

He certainly wasn't an enemy of Marion

Richard Nixon may have considered Milton Maidenberg an enemy, but Marion certainly did not.

Maidenberg, who, with his brother Frank, founded National China and Equipment Co. in Marion and worked to help it grow to worldwide sales, died Tuesday at age 83.

National China became part of Continental Coffee in 1971.

What caught Nixon's eye, though, was Maidenberg's support of Democratic politics. He supported both local and national Democratic efforts with his treasure, his time and his talents.

Nixon added Maidenberg's name to a list of 490 people — the infamous Enemies List — that was given to the Internal Revenue Service for tax audits and other scrutiny.

It was a source of pride with Maidenberg that Nixon had taken notice and cared enough about him to add him to the list.

Just as he cared about the Democrats, he also cared about Marion. He was active in the YMCA and the Sinai Temple, among other organizations, as well as being devoted to his family.

As longtime friend Betty Fleck said: "He was a very, very caring person."

Certainly not an enemy.