

DEATH CALLS H. J. WHITLEY

Real Estate Man Known as "Father of Hollywood" Pioneer in Many Southland Developments

H. J. Whitley, pioneer California real estate man and known as the "Father of Hollywood," died yesterday at the age of 83 years and after an illness of more than a year. Mr. Whitley died during his sleep while staying as a guest of his son Ross Whitley at the Whitley Park Country Club in Van Nuys.

A long career as a real-estate broker started with Mr. Whitley's employment as a land agent for the Rock Island Railroad when he was sent into Oklahoma during the time of the opening of the Cherokee strip. He held a similar post with the Great Northern Railroad and in 1894, when his health broke, he came to California and first engaged in the jewelry business in Los Angeles.

"FATHER OF HOLLYWOOD"

His first development here was on a 400-acre tract in what is now Hollywood, which he turned from a district of vegetable gardens and farms into a valuable residential district. As the result of the success of this subdivision, one of the first in Hollywood, Mr. Whitley became known as the "Father of Hollywood."

During 1905 Mr. Whitley in company with a group of Los Angeles business men, undertook the development of 47,000 acres in the San Joaquin Valley and carried through a similar project involving nearly 50,000 acres in the San Fernando Valley. Both districts are now covered with fertile farms.

Mr. Whitley continued his activ-

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H. J. WHITLEY

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ity in Southern California property until 1922, when he completed the development of his Whitley Heights, which was known as one of the first hillside subdivisions in Hollywood. The opening of the tract in 1920 was the scene of a public barbecue, with city officials and business men of the city as guests.

In addition to his work in real estate development, Mr. Whitley was known as one of the founders of the Home Savings Bank and was as well identified with the organization of the First National Bank of Hollywood, the First National Bank of Van Nuys and State banks in Owensmouth (now Canoga Park,) Reseda and Corcoran.

Mr. Whitley leaves his widow, Mrs. Margaret Whitley, who lives at the family residence, 6643 Whitley Terrace; his son, Ross E. Whitley of Van Nuys; a daughter, Grace Virginia Whitley, and three grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday in the Strother funeral chapel, 6240 Hollywood Boulevard, with burial in the Hollywood Cemetery.