Obituaries

Henry Lerner, 101

Russian immigrant, food vendor, adviser at Roger Williams Park

PROVIDENCE — Henry Lerner, 101, a resident of the Parkview Nursing Home for the past 10 years, died at the home yesterday. He was the husband of the late Hannah (Haimovitz) Lerner.

Born in Russia, he was the son of the late Moses and Rachel Lerner. He had been a resident of Rhode Island since coming to this country in 1903.

Mr. Lerner was educated in Russia and spoke seven languages, including Yiddish, Polish, Russian, German, French and Rumanian. He was an officer in the Russian Army.

Among his jobs, he had sold ice cream from his own pushcart, became a district manager for the Metropolitan Insurance Co. and also had been a foreman at Washburn Wire Co, East Providence. He entered the retail food business and was one of the first people to initiate a self-service market, on Melrose Street.

With his considerable knowledge of flowers, Mr. Lerner became an adviser at Roger Williams Park where he personally supervised the Japanese garden. He continued to work in the gardens after his retirement.

He was a charter member of the Shaare Zedekk — Sons of Abraham and a member of the Providence Hebrew Free Loan.

He leaves two sons, Samuel "Al" Lerner of Cranston and Joseph Lerner of Providence; two daughters, Mrs. Leah Litchman of Warwick and Mrs. Miriam Rosenberg of North Miami, Fla.; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

A graveside service was to be held today at 11 a.m. in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

LERNER, HENRY