

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

JUL 26 1971



Earl Thacker

Death Ends Thacker's Colorful Isle Career

Earl M. Thacker, a self-made millionaire in real estate and tourist-related businesses in Hawaii, died last night at his home. He was 71 and had been in ill health for several years.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Mr. Thacker knew kings, potentates and other heads of state and had been a friend of former President Lyndon B. Johnson for 25 years.

He came to Hawaii in 1925 and worked for Bishop Trust Co. for a few years — "to get an education," as he put it.

In the 1930s, he founded the Earl Thacker Co., his real estate firm, and the Thacker Transportation Co., which is now the Thacker Corp.

He was president of Grayline Hawaii from 1938 until his retirement in 1958, and was a vice president and director from 1943 to 1959 of Hawaiian Hotels, today part of the Sheraton holdings in Waikiki.

AFTER 1959, Mr. Thacker served as a special representative for Sheraton Corp. in real estate matters.

From 1953, Mr. Thacker

was public relations counselor for Pan American World Airways and was an executive vice president for Hawaiian Airlines, serving as a public relations and real estate counselor.

Mr. Thacker was a past chairman of the Territorial Real Estate Commission, and served on the Territorial Board of Harbor Commissioners for 12 years.

He was a past president of the Honolulu Realty Board and the Propeller Club of the United States.

Mr. Thacker was a member of the Oahu Country Turn to Page A-24, Col. 1

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Club, the Outrigger Canoe Club and Central Union Church, and was a past commodore of the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club.

He was a friend of the great and the near-great for at least 40 years.

ONE OF his early Hawaii business ventures was finding appropriate places for visiting Hollywood celebrities to stay.

These people, especially in the 1930s, discovered they could hide from the public and press in Hawaii if they wished, and paid well for the privilege.

Mr. Thacker was a lifelong teetotaler but was an inveterate partygoer and party-giver.

One of his greatest pleasures was entertaining friends at his Diamond Head home.

The firms he founded are now headed by his son, H. Dickey Thacker.

Survivors also include his widow, Dorothy; his daughter, Mrs. Paul N. Johnson of San Marino, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

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Healani captures title in canoe regatta

Healani Canoe Club, breaking four of the eight records splashed in the Oahu Outrigger Canoe Racing Championship, captured the team championship with 39 points yesterday at Keehi Lagoon.

Outrigger Canoe Club was a close runnerup with 36 points, followed by Hui Nalu

with 29 and Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club with 27.

Hui Nalu won the blue ribbon event, the men's senior 2½ mile race in the record time of 22 min. 7/10 sec.

Healani won five of the 15 races and set new records in the men's junior 2-mile race (18:09.2), women's senior 1-mile event (10:29.8), boys

18-under 1-mile (8:53.7) and boys 13-under ¼ mile (2:20.9).

Hui Nalu also hung up new records in the women's freshmen ½ mile race (5:15.2) and the women's junior ½ mile (5:20.6). Outrigger accounted for the other record in the men's freshmen 1½ mile event (15:57.2).

