

Half Staff – Henry Ernest Cooper III

April 9, 1999

Henry Ernest Cooper III, 76, husband of the late Terrell (Porter) Cooper, died Friday, April 9, at his residence in Beverly. Mr. Cooper was a longtime resident of Waltham and a summer resident of Rockport, later moving to Marblehead.

He was born in Bridgeport, Conn., on Aug. 19, 1922, to the late Isabel (Baker) and Wallace McKay Cooper. His grandfather and namesake, Judge Henry E. Cooper, was vice president and chief justice of the Republic of Hawaii and the principal negotiator for Hawaii in its annexation by the United States.

Mr. Cooper was raised in the Philippines, where the family held sugar interests. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1940; and from Princeton University as a chemical engineer in the class of 1944, but military service accelerated his graduation to 1943.

He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve in World War II, and was navigation officer aboard the USS Card, an escort “Jeep” aircraft carrier, which was credited with capturing a German U-Boat complete with secret codes. He became responsible for deciphering radio transmissions between German submarines and their bases and plotting their positions on a daily basis.

After leaving the Dewey and Almy Chemical Co. as a young entrepreneur in the early 1950s, he founded the Terrell Corporation in a single-stall rented garage, and was a pioneer in the formulation and application of hot-melt adhesives. The company was sold to H.B. Fuller Inc. in 1986.

An accomplished blue water sailor, he and several friends sailed 18,000 miles in nine months from Maine to the Pacific Islands of Tahiti, Bora Bora, the Tuamotas, the Marquesas, Palmyra and Hawaii on his 50-foot Able ketch Palmyra in 1987-88, returning within 18 hours of original schedule. Palmyra Atoll, located 1,000 miles south of Hawaii, had belonged to his grandfather, and was the actual setting for the book and movie, “And the Sea Will Tell.”

Mr. Cooper was a member of the Sandy Bay Yacht Club in Rockport, the Cruising Club of America and a member and former commodore of the Eastern Yacht Club in Marblehead.

In 1991, he joined his son Ted and two others in acquiring Able Marine (now Able Custom yachts) a custom boat building concern in Trenton, Maine, to which he devoted himself full time for eight years.

Mr. Cooper is survived by a son, Charles Terrell “Ted” Cooper of Essex and Somesville, Maine; three grandsons, Chandler Hovey Cooper and Charles Lockwood Cooper of Essex, and Grant Dearborn Cooper of Marblehead.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a son, Henry E. Cooper IV.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m., in the Church of St. Andrew,

135 Lafayette St., Route 114, Marblehead.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the New England Medical Center, Pulmonary Division, 750 Washington St., No. 257, Boston, Mass., 02111.