

## AUSTIN T. LEVY

Austin T. Levy was a truly progressive reformer, and his advanced concepts in business and philanthropic contributions will long bring honor to his name. Born in New York City on December 16, 1880, he was orphaned at an early age. He attended the College of the City of New York and later worked as an office boy for a New York linen goods importer. He was also a cloth buyer for a men's clothing manufacturer, and soon established himself in business as a woolen commission agent.

He formed Stillwater Worsted Mills in 1907 and purchased combing and yarn mills in Harrisville, Rhode Island. All of his mills were incorporated in 1912 into Stillwater Worsted Mills, Inc., the stock of which was offered to employees who became the company's officers and directors. By 1921 the Stillwater Worsted Company, which was undoubtedly the outstanding company in the worsted field, produced men's worsted wear on two hundred broad looms and processed its own dyeing and finishing. Over eight hundred people were employed at this operation. The company sold directly with New York offices at 25 Madison Avenue.

A highly profitable company, it reached a peak in sales during the Korean War, and in 1951 its income exceeded twenty-seven million dollars. The current decline in demand for its cloth has reduced its income to approximately nine million dollars.

Stillwater Worsted Company, known also as the Harrisville Company, at one time had twelve plants located in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Virginia. They manufactured worsted cloth and wool tops as well as comissioned combed tops, while specalizing in the production of uniform and blend cloths. Several side branches exist: weaving plants in Craigsville, Virginia; a dyeing and finishing plant at Goshen, Virginia, a yarn plant at Augusta Springs, Virginia; and a large combing plant at Harrisville, Rhode Island.

When he became interested in the Bahamas (see below) the humane Levy noted the lack of available dairy products for the islanders. He promptly established a model dairy farm and contributed produce to the islanders. He imported Jersey, Hereford, and Guernsey cows and bulls and some Rhode Island red hens! His efforts were instrumental both in convincing the British government that the Bahamas had an agricultural potential and in aiding the economic development of the islands.

Levy's just and humane ideas had far-reaching effects on workers. He advocated improved working conditions and shortened hours of

labor in order to provide more effective productivity. Cooperative ownership of business enterprises, today considered a novel idea, was one of his more radical proposals. A full-time industrial nurse was added to his personnel, one of the first instances of this practice in Rhode Island. His company also established the first profit-sharing plan in Rhode Island. Throughout his life Levy wrote and lectured on economic subjects, particularly the importance of industrial relations and adequate wages. Levy's solution for America's nagging unemployment problem was a reduction of working hours with increased wages. Certainly not a typical employer's conclusion!

Levy's philanthropic activities are too extensive to enumerate. Fascination with houses led him to build proper housing units in Harrisville. His wife stated, "Every house he built had to have one or two apple trees planted because, he said, children must have apples to eat and trees to climb."

His business interests never precluded his involvement in other areas of activity. Indeed, the quiet town of Harrisville owes most of its public buildings to Levy's generosity. Together with his wife, he donated all the money needed to construct the Jesse A. Smith Memorial Library, the Town Office Building, the Assembly Building, and the Ninth District Court House in his home town of Harrisville. On October 12, 1950 he turned over a \$75,000 Post Office Building to the federal government and donated another \$200,000 for the completion of a gymnasium and athletic field for the town high school. In 1958 a school was dedicated to his memory, contrary to his policy of complete anonymity during his lifetime.

The bulk of his estate was given to the June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Inc., in honor of his wife, to insure continuation of charitable work. June Levy, in recognition of her work for the Infant Welfare Association in the Bahamas, was awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. At the time of his death, Levy was in the process of withdrawing from the textile enterprises and leaving stocks and sales offices to his workers. His activity in the Republican party prompted him to run for the United States Senate from Rhode Island in 1950 at 69 years of age. In short, Levy was a generous philanthropist.

Levy did not consider his philanthropies paternalistic. He claimed it was good business which payed off in profits. According to his concepts ownership implied the responsibility of active leadership. Wealth was merely a trusteeship which one accepts while alive.

Levy's varied interests prompted him to establish a cattle and poultry business in the Bahama Islands where he had his winter home. He also established the Harrisville Co., a subsidiary of the June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Inc., with a current value of over six million dollars. This company engages in wholesale cattle and poultry products. A holding company, it sells produce and imports groceries and cheeses. Its present holdings are at Eleuthera Island and Hatch Bay, where the company owns several thousand acres set up at a plantation with six hundred head of cattle and sixty thousand hens. Holdings in the Bahamas also include a sales agency, boat lines, a stevedoring firm and a power company.

Also involved with the Levy interests are David Albert, a senior partner in the Z. Albert & Sons Co. in New York, Jack Albert, Eugene Albert, Donald P. Bertch, and Alex Cohen, all active and participating directors of Stillwater Mills. (*Providence Sunday Journal*, Oct. 22, 1950, p. 1).

#### AMERICAN SILK SPINNING COMPANY

This company was founded in 1909 by Edgar J. Lowenstein and his associates, taking over a mill (formerly known as the Oriental Mill property) located at Admiral and Whipple Streets, Providence. Lowenstein who had had experience in silk spinning mills in this country and in Europe, set up this plant with the best equipment possible.

It spun silk and produced silk yarns, natural or dyed, in skeins; on cones, tubes, cops, and spools; and in warps for weaving, knitting, embroidering, sewing, and insulation. The mill employed 300 persons in 1911.

Lowenstein, who changed his name to Lownes, was survived by his sons Albert E. Lownes and the late, Edgar J. Lownes, Jr.

The company was sold to the Top Company, Inc., of Boston in 1959. In 1967, when its name was changed to Top Fibers Company, it had an annual volume of over \$3,000,000 with extremely profitable operations. It now distributes to worsted mills and is also a merchandiser and processor of synthetic fibers. Arthur I. Darman is president and Morton H. Darman vice president. (*Board of Trade Journal*, April 1910, page 151, and June 1911, page 266).

#### S. HORVITZ & SONS INC.

S. Horvitz & Sons Inc., is located at 345 Barton Street, Pawtucket. David Horvitz is president and Abraham Horvitz, treasurer and secre-

tary. The firm is a manufacturer of upholstery paddings. Incorporated in Rhode Island in 1964, the business was successor to one originally started in 1910 by the late Samuel Horvitz, who for many years continued as principal proprietor. He died in 1946. The starting capital was originally derived from Samuel Horvitz's personal savings. Firmtex Company is their current trade name. This company occupies 50,000 square feet of floor space.

#### DARLINGTON TEXTILE COMPANY

Darlington Textile Company of Pawtucket, producers of elastic cloths for corsets, girdles, slips, and shoes, was incorporated in 1912 with capital of \$10,000. President Joseph Siegle managed the production of cotton and silk corset cloth on 51 looms. Officers of the firm are A. C. Menschik, chairman; N. F. Schloss, president; L. Rantenberg, vice president; and F. H. Schloss, treasurer and secretary. The company moved to New Jersey in 1929. However, they maintained an elastic yarn and thread plant, The Rumford Rubber Co., in East Providence, which produced rubber thread for the New Jersey and Pawtucket mills. Doctor A. D. Schneider, then president, liquidated the plant in 1963.

#### ARTHUR I. DARMAN

The Darman family name is well known throughout the Rhode Island community. Arthur Darman arrived in this country in 1901 at the age of 11 and continued his education in the Woonsocket public schools. At an early age he joined a theatrical company to become an actor. He then pursued the hotel and restaurant business successfully in a number of cities: Chicago, Quincy, and Springfield, Illinois; and St. Louis, Missouri. He returned to Woonsocket in 1914 to enter the woolen business with his father. Phenomenally successful, he became a large dealer in wool wastes, wool tops, and similar products. Darman required larger quarters, and in 1917 erected the Darman Building at Railroad and Arnold Streets. It was then considered one of the handsomest business houses in Woonsocket. A leading citizen in Woonsocket for over fifty years, he has been active in philanthropic and communal services.

His son, Morton H. Darman, who continued his father's interest in the textile industry, is now chairman of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers. Born in 1916, Morton has been associated with his father in the Arthur I. Darman Co. as vice president and assistant

treasurer since 1937 and as president since 1954. From 1941 to 1945 he served as a major in the United States Army. Arthur I. Darman Co. Inc. was another of the companies which in 1955 merged into the Top Company Inc. Morton Darman was president of that concern and also a director of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., Providence, R. I. He is in charge of sales and general management. (*The History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations*, by Thomas Williams Bicknell, vol. 5, part 2, pp. 505-506. American Historical Society, N.Y., 1920).

#### YOUNG BROS. MATTRESS COMPANY

Young Bros. Mattress Company, Inc., located at 25 Charles Street, Providence are manufacturers of mattresses and upholstered furniture, couches, and chairs, utilizing cotton stuffing. The company, originally started by John Young in 1917 was incorporated in 1924 with Samuel and Morris Young as additional officers.

It is currently managed by James Young, president; Samuel Young, vice president and treasurer; and Murray Burrows, secretary.

#### I. MEDOFF Co.

I. Medoff, founded over 50 years ago, is today a leader in fashion fabrics for retail sales. Their fabrics are sold to fabric shops, and to chain, variety, department and specialty stores in this country, as well as in foreign markets. The company had once sold bathing suits, blankets, curtains, bed sheets, pillow cases, and synthetic yarn goods. Prior to 1948 the company sold primarily to New York and Boston jobbers. But changes were imperative in order to remain in today's competitive market. The organization has been credited with innovating fashion and design trends. The firm has many subsidiary companies under the same management. Sinclair Industries, which sells griegie goods for fashion and industrial converting, operates a separate sales office in New York. From humble beginnings this fine company is now a leading converter of cottons, blends, and synthetic piece goods.

The persons operating this outstanding company have contributed greatly to its success. Israel Medoff, founder and chairman of the board, controlled the multi-million dollar enterprise which converts and sells millions of yards of cloth each year.

Samuel J. Medoff, his brother, joined the firm in 1941 and became vice chairman of the board and treasurer of the company and its subsidiaries. President of the company and a vice president of subsidiaries

is Martin Goodman, who joined the firm in 1948. Louis I. Sweet, a member of the company for over forty years, is a vice president together with Samuel Castleman, also a veteran of forty years of service. (*Woonsocket Call*, Aug. 15, 1969, p. 11).

#### NEDRA MILLS

The development of spun silk, yarns, nets, and voiles contributed to progress in the weaving field. By 1934 several small companies in this field were in operation.

Nedra Mills, established in Pawtucket, had a capital of one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. Incorporated in 1919, H. B. Feldman was its president; Hyman Werner, treasurer; and Jacob Werner, secretary. The company produced silk and cotton corset brocades on seventy-five looms. Arden Mills, Inc. in New York City acts as their selling agent. By 1934 this company had expanded to one-hundred-and-thirty-five looms, managed by J. J. Feldman, and was one of the earlier mills to operate outside the production of narrow fabrics. Until this time most companies were restricted to small wares.

#### MAPLEWOOD YARNS

Earle P. Charlton had established Charlton Mills Inc. in Fall River in 1910. (He also owned the E. P. Charlton Company 5¢ & 10¢ stores, which sold out to F. W. Woolworth Co.). It manufactured mops, mop yarns, braids, and waste yarns. Jacob Weiner of Fall River later acquired the company, which ran continuously until his death in 1967 under the trade designation of Maplewood Yarns. He also owned a processing company in the dyeing and finishing field which did commission dyeing of yarns and threads.

An intense and ambitious man, Jacob Weiner needed no formal education to operate in business. His payroll at one time exceeded \$17,000 weekly! He purchased new high-pressure packaged dye machines for his dye house and invested more than one-hundred-fifty-thousand dollars in modern equipment. It became a progressive, up-to-date dye house for package dyeing and processing.

### IV. PROSPERITY AND DEPRESSION

1920 - 1939

#### REUBEN ABRASH

The vital force and keen guidance of Reuben Abrash has kept running one of Fall River's few remaining mills, the thirty-seven year old

Abdon Mills Corporation, 170 Globe Mills Avenue. Its specialized weaving operations produce filament fabrics, i.e. decorative fabrics, taffetas, twills, and satins. The mill manufactures linings and fabrics for luggage. The highly sophisticated and automated plant has the latest model Draper automatic looms. Formerly Elgin Silk Mills, it was established in 1920 with capital of one hundred thousand dollars by Samuel Abrash, president, treasurer and buyer, assisted by George Abrash and Arthur Black, superintendents. Before the advent of rayon, seventy-five employees wove broad and dress silks on seventy-five plain and twenty box looms. Sales offices were maintained at 225 5th Avenue, New York City. This was the only silk manufacturer in Fall River at that time. Since 1935 it has been under the Abdon management and employs one-hundred-and-twenty-five workers. Reuben Abrash's tenacity and versatility have enabled this company to survive today's competitive and trying times.

