



George A. Jedenoff

George Alexander Jedenoff was born on July 5, 1917, in Petrozavodsk, Russia. His father was Alexander Nikolaevich Jedenoff, and his mother was Varvara (Barbara) Vasilievna Sepiagina. Both his parents were of Russian Nobility. Petrozavodsk, a city some 250 miles northeast of St. Petersburg, was the capital of Karelia region, on Lake Onega, and it was the section headquarters of the St. Petersburg-Murmansk Railroad, where Alexander Jedenoff held the post of Superintendent. When the Bolsheviks seized power in St. Petersburg on November 7, 1917 and precipitated the Russian Revolution, the family decided to move to a safer location, further from the center of violent Bolshevik atrocity.

On September 1, 1918, Alexander Jedenoff was transferred to the Perm Railway Administration in Ekaterinburg, Siberia, and in July of 1919 to Inspector of the Ural Region. Later in 1919, in order to get his family still further away from the spreading revolution, Mr. Jedenoff received permission to move his family to Harbin, Manchuria (China) and in early 1920 was assigned as Assistant Superintendent of the Chinese-Eastern Railroad. Harbin was the Headquarters of that Railroad which was owned by Russia and operated on land leased from China

After the collapse of the White Forces, the Jedenoff's, in late 1921, applied for immigration to the United States, and, subsequently, came to Seattle, WA. on March 3, 1923. On September 28, 1928, the four members of the Jedenoff family were granted U.S. Citizenship. Unfortunately, in 1931 the Jedenoff's separated. George's mother moved to California in 1932 taking George with her. Mr. Jedenoff stayed in Seattle and was awarded custody of their oldest son, Alexis.

George attended Polytechnic high school in San Francisco where he played quarterback on a city championship undefeated team. He also earned letters in track and swimming. He graduated in December 1935 and was the class valedictorian. He applied for a scholarship to Stanford but during the depression funds were very limited. He was encouraged to attend Stanford, anyway, and through the Alumni Association was provided with a job in an underground mine during the summer of 1936. Through the help of low interest tuition loans, various part-time jobs at Stanford and the earnings from summer employment he was able to complete his first year. He made outstanding grades in engineering and was awarded a scholastic scholarship which he was able to maintain for the next three years. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1940 and decided to continue his education by attending the Stanford Graduate School of Business where he received his MBA degree in 1942. At Stanford he discovered that rugby was the sport in which he could excel. He got to play on the varsity for all six years.

During World War II he was a commissioned officer in the US Navy reserve and served overseas in the Pacific, mostly on Guam. After the war he was hired as an industrial engineer with the Columbia steel company in Pittsburg, California. Columbia was a subsidiary of U.S. Steel and was undergoing a major expansion and modernization. He was assigned as a supervisor in operations and progressed rapidly from

foreman to the position of general superintendent of the plant. In 1960 he was promoted to the same capacity in a much larger plant in Provo Utah. However, the general feeling was that going from California to Utah was like being sent to Siberia. He quickly learned that Utah was a great state and in 1960 at age 43 he decided to learn how to ski and take advantage of the many beautiful resorts in Utah. This was a great decision because now at age 100 he has been able to ski in Utah every year since he started.

On his 50th birthday, July 5, 1967, George was promoted to head U.S. Steel's largest steel plant, Gary Steelworks. Two years later he was promoted to general manager over six plants, and a year later to VP operations (West) over 10 steel plants. He was located at the US steel headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1971 he was named president of USS Engineers and Consultants, a subsidiary of USS, with worldwide responsibility. The following year he took early retirement, but accepted the position of President of Kaiser Steel Company in California. After completing a major modernization of facilities of Kaiser Steel in Fontana, CA. he retired again, but continued major management consulting for about five or six years out of his home in California.

George stayed active as a volunteer for various Stanford University programs, and was awarded "the Stanford Medal" in 2009 for his many years of service to Stanford.