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Stephen Meyers, 53, a Founder Of a Mass-Market Law Firm: 33

By ROBERT MCG. THOMAS Jr.

Stephen Z. Meyers, the visionary legal practitioner who helped revolutionize the practice of law as a founder of Jacoby & Meyers, the nation's first mass market law firm, was killed Friday night when the car he was driving collided with a delivery truck on a winding country road in New Fairfield, Conn. He was 53.

Mr. Meyers was driving his 27-year-old stepdaughter, Brooke Harmon Berryman, from New York to his weekend home in West Cornwall, Conn., when the accident occurred shortly before 7 P.M. on Route 37 near the Sherman town line. Mrs. Berryman, who lives in Middletown, Conn., suffered a broken leg and other injuries.

The death of Mr. Meyers caused shock and consternation on two coasts — in Los Angeles, where he and his U.C.L.A. law school classmate, Leonard G. Jacoby, created their innovative storefront firm in 1972, and in New York, where Mr. Meyers and his second wife, Millie Harmon Meyers, have been social leaders since they moved to the city in 1984.

The penthouse apartment in the Flatiron district of Manhattan, where the couple had entertained often and well, was transformed into a center of mourning for the prominent and powerful yesterday as well-known friends, like Jeff Greenfield and Cokie Roberts, the television newscasters, and Mickey Kantor, the United States trade repre-

An accident on a winding country road continues to be investigated.

sentative, came to console Mrs. Meyers, the former volunteer coordinator for the Clinton-Gore Presidential campaign. She is now a protocol officer for Madeline K. Albright, the chief United States representative to the United Nations.

In Los Angeles, Mr. Jacoby, who had recently reached what he described as an amicable resolution of a well-publicized business dispute with Mr. Meyers, recalled the days when they were two young lawyers who shook the legal profession to its genteel foundations.

Realizing that both the very rich and the very poor had ample access to the legal profession, the two lawyers set their sights on the vast middle ground of America. The storefront legal clinic they established in Van Nuys, Calif., in 1972 created an immediate local sensation, and five years later, when their innovative, high-profile practice helped lead to a Supreme Court ruling that lawyers and other professionals had the right to advertise, they became the first to make their pitch on television.

The firm eventually grew to some



David Strick, 1979-90

Stephen Z. Meyers

300 lawyers in 150 offices in 6 states, but their very success, which spawned a vast array of low-cost imitators, forced a significant retrenchment in recent years as the firm took a new direction specializing in personal injury cases.

Both Mr. Jacoby and Gail Koff, the firm's low-profile New York partner, said the firm was now thriving again and would continue.

In addition to his wife and stepdaughter, Mr. Meyers is survived by a daughter from his first marriage, Jessica Slack of Marin County, Calif.; two other stepdaughters, Victoria Harmon of Washington and Elise Harmon of San Francisco; his father, Frederick Harmon of Hilton Head, Calif., and a sister, Sarah Allen, of North Hanover, Vt.

Ken Doherty, 90, Longtime Penn Relays Director

By FRANK LITSKY

Ken Doherty, a track and field athlete, coach and author and the longtime director of the Penn Relays, died Friday in Lancaster, Pa. He was 90.

Doherty was tall, slim and scholarly looking. From 1956 to 1969, he served as meet director of the Penn Relays, a three-day, almost nonstop logistical marvel of running, jumping and throwing events that became the world's largest track and field rival.

He would sit on a wooden platform at the northwest corner of the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field, with telephones in front of him for incoming with calls

first such assignment came in the 1935 Big Ten championships at Columbus, Ohio, where, in a 45-minute span, Jesse Owens of Ohio State broke five world records and equaled a sixth. From 1959 to 1967, he was the meet director of The Philadelphia Inquirer Games, a major indoor competition. In 1959 in Philadelphia, he was the meet director of the first dual meet between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Ed Fabricus, an associate with the Penn Relays, recalled him as "a very thorough man with a stubborn streak." "When Bruce Dern, the actor, was a Penn half-miler," Fabricus said, "Ken kicked him off the team because he wouldn't cut his

both from the University of Michigan.

In 1928 and 1929, when the 10 events that make up the decathlon were contested in one day instead of the present two, he won the national championship. In the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, he won the bronze medal in the decathlon.

He was an assistant track coach at Princeton (1929-30) and Michigan (1930-39) and head coach at Michigan (1939-48) and Pennsylvania (1948-58). His books included "Track and Field Omnibook" and "Modern Track and Field," highly regarded instructional manuals.

He conducted track clinics in the Soviet Union, Finland, Canada and