#### JOHN MARKS COMPANY

John Marks in the late 1920s founded in Central Falls the John Marks Company, dealers and converters of cotton and synthetic yarns. He was assisted for many years by Leo Glass. Marks died in 1969. The company is presently managed by Leo Marks, president, assisted by his sons Michael and Richard.

#### CADILLAC TEXTILES

It is most difficult to compete with such giants of the textile industry as Burlington Mills, J. P. Stevens, and Cohn Hall Marks. Yet the Schwartz Brothers, Harry A. and Samuel, have for many years operated a successful textile weaving operation, Cadillac Textiles Corporation, producers of synthetic piece goods and tricot fabrics. Founded by David Schwartz, it is at this writing over fifty years old. David Schwartz started his business career in Paterson, New Jersey in the early 1900s as a textile weaver. At that time Paterson was America's leading silk city. Harry Schwartz had been employed by Cadillac since 1921, and was in complete charge of the plant until he retired in 1969.

Samuel has been employed with Cadillac since 1923 and was earlier identified with the company's sales offices in New York City. The company moved to Pawtucket in 1928, and switched to synthetic fabrics in the early 1930s (formerly having woven silk fabrics). The operation is unique in that the bulk of the nation's textile production is now in

the south. A prosperous plant, it operates 842 looms. Its 300 employes provide a boost for the Rhode Island economy.

Eugene Schwartz, Harry's son, is vice president of manufacturing. The Schwartz clan has run a successful business with management investing capital over the years in new equipment, which enables them to compete with the south. Also employed by the company are Thomas H. Schwartz, grandson of Samuel, and Eugene, son of Harry. (*Prov. Sunday Journal*, March 14, 1971, Business Section, p. 10).

#### HASSENFELD BROS.

The Hassenfeld brothers, Hillel and Henry, began their careers as jobbers and converters of cotton goods, wiping cloths, mill remnants, and leatherette novelties at 213-217 North Main Street, Providence. Subsequently, together with William Horowitz, they established in West Warwick, Rhode Island a finishing business under the designation H & H Mfg. Co. It produced piece goods with 525 looms.

The company subsequently evolved into a toy and pencil manufacturing establishment under Hassenfeld Brothers with a large factory on Broad Street, Providence. It later developed into the giant Hasbro Toys and Hasbro Industries, now listed on the New York stock exchange. The company is ably run by Merrill L. and Harold Hassenfeld. (*Providence Sunday Journal*, March 14, 1971, Business Section, p. 10).

#### ABRAHAM A. WEISS

Abraham A. Weiss was founder and president of Vogue Textiles, Inc. of Pawtucket, which manufactured fluorescent fabric safety materials. He was also founder and partner of Vogue Antiques of Pawtucket, and formerly head of the Safety Flag Co. of America in Central Falls. Weiss came to Fall River from Paterson, New Jersey in the 1920s. He was associated with silk and rayon weaving operations and owned a weaving facility in Pawtucket during the late 1940s and early 1950s. This was subsequently phased out. He later entered the fabric safety field, manufacturing items for highway safety. He died August 31, 1968.

#### PEERLESS WEAVING CO.

Peerless Weaving Co. of Pawtucket, under the management of Abe C. Fine, manager and secretary, and Harry L. Fine, president, was another successful weaving operation in rayon and synthetics. This company was sold to southern interests in the late 1940s. The operation

was extensive with a production of 422 broad looms, employing over 270 workers.

#### ALLIE ZURA

Allie Zura, a prominent Jewish real estate operator, lived in Providence for most of his life. He headed several real estate firms in Providence, among them the Alice Building, Inc. His strong interest in real estate lasted for twenty-one years. Zura was also a member of the California Wine Company. He purchased several large mill properties in Providence and Pawtucket.

In 1927 Zura was named in a \$200,000 suit with two other Providence men, brought by the Royal Trust Co. of Montreal. Zura and his partners allegedly agreed to purchase \$400,000 worth of various liquors held in King's bond at a Canadian warehouse. Zura vehemently denied doing anything illegal or dishonest, and the case was dismissed from court.

Zura actively participated in Jewish affairs in Rhode Island. He worked for synagogues and Jewish charities. He was a founder of Temple Emanu-El and a principal benefactor of the Hebrew School of the congregation Sons of Zion on Orms Street. He died in 1940 at the age of 50.

While Zura was not personally engaged in the manufacturing aspects of textiles, he was among the pioneers in purchasing mill properties, which ultimately led to the revitalization of textile manufacturing in Rhode Island.

#### LEBANON KNITTING MILL, INC.

This company, originally the Hope Knitting Mills, was founded in 1927 by Leo Grossman. In 1937 the name was changed to Lebanon Knitting Mill, located at 719 School Street, Pawtucket. Clinton Grossman is president and chief executive officer; Stanley Grossman, treasurer; and Edward Grossman, vice president. Albert Grossman is in charge of the West Coast Sales Corporation, and Max Grossman heads the sales office in New York City. Leo Grossman died on June 9, 1967.

Lebanon Knitting Mill, Inc. produces tubular fabrics, primarily in worsted jersey cloth and double knits utilized by dress and outerwear manufacturers. Plant capacity is 10,000 pounds weekly. Sales in 1967 were over \$20,000,000. This company, by far one of Rhode Island's outstanding textile enterprises with 700 employees, recently merged

with the giant Genesco Corporation, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. This organization includes other related companies in New York and California, as well as Peter Karen Mfg. Co., in Lincoln, and Lincoln Spinning Co., Inc., 165 York Avenue, Pawtucket.

ATLANTIC KNITTING CORP.

Another outstanding knit goods producer is Atlantic Knitting Corporation, located at 385 Charles Street, Providence. Founded by Joseph M. Finkelstein, the company concentrates on the knitting of woolen, worsted, and rayon fabrics. A. Archie Finkelstein is president, and Louis Mirman, treasurer.

ELIAS REISS

Elias Reiss and his associates purchased the Seaconnet Mills on East Warren Street, Fall River in 1927. He served as its president and principal executive officer with the assistance of David Ginsberg, agent. Five hundred operators were employed in manufacturing of combed and fine cotton cloth. Seaconnet remained under Reiss's control until May of 1945, when it was purchased by Jacob Ziskind.

It was sold to the Millville Manufacturing Company of Millville, New Jersey through the intercession of Jacob Ziskind, who transferred it to the new owners. It continued to manufacture fine combed and carded fabrics under the new management of Richard D. Wood of Philadelphia, president of the Millville Manufacturing Company and new president of Howard-Arthur Mills, and John R. Mason, vice president of Millville, managed by the able Henry Speier, also employed by the Reiss interests.

Seaconnet Mills possessed 47,200 spindles and 1,400 looms. Elias Reiss's large and impressive cotton mill ran full force until operations ceased in the late 1950s. He was also instrumental in locating the I. Schneirson & Sons plant in Fall River. This was reputed to be the largest ladies' underwear manufacturer in the world.

Textile executive Elias Reiss was born in Stanislau, Austria-Hungary, October 25, 1860, son of Simon and Esther Reiss. In 1882 he emigrated to the United States where he worked for his older brother in New York City. He eventually started his own shirt manufacturing enterprise in which he performed all operations from cutting to trimming. His business eventually expanded to include two large buildings and several thousand machines. The firm merged with Bernheim, Dryfuss

& Co., and he was appointed executive in charge of manufacturing. Reiss simultaneously formed the St. John-Reiss Co. The firm, which converted cotton goods, was later renamed Elias Reiss & Company.

Shrewdness and foresight allowed him to suffer little during the depression, and he began to devote his attention to other business interests. The defunct Seaconnet Mills in Fall River were revitalized under his skillfull management. Renamed the Howard-Arthur Mills, it manufactured cloth and yarn for the civilian market and produced cloth for the manufacture of military uniforms.

Reiss Factors Corporation, of which he was president, served as factors in sales of textiles. He also was a director of the Manufacturers Trust Co. and the Graham-Newman Corporation of New York City (brokerage firm).

Reiss engaged extensively in philanthropic activities. He was the first treasurer of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities during 1914-1924 and a trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. He served as a board member of the Jewish Education Society and was vitally interested in the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind. The United Palestine Appeal, which he helped to organize, later became the United Jewish Appeal. He also acted as a charter member and treasurer of his congregation, Temple Shaari-Zedek of Brooklyn, New York.

Reiss was married to the former Rose E. Fassbinder and had two children. His daughter married Jerome A. Newman, another well-known textile manufacturer and mill financier. It is impossible to overestimate the power and influence of Elias Reiss in the textile industry. (*National Encyclopaedia of American Biography*, James T. White & Co., N. Y., 44:485, 1962).

#### ROBISON RAYON COMPANY, INC.

Robison Rayon Company, Inc., Atlantic Yarns Division, is located at 86 Crary Street in Providence. This fine commission dyeing plant, which occupies 125,000 square feet of floor space and employs 300 workers, is visible to motorists passing on the west side of Interstate Highway 95. They are well known dyers of synthetic yarns, dyeing skeins and cakes as well as twisting filament yarns, distributed throughout the United States, with over 1,000 accounts in the weaving, knitting, and general industrial fields. It is currently managed by Fred Diamond, chairman of the board, Arthur Malina, president, and Benjamin Charmis, secretary and treasurer.

Atlantic was founded in 1928. The Robison Rayon Company, formerly located in Pawtucket and operated by the Wyners of Boston, was established in 1900. The plant was managed by Raymond G. Franks. The Atlantic Rayon Corporation, a pioneer in the field of dyeing special silk was subsequently acquired by the Malina interests.

Robison Yarns was sold to the Malina interests in 1954. This outstanding company has sales of over \$5,000,000 and is a highly successful organization.

#### JEROME A. NEWMAN

Jerome A. Newman, son-in-law of Elias Reiss, easily developed an outstanding reputation in his own right. A practical businessman, he competently handled many intricate business manipulations.

His firm belief in the industrial opportunities of Fall River awakened a dormant city. He purchased the Algonquin Printing Company with confidence in its successful revival and expansion. Shares of stock were sold at \$305 per share, and the purchase price was around \$2,732,000.

Questioned about his decision to enter Fall River's textile industry he declared: "I think Fall River has made a most remarkable comeback in the past ten years. I think that Fall River does not today need to take a back seat to any industrial New England community. Fall River has certainly done a remarkable job." (*Fall River Herald*, Sept. 26, 1939). How Fall River eagerly desires to hear words like these repeated in today's depressed times!

Newman was also treasurer of the Merchants Manufacturing Co. at 615 Bedford Street, Fall River in 1930.

His early life in Fall River made him keenly aware of the business opportunities available. He began his career in the brokerage business of Graham, Newman & Co. and acquired interesting experiences through this work. He actively supported the combining of Utica Knitting Co. with Flagg Knitting Co., which later became a part of the giant Genesco, Inc. Graham, Newman & Co. gained control of the old Philadelphia & Reading Co. and bought the Fruit of the Loom franchises and the Pontiac Bleachery, Warwick. They disposed of the bleachery in 1971.

#### STANDARD ROMPER CO.

Louis Russek is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Standard Romper Company of Pawtucket and Central Falls. In 1967 the then current assets showed a net worth of over \$13,000,000.

The company manufactures children's wear, creepers, children's play garments, boys' polo shirts, and blouses made from knitted and woven fabrics, sold under the well-known trade names of "Stantogs" and "Health Tex". Health Tex is now listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Other officers of this most successful company are Alexander Kourland, secretary; Leon Gould, treasurer, and M. Hurvitz, a director. The current president is Arthur Hurvitz.

#### WARREN HANDKERCHIEF CO.

Warren, Rhode Island houses the Warren Handkerchief Company which continued until 1965 to produce satins on their own looms, under the guidance of Albert J. Mann. During the past thirty years they have purchased handkerchief cloth and discontinued weaving. One of the few handkerchief companies in existence, it directly evolved from the original company.

John Howland and Russell Wheaton started a cotton and linen handkerchief firm in the early 1900s in Warren. Howland & Wheaton operated for many years as a partnership. In the 1930s Saul E. Rains assumed control and incorporated the business under the name of S. E. Rains Co. with executive offices in New York City. This company is still in business. Warren Handkerchief was a contractor for S. E. Rains.

