

34 Henderson Road came into existence as a distinct plot of land in 1926 it was formed from a mass of undeveloped farmland known as “Guthrie Place”.¹ The land was divvied up in the following years by Pequot Realty and mapped for the creation of subdivisions, though construction was slow. Minimal improvements were made through the Depression and the early days of the Second World War.

The land’s fortunes changed in 1944, when local businessman John P.T. Armstrong bought up multiple lots. Armstrong was dedicated to New London’s economic growth, being elected head of New London’s Chamber of Commerce later in his career. Following his involvements and shifting economic tides, the land quickly began to sell.

The lot at 34 Henderson was purchased by Esther Fern in 1945, though it is unclear if a house existed on the land at that point. Esther and Max Fern lived and worked separately from 34 Henderson Road, which could imply the lot’s undeveloped nature. The couple owned and operated Ye London Grill in New London. Ye London Grill was once both positioned at the intersection of State and Main Street, with entrances on each road.² The couple achieved relative success, with enough money to purchase land from Henderson.

Esther herself was the permittee for their restaurant’s liquor license, a detail which would place her in hot water. On October 7th, 1941, four underage men from the submarine base had allegedly been served alcohol at Ye London Grill.³ As the person holding the liquor license, Fern was thrust into the trail and eventually found guilty, though did not serve jail time.

Fern found a buyer for the Henderson land in a fellow congregant of Beth El Congregation in New London. One of the city’s notable synagogues, Beth El Congregation was founded in 1932 and remains an important part of New London’s Jewish community today. Many of the occupants of 34 Henderson would be involved in Beth El throughout the house’s history.

At odds with Fern’s own history, the man she sold the land to was a prominent lawyer, Louis G. Sokol. Louis Sokol was born in 1908 and raised in New London, Sokol becoming a passionate force for community engagement and improvement.⁴ After having studied law at the University of Pennsylvania, and then at St. Lawrence University in New York, he passed the bar in 1933. A devoted Democrat, Sokol was active in Connecticut’s Young Democrats, even being elected to the board.

Setting up a small law office for himself, Sokol continued to work as an attorney and assistant prosecutor of the court until World War II. Sokol was drafted into the Army and served from 1943 until 1946, finding success throughout. As a midshipman he was recognized and rewarded for his work by his captain, already having attained the rank of lieutenant.⁵ Sokol would eventually work his way up to chief of

¹ “City Completes New Pavement in Guthrie Places,” *Day* (New London, CT), Aug 09, 1927.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969153838/?match=1&terms=guthrie>.

² “Ye London Grill Opens On Site Of Taylor Pharmacy,” *Day* (New London, CT), May 06, 1927.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969154302/?match=1&terms=ye%20london%20grill>.

³ “Judge To Decide Juvenile Liquor Cases Next Tuesday,” *Day* (New London, CT), November 07, 1941.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969205568/?match=1&terms=Fern>.

⁴ “Atty. Louis G. Sokol, 44, Dies From Heart Attack,” *Day* (New London, CT), March 02, 1953.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968915154/?match=1&terms=Louis%20G.%20Sokol>.

⁵ “Junior Midshipmen Officers Hold 12th Annual Banquet, City Officials Among Guests At Dinner,” *Day* (New London, CT), Dec 1, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/969208199/?match=1&terms=sokol>.

payroll and legal aid at the Army-Navy General Hospital.⁶ Following the conclusion of the war he married Betty Ruth Hyman in 1946, who he would remain married to until his death.

Sokol remained active in local political organizing, though it is unclear if he rejoined the Young Democrats following his military service. He played a major role in New London's Jewish Veterans Society and was a major voice for protecting and honoring veterans. Speaking out at a town meeting to secure government subsidized housing for New London, he was accused of communistic and subversive behavior. In response he was quoted as saying, "if this be treason, make the most of it".⁷ Within his professional life, Louis' professional possibilities continued to improve. He rose to the position of deputy judge, serving at 111 Union Street where the city and police court rooms were located.⁸

Betty Sokol, like her husband, was an incredibly active woman in the Jewish community of New London, as well as the larger city. She "served on boards of Music for Children, YMCA, Red Cross, Beth El Sisterhood, League of Woman Voters, and the Miami Beach Social Services Committee".⁹

Betty and Louis Sokol raised two daughters, Mollie and Louise. Both followed in their parents' footsteps, becoming active artists and community members. Mollie Sokol pursued art education, earning a master's degree at the University of Connecticut. She was active in the New London art scene, teaching and involving herself in the East Lyme Arts League. She would die before her time in 1981 at age 30, echoing the death of her father.¹⁰

While he survived the Second World War, Louis Sokol had a notoriously bad heart. Complications relating to his heart condition would kill him by the age of 44 in March of 1953. Judge Troland, whom he had served as assistant to, described Louis as having "human understanding and warm sympathy".¹¹ The judge blamed Louis' death on the condition of the New London Courthouse, where he cited 3 floors of steep stairs as a possible agitator of symptoms.¹²

Following his death, the deed of the house was passed on to Betty Sokol after a temporary transfer to the insurance agent John P. Janovic on October 20th, 1953. The widowed Betty continued to be an active member of her community and lived until 2010. She owned and operated her own travel agency, "Foreign and Domestic Travel", promoting her business throughout New London.¹³

⁶ "Atty. Louis G. Sokol, 44, Dies From Heart Attack," *Day* (New London, CT), March 02, 1953.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968915154/?match=1&terms=Louis%20G.%20Sokol>.

