

Arthur Stickney Page Jr. - He was the first!



After taking the agency over from his father, Arthur S. Page Sr., purchased the Old Soldiers and Sailors Hall and moved the agency to its present location at 57 State Street in January of 1960. While the city talked about restoring the downtown and was working toward that goal; the city was in such decay, that the local banks did not dare attempt any financing for their restoration. The mood in those days was to just tear it all down and start anew.

Once he had secured the building, he lead the way as the first businessman to renovate a downtown building with his own money. At that time, this was considered pure folly. Once he had completed the expensive project, he became the standard by which other developers took note. Local businesses began to see the vision that Mr. Page had wrought and began to make efforts. Inspired by Arhur Page's daring, Jonathan J. Woodman, an architect who had a business on Inn Street realized that the city could be a show place for historic preservation and real estate equity would improve considerably. He stated that making that approach, caused his business to thrive and 'that restoration made sense'. After his success, federal money became available through the Urban Renewal Program, and the rejuvenation of downtown Newburyport began in earnest.

"Bill" was born in Newbury to Arthur S. and Ethel M. Page in 1928. He attended Governor Dummer Academy where he received the Master's Prize. Bill joined the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation and served for two years. When he returned he enrolled at Bates College, only to be called back to serve in the Korean Conflict. When he returned after the second time, in 1951, he joined his father at the Arthur S. Page Insurance Agency on Pleasant Street in Newburyport. When his father died suddenly the following year, Bill purchased the agency from his mother and remained its president until he retired in 1993.



Bill was an active contributor to the Newburyport community throughout his life. He served as President of the Chamber of Commerce (receiving their Man of the Year Award in 2005), President of the Custom House Maritime Museum, and several terms as President of the NAID foundation. He was a Trustee and served on the Board of Investment at the Institution for Savings, the Norfolk and Dedham Insurance Company and the Fitchburg Mutual Insurance Company among others. Bill was also a member of the American Yacht Club, the Old Town Country Club, and The 100 Club of Massachusetts.

Bill was the second generation owner of Arthur S Page Insurance and was very proud that the agency remained in the family under the fourth generation ownership of his granddaughters.

Arthur S. Page Jr., of Newbury, Mass., died peacefully March 11, 2015, with his family by his side. He was 86 years old.

References:

Arthur Stickney Page Jr., Obituary Listing in the *Newburyport Daily News*, Posted: Friday, March 13, 2015

Tribute to Arthur Stickney "Bill" Page, Twomey, LeBlanc and Conte Funeral Home, 193 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950, www.contefuneralhomes.com