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L.I. Weintraub, past president of the fabric store chain

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Louis I. Weintraub, of 5056 Oak Hill Lane, one of the founders of Weintraub's, a well-known New England fabric and domestic chain, and its president until his retirement in 1981 after 60 years in the business, died at the Miriam Hospital, Providence, yesterday. He had been in Providence on a visit. He was the husband of Helen B. (Priest) Weintraub.

Weintraub's, long a fixture on the fabric scene in Rhode Island and its neighboring states, was founded in New York City by Henry, Louis, Morris and Semon Weintraub in the 1920s. In 1932, the family moved the company to Providence. In 1956, Weintraub's led the way in the discount and domestics business in the area, at one time operating concessions in 18 discount houses. It now operates a chain of eight discount fabric stores in R.I., Mass., and Conn.

Born in Roumania, a son of the late Aaron and Antoinette (Stern) Weintraub, Mr. Weintraub lived in Cranston from 1936 to 1982 before moving to Florida.

He was a member of Temple Am David, the Roosevelt Lodge, F&AM and the Crestwood Country Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves a sister, Theresa Leibowitz of Silver Spring, Md.; three brothers, Semon Weintraub of Boynton Beach, Fla., Henry Weintraub of Cranston and Morris Weintraub of New York City.

A funeral service will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

WEINTRAUB, LOUIS I.