

Herman Winks Gundlach dies

**Businessman, philanthropist,
91, leaves mark on community**

By JANE NORDBERG
Gazette Writer

HOUGHTON — From captain of the high school football team to a captain of industry, Herman "Winks" Gundlach Jr. was a man of many passions.

Gundlach, 91, died Thursday afternoon at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. as the result of a debilitating stroke late Sunday night that left his right side paralyzed.

The son of a successful businessman whose construction company became synonymous with a legion of buildings on the Michigan Tech University campus and the surrounding community, Gundlach kept company in his youth with the sons and daughters of mining company magnates, lumber barons and community leaders.

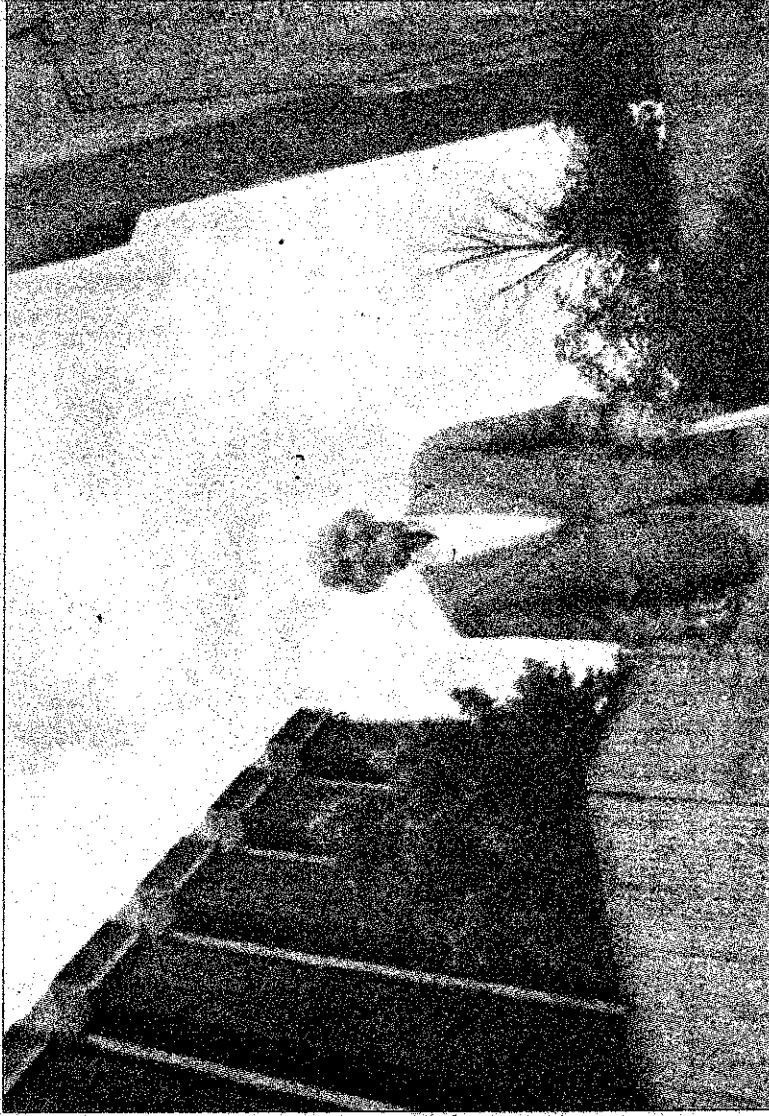
A football captain at Houghton High School, Gundlach graduated in 1930 and became a football standout at Harvard University. He received a bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering in

1935, the same year he signed with the Boston Redskins football team.

He was later elected to the college all-stars team and remained a professional member of the National Football League Alumni until his death.

Following service in World War II, he took over as president of Herman Gundlach Inc., the successful construction venture founded by his father in 1898. Herman Gundlach Jr. ran the company until his retirement in 1987. The company later merged with Champion Industries of Iron Mountain, adopting its current name of Gundlach Champion Inc.

Gundlach received numerous accolades for his work, including induction into the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame in September 2004. Brad Carrigan, representing the Associated General Contractors of America, presented the award to Gundlach, saying, "I always was amazed at the way he gives credit to other people for the



success of his company." Dan LeVeque, president of Gundlach Champion Inc., said he wasn't surprised by the Association's selection, citing Gundlach's ethical standards and commitment to workers.

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William A. Rice/
Daily Mining Gazette
file photos
Herman "Winks"
Gundlach, above,
stands between the
R.L. Smith Building
and the Chemical
Sciences and
Engineering Building
on the Michigan Tech
University campus in
this July 2003 photo.
At left, he appears at
home in September.
Gundlach passed
away Thursday at the
age of 91.



**"He was probably the most patient, understanding and
honest person I have ever known."**

— Paul Frair, former employee