Aloha, Guy Marshall

This past week, Guy Marshall, a longtime friend of our company, passed away at age 92 in his apartment on the top floor of the OHANA Waikiki West. Guy had a long and interesting life, but few today know the extent to which he was part of the team that helped to develop some of the Outrigger/OHANA hotels in Waikiki.

Guy was born a British citizen in Tasmania in 1912. He was raised in New Zealand by his mother, after his father died overseas as part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in 1918 during World War I.

His friendship with Roy and Estelle Kelley perhaps dates back to the pre-World War II days when he attended the University of Hawaii, and his mother, Mildred, owned a home at the corner of Seaside Avenue and Ala Wai Boulevard. The Kelleys lived just a block away at the corner of Seaside and Kuhio Avenues at the site where they would later develop our company's first hotel, the Islander Hotel.

As tourism started to pick up after World War II, the Islander Hotel, completed in 1947, needed more rooms. So Roy and Estelle purchased Mildred Marshall's home, plus two adjacent residences and converted them for hotel use. I remember them well because when I was working at the front desk of the Islander Hotel, I would often have to carry guest luggage and room supplies up the street to the "Ala Wai annex," as we called it.

Guy trained as a bookkeeper/auditor and became a U.S. citizen. After a tour of duty in World War II as a radioman with the U.S. Coast Guard, he got a job as a special agent for the Internal Revenue Service on the mainland. In 1951, he married Hilda Packwood and transferred to the IRS Honolulu office as chief of its Intelligence Division.

After retiring in the 1960s, Guy started to spend a great deal of time with Roy Kelley. If Roy had a project in mind, he would often discuss it with Guy. Guy would get interested, and it was not too long before Roy might say something like, "Guy, since you are retired and have some time, would you like to help me with this project?" Pretty soon, Guy was hooked and was busier than ever.

I found myself getting involved with the hotel industry pretty much the same way—project by project, until it also became my full-time occupation, often involving working alongside Guy Marshall. We worked together on the OHANA Waikiki Surf, OHANA Waikiki Surf East, OHANA East, and OHANA Waikiki West. We did everything from drawing plans to supervising the construction and furnishing of the completed buildings. We designed and built the Seaside Suites hotel on the land where Mildred Marshall once had her home.

In those days, Guy and I must have been quite a sight. Here we were — a taxman and a physician — in the drafting room, pouring over a set of architectural plans. We often wandered the floors while a building was under construction trying to determine if the work was being done according to plans and specifications. We really didn't know what we were doing at first. But with Roy Kelley's guidance, we made it through and learned a great deal in the process.

Guy was not all work. He kept a small sailboat at the Ala Wai Yacht Harbor and liked to sail in the waters off Waikiki. He frequently played golf with a group of friends at the Ala Wai Golf Course next to Waikiki. He also took many long walks to keep his body in shape. He was very loyal and generous in many ways to his friends and associates. His long and close relationships with Roy and Estelle Kelley and with me are typical examples of how Guy approached life.

Guy Marshall is the last of Roy and Estelle Kelley's close group of friends to pass away.
Many are pictured in the photograph on page 4. They lived through some challenging times—the Great Depression, the New Deal, World War II, and the development of one of the world's most successful tourism industries in Waikiki and Hawaii. They will be remembered and admired for their many accomplishments, their friendship, and their willingness to share their knowledge and time with others.