

Outrigger's Forty-fourth Christmas

By Edwin North McClellan

Waikiki, Dec. 25, 1951 (AUI-Press) —Waikiki exploded with the greatest Christmas-Eve Party ever seen in Hawaii, last night, in commemoration of the Forty-Fourth Christmas of the Outrigger Canoe Club—the first was in 1908. It could be called a *luau*, a *hula-hula* affair, or a ball, but whatever you call the *fete* it was tremendous. The festivities continued through today and are not yet ended. Present was every member—*past*, present, and *future*—so you can imagine how the club-house bulged.

Yesterday morn, the Club Directors made all Kings and Queen of the Kingdom of Hawaii and all the Island Sovereigns, Honorary-Members of the Outrigger Canoe Club. All of them, together with some invited guests (of past, present, and future) attended.

The most amazing personages celebrating this 44th-Xmas were members of Outrigger-Canoe-Clubs (affiliated with the Waikiki Mother Club) from other planets and other inhabited terrestrial bodies far beyond the Earth. They arrived in Space-Ships now parked at Kapiolani Park. Naturally, some of the guests and members were there in Spirit only and threw an unearthly ghostly glow over the arca. Millions and millions were there.

A TOAST TO MEMBERS— PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Past-President of the Club — Sanford Ballard Dole — called the historic gathering to attention about none o'clock, to drink a toast in distilled juice of the *ti*-plant.

"To all members—past, present, future—to our Honorary-Members, and to our Guests from beyond earth," proposed the President and it was *okule maluna* (bottoms up). Yes, we drank to ourselves. Shortly after this, I was attracted to the *hau-lanai* where a *spirited* argument was going on.

WHO STARTED FIRST OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB?

"I started the first Outrigger Canoe Club at Waikiki!" exclaimed Kamehameha-the-Great. "It was in 1795. Read the *Forecast* of June, 1950."

"You did not," answered Kalaniku-

pule of Oahu somewhat hotly. "My father, King Kahekili of Oahu and Maui, did. He lived at Waikiki long before you arrived on Oahu. He welcomed Portlock and Dixon to this Glorious Island just before those two Discoverers of-Waikiki sailed over to the Garden Island and commemorated, in 1786, the first *haole* Xmas of Hawaii. Kam, you should read the *Forecast* of December, 1949." (Kahekili, the Tattooed, was present but remained silent.) Kamehameha rose to his majestic bronzed height and ended the conversation with—

"What are you doing around here, anyhow, Kalanikuoule. I liquidated you in 1795 when I conquered Oahu. However, neither of us believe in Christmas, so what's the difference (at this Xmas Celebration) who started the first Club at Waikiki. Let the *haoles* of May 1, 1908 have all the glory." The Great-First then joined his ancestors and descendants, some of whom did not know they are his kin.

Among the millions of distinguished members who enjoyed this view of Royalty in action was E. A. Mott-Smith who, in April of 1908, had presided over the first meeting of *haole* surf-enthusiasts convened to consider the organization of the Outrigger Canoe Club. Others in the group around Kamehameha, Kahekili and Kalanikupule were: Harry Macfarlane, Charles R. Frazier, A. L. C. Atkinson, James F. Morgan, H. P. Wood, E. H. Hand, Wallace Farrington, J. R. Galt, H. L. Herbert, C. F. Chillingworth, James W. Harvey, J. P. Cooke, Fred Bailey, W. H. McInerney, Alexander Hume Ford, W. R. Castle, Henry P.

(Continued to Page 29)

FORTY-FOURTH XMAS

(Continued from Page 4)

O'Sullivan, J. A. McCandless, John Waterhouse, A. M. Brown, James A. Wilder, Richard Trent, Chester Doyle, R. W. Shingle, William Roth, Harry and L. Steiner, Curtis, Harold and Frank Hustace, Warren Dease, Sam Wight, Joe Farrington, James D. Willson, Ken Winters (first Captain), Dad Center, Duke Kahanamoku, Ernie Chase, Captain Timberlake, Les Hicks, Wilford Godbold, Harold Mountain, James Mooney, Walter Macfarlane, Sam Fuller, L. A. and Lorrin P. Thurston, and Herman Rohrig and Ernie Stenberg representing the *Horizontal Athletic Club* of the OCC. I left this group to join another that was singing *Kuu Ipo* and after that *Pua Mohala*.

CLUB PRESIDENT OF 2050 A.D.

This singing quickly terminated as the spotlight centered on a trio in the center of the floor—Present-President Godbold, First-President Alexander Hume Ford and a third strange young man who was so transparent you could see right

through him. Glass in hand, they were caroling *Ua Like no a Like*. Song ended; Prexy Wilford after placing a fragrant wreath around the neck of the wraith, introduced him—

"This is Harry Delano Taft VI, President of the Outrigger Canoe Club in the year 2050 A.D., or 105 A.A. (Atomic-Age)." We were not a bit startled for why should we be. Over there, Kamehameha I was holding a family re-union with all who boasted his blood, and in the *ewamakai* corner, James Cook of England and Juan Gaetano, the Spaniard (both invited guests), were heatedly arguing as to who had discovered Hawaii—Gaetano in 1555 or Cook in 1778.

