



Death Of Hawera Motoring Identity And Sportsman Mr. William O'Callaghan

A Hawera identity with a long connection with motoring and with sporting interests, Mr. William A. O'Callaghan, late of 10 Princes Street Extension, died at Calvary Hospital, Hawera, yesterday. He was aged 88 years.

Mr. O'Callaghan first became identified with organised motoring on August 13, 1914, when he attended the inaugural meeting of the South Taranaki Automobile Association.

The association went into recess during the years of World War I but when it was revived in 1924 Mr. O'Callaghan again was one of those keenly interested.

He was president of the North Island Motor Union for a two-year term in the early 1930's and later was elected a life member.

A garage business he began in Hawera in 1913 passed from his management about 1927.

Mr. O'Callaghan held directorships from about 1935 of a company known now as Europa Oil N.Z. Ltd., and its Australian counterpart, Ampol Petroleum Ltd. He was one of the founders of the New Zealand company, formed mainly to market petrol for the benefit of A.A. members and the Australian company was formed with these same aims, also to seek sources of petroleum products in Australia itself. It made a remarkable start when the first well it drilled, prior to World War II, produced oil. It is in Western Australia.

Born in Lincoln, Canterbury, in 1877, Mr. O'Callaghan came to Taranaki in 1902. He was the son of the Rev. A. P. O'Callaghan, who arrived at Lyttelton in 1863

and became Anglican vicar at Oxford.

The late Mr. O'Callaghan's name was familiar in sport. In 1901 he was a member of the Canterbury rowing crew which won the championship fours at Little River and in the following year he was elected captain of the Canterbury club.

Later, as a member of the Hawera Golf Club, he won the club's championship no fewer than 13 times and in 1953 won the New Zealand veteran golfers' championship at Rotorua.

His golfing record also was unique, in that he recorded seven holes-in-one on the Hawera course. This record led to one of the holes being named after him.

Mr. O'Callaghan, who was predeceased by his wife, Mrs. Ethel Nellie O'Callaghan, following a level crossing accident, is survived by three sisters, Mrs. A. Cull, Wellington, Mrs. E. Tomlinson, Wellington, and Mrs. E. Collingwood, Lower Hutt, and a brother, Mr. Arthur O'Callaghan, Sydney.

The funeral will take place at the Hawera Cemetery tomorrow following service at 2.30 p.m.

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