

Frank Gerber, Pioneer In Baby Foods Dies



FRANK GERBER

Fremont — Death came October 7 to Frank Gerber, first manager of the Fremont Canning Company which became Gerber Products Company and grew to international fame on account of its baby food business. In recent years he served as chairman of the board of the company as his son Daniel took over the duties of active head of the business.

Mr. Gerber was born January 12 1873, as Douglas, Michigan. His father was interested in lumbering in the early days and moved to Fremont where his son was still a youngster. Frank Gerber attended college at Valparaiso Indiana. In 1901 he became manager of Fremont Canning Company, which had been organized shortly before by his father, with capital of \$10,000. He succeeded his father as president in 1917 and continued in that position until 1946. The business took the name Gerber Products Company in 1941.

The company started its phenomenal growth in 1928, after a Grand Rapids physician, consulted by Mrs. Daniel Gerber, wife of his son, advised that her daughter Sally needed strained vegetables in order to preserve her health and vigor. The physician suggested that perhaps the strained foods could be produced at the canning plant. Soon after that the cannery began making baby foods, and in a few years its whole output was in that field.

This year Gerber Products Company is expected to do \$54,000,000 baby food business. It now has plants in New York and California, and is still expanding.

Frank Gerber was interested in civic, religious and fraternal affairs. He was president of National Cannery Association in 1919 and served on important committees of that organization. He was a member of the National Nutrition Foundation, past president of the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, contributed generously to Gerber Memorial Hospital, was a Mason and an active member of the Christian Science Society of Fremont.

Alonzo P. Walker, well-known Sunfield farmer, died in Hayes-Green-Beach hospital Sunday afternoon. He was born July 3, 1894, in Shiawassee county and in 1921 married Miss Vera Flewelling of Vermontville. They lived in the Sunfield area all their wedded life. He leaves his widow; two brothers, Merle of Sunfield, and Carl of Lansing, and a sister, Mrs. Verna Meyers, Lake Odessa. Burial in the Freemire cemetery.

BERNAL E. SMITH

November 23, 1885

February 22, 1953

Services at

The Colonial Chapel
Estes-Leadley Funeral Home

Wednesday, February 25, 1953 - 2:30 P. M.

Clergyman

Rev. William A. Blanding
Miss Mildred Koonsman, Organist

Interment

CHAPEL HILL MEMORIAL GARDENS

Carl Odell Roy Coleman
Glen Randall William West
William Hoellinger Robert Ross
—Bearers

Brethren, Manistee,
Brevort, Mackinac,
Bridgeport, Saginaw.