



JOHN A. BEAVEN

John A. Beaven, Leading Sports Figure Here, Dies

John Ashman Beaven, one of the territory's outstanding sports figures, died at a nursing home at 10:20 a. m. Tuesday. He had been in ill health for the past four years.

Funeral services will be under the auspices of the Honolulu lodge of Elks. Arrangements will be announced later by Williams mortuary.

Often called the Tex Rickard of Hawaii, John Ashman Beaven came to Hawaii in 1910 and, with the exception of a short trip to the Pacific coast in 1938, had lived in Honolulu since.

Mr. Beaven was known as the father of Honolulu stadium which was completed on May 22, 1927, on a tract of land of about 14 acres. The stadium, which he managed until 1939, has served as Honolulu's sports center since its opening.

Mr. Beaven is credited with doing more than any other man in advancing Honolulu sports.

He revived interest in organized baseball in the islands after the national pastime went into a serious decline about 1918 when the old Athletic park in downtown Honolulu was leased as a residential area.

Mr. Beaven took over the old Moiliili field that year and erected a wooden structure that served as Honolulu's sole sports plant.

Besides baseball he promoted boxing, football, wrestling, track meets and other attractions at the old park. Early in the 1920s Bev, as he was known to Hawaii's sports fans, felt the need of a modern stadium.

It didn't take him long to interest businessmen of Honolulu in the project which was started late in 1925 when the necessary capital was raised.

Mr. Beaven's policy always was to keep prices down as low as possible so more people could attend stadium sponsored events.

He contended sports should be presented for as many people as possible.

Mr. Beaven was born on October 31, 1869, in Owego, N. Y. As a youth he traveled widely.

Before he was 21 years of age he had been in England, parts of Europe, India, China, Africa and Egypt.

For eight years he was in the newspaper business. He worked on the New York Evening Telegram in 1890 and later wrote for the New York Recorder and New York American.

Before coming to Hawaii Mr. Beaven was owner and editor of the Milford Citizen, a newspaper that covered the territory around Milford, Conn.

Soon after his arrival in Honolulu he was called on to assist in straightening the muddled affairs of the Hawaiian AAU, an important job at the time because of the numerous world swimming records being shattered by Duke P. Kahanamoku, now city-county sheriff.

From 1912 to 1917 he held the position of secretary of the Outrigger Canoe club.

He organized the Catholic Youth Organization in Hawaii and was elected its president. He was a member of the Honolulu lodge 616 of Elks.