SALMANSON, SAMUEL

PJB 10-23-04

**OBITUARIES**

# Samuel Salmanson, 92, dies; founder of Adams Drug Co.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Samuel Salmanson, 92, of West Palm Beach, formerly of Providence, a founder and chairman of the former Adams Drug Co., and a philanthropist, died Thursday at home.



With his father and brothers, he opened the family's first stores in 1933 in Woonsocket and Pawtucket, selling health and beauty aids and assorted sundries.

Mr. Salmanson was responsibile for purchasing and merchandising the products, assumed the duties of store construction, layout and presentation, and had also been secretary and chairman of the company for seven years before retiring in 1982.

Expansion and acquisitions produced one of the largest drugstore chains in the country, with approximately 500 stores in 10 states employing more than 5,000 people.

The family also diversified into manufacturing and real estate holdings, purchasing the Gong Bell Mfg. Co., in East Hampton, Conn., a toy business, the Clover Bead & Jewelry Co., in Pawtucket, and the Colt Plastics Co., North Grosvernordale, Conn.

Always seeking to attract new industry, the family formed the Ivy Co. to purchase the former Raycrest Mills, in Pawtucket; Wanskuck Buildings Inc., to develop the former Wanskuck Mills, Providence; and the Drake Co., to buy and develop a 180,000-square-foot industrial site on Webster Street in Pawtucket.

He also bought the former Wayland Manor hotel, in Providence, as a personal investment.

He was the husband of Hilda Salmanson. They had been married for over 60 years. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son to the late Barnett and Elizabeth (Salk) Salmanson, he had lived in Providence for many years before moving to Florida more than 30 years ago.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Seabees on Johnson Island in the Pacific.

He was a former member of Temple Emanuel, in Providence, and was a benefactor of the Jewish Federation, the Providence Jewish Community Center, and the former Jewish Home for Aged.

Mr. Salmanson contributed to Brown University, Bryant College and Miriam Hospital, and was personally involved at the Dana-Farber Research Center, Beth Israel Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital, all in Boston.

A golf enthusiast, he was a member of the President Country Club, West Palm Beach, and a former member of Ledgemont Country Club, Seekonk, and Pine Brook Country Club, Weston, Mass.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, James Salmanson, and a daughter, Tobey Oresman, both of Boston; two brothers, Charles and Donald Salmanson, and a sister, Martha Corin, all of Providence; and four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Leonard Salmanson.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St.

**SALMANSON, Samuel**

October 21, 2004. Beloved husband of Hilda (Mittleman) Salmanson. Residence: The Land of the Presidents, Consulate Place, West Palm Beach, FL. Dear father of James Salmanson and Tobey Oresman, both of Boston. Loving brother of Charles Salmanson, Donald Salmanson, Martha Corin, all of Providence and the late Leonard Salmanson. Caring brother-in-law of Thelma Rodbell of New York City and Shirley Mittleman of Cranston. Devoted grandfather of Lauren Regardie, Brian Salmanson, Nikki DeMartinis, Matthew Oresman and great grandfather of Stanley DeMartinis, III, Max Regardie and Nicolas DeMartinis. Funeral Service 2 p.m. Sunday at SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope Street, Providence. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Memorial observcance at the home of Martha Corin, Regency Plaza, 60 Broadway, Providence, Sunday 7-9 p.m. Monday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.

BOSTON GLOBE 10-24-04

# Samuel Salmanson, 92; helped found Brooks drugstore chain

By Melissa A. Kaplan
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

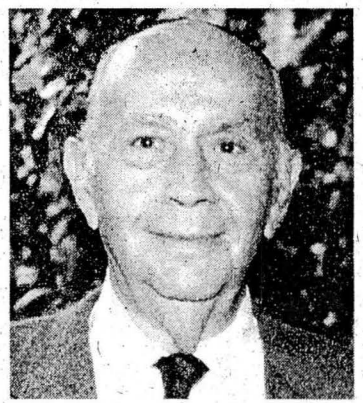
Samuel Salmanson never attended college, but he had a work ethic that was unmistakable. The proof can be found in the 10 states where Brooks Drug stores operate. Mr. Salmanson, his father, and his brothers founded the chain in Rhode Island 71 years ago.

Mr. Salmanson died Thursday of natural causes in his apartment in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was 92.

Mr. Salmanson was born in Brooklyn, but his parents moved the family to Providence when he was 2 to be closer to relatives. Growing up, he spent a great deal of time helping support the family.

"In those days they were of extremely modest means," said Mr. Salmanson's son, Jim, of Boston. "He and his brothers were always working. Even though they went to [high] school, they were always working on the benefit of helping the family out."

In 1933, Mr. Salmanson helped found the family business, selling health, beauty, and sundry products. In 1941, he enlisted in the Navy, serving in the Naval Construction Battalions popularly known as the Seabees. He was stationed in Johnson Island in the South Pacific and served until 1944, returning to Providence. He married Hilda Mittleman, whom he had met through his sister, Martha Corin, before enlisting.



SAMUEL SALMANSON

As the business grew, Mr. Salmanson became head of the company. Desiring to give back to their community, he and his brothers were involved in many philanthropic activities and donated to many institutions involved with the Jewish community and education, including the Jewish Federation, Providence Jewish Community Center, the Jewish Home for the Aged, Brown University, and Bryant College. He was also involved in charitable work with Miriam Hospital, the former Beth Israel Hospital, and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Family members said wealth never affected Mr. Salmanson's personality.

"Even though he's a very wealthy man, he's not a man of privilege," said his son. "He was just as comfortable being with the plain person and related very well to all types of people."

A passionate fan of golf, he spent many hours on courses in Seekonk teaching his son how to play. Upon retiring and moving to West Palm Beach, he took up the sport there. The rest of his free time was spent with his family."

Besides his wife and son, Mr. Salmanson leaves a daughter, Tobey Oresman of Boston; two brothers, Charles and Donald, both of Providence; a sister, Martha Corin of Providence; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was the brother of the late Leonard Salmanson.

Funeral services will be held today at 2 p.m. in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel in Providence.