

# Mrs. Walter Seeger Suffers Stroke, Dies

Mrs. Walter Seeger, 68, wife of the St. Paul industrialist, died early Sunday morning at the Perham, Minn., hospital.



She suffered a stroke at the Seeger summer home on Dead lake, 16 miles southwest of Perham. She and Mr. Seeger, chairman of the board of Seeger Refrigerator Co., returned a week ago from a trip through Glacier Park.

Born in Carroll, Iowa, Mrs.

Seeger was a longtime resident of St. Paul. The Seeger home is at 2165 Lower St. Dennis rd. The Seegers were married in 1909.

Survivors are her husband; a step-father, George Wilhelmie of Cashmere, Wash.; three daughters, Mrs. Robert Reay of St. Paul, Mrs. John Tearse of Winona and Mrs. Robert Wolterstorff of LaJolla, Calif., and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mrs. Seeger will be at 2 p. m. Tuesday in Messiah Episcopal church, Ford and Macalester. Burial will be in Acacia cemetery. The funeral is being directed by Dampier-Baird and visitation will begin at 3 p. m. today.

## Seeger Bequests Reported

Mrs. Walter G. Seeger, wife of the chairman of the board of the Seeger Refrigerator Co., left \$20,000 to St. Paul church and hospital organizations, the filing of a petition to prove her will revealed today.

The petition, filed by the First Trust Co., the executor, estimated Mrs. Seeger's estate as "in excess of \$150,000."

The Church of the Messiah will receive \$5,000; St. Luke's hospital, \$2,500; the Church Home of Minnesota, \$5,000; Children's Hospital association, \$2,500, and Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, \$5,000.

After bequests to her husband and to household servants the remainder of the estate is left in trust for the benefit of three daughters, Mrs. Dorothea Luse Tearse, of Winona; Mrs. Miriam Ienza Reay, of 1359 Edgumbe, and Mrs. Helen Elvira Wolterstorff, of La Jolla, Calif.

The Seeger family home is at 2165 Lower St. Denis road. Mrs. Seeger died Aug. 28.

Aug. 29, 1938.  
**Civic Leader  
Here, Dies**

**Refrigerator Co.  
Founder Was Nearly  
85 Years Old**

John A. Seeger, active for many years in civic affairs and founder of the Seeger Refrigerator Co. here, died Sunday in his residence at 667 East Fifth street.

Mr. Seeger, who had been in ill health for nearly a year, would have been 85 years old December 19.

Throughout his business career of more than 65 years here he took a prominent part in the civic progress of the city and his rise to industrial leadership paralleled the gains made by St. Paul as a community.

At the time of his death he was chairman of the board of The Seeger Refrigerator Co. and the Anchor Casualty Co. and a member of the board of directors of the Empire National bank.

Coming here as a youth from Covington, Ky., where he was born in 1854, he was educated in St. Paul schools. His first job was that of an apprentice in the office of a contractor, builder and architect.

In 1872 he was made a member of the building firm and the name was changed to the Leonard-Seeger Co. During the five years he was in the construction business, the firm built several buildings, including the Assumption church and the old St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co. structure, the latter recently razed to widen Kellogg boulevard.

Dissolving the partnership, Mr. Seeger became associated with the Bohn Manufacturing Co., engaged in the manufacturing of sash, door and interior woodwork. He ad-



**JOHN A. SEEGER**

# **John A. Seeger Dies at 84**

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vanced to the presidency of the firm and remained with the company until 1905.

In 1900, realizing the growing importance of the refrigeration industry, he organized the Seeger-Galasch Refrigerator Co. The company's first plant was at Seventh and Kittson streets. It soon outgrew that site and a modern factory was built at 850 Arcade street.

Under his guidance the business has become the largest of its kind in the United States and produces more than 15 per cent of the industry's total number of refrigerators.

He was one of the leaders in 1923 in sponsoring the sixteen million dollar bond issue, the passage of which enabled the city to build the present City Hall and Court-house; improve and enlarge the Auditorium and develop Kellogg boulevard.

