

LOCAL DEATHS

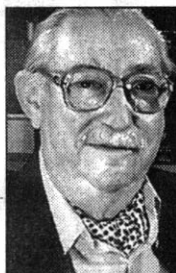
Milton Kort: Pharmacist was local whiz at magic

By JEANNE MAY
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Milton Kort, a pharmacist with a passion for magic, died of pneumonia Friday at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

He was 85 and lived in Birmingham.

Mr. Kort made his living in a pharmacy, but magic was his life.



Milton Kort

"Up until just a month or so ago, he would appear every Monday night at a magic club in Lake Orion," fellow magician Ron Bauer said Friday. "He would sit around

and help young magicians — and old magicians, too."

That was Mr. Kort's way.

"He wasn't really actively performing," said his daughter, Sandra Kort. "He loved magic, and it was a great hobby, but he was a big family man who didn't travel much, so magicians came here to see him."

Mr. Kort was born in Detroit, grew up in the city and earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy at Lawrence Technological Univer-

sity. He enlisted in the Army during World War II and became a supply sergeant, serving in this country.

After the war, he settled down to pharmacy work, getting his first job at Mac's Cut-Rate Drugs, then working for Cunningham's Drugs, both in Detroit.

In the late 1950s, he opened Kort's Drugs, at Southfield and Tireman in Detroit, and ran it until the mid-1960s, when the placement of freeway exits diverted customers from his store.

He went to work for Kale's Drugstore, a pharmacy in Detroit's Sinai Hospital. As he grew older, he worked part-time and finally retired in the late 1980s.

He wrote two books on magic — "Kort Is Now in Session" and "Off-Color Card Tricks." Stephen Minch wrote a book about him, "The Magic of Milt Kort."

Besides his daughter, survivors include his wife, Reva; another daughter, Janice Borgne; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at the Ira Kaufman Chapel, 18325 W. Nine Mile Road, Southfield, with burial in Machpelah Cemetery, Ferndale.

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