

clippings from same page, same column

see also this file 20 Jan 70

URDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1970

**OLIVER W. POWERS,
FATHER OF U-2 PILOT**

WISE, Va., Feb. 13 (UPI) — Oliver W. Powers, father of the former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, died at a hospital here yesterday of an undetermined cause. He was 65 years old.

Mr. Powers, whose son's spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union, attended his son's trial, and pleaded unsuccessfully with Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev for his freedom.

Francis Gary Powers was sentenced to 10 years in prison for espionage, but was released in February 1962 in an exchange for Col. Rudolph I. Abel, the Soviet spy captured by the United States.

Prior to the exchange, Mr. Powers pleaded a second time with Mr. Khrushchev for clemency for his son. He also made numerous trips to Washington to talk with Government officials.

After the release, Mr. Powers stayed in rural southwest Virginia, out of the spotlight. His son became a test pilot and moved to California.

**MINA LEWITON, 65,
AUTHOR OF NOVELS**

Lewiton is survived by a daughter, Dr. Bettina Niederer, and two grandchildren.

**OLIVER POWERS, 65,
WON SON'S RELEASE**

WISE, Va., Feb. 12 (AP)— Oliver W. Powers, father of Francis Gary Powers, the American U-2 pilot whose spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union in May 1960, died today in a hospital here. He was 65 years old.

Mr. Powers ran a shoe-repair shop in the nearby Southwest Virginia town of Pound. He went to Moscow for the trial of his son in August of 1960 and made a vain appeal to then Premier Nikita Khrushchev for his son's release.

The father appealed to Mr. Khrushchev for clemency in early 1962 and on Feb. 10, 1962, the younger Powers was released by the Russians in exchange for the convicted Soviet spy, Rudolph Abel, then serving a 30-year term imposed by a United States court in 1957.