⁷ "Zoning Ordinance Clearing Way For Housing Project Is Passed By Council; May Lone Objector," *Day* (New London, CT), Dec 6, 1941. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/969198684/?match=1&terms=sokol>.

⁸ *New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1950).

⁹ "Obituaries, Betty Sokol," *Day* (New London, CT), Jan 23, 2010.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969198684/?match=1&terms=sokol>.

¹⁰ "Obituaries, Mollie Ellis," *Day* (New London, CT), Feb 17, 1981.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/970437918/?article=c5978b11-b9f5-4647-a98e-e9fe862af4d2&terms=mollie%20sokol>.

¹¹ "Atty. Louis G. Sokol, 44, Dies From Heart Attack," *Day* (New London, CT), March 02, 1953.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968915154/?match=1&terms=Louis%20G.%20Sokol>.

¹² "Judge Troland Sees Link Between Long Stair Climb And Atty. Sokol's Death," *Day* (New London, CT), March 4, 1953. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/968916103/?match=1&terms=judge%20troland>.

¹³ *New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1954).

In August of 1958, Betty Sokol sold her home and relocated to Miami, though she would eventually move back to New London. The new owners, Maurice and Sylvia Rindscopf, appeared to be newcomers to the area, as there is no record of them having lived in New London prior to their purchase of the house.

Maurice Rindscopf was employed by the United States Navy, working at the U.S. Submarine base in Groton, still in active use following World War II. The Rindscopfs were members of the officer's club there, with Maurice having risen to the rank of Captain.¹⁴ Their stay in New London would be relatively short, selling to Miriam and Milton Seed on September 18th, 1961.

Milton Seed, a World War II veteran, spent a majority of his time in New London employed at various druggists and pharmacies around New London.¹⁵ His wife, Miriam, was appointed as a grade-school teacher in New London at the Edgerton school.¹⁶ While employed there she also undertook various charitable projects, raising money for the education and support of Jewish children.¹⁷ Miriam and Milton raised three children at 34 Henderson: David, Steven T, and Susan.¹⁸

The Seed family were very active members of New London's Jewish community. The Seed family belonged to the Beth El congregation, with Miriam and Milton further engaging in the B'nai B'rith fraternal Jewish order. Their son David would continue in this tradition, graduating with an award for "excellence in Talmud" from a New York City Rabbinical school.¹⁹ Both Steven T. and Susan Seed would go on to becoming engineers, graduating from the University of Connecticut and Boston University respectively.

Milton Seed died on the 20th of May in 2024, at 99 years old. He had earned respect as an upright citizen and proud family man in New London. In 2019, Mayor Passero declared Milton's 95th birthday, November 20th, as "Milton Seed Day".²⁰

The history of 34 Henderson Road continues with its sale by Miriam Seed in October 2024 to Andrew and Christina Walker.

¹⁴ "Periscoping In Navy Society," *Day* (New London, CT), May 11, 1960.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969575913/?match=1&terms=Rindscopf>.

¹⁵ *New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1970).

¹⁶ "Educationally Handicapped Children Will Be Instructed at Three Schools," *Day* (New London, CT), March 10, 1967. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/969664456/?match=1&terms=seed>.

¹⁷ "Fund-Raising Idea Not Corny," *Day* (New London, CT), Feb 1, 1975.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969989601/?match=1&terms=seed>.

¹⁸ *New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1981).

¹⁹ "New London Man Ordained As Rabbi At NYC Seminary," *Day* (New London, CT), June 18, 1983.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/970490710/?match=1&terms=talmud>.

²⁰ "Obituaries, Milton Seed," *Day* (New London, CT), May 22, 2024.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1075490656/>.

CONSUMER VALUE PHARMACY

NEW LONDON SHOPPING MALL — Rte. 95

PRESCRIPTION SERVICE MON.-SAT. 9:30-10
SUN. & HOLIDAYS 9-6

MILTON SEED AND JOHN ANASTASIA — REGISTERED PHARMACISTS ON DUTY



21



ATTY. LOUIS G. SOKOL

Traveling Anywhere?

