

Remembering Isear Greenblatt

BY BOB KALISH

Times Record Staff

BATH — Isear Greenblatt, who ran Greenblatt's Appliances for about 50 years on Front Street, was remembered today as a "man who didn't smile much, but made others smile."

Don Povich, whose store Povich's Menswear was a neighbor to Greenblatt's for 50 years, remembered his friend and neighbor, who died Saturday, as "a good man, very reliable, with a tremendous sense of humor, even though he was not the kind that smiled often."

Povich said Greenblatt would come to work early and leave late, and knew how to please customers.

"He was very involved in the community," Povich recalled. "He took an active part in civic affairs."

Greenblatt's store sold paint, wallpaper, appliances and art supplies in the days when small businesses were the rule rather than the exception.

"He was a great ally of the downtown community," Jayne Palmer, owner of Gediman's and a leader of the Bath Business Association, recalled. "He was quiet, respectful, but he had a definite opinion about downtown retail business."

After serving in the Marines during World War II, during which he was wounded on Guadalcanal, Greenblatt joined

his brother Abraham at the store in 1947. After his brother's death, he ran the store until his retirement in 1997. In 1959, the building housing the store and two others burned, but Greenblatt's rose from the ashes and his business continued.

"It was an old two-story wooden building," recalled Sarah Greenblatt, Isear's sister-in-law who helped run the store. "And we had an appliance store in one part, a paint and wallpaper store in the other, and a tailor shop, too. When it burned down, we rebuilt it and combined it into one store."

He was buried Monday in Mount Sinai Cemetery in Portland.



Isear Greenblatt