Boys 12-under (A), ¼ mile—1. Outrigger Canoe Club; 2. Kailua; 3. Healani; 4. Leeward Kai. Time—2:34.4.
Boys 12-under (B), ¼ mile—1. Outrigger; 2. Leeward; 3. Healani; 4. Hui Nalu. Time—2:50.1.
Women novice (B), ¼ mile—1. Hui Nalu; 2. Kailua; 3. Outrigger; 4. Lanikai. Time—2:30.0.
Boys 13-under, ¼ mile—1. Healani; 2. Outrigger; 3. Kailua; 4. Kai Oni. Time—2:20.9 (record).
Women novice (A), ¼ mile—1. Outrigger; 2. Lanikai; 3. Healani; 4. Waikiki Surf. Time—2:47.8.
Boys 14-under, ¼ mile—1. Kailua; 2. Healani; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Kai Oni. Time—2:01.2 (record).
Men novice, ½ mile—1. Healani; 2. Outrigger; 3. Hui Nalu; 4. Waikiki Surf. Time—4:18.6 (record).
Boys 16-under, ½ mile—1. Kailua; 2. Lanikai; 3. Kai Oni; 4. Hui Nalu. Time—4:37.0.
Boys 18-under, 1 mile—1. Healani; 2. Hui Nalu; 3. Outrigger; 4. Kai Oni. Time—8:53.7 (record).
Women Freshmen, ½ mile—1. Hui Nalu; 2. Lanikai; 3. Waikiki Surf; 4. Outrigger. Time—5:15.2.
Men Freshmen, ½ mile—1. Outrigger; 2. Lanikai; 3. Kailua; 4. Healani. Time—5:57.2 (record).
Women Junior, ½ mile—1. Hui Nalu; 2. Kailua; 3. Waikiki; 4. Healani. Time—5:20.6 (record).
Men Junior, 2 miles—1. Healani; 2. Lanikai; 3. Outrigger; 4. Kailua. Time—18:09.2 (record).
Women Senior, 1 mile—1. Healani; 2. Kailua; 3. Outrigger; 4. Waikiki Surf. Time—10:29.8 (record).
Men Senior, 2½ miles—1. Hui Nalu; 2. Healani; 3. Waikiki Surf; 4. Outrigger. Time—22:00.7 (record).
Team points—Healani 39, Outrigger Canoe Club 36, Hui Nalu 29, Kailua 27, Lanikai 16, Waikiki Surf Club 9, Kai Oni 5, Leeward Kai 4.

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JUL 27 1971

Earl M. Thacker, 'unofficial greeter' for Isles, dies at 71

Earl Maxwell Thacker, self-made millionaire in real estate and travel and close friend of widely known personalities throughout the world, died Sunday night. He was 71.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Central Union Church. The ashes will be placed in the family crypt in Oakland, Calif.

Former President Lyndon B. Johnson once referred to Mr. Thacker as a man "who can do anything — anytime — in nothing flat."

AS EARLY AS 1938 his qualities as unofficial greeter for celebrities coming to Hawaii caused war correspondent Ernie Pyle to write:

"Thacker can get you into places you couldn't get otherwise. He sends a car for you. He introduces you to people. He has you out for dinner. He lets you ride his horses. He leaves his desk and goes to Molokai with you to hunt deer. No matter what you want, he says sure, that's easy."

Mr. Thacker was born in Oakland. After high school he went to sea and by the age of 24 had attained the rank of first officer on the passenger liner President Wilson.

ONE DAY THE SHIP stopped in Honolulu, and Mr. Thacker was offered a position with the Bishop Trust Co. He remained there five years, "getting an education," he said.

In 1930, Mr. Thacker left Bishop Trust to begin building a real estate business. His was one of the first real estate offices in Waikiki. It



MR. THACKER

was across Kalakaua Avenue from the Moana Hotel, the site now occupied by the Princess Kaiulani Hotel.

The company name was Earl Thacker Co. It handled not only real estate, but property management, travel and transportation. Shortly afterward Mr. Thacker formed the Thacker Transportation Co. and acquired the local Gray Line and Hertz agencies.

HE SOLD BOTH Gray Line and Hertz in the late 1950s when Gray Line became unionized.

Mr. Thacker was named vice president and director of Hawaiian Hotels Ltd., owners of the Royal Hawaiian and Moana hotels, in 1938. He remained in that position after they became Matson hotels but left when Sheraton took them over in 1959.

During this time he also

handled customer relations for a number of other firms including C&H sugar, Dole, Alexander and Baldwin, C. Brewer, Amfac and Theo H. Davies.

HE WAS A PUBLIC relations consultant for Pan American World Airways, a special assistant to the executive vice president of Hawaiian Air Lines, former chairman of the Territorial Real Estate License Commission, a member of 12 years of the Territorial Board of Harbor Commissioners and a past president of the Honolulu Realty Board.

Mr. Thacker was also a member of the Oahu Country Club, Outrigger Canoe Club, Pearl Harbor Yacht Club, Waikiki Yacht Club and the Port of Honolulu Propeller Club.

HE OWNED THE Diamond T Bar Ranch on Molokai and various other properties.

WHEN HE RETIRED in 1959, Mr. Thacker turned his business over to his son, Herbert Dickey Thacker, but remained active.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Dimond Thacker; son, Herbert Dickey Thacker; daughter, Mrs. Paul N. Johnson; and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Central Union Church, Waikeola Church, American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.