

# RALPH PULITZER, 60, DIES IN HOSPITAL

Eldest Son of the Founder of  
The New York World Had  
Operation on May 1

FUNERAL HERE TOMORROW

Ex-Publisher, Big-Game Hunter  
and Poet Ran Papers  
After Father's Death

Ralph Pulitzer, former publisher of The New York World and eldest son of its founder, the late Joseph Pulitzer, died at 7:15 o'clock last night in Harkness Pavilion of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center of complications following an abdominal operation performed on May 1. Mr. Pulitzer marked his sixtieth birthday last Sunday.

Mr. Pulitzer, a vice president of the Pulitzer Publishing Company, which publishes The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, had been admitted to the hospital about ten days before he was operated on. He had been under the care of Dr. Alvin L. Barach of 893 Park Avenue and Dr. Charles L. Janssen of 180 Fort Washington Avenue.

At his bedside when he died were his wife, a sister, Mrs. William S. Moore, and two sons, Ralph and Seward.

Funeral services will be held at 11 A. M. tomorrow in St. Thomas Protestant Episcopal Church. Burial will be in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

## Held Various Executive Posts

Ralph Pulitzer, eldest son of the late Joseph Pulitzer, began his career on his father's newspaper shortly after his graduation from Harvard in 1900 and served The World in various executive capacities until a year before that newspaper was sold to the Scripps-Howard interests in February, 1931. Ill health was given as the cause of his retirement at that time by the publisher, big-game hunter and poet, who had inherited his share of the Pulitzer estate on the death of his father in October, 1911.

The elder Pulitzer, who had begun his amazing journalistic career in St. Louis before extending it to the New York field, brought up his sons from the beginning with the idea that they should carry on his newspapers after his death. These papers were The World and The Evening World in New York and The Post-Dispatch in St. Louis.

To Joseph Jr. went the task of publishing The Post-Dispatch. Ralph, shortly after his father's death, assumed the presidency of the Press Publishing Company, which published both the New York journals. Herbert, the youngest of the three Pulitzer sons, served as president during the year's interim between Ralph's retirement and the demise of the once famous newspaper.

## Traveled With Tutors

Ralph Pulitzer was born in St. Louis on June 11, 1879, the son of Joseph and Kate Davis Pulitzer. His earliest education was received from private tutors, with whom he traveled abroad from the age of 12 until he was 16. He then entered St. Mark's School at Southborough, Mass., where he spent two terms preparing for his entrance to Harvard. Upon his graduation with the class of 1900, he came to New York and was put to work in the business office of The World, then in its domed building on Park Row.

His own instincts and his father's wishes had him transferred within a year to the editorial department, where most of his interests thereafter lay. He wrote editorials, after serving briefly as a reporter, until 1906, when he was made vice president of the publishing company. He held this position for two years.

At about this time his father's health began to fail and the blind and aging editor-publisher made out the famous will which contained this clause:

"I particularly enjoin upon my sons and my descendants the duty of preserving, perfecting and perpetuating The World newspaper, to the maintenance and publishing of which I have sacrificed my health and strength, in the same spirit in which I have striven to create and conduct it as a public institution, from motives higher than mere gain, it having been my desire that it should be at all times conducted in a spirit of independence and with a view to inculcating high standards and public spirit among the people and their official representatives; and it is my earnest wish that said newspaper shall hereafter be conducted upon the same principles."

## Inherited Two-tenths of Estate

When death finally claimed the publisher aboard his yacht in Charlestown Harbor, the interests of the sons, as fixed by a codicil made in 1909, gave six-tenths of the estate to Herbert, the youngest son; two-tenths to Ralph and one-tenth to Joseph Jr. The remaining tenth was to be split up among certain editors and managers of the Pulitzer newspapers.

Through a clerical error in the office of William B. Hornblower, counsel to the estate, the name of Ralph Pulitzer was omitted as a trustee. On the night the contents of the will, which disposed of a \$30,000,000 estate, became known, Ralph Pulitzer made this announcement:

"In justice to my father as well as to my own reputation, I wish to state that my father lived and died in the conviction that he had designated me in his will, not only as one of the guardians of my brother Herbert, but as one of the executors and trustees of his estate."

This was corroborated by Mr. Hornblower and shortly thereafter, through an amicable agreement of all the heirs and trustees, Justice Harington Putnam voluntarily resigned his trusteeship and Ralph Pulitzer was appointed in his stead. Thus he became a trustee of The World, The Evening World and The St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Although Herbert Pulitzer had received the lion's share of the estate, he left the major direction of the Press Publishing Company to Ralph, who, soon after being made a trustee, was elected president of the company.

He held this post until Feb. 10, 1930. A short time before that he had appointed Ralph Hayes as his executive assistant and had relin-



Times Wide World, 1926

RALPH PULITZER

quished many of his duties. His health was poor and, after resigning as president and seeing his brother Herbert installed in the post, he went abroad.

## Will Broken by Heirs

Almost a year later Mr. Pulitzer and his brother had the terms of the Pulitzer will broken by court order and the paper was sold to the Scripps-Howard interests, then owner of The New York Telegram. They cited that the paper which their father had published "from motives higher than mere gain" had sustained a loss in the previous year of \$1,970,000. After much court action the sale was consummated and the last issue of New York's famous liberal Democratic newspaper went to press. Efforts to salvage it in behalf of the employees failed and it became a merged part of the new New York World-Telegram.

During Mr. Pulitzer's directorship The World had distinguished itself in many crusades, but the one in which Ralph Pulitzer was most keenly interested was the campaign of exposure of the Ku Klux Klan. The paper took the part of Sacco and Vanzetti in their last fight for a new trial.

In 1934 Mr. Pulitzer was made Newspaper Code Administrator for the NRA. His appointment brought up a storm of protest, led by the newly formed American Newspaper Guild, and late in February of that year he resigned. The guild felt that "nothing in his record as a publisher" justified a belief he had the newspaper employees' interests at heart.

Mr. Pulitzer was twice married. His first wife, whom he married in 1905, was Miss Frederica Vanderbilt Webb. They were divorced in Paris in 1924. In 1928 he married Miss Margaret K. Leech, newspaper writer and, with Heywood Brown, co-author of a biography of Anthony Comstock. By his first marriage, Mr. Pulitzer had two sons, Ralph Jr. and Seward Webb Pulitzer. A girl by the second marriage died of infantile paralysis in France before she was a year old.

Mr. Pulitzer was the author of two books. These were "New York Society on Parade," written in 1909, and "Over the Front in an Airplane," published in 1915. During the war he was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve. His clubs were Harvard, Deepdale Golf, Turf and Field and River. With his brother Herbert, he had made many trips to Africa on big-game hunts. His home was at 450 East Fifty-second Street.