

Carl G. Hedblom, Shipbuilder

Passes Away at 89 Years

Carl G. Hedblom, well known Woburn resident for well over a half century, passed away Thursday, October 16th at 89 years of age. He was the founder of the General Ship and Engine Works of Boston, and of the Winnepesaukee Steamship Company, and was the owner of the famed M.V. Mount Washington, an excursion liner which still plies the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire.

Mr. Hedblom was a resident of 620 Main Street, Woburn with a daughter Mrs. J. Douglas (June) Brown, but for some time had been residing with another daughter Mrs. Carl G. (Ruth) Roessler at 162 Salem Street.

Born in Helleback, Denmark, Mr. Hedblom came to the United States as a young man, and had



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CARL G. HEDBLOM

Hedblom—

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taken up residence in Woburn in 1905.

Starting here as a bicycle repairman in a small shop at his home, Mr. Hedblom rose to the shipbuilding industry and during World War 2, his firm was highly instrumental in the defense effort at his East Boston shipyard.

His magnitude as an industrialist, however, never appeared in his personality, and despite the fact he was the owner and founder, he could wield a welder's torch or perform other tasks the same as the men on the line.

Mr. Hedblom at the time of his death was still chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Ship and Engine Works of East Boston.

He was the husband of the late Sophie C. (Jensen) Hedblom, who passed away many years ago.

Mr. Hedblom was active in the civic life of the community and was a past incorporator of the East Boston Savings Bank.

He was an active member of the Woburn Rotary Club and up until a few years ago rarely missed a meeting.

Over the years, he had been host each summer to the Rotary at his summer home in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire for their annual outing.

He was the first to receive the Woburn YMCA "Man of the Year Award" for the numerous contributions he had made to that organization, mainly concerned with the youth of the area.

While he was an active Rotarian, Mr. Hedblom served as host on numerous occasions to the Woburn Lions Club in their early years, and each summer for a period of five years attended their summer meetings.

He was also active in the affairs of the city itself, having served as a member of the city's first Planning Board. He was also a Trustee of the Choate Memorial Hospital and was vitally interested in the programs of the hospital for many years.

Mr. Hedblom spent his leisure time on the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, and his pride was his own

boat "The General".

He founded the Lake Winnepesaukee Steamship Company, owners of the Mount Washington, the Sophie C. and the Doris E., all excursion boats which attract thousands of tourists each year.

One of his major feats was the dismantling of the famed boat on Lake Champlain, taking it over the road in sections, putting it together again at Lakeport in Laconia, New Hampshire, and bringing it into the "big" Lake where it is still in use.

While his age forced his retirement to a degree, he spent many hours in his workshop where he built items like Grandfather Clocks and numerous other household items of wood.

An active member of the First Congregational Church, Mr. Hedblom was also active in the Baalbec Lodge of Chelsea and the Mount Horeb Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Woburn. He was the first honorary member of the Baalbec Lodge.

His activities in the shipbuilding industry involved membership in the Mass. Consistory, the Port of Boston Marine Square Club; the Boston Marine Society

the Boston Propellor Club, the Aleppo Temple Shrine, the Middlesex County Bookkeepers Society, the Danish Brotherhood of America and the Merrimack Valley Shrine Club.

In Woburn he served as chairman of the American Cancer Society fund drive on two occasions and had been active on other phases of that annual campaign for many years.

Surviving are a son Byron C. Hedblom of Weirs Beach, New Hampshire, two daughters Mrs. Carl G. (Ruth) Roessler and Mrs. J. Douglas (June) Brown, both of Woburn, seven grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at his late home, 609 Main St., Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock.

Friends may call at the home Saturday afternoon and evening. Arrangements are by the Everett J. Birby Funeral Home.

Texas had 20,167 registered nurses in 1965.

Energy consumption in the United States has increased more than 80 per cent in the past 20 years.