

Barron Hilton, hotel **magnate** and founding AFL owner, dies at 91

Barron Hilton, who **oversaw** the vast expansion of his father's hotel empire and took part in changing the pro sports landscape as an original club owner in the American Football League, died Thursday at his home in Los Angeles. The last survivor of the AFL's founding ownership, he was 91.

magnate 巨头; 大亨

oversee 监督; 审查

Hilton **embarked** on a business career at 19, when he acquired a citrus distribution company in the Los Angeles area.

embark 从事; 上船

long odds 高赔率; 机会渺茫

Barron Hilton entered the sports world as a member of the so-called Foolish Club: the eight team owners who defied **long odds** in challenging the National Football League by forming the American Football League in 1960. He was the founder of the AFL's Los Angeles Chargers. The Chargers won the 1963 AFL championship and captured five Western Division championships during Hilton's ownership.

He displayed a **penchant** for deal-making while away at school in his early teens. As related in Jerry Oppenheimer's "House of Hilton" (2006), Barron sent his father a letter carefully detailing his expenses in asking for a raise in his allowance to \$5 a week, leaving him \$2.50 for "weekend pleasures." "Sorry this is all business," he wrote in conclusion, then signed off, "Your loving son, Barron Hilton."

penchant 嗜好; 倾向

After serving as a Navy photographer at Pearl Harbor in World War II and running his citrus distribution business, he was **groomed** by his father to oversee the Hilton properties.

groom 培训; 照料; 诱骗

bequeath 遗赠; 留传

Conrad Hilton left 97% of his estate to the foundation he created in 1944. In 2007, Barron Hilton announced plans to similarly **bequeath** to the foundation 97% of his own net worth, estimated this year by Forbes at \$2.5 billion.