



# OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

JUNE

# FORECAST

1950

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**King Kamehameha the Great from a painting made during his lifetime.**

(See Pages 3, 5 and 10)

# Kamehameha the Great at Waikiki

(FIRST OCC AT WAIKIKI)

By Edwin North McClennan

In 1804, when Kamehameha I was on his way to invade Kauai, he halted with his army at Oahu. A plague-fever broke out and Kamehameha is said to have lost about two-thirds of his army. "During the plague the King repaired to the great *marae* (*heiau* or temple) at Wy-titi (Waikiki), to conciliate the God whom he supposed to be angry. The priests recommended a ten-day *tabu*, the sacrifice of three human victims, four hundred hogs, as many coconuts, and an equal number of branches of plantains. Three men, who had been guilty of enormous turpitude of eating coconuts with the old Queen (possibly Keopuolani) were accordingly seized and led to the *marae*. But, there being yet three days before the offering could be duly sacrificed, the eyes of the victims were scooped out, the bones of their arms and legs were-broken, and they were then deposited in a house to await the *coup-de-grace* on the Day of Sacrifice.

## DRASTIC PUNISHMENT

While these maimed and miserable creatures were thus suffering, some persons, moved by morbid curiosity, visited them—and found them neither raving nor desponding, but "sullenly singing the national *huru* (*hula*)—dull as the drone of a bagpipe and hardly more variable." When "Sacrifice-Day arrived, one of them was placed under the legs of the idol, and the other two were laid with hogs and fruit upon the alter-frame. They were then beaten with clubs upon the shoulders until they died of the blows." All this according to Daniel Tyerman and George Bennet—British Missionaries, about 1822.

## WOMEN GOOD SWIMMERS

Samuel Patterson arrived at Oahu in the snow *Yarmouth* in December of 1805 and wrote of his experiences at Waikiki and Honolulu. He called Kamehameha "The Emperor" who invited Patterson to dine with him. They had roasted dog, roasted pig, vegetables and chewed a root

called *awa*. Rum made from the *ti*-root was enjoyed. Haole Patterson explained that Kamehameha had two wives and graciously told the white visitor:

"Take wives of any women saw on the Island except the Chiefs' wives." Patterson wrote that the "women are uncommon swimmers and have been known to swim fifteen or twenty miles."

## VENGEANCE AT WAIKIKI

About the year 1807, while Kamehameha was residing at Waikiki, a very tragic event took place. According to Don Francisco de Paula Marin (Don Marin or Manini), wrote Chamisso (at Honolulu with the 1816 Kotzebue Expedition), "a nephew of the King (Kamehameha I) had been found in the arms of the Queen, Kahumanna (Kaahumanu). He himself escaped, but his garment which he left behind, discovered him. Three days after the deed, he was seized and strangled by the Nobles of the Kingdom. A soldier on duty announced the punishment and the crime at the same time. This was the regular order. Tamaahmaah (Kamehameha) regretted the poor youth and shed tears." Many years later Queen Liliuokalani described this event in a document now lodged in The Archives of Hawaii.

"Things could not remain in place all the time," explained Liliuokalani. "So, one day a young chief—said to be a son of Kamehameha—whose name was Kanihonui, mother not known—dared to look with favor upon Kaahumanu who was considered very sacred, being Kamehameha's favorite wife. They sought to kill him (Kanihonui) and he ran through the coconut grove in an easterly direction towards Hikanakai's House where Naihe was residing, hotly pursued by a man sent to slay him. Just before he (Kanihonui) reached the stream he was caught by one who was more fleet of foot than he, near a coconut tree and was struck down. The man who struck him thought him dead; left to return with the news of his death to Kamehameha; but

the latter was not satisfied and sent another man to be sure to kill him. The body was not to be found. He saw a stack of fresh coconut leaves placed upright against the tree but the people around would not betray what it was. Finally, a groan came from the bundle of leaves and the man, who was in search of him, soon unravelled the leaves which disclosed the fugitive, unconscious but still breathing. The man immediately took a cord he held in his hand and drew it around his (Kanihonui's) neck twice which killed him. This act is called a . . . the death by . . . After killing Kanihonui the man went away and the servant of Aikanaka took the body and buried it. The coconut tree still stands where Kanihonui met his death. Kamehameha must have taken his departure soon after that event."

Archibald Campbell—who arrived at Waikiki in 1809 aboard the "Russian Imperial Service" ship *Neva* (Captain Hargemister)—referred to this execution of Kanihonui. Campbell wrote that Isaac Davis informed him that the eldest son

of Kamehameha "had been put to death by his (Kamehameha's) orders, in consequence of criminal connection with one of his wives." According to Campbell, Kamehameha maintained a residence at Whyteete (Waikiki) where he went to enjoy real life. "They often swim several miles off to ships, sometimes resting upon a plank shaped like an anchor-stock, and paddling with their hands, but more frequently without any assistance whatever," explained Archibald Campbell.

Ladies and gentlemen of Hawaii, it was Kamehameha the Great with his Queens, Chiefs and Chiefesses and their surfboards and outrigger canoes, who maintained an early Outrigger Canoe Club at Waikiki.

**TRY LUNCHEON  
AT O.C.C.**