

TODAY
Monday 14.11.2005 (pg 1&2)

Tan Chin Tuan dies at age 98

The former chairman and managing director of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Mr Tan Chin Tuan (picture), died in his Grange Road home yesterday at the age of 98, when his health took a turn for the worse following treatment for a blocked bile duct.

He is survived by two daughters (his only son died a few years ago), eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

"My grandfather had a rich and full life, entertaining large groups of friends for lunch and dinner daily," his grand-daughter, Ms Chew Gek Khim, 44, who oversees Mr Tan's private companies, told Today last night.

Mr Tan was with OCBC for more than 60 years before retiring in 1993. The self-made man started out as a bank clerk at age 17 in the Chinese Commercial Bank, one of the three Hokkien banks that merged in 1932 to form OCBC. The other two were the Overseas Chinese Bank and the Ho Hong Bank.

He rose through the ranks to become OCBC's managing director in 1942 and its concurrent chairman in 1966 until his retirement. Under his stewardship, OCBC changed from a family business into a modern financial institution. After the end of World War II and through the 1950s, Mr Tan brought a number of British companies into the OCBC stable and localised their boards.

These include Times Publishing, Fraser & Neave, Great Eastern Life Assurance Company, United Engineers, Robinsons, Wearnes Brothers and Raffles Hotel. Mr Tan was also actively involved in public service.

Mr Tan was a devoted family man and had many special friendships that spanned decades and continents. He was loyal to people, causes and institutions, ACS and OCBC being two examples, Ms Chew said. He also had many interests and kept birds, fish, dogs and horses.

One of his former personal assistants at OCBC, Ms Tan Tsai Siong, described Mr Tan as "caring and loyal to his friends".

She said their friendship was never shaken even when "I wrote or said anything that challenged his interests" after she stopped working for him.

The wake is being held at the family residence at 74, Grange Road. The cortege will leave for Mandai Crematorium on Thursday at 10.45am where funeral rites will begin at 11.45am.

The former chairman and managing director of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), Mr Tan Chin Tuan (picture), died in his Grange Road home yesterday at the age of 98, when his health took a turn for the worse following treatment for a blocked bile duct.

He is survived by two daughters (his only son died a few years ago), eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

"My grandfather had a rich and full life, entertaining large groups of friends for lunch and dinner daily," his grand-daughter, Ms Chew Gek Khim, 44, who oversees Mr Tan's private companies, told Today last night.

Mr Tan was with OCBC for more than 60 years before retiring in 1993. The self-made man started out as a bank clerk at age 17 in the Chinese Commercial Bank, one of the three Hokkien banks that merged in 1932 to form OCBC. The other two were the Overseas Chinese Bank and the Ho Hong Bank.

He rose through the ranks to become OCBC's managing director in 1942 and its concurrent chairman in 1966 until his retirement. Under his stewardship, OCBC changed from a family business into a modern financial institution. After the end of World War II and through the 1950s, Mr Tan brought a number of British companies into the OCBC stable and localised their boards.

These include Times Publishing, Fraser & Neave, Great Eastern Life Assurance Company, United Engineers, Robinsons, Wearnes Brothers and Raffles Hotel. Mr Tan was also actively involved in public service.

Mr Tan was a devoted family man and had many special friendships that spanned decades and continents. He was loyal to people, causes and institutions, ACS and OCBC being two examples, Ms Chew said. He also had many interests and kept birds, fish, dogs and horses.

One of his former personal assistants at OCBC, Ms Tan Tsai Siong, described Mr Tan as "caring and loyal to his friends".

She said their friendship was never shaken even when "I wrote or said anything that challenged his interests" after she stopped working for him.

The wake is being held at the family residence at 74, Grange Road. The cortege will leave for Mandai Crematorium on Thursday at 10.45am where funeral rites will begin at 11.45am.