Obituaries
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SHANBRUN, William

WILLIAM SHANBRUN

Funeral services for William Shanbrun, 39, Providence businessman and former president and treasurer of the Gob Shops of America, Inc., who died May 16 in Miami, Fla., were conducted from the Riverside Funeral Home in Miami.

The young businessman gained prominence during the 1950s. He acquired three original Rhode Island Gob Shops, one in Pawtucket and the others in Providence, in 1950, when he was 26. The Gob Shops are a men's sporting goods chain.

Mr. Shanbrun built an organization which branched into the rest of New England and upper New York State.

In four years after he first took over the organization, Mr. Shanbrun pushed the number of stores in the chain toward the 100 mark. He announced in September of 1954 that the chain was "going national." But in October of 1955 he suddenly resigned as president and treasurer of the company.

He sold his 50 per cent common stock holdings in the firm to Ernest Nathan, then board chairman and treasurer, and announced plans to move to Miami and open a chain of self-service department stores in Florida.

In October of 1954, Mr. Shanbrun was appointed a member of the national board of field advisers to the Small Business Administration. He was a nominee for the Providence Junior Chamber of Commerce "Distinguished Service Award" in 1955.

Most recently, Mr. Shanbrun was president of the American International Development Corp. of Providence, a firm promoting Five Seasons Hide-Away, Inc. on Route 112 in Charlestown, a 108-lot housing development.

Born in Providence, Mr. Shanbrun had been living lately in the Seabrook Hotel at Surfside, Fla. While in Providence he lived at 145 Hillside Avenue.

Mr. Shanbrun's survivors include his wife, Sylvia; five daughters; his father, Samuel B. Shanbrun of Providence, and an uncle, Louis