#### DAVID DWARES

David Dwares gained prominence in the Southern New England area in both textiles and real estate. Born in Russia, he was educated in the Providence school system. He made his first investments in industrial property and machinery during the late 1920s. His ventures and properties included Greene & Daniels Realty Company, Pawtucket, embracing the United States Finishing Company complex on Prospect Street. He owned and operated the Slater Dye Works at 727 School Street in Pawtucket, which his son, Donald, now manages. Dwares also purchased Dempsey Bleachery and Dye Works.

Damar Wool Combing Company Inc., established in 1903, was under the control of the Dwares family from 1941 until 1959. Dwares purchased this company from the Cudahy Packing Company in 1940, leased the plant to Armour & Company in 1943, but continued to operate it under his ownership. After his death in 1946 the company

was operated by his widow, Mrs. Martha Finegold, and her son-in-law, Bernard Wasserman. This company engages in wool combing with 140 employees.

Slater Dye Works Inc., employing 85 persons, dyes, finishes, and bleaches cotton and synthetic fabrics on a commission basis, selling to textile convertors, chiefly in the New York City area. Occupying 60,000 square feet of space, its facilities have a maximum output of approximately 1,000,000 yards weekly.

David Dwares' original venture into investments in machinery soon developed into real estate and operation of mills. He shrewdly took advantage of declining values during the business depression of the thirties. His ability and sound judgment brought him great success, which, unfortunately, death cut short. His farsightedness in purchasing industrial properties revitalized these empty structures into growing entities, employing thousands of people, exemplified by the Union Mill properties in Fall River. In addition to conversion for industrial applications, they also contained restaurants and retail establishments.

After his death in 1946 at 45 years of age, his estate was run by Martha Feingold, his widow, and Jacob Goodman, his attorney, who increased the real estate holdings originally established.

Dwares' father, Samuel Dwares, and his brother Louis owned and operated S. Dwares & Son, jobbers of metal, remnants, and machinery.

Another brother, prominent in the textile field, Nathan Dwares was head of Royal Yarn Company. He and Louis purchased the well-known Cooper-Kenworthy Inc., a dyeing concern of Providence. The Royal Yarn enterprise is a leading dealer in yarns and twines, ably managed by William Forman, a nephew.

Martha Feingold, would make women liberationists beam with pride. A capable woman, Mrs. Feingold ably managed the Slater Dye Works, Inc. of Pawtucket from 1946 to 1959, and presided over Textile Investment Co. of Pawtucket from 1946 until her death in 1972.

#### SOL KOFFLER

Sol Koffler is founder and president of American Tourister Co., producers of luggage. While not directly involved in textiles, he purchased two former Berkshire Hathaway textile plants, one housing the main offices and warehouses in Warren and the other in Albion. The company was founded in Providence in 1932 and later moved to

the former Arctic Mill of the B. B. and R. Knight Co., West Warwick. In 1969 American purchased the former Steere Mill of the Wanskuck Co. in Providence. These four former textile units have given the company approximately 1,000,000 square feet of additional space. They currently employ approximately 1,000 workers.

The Wanskuck mill formerly housed the Nyman Mfg. Co. The latter company, headed by Robert C. Nyman, are manufacturers of paper cups.

#### ALVIN SOPKIN

Alvin Sopkin, born in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1901, became a prominent manufacturer, philanthropist, and civic leader.

He was chairman of the board of the Wentworth Mfg. Co., a multi-million dollar business which produces inexpensive women's dresses. In 1934 Alvin and his brother Henry moved the company from Chicago to Fall River in order to take advantage of the abundant supply of both labor and manufacturing space there. The plant now operates in Lake City, South Carolina.

#### HYMAN AND MYER SOBILOFF

Hyman Sobiloff was a highly successful and enterprising manufacturer. His talents were applied not only in the business world, but in the creative arts as well. For which accomplishment would his fame endure—his extraordinary wealth, his many corporations, or his sensitive and artistic poetry? It is difficult to encompass the versatile activities of this extraordinary man.

Hyman Sobiloff, born in Fall River in 1912, was a prominent industrialist, philanthropist, and author. He helped found the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. He was also founder and trustee of the National Foundation for Research in Allergies in Boston.

Sobiloff was chairman of the board of several corporations, including the Lorchfield Corporation, the K.H.T. Corporation, W. & J. Sloane International of Naussau, the Biederman Furniture Co., Scruggs Vanderwoort, and Barney, Inc.

He also was director of many corporations. He was chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and director of Marshall-Wells Co. He was a member of the Funk Foundation, Medical Research Inc., and Barney, Inc.

His book of poems, "Dinosaurs and Violins", was praised by both Conrad Aiken and Oscar Williams. Convinced that poetry could be portrayed through motion pictures and television, he made several short films, one of which was an Academy Award entry while another was entered into the International Film Festival in Venice.

Sobiloff's untimely death at the age of 57 years was unfortunate. His brother, Myer Sobiloff, also distinguished himself in textiles and in ventures with his brother. The Sobiloff brothers became involved with textiles early in their careers when they participated in curtain production.

After graduation from Harvard in 1938 Myer developed widespread business interests. He worked actively towards the economic and cultural resurgence of Fall River. He initiated the Greater Fall River Industrial Development Corporation plan. Pope John XXIII awarded him a medal "for distinguished service to the community". He serves on the board of advisors at Stonehill College and is a director at Temple Beth El, Fall River.

#### PANSY WEAVING MILLS

Pansy Weaving Mills, 297 Barton Street, Pawtucket, is a major supplier of rayon and synthetic blended fabrics utilizing rayon, nylon, and other synthetic fibers, fabricated into greige goods used in coats, dress linings, luggage, lingerie, and blouses, and by related trades and converters.

This establishment occupies 100,000 square feet of space. It is headed by Neil Pansey, president and chief executive officer. Pansey founded the company in 1937 with \$5,000 of savings. The company has been growing progressively stronger financially since that time. In 1967 sales were reputed to be over \$5,000,000 annually, with over 150 employees.

Herbert Pansey was one of the principals of Bay State Mills, Central Falls. He was originally from Paterson, New Jersey where he had early silk textile experience.

In 1945 Neil Pansey was joined by his father, Herbert Pansey, in a partnership interest. He is assisted by Alvin W. Pansey, his brother, as plant superintendent and by Roy Pansey, a son.

#### EMPIRE WOOLEN MILLS

Empire Woolen Mills, 640 Winter Street, Woonsocket, are manufacturers of better grade men's and women's woolens, worsted, and uniform

cloths produced on 52 automatic looms and selling to the cutting up trade throughout the United States. It has 124 employees and sales offices in New York City. The company is managed by Maximillian Gottlieb, a graduate of the University and Textile School, Vienna, Austria. He was associated with this line in both Austria and England from 1923 to 1932. Mrs. Ilona Gottlieb is a graduate of the High School of Art of Vienna, Austria and was active as a designer for British Woolen Company of America, Ltd. She fulfills a similar role at Empire Woolen Mills.

#### EDWARD GOLDBERGER

Edward Goldberger heads the well-known textile company of M. Lowenstein & Sons with headquarters in New York City. He is currently treasurer, secretary, and a director and has been a top executive there for the past thirty-four years.

He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, received his A.B. degree from Brown University and his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1931. He practiced law during the 1930s with the firm of McGovern and Slattery in Providence. After his marriage into the Lowenstein family, he joined the firm upon his father-in-law's death.

M. Lowenstein maintains offices at 40th Street and Broadway in New York. This fine company had a record volume of \$376,500,000 in 1969. Its diversified products include various fabrics: domestics, curtains, draperies, knitted fabrics, and carpeting. Lowenstein, which finishes about 700 million yards of textile fabrics annually, is one of the largest textile printers in the world.

#### JACOB ZISKIND

The late Jacob Ziskind of Tiverton, Rhode Island, who was born in 1899 in Lowell, Massachusetts, was one of the most phenomenal individuals in the textile field. He revitalized Merrimac Mfg. Co. of Lowell which until its liquidation after his death in the late 1950s was one of the oldest, continuous manufacturing companies in America. This company, which supplied corduroy to the automotive industry, employed over twenty-two hundred people. In addition, Ziskind controlled manufacturing companies, machinery, mills, and entire corporate entities. His astonishing rise has become a modern legend.

The son of David and Rose Ziskind, he left Boston University after the completion of his freshman year and entered the family business

in Lowell. It traded in junk and reclaimed metals. Later in the 1930s he moved to Fall River, where the textile industry was creaking slowly to a halt, and one mill after another was being deserted. He founded, and was president and treasurer of, Crescent Corporation in Fall River (formerly Textile Machinery & Supply Co.). This company refurbished and resold textile equipment.

The scope of Crescent Corporation's activities is illustrated in the *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* of July 12, 1951: "During the past five years, this outstanding machinery firm has consumed about 3,750,000 board feet of lumber in crating and boxing machinery for shipment. More than 150,000 pounds of nails, 450,000 feet of waterproofing paper and 5,000 bails of wood shavings were used during that period."

At the height of its operation, Crescent Corporation occupied more than 2,500,000 square feet of warehouse space. The organization re-established plants, and provided employment in machine shops, transportation, supervisory, and technical work.

Fortunate stockholders, thanks to Ziskind's practice, were able to convert their old rundown plants and mills into cash. Whenever equipment was in need of revitalization, he saved it and made it productive again, thereby permitting several establishments to operate on a profitable basis. Crescent Corporation was the largest firm of its kind. It exclusively bought and reconditioned textile machinery and auxiliary items. Foreign as well as domestic markets purchased its supplies.

One of Ziskind's earliest acquisitions was the Royal Weaving Company acquired from Jerry Newman. His operations became so extensive, and the need for financial assistance became so great, that the First National Bank of Boston agreed to finance his undertakings. An initial loan of \$300,000 permitted him to pursue his brilliant career of acquisition of properties.

He purchased Potter & Johnson of Pawtucket, manufacturers not only of textile equipment but also of machine tools. He saved the rundown, bankrupt company which he ably managed for several years, eventually selling it to Pratt & Whitney. At present the building houses ITT -Royal Electric and Hasbro Industries.

Furthermore, Ziskind practiced liquidation and revitalization, cleverly transforming these plants into successful corporate entities which turned out millions of dollars worth of textiles at a substantial profit. One outstanding example of such revitalization from Ziskind's early career

was the purchase of the American Print Works and Fall River Iron Works (a major textile Co.) which later, through his aggressiveness, were sold to the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. This sale permitted the continued operation of these vast plants, which were until the early 1960s Fall River's leading employer.

The successful management and subsequent sale of the following companies took place under Ziskind: Stevens Mills, Fall River, operated under Cabot Manufacturing; Verney Corporation of Canada; International Braid Company of Sainte Rose, Quebec; Rain Beau Products Company of Canton, Massachusetts (a large nationally known fishline concern); International Braid Co., Providence, Rhode Island; Ansonia O. & C. Company, Ansonia, Connecticut; and Delite Fabrics Company of Westerly, Rhode Island. The Ansonia O. & C., which later moved to East Taunton, Massachusetts, manufactured broad woven elastic goods for swimwear and was known as Ansonia Mills Inc. (David Squire, president; L. K. Berkowitz, chairman and treasurer).

Additional concerns in the textile field involving Ziskind's efforts were the Esmond Mills, Esmond, Rhode Island; Pierce Brothers, Ltd. and Nonquitt Mills, New Bedford, Massachusetts; Lone Star Cotton Mills, El Paso, Texas; and Barnard Mills, Fall River, Massachusetts.

Crescent Corporation built a \$300,000 Southern facility which housed offices, machine shops and reconditioning equipment at Spartanburg, South Carolina. In addition to this division, which opened just prior to Ziskind's death, he owned several warehouses located in Henderson, Kentucky; Gaffney, South Carolina; Columbus, Georgia; Florence, Alabama; and McCombs, Mississippi.

When Jacob Ziskind died in 1950 at fifty-one years of age, his business was assumed by Edward J. and Abraham Ziskind. Edward succeeded as president, and Abraham became treasurer. Leon Bakst, a resident of Providence and a most able manager, assisted by Larry Weltman, ran the company during his lifetime.

Throughout his life, Ziskind inconspicuously donated money to various charities and schools. His major contribution was to medical research, and The New England Medical Center benefited greatly by his generosity. He left one-half of his large estate to philanthropic and educational institutions. The Jacob Ziskind Trust for Charitable Purposes, established by Ziskind, was administered by his sister, Mrs. Sol W. Weltman, and Abram Berkowitz, who acted as trustees. This fine trust has contributed greatly to philanthropic causes in the medical field through disbursements to hospitals and laboratories. Institutions

which benefited are the Pratt Diagnostic Clinic, Boston; Jacob Ziskind Research Laboratory, Boston; Beth Israel Hospital, Boston; St. Anne's Hospital, Fall River; the New England Medical Center; and Boston University.