CONSULT

Foreign & Domestic Travel Service

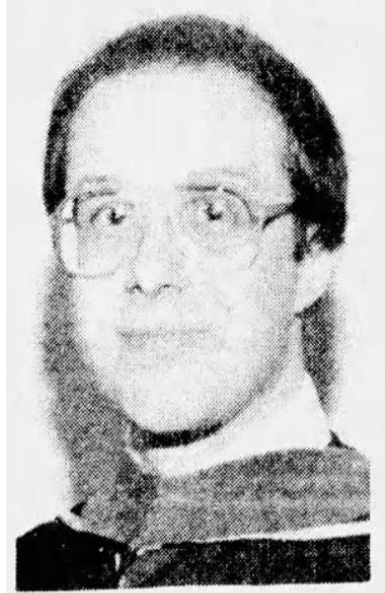
TRAVEL AGENTS
FOR
ALL TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS
NO BOOKING FEE

Foreign & Domestic Travel Service

Mrs. Baymond L. Quinn — Mrs. Louis G. Sokol

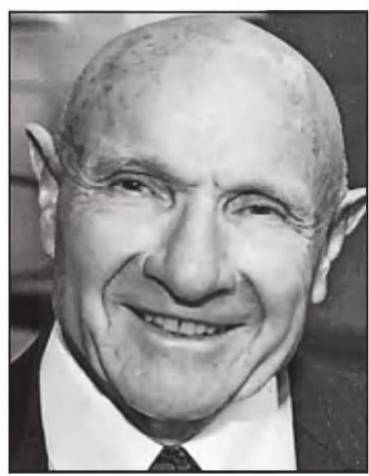
325 State St., Garde Bldg., Rooms 205-206 Tel. GI 2-4319

23



David Seed

24



Milton Seed

25

²¹ "Consumer Value Pharmacy," *Day* (New London, CT), Jan 22, 1969.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969685192/?match=1&terms=milton>.

²² "Atty. Louis G. Sokol, 44, Dies From Heart Attack," *Day* (New London, CT), March 02, 1953.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968915154/?match=1&terms=Louis%20G.%20Sokol>.

Bibliography

- “Atty. Louis G. Sokol, 44, Dies From Heart Attack”. *Day* (New London, CT), March 02, 1953.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968915154/?match=1&terms=Louis%20G.%20Sokol>.
- “City Completes New Pavement in Guthrie Places”. *Day* (New London, CT), Aug 09, 1927.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969153838/?match=1&terms=guthrie>.
- “Consumer Value Pharmacy”. *Day* (New London, CT), Jan 22, 1969.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969685192/?match=1&terms=milton>.
- “Educationally Handicapped Children Will Be Instructed at Three Schools”. *Day* (New London, CT), March 10, 1967. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/969664456/?match=1&terms=seed>.
- “Fund-Raising Idea Not Corny”. *Day* (New London, CT), Feb 1, 1975.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969989601/?match=1&terms=seed>.
- “Judge To Decide Juvenile Liquor Cases Next Tuesday”. *Day* (New London, CT), November 07, 1941.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969205568/?match=1&terms=Fern>.
- “Judge Troland Sees Link Between Long Stair Climb And Atty. Sokol’s Death”. *Day* (New London, CT), March 4, 1953.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968916103/?match=1&terms=judge%20troland>.
- “Junior Midshipmen Officers Hold 12th Annual Banquet, City Officials Among Guests At Dinner”. *Day* (New London, CT), Dec 1, 1941.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969208199/?match=1&terms=sokol>.
- New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1950).
- New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1954).
- New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1970).
- New London Directory* (New London, CT: Publisher, 1981).
- “New London Man Ordained As Rabbi At NYC Seminary”. *Day* (New London, CT), June 18, 1983.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/970490710/?match=1&terms=talmud>.
- “Obituaries, Betty Sokol”. *Day* (New London, CT), Jan 23, 2010.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969198684/?match=1&terms=sokol>.
- “Obituaries, Milton Seed”. *Day* (New London, CT), May 22, 2024.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1075490656/>.
- “Obituaries, Mollie Ellis”. *Day* (New London, CT), Feb 17, 1981.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/970437918/?article=c5978b11-b9f5-4647-a98e-e9fe862af4d2&terms=mollie%20sokol>.
- “Periscoping In Navy Society”. *Day* (New London, CT), May 11, 1960.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969575913/?match=1&terms=Rindscopf>.
- “Traveling Anywhere?”. *Day* (New London, CT), May 19, 1954.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968998296/?match=1&terms=%22foreign%20and%20domestic%20travel%22>.
- “Ye London Grill Opens On Site Of Taylor Pharmacy”. *Day* (New London, CT), May 06, 1927.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969154302/?match=1&terms=ye%20london%20grill>.
- “Zoning Ordinance Clearing Way For Housing Project Is Passed By Council; May Lone Objector”. *Day* (New London, CT), Dec 6, 1941.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/969198684/?match=1&terms=sokol>.

²³ “Traveling Anywhere?,” *Day* (New London, CT), May 19, 1954.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/968998296/?match=1&terms=%22foreign%20and%20domestic%20travel%22>.

²⁴ “New London Man Ordained As Rabbi At NYC Seminary,” *Day* (New London, CT), June 18, 1983.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/970490710/?match=1&terms=talmud>.

²⁵ “Obituaries, Milton Seed,” *Day* (New London, CT), May 22, 2024.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/1075490656/>.