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**Deceased: JACK HEINEN, GAVE UP BASEBALL FOR FAMILY GROCERY BUSINESS**

**Date: June 26, 1994**

It might be every man's dream - an offer to play major league baseball.

But John (Jack) J. Heinen, who had established a minor league record for pitching 17 consecutive hitless innings, wanted a career that would last more than a few years.

So he turned down the Boston Red Sox's offer and joined the family business - Heinen's Super Markets - which had been established by his father, Joseph H., in 1929.

Jack Heinen never regretted his action. "If I had stayed in baseball I'd have been retired a long time ago," he said in a Cleveland Press article in 1981. "It (a baseball career) is a very short life. What do you do when you're 33 and retired?"

Mr. Heinen, 66, of Shaker Heights, died Friday at Cleveland Clinic of complications of a stroke suffered June 12.

He had a lifelong career at Heinen's and was president at the time of his death. But his minor league baseball record still stands.

Mr. Heinen was born in Cleveland and graduated from University School in 1946.

He graduated from Stanford University in 1951 and was signed by the Boston Red Sox as a pitcher.

He played one year on Boston's AA Farm Team on the West Coast, and his record was 19-7.

He also played for a short time for Boston's AAA farm team in Kentucky until he was drafted in 1952 by the Army. He served two years. He kept his pitching skills sharp by playing on regimental teams.

After completing his Army service, he had to decide whether to return to baseball or join his father's company. "Father said very little," he said in the Press interview. "He thought baseball was a great game ... for kids."

Once he joined Heinen's, Mr. Heinen oversaw the expansion of the business from three stores to the 11 that now operate in Greater Cleveland.

He served as president for more than 25 years.

He was chosen Cleveland Food Retailer of the Year in 1971 when he was 42 - the youngest man ever selected for the award.

Mr. Heinen's charitable contributions were numerous. He started Heinen's annual Cancer Control Day for the American Cancer Society. It has raised more than $400,000 for the organization.

He helped organize the food industry's support to establish The Cleveland Foodbank.

Mr. Heinen was a board trustee at Bank One.

Mr. Heinen was an avid golfer, and he made four holes-in-one, all at Shaker Heights Country Club, where he was a member.

He is survived by a daughter, Barbara MacDonald of Greenwich, Conn.; sons, J. Jeffrey of Hunting Valley and Thomas J. of Chagrin Falls; four grandchildren; two brothers; and two sisters.

Services will be private.

Arrangements are being handled by Brown Forward funeral home in Shaker Heights.

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*Page: 10B*

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