

## J. Walter Thompson

( - 4 Feb 1962)

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**Thompson, Walter J.** On Sunday, February 4, 1962, at Washington Hospital Center, Walter J. Thompson of 1306 Delafield place nw., beloved husband of Mrs. Goldie M. Thompson. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne., where services will be held on Tuesday, February 6, at 2:30 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, February 5, 1962, p. B5*

### **J. Walter Thompson, 87, Retired Engraver Dies**



**J. WALTER THOMPSON**

J. Walter Thompson, 87, a retired engraver and former vaudevillian, died yesterday in the Washington Hospital Center after a brief illness.

A lifelong resident of the District, Mr. Thompson lived at 1306 Delafield place N.W.

He retired in 1947 as an engraver with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey after 47 years of service. Four other members of his family -- his father, an uncle and two cousins -- had served with the survey in the same office.

For 23 years, nine weeks a year, Mr. Thompson traveled the old vaudeville circuit with two trained dogs, Yankee and Dixie.

Mr. Thompson's career in vaudeville -- which to him was just a hobby -- began at the old Chase's Theater at Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue N.W.

Three pairs of fox terriers bore the names Yankee and Dixie, and all had their understudies in Mr. Thompson's act. The dogs had been trained to perform a variety of acrobatic tricks, but the climax of the act was their bell-ringing rendition of "The Last Rose of Summer."

Mr. Thompson gave up the circuit from Maine to Florida and as far west as Chicago (illegible) years of life in vaudeville.

A bicycle racer in his youth, Mr. Thompson held several medals and trophies for racing in this area.

He was a member of the Arlington Wheelmen, a bicycle club, and of the Dawson Masonic Lodge for more than 50 years. He also was a member of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District.

He leaves his wife, Goldie M., of the home address.

Services will be at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Lee Funeral Home (illegible) Massachusetts avenue N.E. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.