

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CAREER

H. Lee White's shipping career began when he and his associates formed *Trinity Tankers* in 1956 and began constructing tanker vessels in Sweden and Japan. In 1958, White formed the Oswego Group of companies in order to facilitate the purchase of Marine Transport Lines – which continued to operate under the same name. At the time of purchase, Marine Transport Lines owned or chartered forty six bulk carriers, but by 1961 White grew that fleet to eighty two vessels operating as both American and foreign flagged ships which continued to grow throughout the 1960s. In 1966, the White owned Oswego Steamship Company merged with the American Steamship Company who operated bulk carriers on the Great Lakes thus augmenting one of the largest fleets of vessels in the world. ASC continued to operate under the same name, and White became Chairman of the Board and CEO.

Vessels built by the Oswego Group of companies carried the Oswego name throughout the world. *Oswego Freedom*, *Oswego Victory*, *Oswego Reliance*, *Oswego Defender*, and *Oswego Freedom* added to a fleet that operated roughly 50% American and 50% Liberian flagged vessels in foreign and domestic trade. During his career, White's fleets carried a large diversity of goods including, but not limited to: molten sulfur, anhydrous ammonia, oil, various ores and grains, bulk goods, and, for a time, even orange juice.

H. Lee White abruptly died in late September, 1969 at his home at the age of 57. He was survived by his wife Betty F. Johnson White, his mother Mrs. Frances White of Oswego, and two brothers – Dr. Robert White of Orange, NY and William B. White of Oswego. H. Lee White had no children.