

WAIKIKI IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1925

By Edwin North McClellan

"Surfboard paddling races, once a popular local sport, were revived at the Outrigger Canoe Club today, under the auspices of a committee of members which plans to make them an annual event in the future," reported the *Star-Bulletin*, January 1, 1925.

"The revival of the races is along new lines with a view to placing the racers entirely dependent upon their own ability and speed, and not giving them the advantage of the surf, as in the past. Today's course was parallel to the beach. The Men's Open Race was from Gray's Raft to a point in the water opposite the Outrigger's Clock. The other races were from a point off the Seaside Hotel to the same finish-line." George David "Dad" (Hullo Joe) Center was in charge of the affair.

The "Hui Nalu's surfboard paddlers made a general cleanup," explained the *Advertiser*. The Men's Open was won by T. G. Kiakona in four minutes twenty-nine and two-fifths seconds. Gay Harris was second and E. D. Cooke, third. Dorothy Waters came in first in the Women's Open, paddling the short course in one minute and forty-two seconds. A. F. Douse was second, and M. Morong, third.

In the relay race, the *Kamaainas* won from the *Malihinis*. On the winning team were Vierra, Minvielle, Jr., Gillis (or D. L. Girdler) and Harris.

Russell L. Richards finished first in the Race-for-Men-over-Thirty; Robert Askew was second, and A. R. Tulloch, third. T. G. Kiakona was victor in the Race-for-Boys-under-Eighteen followed in by H. Vierra and F. E. Ellis. In the Boys-under-Fifteen contest Alfred Hess was first, Benton Wood was second, and John Trotter, third. Miss F. Bahr was the only entry in the Race-for-Girls-under-Fifteen. She paddled the course alone.

The officials were: "Dad" Center (starter); A. E. Minvielle, Sr. (clerk of the course); C. G. Benny (timer); Pat O'Sullivan, Karratti and Cowan (judges).

"Russell Richards caused some consternation in the Hui Nalu camp some weeks ago when he defeated Jimmy Woolaway in a surfboard paddling match race," reported the *Star-Bulletin* of January 3, 1925, "but Jimmy got his revenge in the first lap of the relay race between the Hui Nalus and Outrigger New Year's morning."

"I beat him (Richards) by a mile," Jimmy Woolaway claims, published the *Star-Bulletin*. "This report is not ac-

cepted by Richards who demurs to the extent of 1,759 yards and a fraction. Anyway, Woolaway won and insists that his friends be notified so that there will be no more 'kidding' him about his prowess as a surfboard paddler." As a result of all this, the *Advertiser* of January 5, 1925, reported that Dick Richards (Outrigger Club) will meet James Woolaway (Hui Nalu) on Sunday, January 11, 1925. Whether they raced or who won, I don't know.

"As a result of the New Year's Day Surfboard Paddling Races, a new interest in the sport seems to be present at the beach," declared the *Star-Bulletin*. On Sunday, January 4, 1925, a special match surfboard paddling race was pulled off at Waikiki Beach. Tommie Kiakona, of the Outrigger Canoe Club, won with George Harris second and "Tough Bill" Keawemahi, third.

**JOSEPH R. FARRINGTON,
PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB**

"The Outrigger Canoe Club directors accepted the resignation of Percy G. H. Deverill, as President," on the night of January 8, 1925, "and elected Joseph R. Farrington as successor," reported the *Star-Bulletin*. New duties of Mr. Deverill at the Bank of Hawaii made it impossible for him to "give the necessary time to the Outrigger Canoe Club presidential duties."

Joe Farrington was one of the oldest members (of the Outrigger Canoe Club), having belonged for many years prior to his departure for the mainland and college studies. After his return to Honolulu he was exceedingly active in furthering the Outrigger Canoe Club interests.

