

Winee of Waikiki

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN

Below is an interesting story of the arrival of the first ship in Waikiki Bay and the first haole woman to set a foot on Waikiki Beach. Her maid, Winee of Waikiki, was the first Hawaiian woman to visit the mainland. It would be most fitting that the OCC erect a bronze plaque on the beach commemorating these two events. The author, Edwin North McClellan, is well known in Hawaii. He is Dean of radio commentators, former editor of *Paradise of the Pacific*, author of the *History of the Marines in World War No. 1*, the *Naval Digest*, which is a compilation of *Naval Laws*, and many stories and articles. We have been complimented on his contributions in past issues and are happy to state that we have more to come. (Editor)

FIRST SHIP ARRIVES

King Kahekili of Oahu was living at Waikiki on May 25, 1787, when the British fur-trader *Imperial Eagle* (Master William Barkley) became, according to the late Judge F. W. Howay, the first haole ship to anchor in Waikiki Bay. Her Log on that date records that the ship "hove to in a sandy bay under the lee of the island [Oahu], S.W., to E.N.E., off-shore about one mile, sounded twenty-five fathoms, coral rock. At noon, light breezes and hazy. Came alongside several canoes with fish. One of the natives remained on board signifying an intention to go in the ship." Judge Howay wrote that "this appears to be the first record of any vessel at Waikiki," explaining that the *King George* (Nathaniel Portlock) and the *Queen Charlotte* (George Dixon) while visiting during the preceding year in nearby Maunaloa Bay, had not anchored in Waikiki Bay.

FIRST HAOLE WOMAN AT WAIKIKI

In the opinion of the Judge, the native joining the *Imperial Eagle* at Waikiki—mentioned in the Log—was a maid named Winee. He indicated that John Meares was in error when he said that Winee was from Owyhee. No other native was taken aboard the *Imperial Eagle* during the stay of that vessel in Hawaiian waters. Mrs. Barkley (*nee* Frances Hornby Trevor)—the first white woman to visit Waikiki—made this cruise with her husband and—in her *Reminiscences*—states that she persuaded the winsome Winee to accompany her as maid.

So, Winee was installed aboard the *Imperial Eagle* as Mrs. Barkley's maid and that vessel sailed from Waikiki Bay, for the northwest coast of America, on the same day she had arrived there.

WINEE OF WAIKIKI

Winee is described by Mrs. Barkley as an engaging young woman, of fine char-

acter, quick to please, anxious to learn, and an agreeable companion. You can see her picture in *Voyages of John Meares*—captioned *Wynee, a Native of Owyhee*—which shows her as young and beautiful, with Caucasian features, fair-skinned, brown-eyed, and flaxen-hair, very suggestive of Artist Webber's *Maid-of-the-Sandwich-Islands* in Cook's Third Voyage. As Judge Howay explained, the only Hawaiian touches in the picture of Winee are her bracelets, her flower necklace, and the *lei* in her hands. However, in this connection, do not overlook the Caucasian foundation of the Hawaiian race.

WINEE VISITS AMERICA

The *Imperial Eagle* reached Nootka Sound (Vancouver Island) about the middle of June, 1787. Winee was the first Hawaiian to visit the northwest coast of America. Captain Barkley sailed for China in about three months. Soon after his arrival at Canton in November, 1787, he gave up his plans to return to Hawaii and America. So, Winee was left stranded in Canton. She became ill.

About January of 1788, Winee sailed from Canton aboard the British vessel *Felice*, commanded by John Meares, for the northwest coast. On board was Kaina, the rival of Kamehameha the Great. Winee died on February 5, 1788, and was buried at sea with Christian ceremonies, never again to see her "Summer Isles of Eden."