

[Flickinger, Smith M.]

S. M. FLICKINGER OF BUFFALO DIES AT 74; FUNERAL THURSDAY

Head of Wholesale Food Company Linked with 1,800 Retail Grocery Stores

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Funeral services for Smith M. Flickinger, president of the Flickinger Wholesale Food company, will be held here Thursday. He was 74.

Mr. Flickinger died of peritonitis at a Miami Beach, Fla., hospital yesterday. His death ended a Horatio Alger career from a 21-year-old farm boy earning \$7 a week to head of a wholesale food company linked with 1,800 Red and White retail grocery stores in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Flickinger established his first retail store in Buffalo in 1902. Later he entered the wholesale business and in 1918 established a chain of retail food stores.

The far-sighted businessman did not forget, however, the independent retailers and instead of attempting to drive them out of business, encouraged and helped them.

This was done by his origination in 1921 of the Red and White store plan, destined to make business history and expand from coast to coast and from the Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico.

Red and White stores are independently owned and operated, yet retain the economic benefits of the chain store through central supply houses.

For awhile, Mr. Flickinger continued the operation of his Flickinger stores, supplying them and the Red and White stores in this district at the same time.

All the time the managers were being given increasingly greater interests in their stores. By 1928 the managers were permitted to take over a degree of interest so as to permit them 75 per cent of the profit. By 1934 all Flickinger Stores had become Red and White stores and the Flickinger company now acts solely as a supply house for the several hundred Red and White stores in this district.

Mr. Flickinger belonged to Buffalo Country club, the Park club, the Buffalo club, the Congressional Country club of Washington, D.C., the Niagara Falls Country club, the Kahwa Country club of Erie, Pa., Buffalo Athletic club and Rotary club of Buffalo. He was a member of the Universalist Church of the Messiah.

Niagara Falls Gazette, Niagara Falls NY, Mon. 3 Apr 1939

[Flickinger, Smith M.]

Obituary

Smith M. Flickinger

Smith M. Flickinger, of 68 Rumsey Rd., Buffalo, N.Y., died Sunday, April 2, in St. Francis Hospital, Miami Beach, Fla., after a week's illness. He was seventy-four years of age.

Of German parentage, the son of Michael and Mary Seible Flickinger, he was born July 8, 1864, in Sardinia, N.Y., was orphaned at two and adopted by a neighboring family. On leaving school he worked on a farm for two years, when he moved to Buffalo and there obtained a position with a grocery jobber at \$7 per week. He gradually acquired his own store and in time entered the wholesale grocery business, in which he became known nationally. In 1918 he started a system of chain stores, which within five years had 375 units. He also founded the Red and White Stores system for independent retailers, which now includes 8000 stores. At the time of his death he was president of S.M. Flickinger Co. Inc. He was named by President Roosevelt in 1933 to the Advisory Committee on Foods. In 1934 he was elected president of the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, which he also served as director.

In 1892 he married Louise M. Nassal of Buffalo and they had three sons. He is survived by his wife, two sons, Burt P. and Glenn W., four grandchildren, a brother, William F. of Buffalo, a half-brother, George S. Flickinger of San Diego, Cal., and a half-sister, Mrs. Albert Sissaman of Boston.

He was born a Lutheran. After his marriage, however, he became active in the Universalist Church of the Messiah and united with this church at Easter, 1928, in the first year of the pastorate of Dr. Bruce Swift.

Interment was conducted at Foret Lawn Cemetery and services were conducted at the chapel there on April 6 by Dr. Swift.

Mr. Flickinger in his will made many generous bequests for social, educational and charitable purposes. He created a trust fund of \$10,000, to be held by the New York Universalist Convention [the NY State Convention of Universalists] providing an annual income for the Buffalo Universalist church, and left \$1000 to the ministers' pension fund of the State Convention.

The Christian Leader, Boston MA, Fri. 22 Apr 1939