PJB 4-3-08

MIDDLETOWN

WERNER, HAROLD BENJAMIN, 87, a lifelong resident of Newport, died peacefully Tuesday morning, April 1, at The Grand Islander Nursing Center.



He was the owner of Potter & Company, 172 Thames St., Newport, the city's oldest continuously operating family-owned clothing store.

Born September 11, 1920, he was the son of the late Herman Werner and Virginia Engel Werner. His father founded Potter & Company in 1906, opening its doors as a men's haberdashery the following year.

Mr. Werner was a 1938 graduate of Rogers High School and graduated from the State College of Rhode Island, now the University of Rhode Island.

He was a member of Touro Synagogue and Temple Shalom. He supported many civic organizations and institutions, including Newport Hospital, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Newport Boys & Girls Club, the Potter League for Animals, and the Preservation Society of Newport County.

He was the brother of the late Florence Tobak Goldberg and Jack Werner. He is survived by a nephew, James Werner Tobak of Providence, three nieces, Helen Tobak Weisman of Newport, Carolyn Werner of Waltham, MA, and Anne Goldberg Navarro of Jackson, NJ; four great-nephews, one great-niece and two great-great nephews.

His funeral will be held Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at Temple Shalom, 220 Valley Road, Middletown, R.I. Burial will be in The Jewish Cemetery, Farewell Street in Newport. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Robert Potter League for Animals, the Preservation Society of Newport County or Newport Hospital.

Shiva will be at the home of James and Jill Tobak, 40 Brenton Ave., Providence, RI on Sunday from 2-5 p.m..