Dear Harold and Mary

We thought you'd find the enclosed article of interest. My dad was in great shape until about nine months ago when he had a stroke and it was down hill from that point.

He lived a good life and enjoyed it to the fullest. We have treasured memories, but will miss him very much.

Love

Florence & Murry

DEATHS

Temple Israel Founder Harry Pepper Dies At 102

By CORA HUCKINS

DAYTONA BEACH — Harry Pepper, founder of Temple Israel and a consultant on the various enterprises undertaken by his sons, Milton and Leonard, in developing area and state shopping centers, died Tuesday at his home, 594 Flamingo Drive, Ormond Beach. He and his family were among the first permanent Jewish residents of Daytona Beach and he was founder of Temple Israel. He was 102.



Pepper

Mr. Pepper, who was born in 1885 — one year before the Statue of Liberty — moved to the Daytona Beach area in 1914.

He was born near Vienna, Austria and came to the U.S. in 1898, accompanied by his sister. They entered with thousands of other immigrants through Ellis Island. (His sister died in 1983 at the age of 102.) The trip was prompted because of a series of kidnappings of young Jewish girls in Europe. The family wished to protect their daughter and sent her off with young Harry as her companion. The rest of the family followed a few years later. They settled in Providence, R.I., where young Harry grew to manhood.

He was one of the first licensed auto drivers in America, with a two digit New York license. His first job was with Pope Manufacturing Corp., an early maker of cars.

Jan. 13, 1910, Mr. Pepper married Bella Berman, who survives him after 77 years of marriage. A few years later, after a brief stay in Jacksonville, they moved to Daytona Beach, where the Jewish population included two other families — the Joseph Ginsbergs and the J. Bronsteins, plus a few single men.

The Peppers settled at 541 Volusia Ave., where he operated a business buying and selling secondhand automobiles and parts for many years. Their home became a community center for Jewish newcomers. Traditional holidays were celebrated in their home with as many as 40 people attending seder services on the Passover or observing the High Holy Days in their parlor.

Mr. and Mrs. Pepper were prime movers in the establishment of a synagogue and in 1925 Temple Israel was built. He became its first president, serving often in that position for many years. In the 1940s, Mr. Pepper, with a small group of friends, founded the Mount Sinai Cemetery, remaining its chairman until have named their sanctuaries in his honor.

Mr. Pepper, for many years, took great pride in being the first to vote in his precinct. He was first in line every election day after 1912 when he cast his ballot for Woodrow Wilson in Providence, R.I. It was his first election as an American.

Mr. Pepper served an active role with the Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the board of the River Garden Home for the Aged in Jacksonville. He was a member of B'nai B'rith since its founding more than 50 years ago and served in numerous other community organizations. In the early days before the establishment of Bethune-Cookman College, he assisted Mary McLeod Bethune in her school for girls.

Mr. Pepper was an ardent sports fan, following the local baseball teams with great enthusiasm and attending the World Series more than 25 times. He once was the boxing commissioner for Volusia County and he often served as a judge and timer for beach auto races.

PEPPER, HARRY

Mr. Pepper's auto parts business flourished but during the boom years he closed up shop and switched to real estate. In 1925, he began developing real estate and built hundreds of homes and commercial properties throughout the Daytona Beach area during the ensuing 25 years. At one time he was owner of Bellair Plaza and was chairman of the board of Granada Plaza.

In addition, over the years Mr. Pepper was involved in hotel and restaurant supply, building supplies and hardware. He had a 50 year relationship as representative of the Mosler Safe Co. In the 1920s he created "Pepp's Pool," the largest saltwater pool in the world, at what is now the southeast corner of Main Street and Ocean Avenue, across from two hotels — the Daytona Beach Hotel and the Seaside Inn, which the Peppers owned and operated. Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel, and Johnnie Weissmuller of Olympic and film fame (he probably was the most famous of the many actors to play Tarzan) trained there. Buddy Ebsen, dancer and star of television and films, and his sister, were frequent swimmers at the pool and worked there part time.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Pepper is survived by two sons, Milton of Ormond Beach and Leonard of Tallahassee; two daughters, Florence (Mrs. Murry) Schott of Daytona Beach Shores and Bethesda, Md., and Doris Katz of Corpus Christi, Texas; 18 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; a brother, Sam of Cranston, R.I. In lieu of other remembrances, the family requests donations be made to a favorite charity, or to Temple Beth-El or Temple Israel. Haigh