his native Russia in 1905. As was so often the case in those days, immigration officials misspelled his name and recorded it as "Leach," instead of the original, "Licht." The original spelling has been retained by his brother, Jacob Licht, the father of former Gov. Frank Licht.

After working at various jobs in Providence for two years, Harry Leach founded the H. Leach Machinery Co. in a small store on Willard Avenue in 1907. The business soon flourished, and he moved it to more spacious quarters at 250 Eddy St.

Pressured by the need for still more floor space, Mr. Leach in 1924 acquired the entire block bounded by Eddy, Ship and Dyer Streets to accommodate his firm's growth. Even at that, he had to supplement his floor space by renting a former stove plant on Point Street.

After the 1938 hurricane caused considerable flooding at the Leach firm's plant, Mr. Leach decided to move again. That year, he acquired the Silver Springs branch of the U.S. Finishing Co., which had 350,000 square feet of floor space. He used what he needed for his operations and rented the rest of the space.

By 1955, that complex housed 35 firms, which employed a total of 2,400 persons. Peak employment was 900 persons, when the complex was occupied by the U.S. Finishing Company. Mr. Leach sold the complex in the early 1960s, after he decided to construct new manufacturing headquarters on Corliss Street, the firm's present site.

The H. Leach Manufacturing Company's current site is in a modern 50,000 square-foot machinery rebuilding and sales center in the West River Industrial Park. Construction on the site, opposite the automated post office, began in September of 1965.

Mr. Leach was a son of the late Anchel and Rebecca Licht.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence, and was a founder and the first president of the Congregation Sons of Abraham. Mr. Leach served as a trustee of the Jewish Home for the Aged and was one of the founders and a director of The Miriam Hospital. He is a past