DULL XMAS HISTORY FALLS ON DRY EARS

I joined a lonely figure on the deserted Volley-Ball court (*mauka*). He was the Club-Historian and was mumbling over Xmas information. "Portlock and Dixon in 1786 were the first *haoles* to observe Xmas in Hawaii," murmured the Data-Nut. "The American Missionaries' first Christmas was that of 1820. There have been at least sixteen ways of spelling

'Christmas' in Hawaiian; but I'll settle for *Mele Kalikimaka*. Thomas ap Catesby Jones, his bluejackets and Marines of the U.S.S. *Peacock* celebrated an Hawaiian Xmas in 1826. The *Sandwich Island Gazette*, December 22, 1838, made the first printed reference to Christmas in Hawaii and it wished everybody a 'Merry Christmas.' The first time an Hawaiian Xmas observance was described in print was that of 1844 by the *Polynesian*, December 28, 1844. There was a Christmas-Tree at Washington-Place in 1859. The Kingdom of Hawaii formally celebrated Christmas for the first time in 1862. And the . . ."

"Cheer up, Sad-One, this is Christmas," I intervened, shoving a little Xmas-cheer toward him.

"Say, did you know that Sanford Ballard Dole was a three-stretch Prexy?" and he answered before I could speak—"He was President of the Provisional Government, of the Republic and of the Outrigger Canoe Club."

CONVIVIAL LORDS-ANNOINTED

"Where's Kalakaua?" I asked to change the subject. "Out on the Beach," replied Historian. "The Earl of Waikiki is giving him a little *lomi-lomi*." But I was not there to hear. I was viewing the introduction of two distinguished guests who had just arrived—Hiram Bingham and Asa Thurston, of the first group of American-Missionaries to arrive in Hawaii—in 1820. Probably the most surprised were L. A. and Lorrin P. Thurston, son and grandson of Asa. They were the first to extend an *aloha* to the pale pair. And the two early ramparts of Americanism in Hawaii proved good sports last night. They were very human in 1951. The party really hadn't started until their arrival. They joined in the singing of *Eka Wikiki Wai* and *Honolulu Tomboy*. And they took part in a *Kahuna Hula*, in which everybody joined, Kalakaua doing a solo with Puckoo who had danced for George Vancouver, a guest who enjoyed everything.

About now, King Kualii (who had had his hair "annointed at Waikiki" centuries ago) joined us. His body and

malo were dripping wet. "Where have you been?" we all queried.

"Enjoying the royal joy of the Kalehuawehe Surf on my surfboard, after which I washed-off the salt-water in the fresh-water stream of Apuakehau," replied Kualii nonchalantly.

"But we filled-in that stream and the lagoon, long ago," explained his astonished listeners. "There's nothing but dry-land where you say is fresh-water!"

"Not for me," answered the ancient King of Oahu. "It's just like it was when I lived as a mortal on the Beach at Waikiki." There were many miracles with us last evening and early this morning.

THE ATOMIC SURFBOARD

I was about to ask George Freeth (guest) if he had ever met up with D. Renear the great swimmer, when a sudden commotion interrupted his answer. A weird surfboard-looking object landed gracefully on the floor. "What the Sam Poepoe is this?" we demanded.

"The Atomic Surfboard," replied Sam Poepoe. "It's atomic-powered, can surface and submarine the waves, and fly, too. But see this"—Sam pushed a button and out of the Atomic Surfboard floated a gorgeous *wahine* covered with Waikiki spray. From her T.V. lips we heard—

"I am the Atomic Santa Claus. I have a present for each of you. You may have anything. . . ." I swooned with *Beautiful Kahana* ringing in my ears. When I came-to Prince Kuhio was leading a large group in singing *Maikai ka Mahalo Kohale*. I took my place in the line that led toward the glamorous Atomic Kriss Kringle.

I shook hands with John Ledyard (in Hawaii with Cook) who probably was the first American to see Hawaii; clinked glasses with Jonathan Thorn, the first American naval officer to visit Hawaii; smiled at Leatherneck John Marshall Gamble who commanded the first U. S. naval vessel to make a call on Hawaii; greeted Mad-Jack Percival, Tom ap Catesby Jones and Lawrence Kearney—all of the Navy—Major Tom Swords (first U. S. Army officer to see Hawaii), and Lemuel Cornick Shepherd, the

Club's "Surfboarding Gyrene General." They all had enjoyed Waikiki.

I left this Outrigger Club's 44th Xmas party about three o'clock on the morning of Xmas, 1951. I was exhilarated and hated to leave as the affair was getting real hot. Millions of buoyant souls—many of them bodiless—were still celebrating as I left. A bit hazy, I do recall that at exactly midnight a tremendous Xmas chorus went up to high heaven—

"Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!"