The life of Jacob Ziskind is the history of his liquidation of factories and their rebirth into profitable and successful firms. Ziskind's skillful policies prompted the rebirth of properties, expanded their operations and wages, and multiplied their annual sales. To accomplish his goals, Ziskind worked sixteen hour days, seven day weeks, year in and year out. He made a success of the business and in doing so contributed to the rebuilding of the textile industry in New England. (*National Encyclopaedia of American Biography*, James T. White & Co., N. Y. 38:56, 1953).

## V. WORLD WAR II AND AFTER

### MARTIN CHASE

Martin Chase, named by Forbes Magazine (January, 1970) as "The Granddaddy of all Discounting", well deserved his reputation. Chase was certainly a leader in his field with great vision and creativity. He was Board Chairman of the Ann & Hope Stores, a retail outfit grossing millions of dollars, truly a phenomenon in retailing, with locations at Cumberland and Warwick, Rhode Island, as well as a new complex in Danvers, Massachusetts. Chase's beginnings in the Ann & Hope Mills in Cumberland, as described elsewhere in this issue, subsequently grew to three locations, housing retail operations which grew out of the original mill buildings.

Chase had originally purchased a factory in Norwich, Connecticut which was making tinsel ribbon and corsage ribbon for flowers. The company in 1945 was moved to the Ann & Hope Mills in Lonsdale, which he purchased for \$307,000.00. More than adequate for the needs of the Norwich operation, he leased the remainder out to tenants.

Ann & Hope proved to be a good investment. By the end of 1946 there were thirty-four tenants occupying the building with a payroll for the entire building complex running to approximately six million dollars. In the early 1950s Ann & Hope was Rhode Island's largest volume department store. It pioneered in discounting and the use of shopping carts, an idea that was later copied throughout the country. In April 1954 the store moved from the original location on the third floor of the mill to the first floor.

In 1969 the Company grossed more than forty million dollars through Lonsdale and Warwick operations.

Chase's son Irwin is president, and son Samuel, vice president and merchandising hard goods manager. Sol Alpert, a son-in-law is assistant to the general manager and in charge of maintenance and facilities. Chase died December 24, 1971. (*Providence Sunday Journal*, Dec. 25, 1971). (See also pages 191 and 303 of this issue).

#### PROVIDENCE PILE FABRIC CORPORATION

The company was founded by the late Louis J. I. Symonds in 1945 as General Textile Mills Inc. in Pawtucket. Symonds ran this very successful company, including subsidiaries, until his death in 1959. The name was changed to Providence Pile Fabric Corp. in 1947. It occupied 120,000 square feet of space in Pawtucket, but subsequently moved to the former Berkshire Hathaway buildings at 941 Grinnell Street, Fall River, Massachusetts. This very large textile mill complex was formerly known as Berkshire Mills Plants A & B. The company, which moved to Fall River in 1967, also operates a dye house in Woonsocket. It recently acquired the Wm. Whitaker Co. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the oldest continuously operated textile business in the United States, founded in 1795.

This company was ably managed, after Louis Symonds' death, by Bernard K. Symonds, who died on May 14, 1965. Alan E. Symonds is currently president and chief executive officer; I. Jerome Stern, secretary; Charles C. Goldfarb, executive vice president for sales; Harry Vengerow, treasurer; and Herbert S. Chase, vice president.

Annual sales are reputed to be over \$20,000.00. The chief products are pile and flat fabrics manufactured from mohair, rayon, and blended yarns. These products are sold world-wide in the international market. The company is currently one of the leading manufacturers in Fall River. With a weekly payroll of \$175,000 for 1200 employees, it is Fall River's largest employer. Its products are used in the upholstery and decorative trades. According to Alan Symonds, "We make more upholstery fabric than any company in the world." (*Bristol*, Feb.-March, 1972, p. 17.)

#### S. GRANOFF MFG. COMPANY

S. Granoff Manufacturing Company is located at 420 Pine Street, Central Falls. It is managed by Samuel Granoff, president, and G. Sidney Granoff, vice president and treasurer. It is engaged in the manufacture of knitted fabrics and in yarn sales. An affiliated company is the Ajax Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of knitted fabrics, including

cloth meat bags, stockinettes and tubings, wiping cloths, and polishing and specialty cloths.

The Granoff family was engaged in the textile business as early as 1946. The corporation received its charter in 1956.

**SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL AND CO.**

Sidney Blumenthal and Co., Inc., founded in 1899, had plants in Valley Falls and Woonsocket as late as 1947. They manufactured mohair and fancy yarns. They later moved to Rocky Mount, North Carolina. In 1947 the officers were S. Blumenthal, chairman; H. H. Schell, president; A. Blumenthal, vice president; E. Blumenthal, secretary; and G. Beisheim treasurer.

**JOSEPH H. AXELROD**

Joseph Axelrod, a native of Newton, Massachusetts became a dynamic leader in the textile field. After graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, he invested \$500 with his father, James, a cloth merchant of Boston. They formed the Airedale Worsted Mills, Inc. in Woonsocket, which wove worsted fabrics on second-hand machinery. They subsequently added Lippitt Worsted Mills, Jeffrey Finishing, and Dorlexa Dyeing and Finishing Company. The zenith of his manufacturing career was the purchase of Crown Manufacturing Company in Pawtucket, a large complex for producing woolen worsted cloth. By 1947 gross sales of the Axelrod interests totaled \$37 million dollars with net profit of \$5.5 million dollars

Crown Manufacturing Company, dubbed by his employees Crown College, was a uniquely progressive innovation. Its ivy covered walls and manicured landscaped lawns resembled a typical New England college. Axelrod was called "Prexy", the office manager "Dean", and superintendents "Professors"; lavatories were marked "Boys" and "Girls"; and the employees were called "Students". In order to boost production, Axelrod established a school in textile procedures, and the workers in fact became real students.

Axelrod also had controlling ownership with Fisher Abramson of the famed Wamsutta Manufacturing Company of New Bedford, outstanding for its Wamsutta percale sheets and pillow cases. This company was subsequently purchased by M. Lowenstein & Sons, and Axelrod joined the far flung Lowenstein operation. (*Time Magazine*, Feb. 2, 1948.)

**MACK KAHN**

Mack Kahn, although not a resident of Rhode Island, was an outstanding figure in this region's textile growth. A venerable personality in the textile field, he helped revitalize a decaying industry. He controlled, along with extensive interests in New Hampshire and other areas, the Wanskuck Mills, Inc., in Providence, a producer of heavy damask and nun's habit cloth, subsequently liquidated in the 1950s.

His foundation garment business with the trademark "Flexees" brought him great prosperity. His brassiere business, which he started after World War I with army savings, eventually became a forty million dollar enterprise. In addition he sold swimsuits and piece goods. At one time, Kahn controlled thirteen northern mills worth forty million dollars.

Unfortunately, this company ran into financial difficulties during the 1950s and was forced to liquidate. The Flexees name and production were maintained. Disappointment was sharp, since eight million dollars was spent in an improvement and revitalization program. Flexees once controlled Caltex of California in Los Angeles, one of the West's largest swimwear producers.

Kahn utilized several buildings in the huge Amoskeag Mill complex in Manchester, New Hampshire, formerly the world's largest cotton textile company. He established a piece-goods factory in Manchester, New Hampshire in 1941. His modern equipment produced the only extruded latex rubber thread utilized in the industry, and he was one of the first to have a vertical textile operation. Called "the Savior of Manchester industry", he concentrated his businesses solidly in that area, employing 5,000 at one time. (*Time* magazine, Oct. 22, 1951).

**ANDREW WORSTED MILLS INC.**

Andrew Worsted Mills Inc. is located in Pascoag. The late Irving H. Hillelson was president, Irving Gordon, vice president, and Upton Hillelson, treasurer. The firm was incorporated in Rhode Island in 1949. Irving Hillelson had spent most of his career in the worsted industry, identified with the Union Shirt Company of New York City until 1944. This company does commission weaving of broad woven woolen and worsted, cotton and blend fabrics, as well as dyeing and finishing all of its output. Employing over 180 workers, it occupies approximately 160,000 square feet in a five story granite structure in a rural area of Rhode Island, utilizing an unlimited supply of water from an adjacent pond.

The company now also has plants in Woonsocket, Vermont, and the South.

STERLING PILE FABRICS CORP.

Sterling Pile Fabrics Corp., located at Stevens Street, Fall River, founded by Jacob Ansin in 1949, was a producer of pile fabrics. This fine company operates as a converter of men's and women's fabrics. Its trade name is Sterling Wale.

Jacob Ansin had been associated with leather, pile fabrics, and converting of shoe fabrics in Boston for many years. The plant currently employs 180 people, with sales of over \$3,000,000 annually. Lila Ansin is presently the company clerk.

WALTER MARSHALL SPINNING CORP. OF R. I.

This company, located at Pocasset Avenue in Johnston, are spinners of worsted yarns. Acquired by Meyer Scher in 1950, the company now has approximately 350 employees. Sales in 1967 were \$7,000,000. Martin Bruenstein is president; Art Siegel, treasurer; and Edward Siegel, secretary.

WILLIAM HELLER, INC.

William Heller, Inc., spinning division, 159 Singleton Street, Woonsocket, spins knitting yarns. Ben Heller is president and Ann Greenberger, secretary. The company in 1957 employed 63 workers utilizing 3,880 worsted ring spindles. The company was later sold.

ALLENTOWN MILLS INC.

Allentown Mills Inc., was located on Oak Hill Road (Allentown) in North Kingstown. Max H. Furman was president and treasurer. The company wholesaled broad woven cloths. The operation commenced in early 1951 and was discontinued in 1966.

Max H. Furman, who came to this country as a youth from Russia, had been a jobber of woolens in New York City. He also had textile interests in Norwich, Connecticut. His wife, Fannie M. Furman, had been active in management. The plant occupied 78,00 square feet of floor space.

ACE DYEING & FINISHING COMPANY

Ace Dyeing & Finishing Company, 125 Providence Street, West Warwick engaged in cutting, dyeing and finishing of corduroys for jobbers and manufacturers. Managed by Sol Barrish, president and treasurer,

and Mrs Freida Barrish, vice president and secretary, it was incorporated in 1951. This company did one million dollars worth of sales with 37 employees in 1967.

PARFLEX RUBBER THREAD CORP.

Parflex Rubber Thread Corporation, 50-54 Valley Street, Providence was incorporated in 1952. Hyman Weissman is president, Morton J. Africk, vice president, and Harry Hirsch, treasurer. They are producers of latex rubber thread utilized in the textile industry. This thread is produced by extruding liquid latex. This company, occupying over 40,000 square feet of area, was one of the few independent latex thread producers in the country at the time of its incorporation.

BARNEY GOLDBERG

Although Barney Goldberg was not directly involved with textile manufacturing, his name cannot be disassociated from this field.

A progressive businessman, Goldberg early realized the potential value of factory space as mills closed down in the 1950s. He and his brothers established corporations which owned the Warwick Mills complex in West Warwick, the former Crompton Mill, the American Screw Co. buildings, and the Sprague Street and Geneva Mills properties in Providence. The purchase price of the Warwick mills was approximately \$250,000. For these and other vacated mills, Goldberg and his brothers, Philip, Leo, and Thomas, found new tenants.

A pharmacist, he acquired the James O'Hara Pharmacy in 1919 and managed it for over 50 years, until his death in 1972. (*Prov. Journal*, July 8, 1972).

A & C WOOLEN MILLS INC.

A & C Woolen Mills Inc., located at 725 Branch Avenue, Providence are commissioned weavers of woolen and worsted fabrics for customers located throughout the United States. The company was incorporated in Rhode Island in 1954. It is managed and operated by Claus Mayer, president, and Mrs. Helen Mayer, treasurer.

STANDISH MILLS INC.

Standish Mills Inc., Maple Street, Esmond is managed by Harold E. Hirsch, president. It was founded in 1955, and employs some 150 persons. They are producers of rayon, cotton, and elastic fabrics. David Hirsch, a brother of Harold, is also identified with the company.

WOONSOCKET SPONGING INC.

This company, located at 149 Singleton Street in Woonsocket, was incorporated in 1957. It is engaged in examining, shrinking, flame-proofing, waterproofing, mildewproofing, and mothproofing cloth. Robert A. Glashow is president and treasurer, and M. H. Hutt, vice president and plant manager.