Mr. Seeger was elected in 1922 to the presidency of the St. Paul Association and was re-elected in 1923.

He was an ardent supporter of state and Federal laws seeking to moderate the liquor industry and, although he was opposed to prohibition, advocated conservative administration of the liquor laws.

Shortly after adoption of the Eighteenth amendment, Mr. Seeger became active in the Moderation League of Minnesota, an organization seeking to repeal the Volstead Act. His stand on the wet-dry question was constantly used against him and became the issue in the campaign for his re-election as president of the St. Paul Association in 1923.

Mr. Seeger is the father of Walter G. Seeger, who is president of the Refrigerator Co. Walter Seeger is president of the St. Paul Baseball club.

He was a member of numerous civic, fraternal and social organizations, which included the Town and Country club, the Athletic club, the Daytons Bluff Commercial club and the Los Angeles Country club. He was a former

member of the Minnesota club. Active in masonry he was a member of the St. Paul Lodge No. 3, A. F. and A. M., the Scottish Rite, Knights Templar and Osman Temple shrine. He was one of the oldest living members of the Shrine in St. Paul.

Mr. Seeger is survived by his widow, Elvina; two sons, Walter G. and G. R. Seeger; three daughters, Mrs. L. A. Korfhage and Mrs. E. S. Ahrens, both of St. Paul, and Mrs. C. A. Muessel of Pelham Manor, N. Y.; fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Arrangements had not been completed Sunday night for the funeral services.

# Ex-Whirlpool Head Seeger Dies at 82

Walter G. Seeger, who managed enterprises ranging from Whirlpool Corp. through the St. Paul



Saints baseball club to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, died Monday night in Miller Hospital.

Mr. Seeger, 82, of 2165 Low-

Seeger er St. Dennis Road, had entered the hospital Oct. 14 for treatment of a heart ailment. He died there about 7:15 p.m. of a coronary thrombosis, according to relatives.

He had crowded multiple careers as industrialist, sportsman, civic leader and philanthropist into his long life.

Mr. Seeger was born March 8, 1886 in St. Paul. He got a job as a metalworker in his father's icebox factory in 1907 and became president of Seeger Refrigerator Co. in 1933. A parallel can be found in his later service as director of Great Northern Railway Co. He had worked as a section hand for the road as a boy.

The family firm — a pioneer of electric refrigerators in the 1920s — merged with Whirlpool Corp. in 1955. Mr. Seeger served as board chairman of the combine from 1955 to Jan. 1, 1958. He retired as a Whirlpool director last summer.

Mr. Seeger's interest in sports began when he was a youth. He was an active hockey player for Dayton's Bluff, and he managed an amateur hockey team, the Chinooks, in 1909-10.

He may be more familiar to St. Paul sports fans as president of the St. Paul Saints from 1934 to 1952. His move to build a baseball stadium to replace Lexington Park culminated in construction of Midway Stadium.

In the field of charity, Mr. Seeger took part in the Greater St. Paul Community Chest and Council from its founding in 1920. It gave him an honorary membership on its board of directors in 1959.

He became a trustee of the Shrine's crippled children's hospital in 1932 and was

## Seeger Funeral To Be Friday

Funeral services for Walter G. Seeger, 82, of 2165 Lower St. Dennis Rd., who died Monday in Miller Hospital of a coronary thrombosis, will be held at 11 a.m. Friday in Messiah Episcopal Church, 1631 Ford Pkwy., with burial in Acacia Cemetery.

Mr. Seeger was a St. Paul industrialist who headed a refrigerator company which became part of Whirlpool Corp. in 1955.

Visitation will be after 3 p.m. Thursday in the Willwerscheid & Peters Funeral Home, 1167 Grand Ave.

Mrs. Seeger's family suggested that memorials may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, the endowment fund of Messiah Episcopal Church or to the donor's favorite charity.