Alvin Sopkin, Civic Leader, Manufacturer, Dies in Fla.



Funeral services for Alvin A. Sopkin, prominent manufacturer, philanthropist and civic leader, will be here at noon Thursday from Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave.

Burial will be in Congregation Sons of Israel and David Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue, Providence.

Mr. Sopkin died yesterday in Palm Beach, Fla. He was 66.

He was chairman of the board of the Wentworth Manufacturing Co., a multimillion-dollar business which produces inexpensive women's dresses. The main Wentworth plant formerly was in Fall River. Primary manufacturing facilities are now located in Lake City, S.C.

Mr. Sopkin was one of the founders and prime movers in the formation in 1945 of the General Jewish Committee of Providence, the central federation of Jewish charities in this city. After serving for five years as the committee's campaign manager, he became its president in 1950 and served until 1955.

He was vice president of Miriam Hospital, to which he and his wife presented the Sopkin Memorial Auditorium in memory of his parents, Benjamin and Flora Sopkin.

In 1945 Mr. Sopkin was appointed an associate chairman of the memorial gifts committee of the $5,000,000 Rhode Island Hospital Building Fund.

He was named in 1952 to the first board of Fellows established by Brandeis University.

Born in Bayonne, N.J., on March 17, 1901, he was a resident of Chicago until 1934, when the plant was established in Fall River to be closer to the New York market. The business, of which Mr. Sopkin formerly was president, had been

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ALVIN A. SOPKIN

Funeral services for Alvin A. Sopkin, 66, prominent manufacturer, philanthropist and leader in Providence community life, who died Monday in Palm Beach, Fla., after a long illness, were held Thursday at Temple Beth El. Burial was in Congregation Sons of Israel and David Cemetery.

Mr. Sopkin was chairman of the board of the Wentworth Manufacturing Company, a multi-million dollar business which produces inexpensive women's dresses. Formerly in Fall River, the primary manufacturing facilities are now located in Lake City, S.C.

Mr. Sopkin was one of the founders in 1945 of the General Jewish Committee. After serving five years as the campaign chairman for the GJC, he became its president in 1950 and served until 1955.

He was vice president of Miriam Hospital to which he and his wife presented the Sopkin Memorial Auditorium in memory of his parents, Benjamin and Flora Sopkin.

In 1945 Mr. Sopkin was appointed an associate chairman of the memorial gifts committee of the Rhode Island Hospital Building Fund.

He was named in 1952 to the first board of fellows established by Brandeis University.

Born in Bayonne, N.J., on March 7, 1901, he was a resident of Chicago until 1934 when the plant was established in Fall River. The business, of which Mr. Sopkin formerly was president, had been established by his father.

Mr. Sopkin was an active member and president of Ledgemont Country Club. He also was a board member of the Providence Community Fund, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Jewish Home for the Aged and Roger Williams Lodge, B'nai B'rith.

A member of Temple Beth El and Temple Emanu-el in Providence, he also was a 32nd degree Mason. In 1955, he served on a commission appointed by former Governor Dennis J. Roberts to revise the state's election laws.

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Mr. Sopkin formerly lived on Balton Road in this city. He also maintained residences in New York City and Palm Beach.

He is survived by his wife, Saide (Hall) Sopkin; two sons, Ronald B. of Florence, S.C., and Monte N. Sopkin of Westport, Conn.; one daughter, Mrs. Robert H. Rothman of Providence; a sister, Mrs. Norman Praga of Los Angeles, Calif.; a brother, Henry Sopkin of Westport, Conn., and seven grandchildren