RI Herald 10-5-73

OTTO SEIDNER

Funeral services for Otto Seidner, 79, a Westerly mayonnaise manufacturer who turned his small business into a national corporation, were held Tuesday at the Harvey W. Buckler Funeral Home in Westerly. Mr. Seidner died on September 29. Burial was in the Sons of Israel and David Cemetery.

Mr. Seidner was the husband of Gertrude Seidner. He was born in Stonington, Connecticut, a son of the late Jacob and Emma Seidner.

A major innovator in the processed food industry, he developed and directed the family delicatessen and mayonnaise business and bottled potato salad company until 1970.

He expanded the Stonington delicatessen of the newly arrived immigrant Jacob Seidner to Mystic, Connecticut, in 1919, when he began to produce mayonnaise on a commercial scale. Moving the plant to Friendship Drive in Westerly in 1921, Mr. Seidner expanded the business by manufacturing the first hermetically sealed bottled potato salad.

In 1933, Admiral Richard Byrd brought Seidner's mayonnaise on his South Pole expedition, claiming it was one of the best in nutritional value.

His son Arnold, who managed the business until it was sold to a Providence firm in July, credited his father with, "maintaining by sheer force of personality and character, a small business despite difficulties in today's economic climate."

An avid yachtsman and sports fisherman, Mr. Seidner was a founding member of the Westerly Yacht Club which named him honorary commodore in 1971. He often shared the magnificent yachts, all named Muriel, with community groups like the Boy Scouts and the YMCA.

Active in the war effort during World War II, he gave his 46-foot cruiser, the Muriel III, to the U.S. Coast Guard as part of the auxiliary fleet. Refitted in Boston, the yacht patrolled coastal shores. Mr. Seidner was named commander of the Rhode Island Area Coast Guard Auxiliary and held the rank of lieutenant during the war.

SEIDNER, OTTO

Mr. Seidner was one of Westerly's outstanding citizens and was deeply involved in community affairs as a founding member of the Westerly YMCA and as a trustee of the Westerly Hospital. He was an original officer of the Rhode Island Cancer Association and donated land for a scout camp in nearby Queguataug.

During the 1950s Mr. Seidner was director of the New England Council, president of the Mayonnaise and Salad Manufacturers Association and chairman of the committee which planned the Westerly police station.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Masonic Officers Club, the Sojourners.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, are a daughter, Muriel Dove of Mailbu, California, and a son, Arnold Seidner of Denver, Colorado, and a sister, Olga Friedman of California.

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Seidner, OTO

The Providence Journal C-19
Sunday, September 30, 1973

Otto Seidner dies at age 79; mayonnaise manufacturer

Otto Seidner, a Westerly mayonnaise manufacturer who turned a neighborhood business into a national food corporation, died yesterday at the Westerly Hospital. He was 79.

Husband of Gertrude Seidner, he was born July 18, 1894, in Stonington Conn., a son of the late Jacob and Emma (Beck) Seidner. He lived on Oceanview Highway in the Watch Hill section and was Westerly's leading businessman for half a century.

A major innovator in the processed food industry, he developed and directed the family delicatessen and mayonnaise business and bottled potato salad company until 1970.

He expanded the Stonington delicatessen of newly arrived immigrant Jacob Seidner to Mystic, Conn., in 1919, when he began to produce mayonnaise on a commercial scale. Moving to a plant on Friendship Drive, Westerly, in 1921, Mr. Seidner expanded the business by manufacturing the first hermetically sealed bottled potato salad.

In 1933, Adm. Richard Byrd brought Seidner's mayonaise on his South Pole expedition, claiming it was one of the best in nutritional values.

His son Arnold, who managed the business until it was sold to a Providence firm in July, credited his father with "maintaining by sheer force of personality and character, a small business despite the difficulties of today's economic climate."

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Mr. Seidner, one of Westerly's outstanding citizens, was deeply involved in community affairs as a founding member of the Westerly YMCA and as a trustee of the Westerly Hospital. He was an original officer of the Rhode Island Cancer Association and donated land for a Cub Scout camp in nearby Queguataug.

During the 1950s, Mr. Seidner was director of the New England Council, president of the Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing Manufacturers Association and chairman of the committee which planned the Westerly police station.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Masonic Officers Club, the Sojourners.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, are a daughter, Mrs. Murial Dove of Malibu, Calif., and a son, Arnold Seidner of Denver, and a sister, Mrs. Olga Friedman of California.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Harvey W. Buckler Funeral Home, 121 Main St., Westerly. Burial will be in the Beth-El Synagogue Cemetery, Providence.

SEIDNER, OTTO