



HARRY LOUIS ETSCHOVITZ
FORT KENT and BANGOR

Harry Louis Etscovitz, 79, died unexpectedly Oct. 30, 2000, at his home.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 8, 1920, the son of Jacob and Bessie (Plesset) Etscovitz.

Harry lived his entire life in Fort Kent. He graduated valedictorian from Fort Kent High School, and was the first graduate of this school to attend Harvard College, from which he graduated with honors in 1942. While at Harvard, he was a student and confidante to the renowned Professor Harry Wolfson. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a very active and devoted citizen of the Fort Kent community. Harry owned and operated Etscovitz Chevrolet and Valley Motors from 1945 to 1986. He was co-owner of the Fort Kent Telephone Co.; president of Esco Potato Brokerage Company and president of Etscovitz Potato Company. Harry was a member of many civic organizations including the Fort Kent Town Council; a member and past president of the Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce; trustee of the Fort Kent Library; and a member of the UMFK Foundation Board.

Harry provided more than 30 years of faithful, devoted and valuable service to the Board of Directors of Northern Maine Medical Center. He was first appointed to the Board in 1971 and served on the executive committee and the finance committee and was instrumental in negotiating the sale of the Little Franciscan Sisters of Mary Hospital to a lay board in 1975. Harry's interest in health care activities prevailed throughout the course of his life and he was involved in many activities and represented the hospital at board meetings throughout the state. A charter member of the Fort Kent Golf Club, Harry was also an active member of the Bridge Club, the Maine Automobile Association; former member of the Lions Club; and a member for more than 50 years of the Fort Kent Masonic Lodge No. 209 AF & AM.

Harry was the recipient of numerous awards, some of which include the Fort Kent Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Kent Citizenship Award in 1972 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of business, civic and youth opportunities for the town of Fort Kent and surrounding areas; the board of trustees of the Northern Maine Medical Center in recognition of 14 years of outstanding service and leadership.

Harry and Marilyn both received a dedication award for outstanding dedication to the Fort Kent Golf Club in 1995. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from the University of Maine at Fort Kent in 1984 and a 25 year award from the Chevrolet Co. for continuous service.

Harry was a tireless volunteer for the Red Cross and the partnership for Tobacco Free Maine. Harry was a confidante to numerous business people in the Valley who frequently sought his advice regarding financial, business and personal matters. His door was always open to people from all walks of life. He and his dear wife, Marilyn, maintained a home steeped in Jewish tradition, which was referred to as a Citadel of Judaism in Northern Maine. Several years ago he erected a historic monument on the site of a synagogue, commemorating the early Jewish settlers of Fort Kent, who established their residency here at the turn of the century. Harry had a great love for his community as exemplified by his actions.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 47 years, Marilyn (Goldman) Etscovitz of Fort Kent; he was a devoted father to his daughter, Nancy Ann Etscovitz and her husband, Philip Moll of Bedford; adoring grandfather to their twin sons, Ira Jacob and Evan Noah Moll; his brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Eli and Irma Etscovitz; his sister and brother-in-law, Rose Leah and Dr. Albert Kazis; a brother-in-law, Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman of New York City; and a brother-in-law, Allan and his wife, Kat Goldman of Bonita Springs, Fla.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Jewish Funeral Chapel, Center St., Bangor. Burial will be in Beth Israel Cemetery. Gifts in his memory may be sent to the Harry and Marilyn Etscovitz Nursing Scholarship Fund, care of the President's Office, University of Maine at Fort Kent, 25 Pleasant St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. A service of Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor.