

Mr. Pace attended Wake Forest University, where he played football and baseball. After graduation, he became a Naval Aviation Cadet and served in World War I.

When he left the Navy and returned to Pensacola he found that his sweetheart, Grace Owen, had moved with her family to Fort Myers. He wasted no time visiting her there, and shortly afterward the two were married, Mr. Pace once recounted.

His wife of 56 years, Grace Owen Pace, died in 1974.

It became a tradition for Mr. Pace and his friends to meet for lunch every Monday. The places changed through the 39 years the friends met. The latest place was the Executive Club, where they "talked business," Jones said.

"Mr. Pace was always well-informed," said Hudson. "I saw him just before he passed away and we were chatting about business at St. Regis."

The company that he helped form in 1939 has burgeoned into a multi-million dollar industry. It will soon merge with Champion International Corp. A St. Regis spokesman said the company now contributes about \$200 million to the local economy in payroll, purchases and taxes.

Mr. Pace's knowledge of the South and his ongoing advice were part of what made St. Regis' phenomenal growth, said William R. Haselton, chairman of St. Regis Corp.

Mr. Pace is survived by two sons; Ashley D. Pace Jr. and Thomas M. Pace; a brother, James G. Pace Jr.; three sisters, Mary Catherine Townsley, Virginia Connell and Frances Thompson, all of Pensacola; five grandchildren, Ashley D. Pace III, Marcia Lindstrom and Thomas M. Pace Jr., all of Pensacola, Carolyn Pinkerton of Shalimar, and Frances Blake of Birmingham; and five great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in Christ Episcopal Church with Dr. B.M. Currin officiating. The body will be placed in the church at 10 a.m. Burial will be in St. John's Cemetery.

Friends may call Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the chapel of Waters & Hibbert. Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.