

Ziegler Sargent

December 10, 1881 - October 12, 1955

Editorials

New Haven Register
October 13, 1955

Ziegler Sargent exemplified for New Haveners the life of service that need not be spectacular, or even very public, to be productive. He spent his life in supporting the growth and improvement of the family business, of Hopkins Grammar School and Yale University and of New Haven. He will be long remembered for his warm, friendly, and conscientious contributions to the welfare of the people and the institutions with which he was associated.

At Sargent & Company, where he was vice president and treasurer when he retired in 1951, he spent a half-century in the firm's financial departments and his lasting testimonial there is the Sargent retirement plan which was set up along plans he had worked out after long study. At Hopkins Grammar School he had been secretary and treasurer and was a trustee in latter years. He followed his father, who had been a member of the Yale Corporation, in active support of University objectives over the years—and when he retired in 1951 he returned to Yale to work for, and win, the Master of Arts degree which he had neglected to pursue in his early college days.

Mr. Sargent typified the best traditions of New England reserve, responsibility, and lack of pretense. He was retiring in social and business contacts but extremely warm and humane in all relationships once they were established. Throughout his working life he rode the same bicycle daily to the Sargent plant—and he took it with him to Yale when he resumed studies at 70. At Sargent and Company he not only directed the concern's financial programs, he also became the chief custodian of all historical material about the century-old firm.

Ziegler Sargent was a quiet, steady, constructive influence wherever he went. In his passing his family and the community have both lost a heartening personality.

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In the death of Ziegler Sargent, New Haven has lost another link with a proud and constructive community tradition. He was a member of a family which has done much to shape the New Haven that we know today. At the Sargent hardware plant in Water Street, at Yale, at the Hopkins Grammar School, and in a host of other community endeavors, Ziegler Sargent brought to his many duties and voluntary burdens a sense of history, of continuity, of relationship between yesterday and tomorrow.

At Sargent & Company he was for many years the vice president and treasurer of the firm—and the chief conservator of its records and its history. Within his own family he was an ardent genealogist and his small but widely distributed news sheet, "Sargentivia", brought news of family doings to members of the family in all parts of the world. When he retired in 1951, at the age of 69, Mr. Sargent turned to a wider field of history and enrolled at Yale—as its oldest matriculating student—in pursuit of the M. A. which he had not sought in his first years at college. He received this degree last year.

Ziegler Sargent was retiring by nature, but warm and humane in all his relationships. His familiar figure on the same bicycle which he rode summer and winter, for almost 50 years between his Bishop Street home and the Sargent factory, was known to a whole generation of New Haven workmen with whom he shared the trek to the job each day. He gave quiet devotion to his interests in the development of the Sargent family business. The Sargent retirement program which was instituted a few years ago along lines he charted is a testimony to his concern for the men and women with whom he worked. He gave the same devotion in more general terms to Yale, to Hopkins—and to all New Haven. His sincerity, his gentleness, and his alert interest in the common welfare will all be remembered—and missed.

Note: On page 4, "Subscribers" are welcomed to the publication office on Saturday afternoon November 19, after the Yale - Harvard football game. This invitation stands, and tea and cocktails will be served as in the past years.