PONTIAC PRINTING WORKS

The famous Pontiac Printing Works, located in Warwick and established in the early 19th century, was owned and operated by the venerable Jack A. Goldfarb of New York City. It adopted the Fruit of the Loom banner, and in 1960 was sold to Northwest Industries, headed by Hyman Haber, vice president and treasurer, and Morris Blackman, secretary.

For many years this finishing plant was the largest roller printing firm in Rhode Island. It employed nearly 600 persons, operating 24 jigs, and three dyeing and eight roller printing machines. Charles Swartz of Providence managed their New York sales office. The firm ceased production in 1970.

HANORA LOOMS INC.

Hanora Looms Inc. is located on Mill Street in Oakland. The company manufactures woolen and worsted cloth for women's wear, occupying 100,000 square feet of space. Officers of the company are Gerland Stone, president; Sam Silverman, vice president; and Irving Katz, secretary and treasurer.

This company, formed in 1960, currently produces over \$1,000,000 annually in sales, and employs 250.

JOAN FABRICS CORPORATION

In 1968 Joan Fabrics Corp. of Lowell, Massachusetts moved into the old Sagamore Mills in Fall River. They also operated a plant in Nasonville, Rhode Island. Headed by Harold Ansin, president and chief executive officer, this up-and-coming concern has sales of over \$30,000,000, manufacturing pile fabrics. It operates with modern machinery and equipment to produce furniture and upholstery fabrics, synthetic and pile carpets, and tufted pile fabrics for the outerwear and automotive industries, employing over nine hundred in all plants. It was founded in 1908 by David Ansin under the name of Royal Waste Co., Boston and

operated by the Royal Textile Co. from 1922 to 1957 in Woonsocket. In that year the company name was changed to Joan Mills and the business was moved to Lowell, Massachusetts.

Harold Ansin, the current president, is the son of David Ansin. Other officers include: Lawrence J. Ansin, vice president; Arthur Zellers, sales manager; Joseph L. Ansin (son of Harold), vice president; and Evelyn R. Ansin, clerk.

#### RECENT ARRIVALS

Recently several new enterprises in the industry have been established. Among these is Tectra Industries of West Warwick, a division of Weaving Corporation of America. Located in the old Crompton Mill complex at 100 Pulaski Street, it is managed by Jack Cohen and manufactures elastic webbing.

Another is Highland Textile Printers Company, Inc., located at 50 Aleppo Street in Providence and owned and operated by Benton A. Odessa. This company processes and dyes cotton piece goods.

Harry Ball of New York and his sons, Robert M., Marvin, and Jerome, recently purchased the American Textile Company properties at 250 Esten Avenue, Pawtucket. The Ball interests are leading producers of fabric quilting for outerwear.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

The complexity of the story, the constant shifting of company ownership, the short duration of some businesses, and the difficulty at times of establishing the Jewish identity of owners make it inevitable that some Jewish textile enterprises will have been missed or overlooked. The possible omission of individuals or businesses from this roster is inadvertent and is in no way a measure of their importance or their contributions to the industry.

In this essay I have been able only to sketch the uniqueness of Jewish participation in Rhode Island textiles. Hopefully, others will continue this line of fascinating research in more depth. Such an historical enterprise is particularly valuable to us because it prevents us from losing our past and from forgetting our leaders. Many of us can—and should—contribute to such a needed history of Jewish involvement in the local textile business. We knew the people and the corporations involved; and if we do not memorialize them, no one ever again will be able to do so quite as well.

GENERAL SOURCES

1. *American Wool and Cotton Reporter*. Pub. by Frank P. Bennett & Co., Inc., Boston, Section 2, Vol. 34, No. 11, 1920.
2. *Daily News Record*. A Fairchild Business Newspaper, pub. by Fairchild Publications, Inc., N. Y. (Trade paper for textile industry and needle trades). Various issues.
3. *Davison's Textile Blue Book*. Davison Publishing Co., Ridgewood, N. J. (formerly N. Y. City). Various issues, especially 1913-1914, 1947, 1955, and 1957.
4. Fall River, Massachusetts City Directories.
5. Providence, Rhode Island City Directories.
6. *Herald News*, Fall River, Massachusetts, various issues.

APPENDIX A

Waste and rags were often regenerated into new yarns. Many of the dealers in these goods found their way into more advanced branches of the textile industry. The lists are extracted from various editions of *Davison's Textile Blue Book* or the *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* (1920).

WASTE DEALERS — 1906

PROVIDENCE

S. Klein Co., 108 Chalkstone Ave.  
Louis E. Robinson, 20 Market Square  
W. B. Sweet, 169 Canal St.  
Morris Winograd & Son, 3 Lopez St.

WOONSOCKET

M. Greenberg & Co., 25 Polo St.

WASTE DEALERS — 1911

PROVIDENCE

B. Goldstein, 166 Chalkstone Ave.  
Grant Supply, 205 Weybosset St.  
Joe Levy, 243 North Main St. (also rags)  
Samuel Priest & Co., 357-359 Canal St.

WOONSOCKET

Louis Darman, 119 Fifth Ave. (rags)

WASTE DEALERS — 1913-1914

PROVIDENCE

B. Goldstein, 156 Chalkstone Ave.  
Grant Supply Co., 204 Westminster St.  
H. Mendelovitz, 39 N. Davis St.  
New England Metal Co., 13½ Douglas Ave.  
Samuel Priest & Co., 357 Canal St.  
Henry Priest, 108 Printery St.  
Samuel Waldman, 131 Blackstone St.  
M. Winograd & Son, 1 Lopez St.

**WASTE, YARN, RAG DEALERS — 1920****PROVIDENCE**

S. Backman & Sons, 11 Shawmut St.  
 A. Goldberg, 178 Holden St.  
 B. Goldstein, 19 Ormsbee Ave.  
 Abe Heller, 18 Montgomery St.  
 Kapland Remnant Co., 163 No. Main St.  
 S. Klein & Sons, 108 Chalkstone Ave.  
 Martin Lippman, 327 Canal St.  
 H. Mendelovitz, 39 N. Davis St.  
 Jacob Percelay, 302 No. Main St., Pawt.  
 Henry Priest, 58 Printery St.  
 Samuel Waldman, 131 Blackstone St.

**FALL RIVER**

Nathan Bernstein, 1470 Pleasant St.  
 D. Rachlin & Sons, 173 Quarry St.  
 Lesser Goldman, 10 Purchase St.  
 J. Osiason, 164 Broadway

**WOONSOCKET**

J. S. Blumenthal, Commercial Bldg.  
 L. Darman & Co., 50 Commercial Bldg.  
 Arthur I. Darman, 245 Railroad Ave.  
 Charles T. Priest, 1006 No. Main St.

**WESTERLY**

Max Lahn, 21 Broad St.

**WASTE DEALERS AND DRY GOODS — 1925****PROVIDENCE**

S. Bander & Co., 49 Smith St.  
 Blumenthal Wool Stock Co., Inc., 308 So. Water St.  
 Samuel Dwares & Sons, 10 Ambrose St.  
 Samuel Ganzer, Inc., 108 No. Main St.  
 B. Goldstein, 19 Ormsbee Ave.  
 Kapland Remnant Co., 42 Weybosset St.  
 Chas. R. Kapstein & Co., 19 Harrison St.  
 Joseph Levye & Son, 240 No. Main St.  
 Ralph R. Levye Textile Co., 270 No. Main St.  
 Henry Priest, 66 Printery St.  
 A. S. Ralph, 97 Canal St.  
 Raphael Fabric Co., 187 No. Main St.  
 Barnet F. Rosen, 360 No. Main St.  
 M. Ross & Co., 315 Canal St.  
 George Samdperil, 70 Calverley St.  
 Samuel Waldman, 131 Blackstone St.  
 Henry Weiner, 175 No. Main St.

**WOONSOCKET**

Arthur I. Darman, Inc., Railroad and Arnold Sts.  
 Sam Golden, 55 Polo St.  
 Woonsocket Supply Co., 125 So. Main St.

YARN DEALERS — 1930  
CENTRAL FALLS

John Marks (Cotton, Woolen), 416 Mill St.

PAWTUCKET

Ralph R. Levye Textile Co., Inc., P. O. Box 962  
Percelay Yarn Co., 302 No. Main St.  
M. Ross, Inc. (Max Ross, Buyer), 29 River St.

PROVIDENCE

Dwares & Co. (David Dwares, Buyer), 60 Printery St.  
Eastern Yarn Co. (I. J. Glantz, Prop.), 27 No. Davis St.  
Heller & Michaelson, 96 State St.  
Sam Menco Co., 101 No. Main St.  
Royal Yarn Co., 31 Pettis St.  
Samdperil & Granoff (Cotton, Worsted, Silk), 231 Douglas Ave.  
Sam'l Waldman, 131 Blackstone St.

APPENDIX B

Additional textile firms not mentioned in the main text doing business at various times during the period 1914 to 1964. Listed will be the names of the companies, location, senior officer, product or operation, and years of establishment and incorporation when available. The year in parenthesis will identify the issue of *Davison's Textile Blue Book* from which the data were extracted, e.g. (D. 1957), or *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* (A. 1920).

- A & C Woolen Mills, Inc, 725 Branch Ave., Providence, R. I. C. F. Meyer, pres. and treas. Men's and Women's Wear Worsteds and Woolens. (D. 1964)  
Areco Silk Co., 110 Tweed St., Central Falls, R. I. Rudolph Sarengo, pres. and treas. Broad silks Inc. 1921. (D. 1925)  
Arkwright-Interlaken, Inc., Arkwright, R. I. C. G. Chason, pres. Book cloth, tracing cloth, hollands, and other coated fabrics. Inc. 1883. (D. 1964)  
Atlantic Wool Combing Co., Manville, R. I. G. Schlomm, pres. Wool combing. Inc. 1951. (D. 1957)  
Bancroft Lacc Co., 48 Maple Ave., W. Warwick, R. I. L. H. Nimkoff, pres. Lace trimmings. (D. 1928)  
Barclay Mills, Inc., 124 Shove St., Fall River, Mass. S. R. Bloom, pres. Cotton and rayon pile fabrics. (D. 1957)  
Bay State Silk Mill, Inc., Mill and Cross Sts., Central Falls, R. I. Herbert Pansey, pres. Broad silks. Inc. 1925 (D. 1929)  
Braided Fabric Co., 223 Harrison St., Providence, R. I. M. Semmel, pres. Elastic braids. Est. 1916. Inc. 1925. (D. 1964)  
Bristol Knitting Mills, Inc., 951 Broadway, Fall River, Mass. I. Greenberg, treas. Ladies' sweaters. (D. 1957)  
Bristol Worsted Co., Inc., 345 Thames St., Bristol, R. I. T. Birnbaum, pres. Men's Wear Worsted Fabrics. Buy worsted yarns. (D. 1957)  
British Woolen Co. of America, Ltd., 89 Allen St., Woonsocket, R. I. Max Berglas, pres. Women's suitings and coatings. (D. 1944)  
Brodsky, M. & Co., Fall River, Mass. Samuel Brodsky, pres. and treas. Glazed cotton thread. Inc. 1912. (A. 1920)  
Brown Textile Co., Nasonville, R. I. E. I. Goldenberg, pres. Rug yarns. (D. 1944)  
Burton Trading Co., Inc., 25 Esten Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. Burton Goldberg, pres. Braiders and nylon cord. (D. 1964)

