

**ROBERT H. COMEY, 73,
BURIED HERE TODAY** No 1

**First Straw Bleachery in U.S.
Started by Him Here 45
Years Ago**

Robert H. Comey, 73, who established the first factory in this country in Camden 45 years ago for the dyeing and bleaching of military and men's straw hats, was buried in Hartsigh Cemetery today.

Mr. Comey died Monday at his home, 8121 Shore road, Brooklyn. His death was the result of a heart attack and followed a little more than a month that of his wife.

Mr. Comey's plant was at Viola street and the West Jersey & Seaboard Railroad and was at one time among the largest industries in the city, employing several hundred men. As the business grew the company established plants in Brooklyn, Amherst, Mass., Toronto, Chicago and St. Louis.

During the World War the plant's business was hit by a government ruling limiting railroad shipments of raw products to it. The result was that Mr. Comey enlarged the Brooklyn plant, inasmuch as the bulk of his market was concentrated about New York.

Several years later the plant here was shut down. The building is now occupied by several other concerns and is owned by LeRoy A. Goodwin, of Gloucester, vice chairman of the Camden County Park Commission, who was secretary-treasurer of the Comey company and who was connected with the concern for 24 years.

The Comey firm is still one of the largest of its kind in the country, Mr. Comey's son, Paul Van A. Comey, being president.

Mr. Comey resided for many years on Second street above Penn, later moving to Wehonah, where he built a beautiful home. Ten years ago when he moved to Brooklyn, he sold his Wehonah home to Belford G. Royal, at that time an official of the Victor Talking Machine Co.

During his residence here, Mr. Comey was prominent in the affairs of the North Baptist Church. He was a director of the Y. M. C. A. and a director of the old National State Bank.

After moving to Wehonah both he and his wife took an active part in civic and religious affairs there, he still being an elder of the Wehonah Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Comey is the third director of the Pitman Grove Camp Meeting to die within several months. He is said to have been one of the largest stockholders in the camp meeting association.

Besides his son, he is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Henrietta S. Squier and Mrs. Miriam C. Adams.

HUGO FUNERAL TOMORROW

Robert H. Comey, 73, Buried

Clipped By:



bob_thomas_wk
Thu, Apr 8, 2021