

William A. Heilprin, 93, Headed Franklin Optical

William A. Heilprin, 93, a former president of the Franklin Optical Co. founded here by his grandfather in 1855, died Sunday in Sibley Memorial Hospital. He lived on Van Ness Street NW.

BEFORE becoming president of the optical firm in 1937, Mr. Heilprin made important contributions in precision die making for cartridges and cartridge cases for World War I use. He also was associated here with the inventor Emile Berliner in several projects.

The Franklin Optical Co. was founded by Isaac Heilprin, whose son, Giles F. later became president of the firm. William Heilprin sold the business, now on Connecticut Avenue NW, and retired in 1966. He owned an uncashed check given to the firm by President Lincoln for a pair of glasses.

A District native, Mr. Heilprin grew up in the family home across from the Smithsonian Institution on the present site of L'Enfant Plaza. He was a cadet at old Central High School before attending Harvard University where he was graduated cum laude in 1901.

Several years later he moved to Philadelphia and manufactured BB guns until World War I. After the war he operated the Arrow Machinery Co. in Philadelphia.

MR. HEILPRIN was an organizer of the Dispensing Opticians of Greater Washington and a member of the Washington Guild of Opticians. He also belonged to the D.C. Historical Society and the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District.

He leaves his wife, the former Lucille Turpia; a son, Laurence L., of College Park; a daughter, Emily, of Miami, four sisters and two grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow in Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home, 5130 Wisconsin Ave. NW, with burial in National Memorial Park.

** Mich. H.'s only
brother*