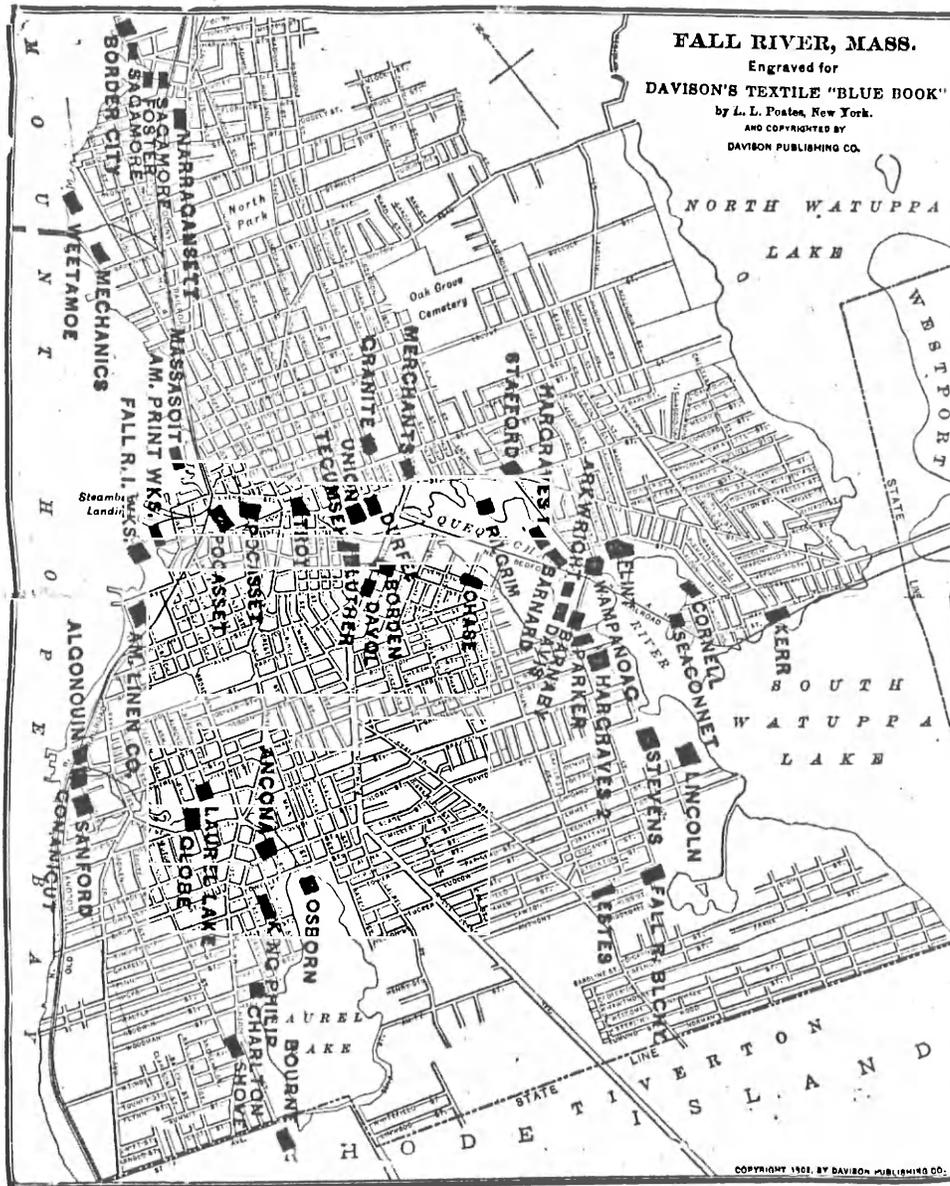
- Candy Textile Co., Inc., Peace Dale, R. I. K. Greenberg, pres. Yarn dyed novelties, weaving. (D. 1957)
- Chemo Products, Inc., Crompton, W. Warwick, R. I. Ernest Nathan, pres. Coaters of natural and synthetic fibers. (D. 1957)
- Colonial Braid Co., 467 Mill St., Central Falls, R. I. Sanford H. Cohen, pres. and treas. Shoe laces, braids, and trimmings. Inc. 1916. (D. 1929)
- Continental Finish Co., Riverpoint, W. Warwick, R. I. M. N. Berlin, treas. Dye and finishing elastic, crinolines, shoe duck. (D. 1944)
- Crown Yarn Dye Co., Pawtucket, R. I. B. Rudnick, pres. Package dye yarns. Inc. 1955. (D. 1964)
- Cull, Joseph N., Silk Mills, Inc., 109 Webster St., Pawtucket, R. I. Herbert I. Joseph, pres. and treas. Inc. 1923. (D. 1925)
- Devontex Fabrics, Inc., 11 Broad St., Valley Falls, R. I. Michael Wallenstein, pres. Silk and cotton corset cloth. Inc. 1919. (D. 1925)
- Durable Braided Rug Co., 369 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. Carl Passman, prop. Braided rugs. (D. 1961)
- Duro Finish Corp., 110 Chace St., Fall River, Mass. L. Goldberg, treas. Rayons, cottons, and mixtures. (D. 1964)
- Eagle Mfg. Co., 64 Eagle St., Providence, R. I. Arthur Azaroff and Irving Garrick, props. Roving yarns, batting, braided rug filling, waste, jute packing and filling. (D. 1964)
- Eagle Textile Mills, 53 Stillman Ave., Westerly, R. I. A. P. and E. L. Leibowitz, partners. Cotton specialties. (D. 1944)
- Eagle Weaving Co., Inc., Central Falls, R. I. Simeon Sackers, pres. Silks, georgettes, etc. (A. 1920) (See also Marstan Corp.)
- Elastic Fabrics, Inc., 1 Bridal Ave., W. Warwick, R. I. Sam Wax, pres. (Succeeded by M. Weinman, pres. See D. 1957). Braids and elastic webbings. (D. 1944)
- Elgin Silk Co., Fall River, Mass. Samuel Abrash, pres. Georgettes, crepe de chine, washable satin, radium taffeta, crepe de meteor. (A. 1920)
- Essex Mills of R. I., Inc., 120 Main St., Pawtucket, R. I. William Seidman, sec. and treas. Nylon, cotton, tapes and webbings. (D. 1957)
- Eureka Warming, Winding, & Slashing Co., Valley Falls, Cumberland, R. I. S. Gordon, vice pres. Winding and warping on commission. (D. 1964)
- Fairfax Mills, Inc., 727 School St., Pawtucket, R. I. Harold E. Hirsch, pres. Rayon and cotton jacquard. (D. 1957)
- Fairhope Fabrics, Inc., Stevens St., Fall River, Mass. H. Gross, pres. Curtains, laces, nettings, dish cloths, etc. (D. 1957)
- Fairlawn Wool Spinning Co., 603 Mineral Spring Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. J. Percelay, pres. Carpet, upholstery, blanket, and coarse woolen spun yarn. (D. 1964)
- Freetown Manufacturing Co., Water St., Assonet, Mass. Benjamin Racklin, pres. and treas. Cleaners and conditioners of cotton, woolen, silk waste. (D. 1945)
- Gemco International Corp., 16 Anawan St., Fall River, Mass. G. Goldberg, pres. Venetian blind tape. Inc. 1950. (D. 1957)
- Heller Knitting Mills, Inc., 159 Singleton St., Woonsocket, R. I. B. Heller, pres. and treas. Tubular jersey cloth. Inc. 1949. (D. 1957)
- Hillsgrove Silk Co., Inc., Hillsgrove, R. I. I. Frankel, treas. Rayon piece goods and broad silks. Inc. 1928. (D. 1930)
- Hoffman Lion Mills, Inc., 129 Brookside Ave., West Warwick, R. I. J. Kingston, chrmn. and pres. Clothes lines, sash cords, mops, braids, etc. (D. 1964)
- Industrial Dyeing Corp. of America, 48 Broadway, Pawtucket, R. I. Louis L. Wisner, pres. (D. 1925)
- Irving, William, Silk Co., 110 Chace St., Fall River, Mass. Broad silks. (D. 1929)
- Kahn Silk Co., 25 River St., Pawtucket, R. I. Broad silks. (D. 1925)
- Kruger, H., Co., 207 Pleasant St., Pawtucket, R. I. Broad silks. (D. 1929)
- Lady Fabrics, Inc., Pawtucket, R. I. Max Schiffman, pres. Tubular elastic cloth. (D. 1938)
- Lang & Lewin, Inc., Newell and Truston Aves., Pawtucket, R. I. J. F. Morris, Supt. Broad silks. (D. 1925)

- L. G. Silk Co., 104 Hartwell St., Fall River, Mass. Arthur Black, pres. Broad silks. Inc. 1923. (D. 1925)
- Liberman, Philip, River Point, W. Warwick, R. I. George Krauss, supt. Rayon fabrics. (D. 1944)
- Liberty Textile Works, Inc., Jesse St., Fall River, Mass. M. Britz, pres. Broadlooms and silks. Inc. 1920. (D. 1925)
- Livingston Worsted Co., Washington, R. I. William Stursberg, pres. Fancy and piece dye worsted men's wear. (D. 1930)
- Lynn Textile Mills, Inc., 770 Main St., W. Warwick, R. I. Morris Warhaftig, pres. Broad silks and rayons. (D. 1944)
- Marcy Fabrics Co., Inc., 99 Irving St., Fall River, Mass. Jeannette Shapiro, pres. Ribbons, bindings, tapes. (D. 1957)
- Marstan Corporation, 1 Bridal Ave., W. Warwick, R. I. M. Weinman, pres. Braids and elastic webbing. (D. 1964). See also Elastic Fabrics, Inc.
- Marven Looms, Inc., 125 Providence St., W. Warwick, R. I. H. Harris, treas. Filament fabrics. (D. 1964)
- Monarch Textile Corp., Globe Mills Ave., Fall River, Mass. Murray M. Taradash, pres. Bath mats, rugs, etc. (D. 1957)
- Monogram Mills, Inc., Barton St., Pawtucket, R. I. Maurice Messing, treas. Synthetic fabrics. (D. 1944)
- M. S. D. Woolen Mills, Inc., 150-158 Middle St., Pawtucket, R. I. W. Schlesinger, buyer. Commission spinning. (D. 1964)
- Namquit Worsted Co., Bristol, R. I. Martin Rubinstein, pres. Men's fancy worsteds and piece dyes. Inc. 1908. (D. 1913-1914)
- Nedra Mills, 638 Central Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. H. P. Feldman, treas. and buyer. Silk and cotton brocades. Inc. 1919. (D. 1925)
- New England Braiding Co., 9 Calendar St., Pawtucket, R. I. A. A. Levy, prop. Shoe laces. (D. 1925)
- New England Hosiery Mills, 39 Charles St., Providence, R. I. Joseph E. Adelson and Edward O. Halpert, receivers. Cotton, woolen, and silk hosiery. (D. 1938)
- New England Printed Tape Co., 30 Hamlet St., Pawtucket, R. I. P. Farago, pres. Non-woven tapes from cotton, rayon, and fiberglass. (D. 1964)
- New England Silk Company, Friendship Drive, Westerly, R. I. A. S. Rosenthal, Inc., prop. J. F. Morris, supt. Broad silks. (D. 1925)
- New England Yarn & Textile Co., 27 Mason St., Pawtucket, R. I. E. M. Percelay, purchasing agt. Braids, cordage, rope and twine, sash cords. (D. 1964)
- Newport Finishing Corp., 168 Stevens St., Fall River, Mass. L. J. Miller, comptroller. (D. 1964)
- Oresman Mills, Inc., 100 Pulaski St., West Warwick, R. I. R. K. Oresman, sec. Buckrams crinolines, dyeing, bleaching, finishing. (D. 1964)
- Pawtucket Braided Line Co., Inc., 28 Bailey St., Pawtucket, R. I. Henry Solomon, sec. Cotton, silk, linen, fishing lines, braids, shoe laces. Est. 1882. Inc. 1924. (D. 1925)
- Pawtucket Braided Rug Co., Inc., 106 Broad St., Pawtucket, R. I. S. C. Kaufman, pres. Braids and braided rugs. (D. 1961)
- Pawtucket Textile Co., 170 Front St., Pawtucket, R. I. Charles C. Herman, pres. Converters of cotton, warps, beaming, trimming, winding, coning, tubing, and capping. Inc. 1919. (D. 1925)
- Perennial Dye & Print Works, West Warwick, R. I. Herman Geller, pres. Commission piece goods, dyeing, printing, and finishing, silk and rayon. (D. 1944)
- P. K. Rug Company, 17 Newell Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. Joseph Priest, prop. Woven rugs. (D. 1944)
- Pontiac Weaving Corp., Valley Falls, Cumberland, R. I. R. Scher, pres. Satins and taffetas. (D. 1964)
- Quidnick Dye Works, Quidnick, R. I., Division of H. & H. Mfg. Company. H. Hassenfeld, pres. and treas. Dyers and finishers of rayon linings, pure dye silks. (D. 1938)
- Rhode Island Waste Co., Inc., 335 Barton St., Pawtucket, R. I. Morris Goldstein, pres. Carding, dusting cotton, rayon and worsted waste. (D. 1944)

