



EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

## JOSEPHUS DANIELS at WAIKIKI 1919

By EDWIN NORTH MCCLELLAN

*I knew Josephus Daniels from 1913 until his death. FDR who served under him as Assistant Secretary of the Navy called him "Chief." Josephus steered the Navy through World War I under Woodrow Wilson. A breaker of tradition, Josephus made the Navy "dry"; in August 1919 he authorized a woman to cruise on a warship—his wife. Josephus had much to do with the development of Pearl Harbor (Wai-Momi) and the acquisition of Ford Island (Mokuumeume or Isle of Strife) in 1917. He and Mrs. Daniels lived in a Waikiki Hotel near the OCC and reveled in the surf, sun and sand.*

Hawaii was quite intrigued in July of 1919 by wire reports that Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels had announced that he would meet the Pacific Fleet at San Diego and would go to Hawaii. The battleship *New York* began its 2,080 mile cruise on August 13, 1919 from Los Angeles Harbor to the Hawaiian Islands. On board were Secretary Daniels, Mrs. Daniels and their two sons. An adequate escort of destroyers accompanied the battleship (*New York Times*, August 14, 1919).

### O.C.C. PLANS RECEPTION

"Characteristically Hawaiian and recalling the days when the first vessels of the U.S. Navy rounded Diamond Head under a cloud of canvas, will be the greeting given the battleship *New York* by members of the Outrigger Canoe Club," reported the *Advertiser*, August 19, 1919. "In the old days Hawaiian canoes pushed off from the shore and greeted the visitors and, tomorrow, some of the same canoes, decorated with flags and garlands, will set sail from the Outrigger Club and, braving the surf and reef, make for the gray monster of the Modern Navy. A dozen great sailing canoes belonging to the Club will comprise the fleet and will be manned by members of the Organization."

### DAD CENTER, O.C.C. CAPTAIN, IN CHARGE

"Some of the active members of the Outrigger Canoe Club put the proposition up to Dad Center, Club Captain, and he approved of it instantly," continued the *Advertiser*. Dad proposed that a young man and a girl be placed on the *New York*, the man to give Mrs. Daniels a lei and the girl one to Secretary Daniels.

The largest outrigger canoe in this OCC Fleet was forty-five feet long and was "once the property of the Great Kamehameha," explained the *Advertiser*. "It may easily have met the first United States naval vessel (U.S.S. *Sir Andrew Hammond* in 1814) to reach these isles as it is much over a century old."

### RIDING THE "BONE" BY DUKE

"Duke Kahanamoku plans to stage a novel stunt in connection with the Outrigger greeting to the *New York*," added the *Advertiser*. "The swimmer believes he can ride the 'bone' in the teeth of the battleship as she makes her way at reduced speed along the Waikiki Beach. At any rate surfboards are to be part of the (fleet) which will meet the ship. Duke will try to get on the long diagonal wave extending from the vessel's bow and ride alongside the craft. If it can be done no doubt Duke will do it."

### JOSEPHUS DANIELS ARRIVES

Secretary of the Navy, Mrs. Daniels and their two sons arrived at Honolulu aboard the *New York* on August 20, 1919, reported the *Advertiser*. As the battleship, with her escort, rounded Diamond Head—called Diamond Rock by Lieut. Hiram Paulding of the *Dolphin* in 1826—the Daniels Family saw the Castle Home and Castle Point (site of future OCC home), the Moana and Seaside with the OCC between, the stream, bar and lagoon, and the Koolaus beyond. As the flotilla steamed down the Reef, the OCC outrigger canoe fleet appeared with its aloha. Navy and Army airplanes roared overhead.

### "WHICH IS DUKE?"

"Which is Duke?" called out Secretary Daniels as the Outrigger Canoe Club Fleet approached the *New York*. The athletic figure of the swimming marvel, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, was pointed

out to Josephus. The Secretary waved a friendly handkerchief towards him. "I would like to meet Duke Kahanamoku at closer range," he said. Accompanied by the *Kinau* carrying the official *aloha* committee, the *New York* steamed down the Reef into the Harbor.

However, conditions prevented The Duke from riding the "bone," as he told me years later—August 1949; "I did not 'ride the bone' when Daniels arrived." It also was found to be impracticable to place the girl and boy on board the *New York* to present *leis* to the distinguished *malihinis*.

#### NEW YORK "TIMES" DESCRIBES

Secretary Daniels was "treated with the hospitality that long has distinguished the Hawaiian Islands," reported the *New York Times*, August 20, 1919. "The *New York* and four destroyers were tied alongside their piers almost in the center of the City.

"Off Waikiki Beach the great dreadnaught was met by . . . outrigger canoes, motor launches. . . . Girls of Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and American parentage . . . carrying gayly colored *leis*, the necklace of Hawaii, which they threw aboard the battleship until every officer and sailor aboard had a neck dress."

#### "PROMINENTS" GREET JOSEPHUS

Practically every prominent Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Territorial, City and civilian personality were on hand to greet the Secretary of the Navy. Governor Charles J. McCarthy, Mayor Fern, Secretary of the Territory Curtis Piehu Iaukea, Judge Sanford Ballard Dole, Walter F. Dillingham and many others, were there.

#### WAIKIKI THRILLS THE DANIELS

"From the ship he (Daniels and family) was taken to a hotel at Waikiki Beach where he was received with all the pomp of a visiting monarch, according to the old Hawaiian custom, by the Sons and Daughters of Hawaiian Warriors," reported the *New York Times*, August 23, 1919. The Daniels were thrilled with Waikiki.

#### DINNER AND RECEPTION

Governor and Mrs. McCarthy were dinner hosts at Washington Place to

Secretary and Mrs. Daniels. A large reception followed in the Throne Room of Iolani Palace. Among others in the receiving line was Princess Kalaniana'ole. Secretary Daniels had his wish granted—he and Mrs. Daniels shook hands with Duke Paoa Kahanamoku.

#### P. H. DRYDOCK OPENS—SHARK QUEEN

When Mrs. Daniels pushed a button on August 21, 1919, Pacific waters of *Wai-Momi* (Pearl Harbor) rushed into the great drydock. Nothing terrible happened as had been predicted by some superstitious Hawaiians. Six years before, the drydock had collapsed because, according to A. P. Taylor, "unconsciously, the home of the Shark God (Shark—Queen Kaahupahau) had been selected as a site" for the drydock.

#### LUAU AND HUKILAU

As guests of Mayor Fern and Honolulu Supervisors, the Daniels were entertained at Waialua with a *luau* and *hukilau*. These were part of a "round the island" tour of Oahu. According to the *New York Times*, August 23, 1919, everybody had a swell time. That newspaper reported that, on August 22d, a delegation of Japanese visited Secretary Daniels, presented him with two bronze vases and expressed firm loyalty to the USA.

#### O.C.C. ENTERTAINS FLEET ON BEACH

Dad Center (OCC Captain), Duke Paoa Kahanamoku and other OCC-ers, gave several hundred bluejackets and Marines rides in canoes and on surfboards, August 23d, reported the *Advertiser*, August 23, 1919.

The *New York*, with the Daniels Clan aboard, arrived off Monterey, California on August 31, 1919, published the *New York Times* of September 1, 1919.



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