SILVERMAN
Archibald

1966
86
1880



A. Silverman, RI ITER Civic Leader, 9-16- Dies After Fall 1966

Funeral services for Archibald Silverman, 86, of 25 Channing Avenue, who died Wednesday, were held that afternoon at Temple Beth El. Burial was in Congregation Sons of Israel and David Cemetery. A retired manufacturing jeweler and a prominent member of the community, he had fallen on Sunday and fractured his hip.

He was the husband of Mrs. Ida M. (Camelhor) Silverman. They had celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last Dec. 4.

Born in Russia on March 5, 1880, a son of Max and Sima Rivka (Plotka) Silverman, he came to Providence when he was 10 years old, and unable to speak English. He attended public and evening schools here.

He sold newspapers in downtown Providence, and later went to work in a jewelry factory. In 1897 he started the firm that became known as Silverman Brothers, with a five-dollar loan from his father. Former president of the costume jewelry firm, he and his brother, Charles, operated it for 58 years.

In 1926 Mr. Silverman was elected President of the New England Manufacturing Jewelers and Silversmiths Association, an office he held for three years. In 1956, when he resigned from the association, having retired from active participation in the industry, he was made the organization's first honorary member and was presented a plaque and resolution in recognition of his services.

In the New Deal days of the National Recovery Administration, Mr. Silverman was a member of the national code authority for the industry.

During World War II Silverman Brothers produced military insignia, surgical instruments and fine parts for torpedoes and bomb heads and won the Army-Navy E award, the only jewelry firm in the state to receive it.

From 1924 to 1944, he was president of the Lincoln Trust Company and from 1944 to 1947 was also chairman of the board. He was a member of the board of the Morris Plan Company of Rhode Island from 1924 until 1944, resigning when Morris Plan became a bank.

In 1947 when the Lincoln Trust and Morris Plan banks merged to form the Plantations Bank of Rhode Island, he was elected a vice-president, director and member of the executive committee of the new bank, posts he held at the time of his death. He also had been a director of the Old Colony Co-operative Bank since 1931.

Mr. Silverman had been the owner of the Strand Theater since it opened in 1915. He also was president of the National Realty Company and the Arch Realty Company and had been president and vice-president of the Union Realty Co., president of the City Real Estate Company and treasurer of the Union Land Company.

A founder of the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, he was its president from 1920 to 1930, and in 1928 was president of the Jewish Federation of Social Service.

Elected a trustee of Temple Beth El in 1916, he also had been vice-president and president of the temple, an office he held from 1942 -1946.

A longtime Zionist leader in Rhode Island, he was elected in 1938 as general chairman in this state for the United Palestine Appeal. In 1941 he became chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, serving for several years, and in 1946, president of the General Jewish Committee of Providence Inc., successor to the Providence United Jewish Appeal. He held this post for five years.

Mr. Silverman also was active in several organizations formed from time to time to assist distressed Jews overseas.

He was the recipient in 1946 of the annual community service award of the Men's Club of Temple Emanu-El and both he and Mrs. Silverman, in 1960, were presented the annual public service awards of Roger Williams Lodge, B'nai B'rith, for their combined service of more than 100 years in community, charitable and Zionist causes.

He was named by former Gov. William H. Vanderbilt in 1939 to a rehabilitation commission to devise means of attracting new industry to the state and the following year, to a committee to study the employment problem of the Negro in Rhode Island.

He served as chairman of the Local Selective Service Board No. 1, resigning in 1942 because of his business. Former Gov. John O. Pastore appointed him in 1948 as a member of the former Port and Industrial Development Authority and former Gov. Dennis J. Roberts named him in 1951 to the state Board of Education, then newly created. He served until January, 1962, when he resigned because of family considerations.

Mr. Silverman was a director of the Providence Community Fund from 1926 to 1928. He was a former director of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, was a director of the R.I. United War Fund, was a member of the executive board of the Palestine Foundation, a member of the Zionist Organization of America, chairman of Jewish War Relief Work, 1919-1921, and a member of the American Jewish Committee.

He also was a member of the Providence Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Coordinating Council of the Chamber; Roosevelt Masonic Lodge, Providence Rotary Club, Ledgemont Country Club and Providence Lodge of Elks.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Irwin and Norman of Providence and Leon of Winsted, Conn.; a daughter, Mrs. Arthur Holzman of Washington, D.C., and