- Roaring Brook Spinning Corp., 292 E. School St., Woonsocket, R. I. A. E. Goldstein, pres. Wool and synthetic batting, wool blends, and carpet yarns. (D. 1964)
- Samoset Cotton Felt Mills, 1363 Broad St., Central Falls, R. I. Charles S. Manekofsky, pres. and treas. Cotton felt batting and waste, wool waste and yarns. (D. 1944)
- Schoen, Carl, Silk Corp., Main St., Valley Falls, Cumberland, R. I. C. Schuett, sec. Dress and necktie silks. (D. 1925)
- Schoolsky, B. & Son, Inc., 8 Albion Rd., Manville, R. I. Process wool waste. (D. 1957)
- Slater Spinning Co., 335 Barton St., Pawtucket, R. I. A. & N. Goldstein, partners. Spinning of woolen yarns. (D. 1944)
- Small Bros. Mfg. Co., 37 Hillside St., Fall River, Mass. H. Jacobson, treas. Braided card lacings and bandings, elastic and metallic braids, corset and shoe laces, flat braids, venetian blind cord, ric-rac, misc. trimmings, twisted cotton ropes. Est. 1885. Inc. 1919. (D. 1957)
- Sol-Fab Mfg. Co., 125 Thames St., Bristol, R. I. I. L. Solomon, pres. and treas. Wool, rayon, and cotton braided rugs. Est. and Inc. 1944. (D. 1961)
- Solway Dyeing and Textile Co., Pawtucket, R. I. Lewis Levi, pres. Fancy cottons, dyeing and bleaching cotton yarns, skeins and warps, specialty, fast colors for cross dyeing and bleaching, also mercerizing. Est. 1901. Inc. 1906. (A. 1920)
- Soy, L. A., Silk Mills, Fall River, Mass. S. Rosenberg, pres. and buyer. Inc. 1924 (D. 1929)
- Standard Thread Converting Corp., 225 Conant St., Pawtucket, R. I. Founded by Benjamin M. Cohen. Finish threads. (D. 1957)
- Standish Mills, Inc., Maple St., Esmond, R. I. H. E. Hirsch, pres. and buyer. Plain and jacquard acetates, rayons, nylons, dacron and fine cotton fabrics. (D. 1964)
- Star Silk Mills, Inc., 190 Anawan St., Fall River, Mass. Louis Ginsberg, pres. and treas. (D. 1945)
- State Silk Mills, Inc., Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. Herbert Pansey, pres. and supt. Broad woven silks. (D. 1938)
- Stoughton Mills, Carolina, R. I. E. Bromfield, buyer. Reworker of wool and rayon fibers. (D. 1938)
- Thread Mills, Inc., 505 Bay St., Fall River, Mass. M. J. Levine, treas. Cotton threads. (D. 1930)
- Traymor Mfg. Co., 175 Conant St., Pawtucket, R. I. I. Gilman, pres. Tapes and webbings. (D. 1957)
- Union Textile Co., 43 Oakland Ave., Pawtucket, R. I. F. J. Schloss, pres. and buyer. Brocaded fabrics, damask rayon piece goods, upholstery fabrics. Inc. 1914. (D. 1925)
- United Nets Corporation, 583 High St., Central Falls, R. I. Joseph P. Isaac, pres. and treas. Silks and veilings. Inc. 1916. (D. 1925)
- United Wadding Corp., 292 E. School St., Woonsocket, R. I. A. E. Goldstein, pres. Wool batting, wool blends. (D. 1961)
- Valley Stone Mills, Washington, R. I. Sam Leach, buyer. Men's wear worsted. (D. 1930)
- Wakeford Mills, 80 Vineyard St., Pawtucket, R. I. Charles Josephson, pres. Rayon weaving. Est. and Inc. 1949. (D. 1961)
- Warren Novelty Mills, Warren, R. I. Robert Cohen, supt. Reinforced cotton clothes lines. (A. 1920)
- Weinstein, C., & Co., Inc., 18 Martine St., Fall River, Mass. J. Weinstein, pres. Woolens and blends, also nylon blends for weaving and knitting. (D. 1964)
- Westover Fabrics, Inc., W. Warwick, R. I. David E. Seidman, pres. Rayon piece goods. (D. 1944)
- Wolf, A., Company, Inc., Hillsgrove, R. I. A. Wolf, pres. and treas. Broad silks, artificial silks. Inc. 1924. (D. 1928)
- Woonsocket Spinning Co., 115 Ricard St., Woonsocket, R. I. Howard Korn, v. pres. and treas. Weaving and knitting yarns — cashmere. Inc. 1954. (D. 1961)
- Yarn Silk Corp., 18 Main St., Pawtucket, R. I. J. Cohn, pres. Inc. 1929. (D. 1938)

FALL RIVER 1930

Since this is the only city map in  *Davison's Textile Blue Books* , it indicates the unique position Fall River enjoyed as a leading producer. The majority of the mills here illustrated were owned by Jewish businessmen, who either used them to house their own operations or leased them to others. Mills on the map not identified were destroyed by fire or razed for road construction and urban renewal, or were owned by non-Jews. (See Appendix C)



## APPENDIX C (See map page 295)

## FALL RIVER MILLS — 1936-1969

- NARRAGANSETT MILLS:** 1567 No. Main Street, purchased by Aaron Dashoff in 1952, now owned by the Salmanson interests, Leonard I. and family, Providence. North Section at 1641 No. Main Street, purchased by Alpert Bros., Inc., tobacco wholesalers.
- SAGAMORE MILLS:** A complex of several mills liquidated in the mid 1960s by United Industrial syndicate; Harry Lebensfeld and A. Leonard Lewis; now comprising several companies occupying these premises: Trina, Inc.; Ace Plastic; Joan Fabrics; Foster Spinning; and Sagamore.
- TRINA, INC.:** Ace Street. Owned and operated by Sol and Arnold Rose, notions manufacturing. (See Sagamore Mills).
- ACE PLASTIC:** Aaron Solomon. Plastics manufacturer. (See Sagamore Mills).
- JOAN FABRICS:** 1822 No. Main Street, Harold Ansin. Manufacturers of corduroy, plushes, and pile fabrics. (See Sagamore Mills).
- FOSTER SPINNING:** Originally part of the Sagamore complex, housing Fall River Florist Supply Co., Inc., 119 Cove Street. Owned and operated by Joseph Koppelman. (See Sagamore Mills).
- SAGAMORE:** 44 Probber Lane. Housing Harvey Probber, Inc., a leading manufacturer of custom and distinctive furniture. (See Sagamore Mills).
- MECHANICS MILLS:** 1082 Davol Street. Housing garment shops and carpet manufacturers. Owned by Leonard I. Salmanson interests, Providence. Purchased by Jerome Newman, 1939, New York City.
- ALGONQUIN MILLS:** 371 Bay Street and 1 Middle Street. Formerly housed Crescent Corp. (Jacob Ziskind) and now the home of Slater Paper Box Co., operated by Charles W. Stampller.
- GLOBE MILLS:** 206 Globe Mills Avenue. Now houses Riveredge Printers, Inc. Samuel J. Lovit, president; L. Levine, secretary; D. Sherman, treasurer. Screen printing. Complex also houses Monarch Textile, managed by Murray Taradash, manufacturers of chenille bedspreads.
- ABDON MILLS CORP.:** 170 Globe Mills Avenue, Reuben Abrash, president. Rayon weavers.
- LAUREL LAKE MILLS:** 951 Broadway. Home of the nationally known United States Luggage Corp. Sidney S. Feinberg, president; Steven Feinberg, general manager.
- MILLS No. 4 & No. 5 — FALL RIVER IRON WORKS:** 18 Pocasset Street. Multi-tenanted by several textile firms and finishing plants.

Formerly owned by Myer Markell and sons, Robert and Edward. Sole owner since 1968, S. Alexander Ross, of Manufacturers Realty Corp.

**LAMPORT, INC.:** MILL No. 3 — FALL RIVER IRON WORKS: Anawan Street. A leading supplier of over-the-counter piece goods. Sam Lamport, New York City.

**GLOBE MILLS:** 460 Globe Street. Housing Schneirson Mfg. Co., lingerie manufacturer. For three decades the home of Isaac Schneirson & Sons, nationally known lingerie manufacturers. Managed by David, Samuel, and Abraham Schneirson.

**KING PHILIP MILLS:** Kilburn and Dwelly Streets. A multi-tenanted complex owned by Strasmich Interests (Fred and Erwin E.) Tilly Realty Corp. (1966).

**CHARLTON MILLS:** 109 Howe Street, home of Maplewood Yarn Mills, owned and operated by Jacob Weiner, deceased (1967). Now owned by Murray P. Rosofsky and Harold G. Katzman, manufacturers of sportswear (Arkay Mfg. Co.) and multi-tenanted.

**BOURNE MILLS:** Fall River-Tiverton, Rhode Island line. Real Estate Investment, partial owner, Irwin Chernick, attorney, Lincoln, Rhode Island.

**PEPPERELL MILLS:** 502 Bedford Street. Purchased from the Pepperell Mills by Irving Gross, Providence, and Myer N. Sobiloff. Now the home plant of Anderson Little Co., Raymond and Larry Anderson, Raymond Anderson, president, clothing manufacturers.

**TECUMSEH MILL:** 164 Hartwell Street. Home of Ann Dale Products, Inc. Cookie manufacturing. David D. Rubin, president, Robert A. Chavenson, sales manager.

**DURFEE MILLS:** 405 Pleasant Street. Salmanson interests, Providence. Multi-tenanted and one of the cities larger tenanted facilities. Housed Sopkin Bros. Wentworth Mfg. Co.

**UNION MILLS:** 263 Pleasant Street. Purchased by David Dwares, c. 1934. Sold by his estate in 1966 to Leonard I. Salmanson interests, Providence. Multi-tenanted.

**RICHARD BORDEN MILLS:** 440 Rodman Street. Owned on an investment basis by Robert J. Cohen, and housing the well-known Arlan's Department Store, which is now a national chain discount store and an early participant in this field. Herbert Palestine, president.

**TECUMSEH MILLS No. 2:** 410 Plymouth Avenue. Home of Mason Furniture Co., one of the largest furniture retailers in New England. Founded by the Mason family. Gilbert Mason, current proprietor.

- LUTHER MILLS:** 337 Plymouth Avenue. Operated by Lester Martin interests, and sold in 1949 to Hyman Miller, president, High Point Paper Box Corp.
- CHACE MILLS:** Rodman and Vermont Streets. Division of United Merchants Mfg. Inc., New York City. Curtain manufacturers. David W. Schwab, chairman of the board, N. Haskell, president. Also houses Arkwright Finishing Division.
- PILGRIM MILLS:** 847 Pleasant Street. Home of Louis Hand, Inc. Largest manufacturer of curtains and draperies in the United States. Brick construction, one of the last mills built in Fall River.
- HARGRAVES MILLS:** Grinnell Street. Louis J. Symonds, Providence, with B. K. Symonds, and Allen E. Symonds, now chief operating officer. Formerly a Berkshire-Hathaway complex.
- DAVIS MILLS:** 749 Quequechan Street. Division of United Merchants and Manufacturers, Inc. Vast textile operations throughout the United States. Formerly housing finishing and dyeing operations for United Merchants, now manufacturer of pigment for screen dyeing processing. Architecturally one of the most appealing mill structures.
- BARNARD MILLS:** 641 Quarry Street. Real Estate investment owned by Isadore and Gabriel Samdperil, Providence. Multi-tenanted. Originally operated by Crescent Corp. (Jacob Ziskind) as their main warehouse. One of the city's older buildings.
- PARKER MILLS:** 20 Jefferson Street. Now home of Bay River Corp. Division of Providence Pile Fabrics. Formerly in Berkshire-Hathaway complex. Owned by Symonds interests.
- HARGRAVES MILLS No. 1:** 451 Quarry Street. Owned by Leonard I. Salmanson interests, Providence. Known as the Northern Warehouse building, housing several garment and curtain companies. Also located at the site of the quarry utilized by its adjacent neighbor, Barnard Mills, for stone used in the construction of both buildings.
- WAMPANOAG MILLS:** 420 Quequechan Street. Home of Stella Anne Frocks, Inc., dress manufacturers. Owned by Louis Handwerger & Associates, Providence.
- FLINT MILLS:** 69 and 135 Alden Street. Large complex of several buildings owned for real estate investment by M. Joseph Madowsky. Building at 69 owned by the Fall River Knitting Mills, well known knitter of sweaters with a retail showroom, operated by the Reitzas Associates, headed by Sidney Reitzas.
- KERR THREAD MILLS COMPLEX:** Formerly the home of the giant American Thread Mills. Real estate investment owned by

Joseph M. Linsey, Boston. Originally purchased by Harold Kenner, Melvin Berry, Louis M. Graboys, Providence.

TRANS-AMERICAN SPINNING MILLS, INC., 73 Martine Street. This section owned by Charles Weinstein, Brookline, Mass. WAREHOUSE SECTION, rear 81 Martine Street. Houses UNITED TEXTILE MACHINERY CORP. Purchased by Leon Bakst and Emil Shapiro, Providence, textile and machinery dealers.

