

# Blast from the Past

Some families pass on freckles, while others are prone to twins. For the Mayrsohns, it was a love for the produce industry. Spanning more than a century and three generations, the Mayrsohn family has been active in the fresh fruit and vegetable business since 1899. It was then that a young Mayr Mayrsohn began the family business.

Following many trips back and forth from New York to Cuba during the 1890s, Mayr began importing fresh fruits and vegetables from the island nation into the New York Market. Mayr went on to have three sons, Casper, Bernard (Barney) and Jack, along with two daughters, Helen and Sarah.

After serving in World War II and graduating from Cornell University's College of Agriculture, Barney joined the family business, which became known as Mayrsohn and Sons. By 1959, Barney was part owner and became president of the public company Prevor-Mayrsohn International. However, with a son of his own, Mark, Barney went on to form Mayrsohn International Trading Co. (MITCO) in 1982.

Today, Mayrsohn International Trading Co., Inc. remains one of the leaders in the worldwide import and export of produce.



## **MAYRSOHN FAMILY**

1. Casper Mayrsohn: Mayr's son
2. Bernard Mayrsohn: Mayr's son, CEO Mayrsohn Intl.
3. Jack Mayrsohn: Mayr's son
4. Helen Mayrsohn: Mayr's daughter
5. Sarah Mayrsohn: Mayr's daughter
6. Mayr Mayrsohn: Father Mayrsohn
7. Mark Mayrsohn: Bernard's son, President Mayrsohn Intl.
8. Dorothy Knopke-Boritz: Helen's daughter
9. James Knopke: Helen's husband
10. Ethel Mayrsohn: Bernard's wife, Mark's mother
11. Hannah Mayrsohn: Mayr's wife
12. Toby Mayrsohn: Jack's wife

The *Blast from the Past* is a regular feature of PRODUCE BUSINESS. We welcome submissions of your old photos, labels or advertisements along with suggested captions. Please send materials to: Editor, PRODUCE BUSINESS, P.O. Box 810425, Boca Raton, FL 33481-0425, or e-mail [info@producebusiness.com](mailto:info@producebusiness.com)