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FILLING IN THE "LAGOON"

At a meeting of "the Directors of the Club" (Outrigger), on January 8, 1925, they "decided to continue the work of filling in the Lagoon. The Lagoon will be filled in to the level of the rest of the grounds," explained the *Star-Bulletin*. "There is need of this space for locker room buildings." Twenty days later the same newspaper published information that an "announcement was made today (February 28, 1925) by William Ouderkirk, director of the Outrigger Canoe Club, that a contract had been closed for filling the section of the Club Grounds at Waikiki now covered with water. The filling is to begin at once and will be completed within three months.

"Under the contract this portion of the Club Grounds is to be raised to the level of the other land. Directors of the Club have been seeking for several months to make this improvement."

MARIECHEN WEHSELAU AND SAM KAHANAMOKU IN AUSTRALIA

Samuel Alapai Kahanamoku left Hawaii December 15, 1924, to swim "down under" as the guest of Australia and New Zealand. Mariechen Wehselau departed for the same area early in 1925, the *Star-Bulletin* of January 12, 1925, reporting—"Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo is on her way to Australia and New Zealand with Mariechen Wehselau, Outrigger Canoe Club swimmer." Sam Kahanamoku not only won swimming races in Australia and New Zealand, he surfboarded. The *Star-Bulletin* of January 24, 1925, reproduced a picture from the Melbourne *Sun-News* (January 6, 1925) showing Sam doing an exhibition stunt (by standing on his head on a moving surfboard) at the North Bondi Beach Carnival. Sam Kahanamoku and Mariechen Wehselau (chaperoned by Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo) returned from Australia on March 26, 1925, aboard the *Aorangi*. Sam was about two and a half months in Australia and New Zealand and Mariechen Wehselau about two months.

DUKE KAHANAMOKU IN THE "MOVIES"

"Duke Paoa Kahanamoku has been claimed by the motion pictures temporarily," reported the *Star-Bulletin* Feb-

ruary 4, 1925. "He is playing the role of a Hawaiian bodyguard to Pauline Starke, heroine of Jack London's *Adventure* now being produced by Paramount. In one scene he has an underwater battle with another swimmer to save her life. Tom Moore, Wallace Beery, Raymond Hatton and Walter McGrail are other members of the cast."

"DAD" CENTER BUSY AS USUAL—HELPING

"Plans for a Sports Program, that will be memorable, are being made in preparation for the arrival here (in Hawaii) of the American Fleet next April," reported the *Star-Bulletin* February 4, 1925. George H. Angus had been appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Athletics. "Angus has appointed George David (Dad) Center as his Chief Aide and has also assigned to him the division that will handle canoeing, surfing and activities of the Trail and Mountain Club," explained the same newspaper. (Dad's friend, Mike Jay, at this time was an industrious reporter on the *Star-Bull*.)

(The Legislature of Hawaii convened in Iolani Palace on February 18, 1925, and among the House members was Rose Keliinoi of Kauai, the first woman to be elected to the Territorial Legislature.)

VOLLEYBALL AT OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

A Volleyball Tournament started on the Outrigger Canoe Club's courts on February 17, 1925. Four teams announced in the *Advertiser* of February 1925, were as follows: *Team One*: Dad Center (captain), Chase, Farrington, Hartman, May, Mackenzie and Piltz. *Team Two*: Harold Harvey (captain), Hills, Lindley, Lyman, Morgan, Ramsay and Singlehurst. *Team Three*: Sam Fuller (captain), Hilleger, Horner, Howell, McGuire, Makinney and Tom Muirhead. *Team Four*: Roy Jacobson (captain), Deverill, Gillis, Haller, Heminger, McGill and Thurston.

"Dad" Center's No. One team won the Club Series on February 17, 1925, by defeating Team No. Three, 6-15, 15-3 and 15-1. Members of the winning team were: George David (Dad) Center, E. T. Chase, Joe R. Farrington, "Scowie"

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Hartman, Bob Mackenzie, Gordon May and G. C. Piltz.

Nineteen hundred and twenty-five was the year I made by fourth visit to Hawaii. With my family I arrived on July 14, 1925, and lived in Hawaii for over two years. I hope, in a future issue, to tell you about the Club of those years.