STAFFORD MILLS: 40 County Street. Complex housing a large furniture store and garment factories. Owned by Leonard Salmanson interests, Providence.

CORNELL MILLS: 49 Alden Street. Elbe File & Binder Co., Inc. Owned and operated by Alan M. Ravenal, Providence.

HOWARD ARTHUR MILL: East Warren Street. Formerly known as the Seaconnet Mills, changed to the Howard Arthur Mill, 1932. Purchased 1927 by Elias Reiss. Purchased in 1963 by Tilly Realty Corp., headed by Erwin E. and Fred M. Strasmich of Providence. Houses Ross Matthews Corp., a braid manufacturer.

HEYWOOD NARROW FABRIC CO.: 85 Portland Street. Owned and operated by the Tilly Realty Corp. for investment purposes. Multi-tenanted.

STEVENS MILLS: 168 Stevens Street. Home of: (1) Newport Finishing Co. Owned and operated by LeSavoy Interests, Theodore LeSavoy. (2) Sterling Pile Fabrics. Owned by Jacob and Leonard Ansin, corduroy mfg. (3) Fairhope Fabrics, manufacturers of dishcloths, bandages, and curtains, owned and operated by Herman and Irving Gross, Providence.

FALL RIVER BLEACHERY MILL COMPLEX: 994 Jefferson Street. Owned by George Litchman and Sons, operated by Sanford Litchman. Woolen yarns dealers.

LAURA CURTAIN & DRAPERY CO., INC.: Located in preceding complex. H. Shore, William R. Meyer, owners.

GRANITE MILLS: 52 Twelfth Street. Dora Radovsky and Associates. Razed 1962 for an A & P Super-Market. Housed several of Fall River's early underwear and dress manufacturers. Located in the heart of the city. Was the home of Cotton City Wash Frocks, Benjamin Green proprietor, manufacturers of underwear and dresses. Benjamin and Joseph Kravif, operating as Kravif Mfg. Co., Inc., were one of the early garment producers, located in this building.

CRESCENT MILL: 30 Front Street. Original home of the Crescent Corp. plant headed by Jacob Ziskind, used for warehouse and general offices.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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2. *Lives and Voices: A collection of American Jewish memoirs*. Edited by Stanley F. Chyet. The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 5732/1972. 388 pp.  
Rabbi Englander goes to Providence. 157.  
G. George Fox visits Harry Cutler in Providence. 284.
3. *An Index to Scientific Articles on American Jewish History*. Jacob R. Marcus, Editor. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio / KTAV Publishing House, Inc., New York, N.Y., 1971. 240 pp.  
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4. *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* Vol. 61, No. 4., June, 1972.  
The Rabbis and Ezra Stiles, by Arthur A. Chiel. 294.  
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  - A. J. Benjamin, East Greenwich, retail.
  - C. F. Sulzner, Narragansett Pier, retail.
  - Jacob Abisch, Providence, mfg.
  - Eckhart & Cohen, Providence, pearl goods.
  - Julius Eichenberg, Providence, precious stones.
  - Henry Lederer & Bro., Providence, mfg.
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  - William Loeb & Co., Providence, mfg.
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  - A. H. Schreiber & Co., Providence, mfg.
  - Louis Stern & Co., Providence, mfg.
  - Maurice Sundelovitz, Providence, retail.
  - M. Tannenbaum, Providence, retail.
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  - H. Fellman, Woonsocket, optician.
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  - Jewish Messenger*, pub. in New York City, had one subscriber in Kingston.
  - R. I. p. 7.
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## THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association was held in the Library of the Rhode Island Historical Society, 121 Hope Street, Providence on Sunday afternoon, May 14, 1972. After the President, Mr. Jermone B. Spunt called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M., the Secretary, Mrs. Seebert J. Goldowsky read her Annual Report. Mr. Spunt reported on the sudden illness and hospitalization on Friday of Mrs. Nancy Halverson Schless and her inability to fulfill her commitment as the scheduled speaker of the afternoon. The secretary read a letter from Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, highly laudatory of the *Notes*, publication of the Association. Mrs. Louis I. Sweet, Treasurer, reported a grand total of \$2,795.94 in the treasury, and Mr. Sweet, Finance Chairman, was able to project a balanced budget for the forthcoming year.

Dr. Seebert J. Goldowsky gave a progress report on his assignment as editor of the *Notes*. Melvin L. Zurier, Esquire, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for election: Erwin Strasmich, President; Benton H. Rosen, Vice-President; Mrs. Seebert J. Goldowsky, Secretary; and Mrs. Louis I. Sweet, Treasurer. With no counter-nominations, the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the entire slate.

Substituting for Mrs. Schless as annual meeting speakers and thereby serving as the Second Annual David Charak Adelman Lecturers were two of the Association's own Executive Committee members. Mr. Strasmich, newly elected president, read a paper in progress on "The Jews in Textiles in Rhode Island." A very extensive study of the part the Jews played in the textile industry in the New England area, it dealt also with the related fields of garment-making, braids and elastic braids, elastic, shoe laces, tapes, and threads. Interested comment followed Mr. Strasmich's presentation. Mr. Zurier, also using a paper in progress, dealt with the subject of how the Jews fared in the Rhode Island Supreme Court from 1870 to 1912. His information was gleaned from the Rhode Island Reports, Volume 34 (1912). Highly informative and sometimes amusing, this talk also evoked spirited interest in the audience. Both Mr. Strasmich and Mr. Zurier were commended by Mr. Spunt for serving so well as proxy speakers at the last moment. Both papers will appear soon in an issue of the *Notes*.

After the program was completed, members and guests were served a collation for which the Mesdames Goldowsky, Bernard Segal, and Sweet were hostesses.



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**NECROLOGY**

**SYLVIA L. (DELFINO) BROMBERG**, 18 Lladnar Drive, Lincoln, Rhode Island, wife of Malcolm C. Bromberg, daughter of Michael and the late Eva (Shapiro) Delfino, mother of Howard M., Arnold R. and Judith A. Bromberg, sister of Daniel Davis.

Died in Lincoln, R. I., October 6, 1972.

**MARTIN CHASE**, born in Kiev, Russia, April 26, 1906, the son of Morris and Fannie Chase. He attended Hope High School, participated actively in athletics, and was an all-state guard from 1922-1924.

Board chairman of Ann & Hope Stores, he was recognized nationally as a pioneer discounter, whose business techniques revolutionized discount retail merchandising. In 1968 he was honored at the annual convention in New York of the Mass Merchandising Research Foundation for having set in motion a tide of low margin retailing which revolutionized the distribution system of the United States and greatly extended the purchasing power of the American consumer.

Active in many community and philanthropic affairs, he was a member and former board member of Temple Beth-El.

Died in Boston, Massachusetts, December 24, 1971.

**ARTHUR J. LEVY**, born in New York City, January 25, 1897, the son of Jules and Sophie (Stern) Levy.

A 1919 graduate of Brown University, he received his law degree from Boston University, serving as secretary of his class. He was recently appointed to the Boston University National Alumni Council. Founder of the Jewish Family and Children's Service (formerly the Jewish Family Welfare Service), he served as its president for the first twenty years of its existence. In 1944, the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* presented to him the Sixth "Roger Award" for good citizenship. At one time he had been a sports-writer for the old *Providence Tribune*.

In 1951 he was appointed to the Commission to Consolidate State Laws. He was editor-in-chief of the Rhode Island Bar Journal from 1952 to 1954. From 1960 to 1969 he was president of the

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Rhode Island Bar Association, served as a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, and was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Federal Tax Institute of New England.

He was a charter member of the Jewish Historical Association, was elected its first treasurer, and from 1955 to 1963 served as a member-at-large of its Executive Committee. He was a member of the law firm of Levy, Goodman, Semenov and Gorin. He was a past president of the Temple Beth-El Brotherhood and honorary trustee of the Temple. He was also a trustee of The Miriam Hospital.

He was a member of the Jewish Home for the Aged of Rhode Island, the Brown University Alumni Association, Brown Club of Rhode Island, Touro Fraternal Association, Roger Williams Lodge No. 1184 B'nai B'rith, and Overseas Lodge No. 40.

Died in Providence, November 18, 1972.

**HARRY J. LICHT**, born in Providence, Rhode Island, November 11, 1910, the son of Jacob and the late Sarah Licht.

A brother of Governor Frank Licht, he was educated in the Providence public schools and attended Northeastern University. He was associated with Jacob Licht, Inc., Licht Industries, the Wilkinson Company, Jali Realty Corporation, Lyman Associates, Summer Realty, Inc., Mortgage Guarantee and Title Company, and Ten Keys, Inc.

As a well known civic leader, he was instrumental in developing the Nicholson File plant into an industrial center. The conversion at the time was considered a classic example of what can be done with the physical properties abandoned by a long-established firm which has left a community.

He was the chairman of the Jewish Community Center Building Committee and was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Died in Boston, Massachusetts, October 16, 1972.

**SAMUEL H. NATHANS**, M.D. of Westerly, Rhode Island, born in Boston, Massachusetts, August 4, 1906, the son of the late Isaac and Mary (Blonder) Nathans.

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One of Rhode Island's better known anesthesiologists, whose medical career spanned a period of 38 years, he was a former chief of anesthesia at Westerly Hospital. He and his wife, Jean (Shain) Nathans, were former owners and certified managers of the Watch Hill Road Nursing Home, which they had converted from a carriage barn on the former Tristram Babcock estate located between two coves of the Pawcatuck River to a 60 bed facility described as one of the residential showplaces of Southern Rhode Island.

A graduate of Boston Latin High School and Harvard University, he received his medical degree from Tufts University in 1933. He opened his office in Providence for the general practice of medicine following his internship at the Fall River (Massachusetts) General Hospital. He served in the medical outpatient departments of The Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals.

He served two tours of active duty in the U. S. Army, and was also a medical officer from 1935 to 1937 at the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in Escoheag. He had specialized in anesthesiology since 1945, after studying under several leading authorities in that specialty.

Participating diligently in all affairs of the Westerly Hospital, he served a particularly active role on the building committees which developed its extensive modernization and expansion programs. He was a charter member and past secretary of the Rhode Island Society of Anesthesiologists. For six years he was the Rhode Island-Connecticut director for the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He was an ardent sailor and a photographer of some merit.

Doctor Nathans was a past president of the Westerly Lodge of B'nai B'rith and a member of the Congregation Sarah Zedek Synagogue in Westerly.

Died in Westerly, Rhode Island, May 20, 1972.

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## ISAAC HAHN—PIONEER JEWISH TEXTILE MANUFACTURER

Isaac Hahn, the father of the late Justice J. Jerome Hahn, was the first Jewish textile manufacturer in Rhode Island. A brief sketch of his career appeared in the *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes* 4:517, November 1965. Hahn, a native of New York City, opened a retail store dealing in kid gloves, laces, and dress trimmings at 148 Westminster Street in Providence (later 175 Westminster Street) around 1870. His retail store was not listed in the City Directory subsequent to 1886.

About 1884 he became treasurer of the National Tubing Company, "Manufacturers of Flexible Tubing For Gas Portables, Gas Stoves, Speaking Tubes, Elevators, and Medicinal Purposes," according to an advertisement appearing in the *Rhode Island Business Directory* for 1890 (Briggs Co., Boston, publishers). Samuel Barr, secretary and later treasurer of the company, claimed to be the holder of relevant patents issued in 1881, 1883, and 1884. As noted in the advertisement of 1885, Hahn was also listed as president of the corporation. It is suspected that Barr supplied the technology and Hahn the capital.

From 1889, Hahn was also listed as a manufacturer of braids. Both processes, i.e. the braids and the net-like covering of the rubber tubes, were related narrow fabrics. Barr removed to New York City about 1890, after which Hahn remained as apparent proprietor of both enterprises, at least through 1904, and probably until his death in 1909. The National Tubing Company, at first located on Dyer Street, later removed to Sabin Street. Several locations are listed for his several enterprises but 43 Sabin Street was Hahn's headquarters from 1893 until his death. In 1894, according to Davison's *The Blue Book of Textile Manufacturers*, Hahn was listed as a manufacturer of braids, employing 75 hands, and operating 1,100 braiders. Whether this involved only one or both enterprises is not clear. In any case it would appear that he ran a fairly respectable business.

As stated elsewhere, prior to his death on March 12, 1909 he also had become a very substantial operator in real estate and mortgages. (See also page 254 of this issue and opposite page.)—Ed.