

Lowell Frautschi dies at 95

■ Civic leader ran family furniture store and funeral home for decades.

Madison civic and business leader Lowell Frautschi died Thursday at age 95.

A lifelong Madisonian, Frautschi ran his family's furniture store and funeral home for decades. Throughout his life, he was active in the civic doings of his hometown.

Born in 1905, Frautschi was an undergraduate and a graduate student at UW-Madison in the late

1920s. He was president of the Student Union board and ran a campaign that raised a record amount for the construction of the Memorial Union. He helped lay the cornerstone for the building.

After college, Frautschi joined the Frautschi Furniture Store on King Street. He was the store's manager before it closed in 1978. He was also involved in the Frautschi Funeral Service. Both businesses resulted from the cabinetry skills of his Swiss-immigrant grandfather, Christian.

His civic activities included being president of the Memorial

Union Building Association, as well as being on the boards of the University YMCA, Pres House and the UW Arboretum. He was also committed to the United Way and Community Union.

Frautschi was married to the former Grace Clark, who died in 1989. He is survived by three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Frautschi's family name is well-known in Madison. His nephew is Jerry Frautschi, whose private Overture Foundation has promised \$100 million to create a Downtown arts district.