

# THE CLUB AND WAIKIKI, JULY-DECEMBER, 1925

By Edwin North McClellan

With my family I arrived at Honolulu on July 14, 1925, aboard the *Matsonia* (Captain John T. Diggs) when she docked about half past seven o'clock in the morning at Pier 15.

We had enjoyed a very pleasant cruise from San Francisco. There were many very interesting passengers among the 231—James D. Dole, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dowsett, Enoch Lovell (Deputy Sheriff at Lihue, Kauai, for thirty years), and about thirty Mainland schoolteachers. Diving boys, lovely *leis*, stirring Hawaiian music, and a little *liquid sunshine* greeted us.

## THE ANCIENT "LAGOON" FINALLY FILLED-IN

The lure of Waikiki Beach often pried me away from Pearl Harbor where I and the family occupied splendid quarters. The Moana Hotel with its long pier—good old neckin' place—was still there. The last timbers of the razed Old Seaside Hotel were being carted away. Thoughts of the good times at the Seaside in 1908, 1910 and 1913 filled my mind in the early days of this, my fourth visit to Hawaii. Theodore Hopkins of the Territorial Hotels Company, only a few days before we arrived on the *Matsonia*, had broken ground for the new Royal Hawaiian Hotel—on the site of the Old Seaside.

I found that the seventeen-year-old Outrigger Canoe Club was carrying on in the spirit of its founders. One of the founders — Joseph R. Farrington — was President of the Outrigger Club in 1925, having been elected on January 8th of that year. As described in the January (1951) issue of the *Forecast*, the project of filling up the Lagoon and other low ground of the Club had been started and we know this was completed before the end of the year 1925.

## THE "NEW" OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB, 1925

Building of the new Royal Hawaiian Hotel brought changes to the Outrigger Canoe Club. On the day after our arrival the *Star-Bulletin* of July 15, 1925, published a long announcement by President Farrington.

"Directors of the Outrigger Canoe Club have been requested to move off

that section of their land which will be occupied by the new hotel (Royal Hawaiian) within the next thirty days," explained Joe Farrington.

The Directors at this time were: President, J. R. Farrington; Vice President, George Armitage; Treasurer, Warren Dease; Secretary, Allan J. McGuire; House and Ground, S. M. Stairatt; Order and Entertainment, Paul Leebrick, and Captain, "Dad" Center.

Carry-overs: Henry A. Asch and Leonard Withington.

"Under the lease negotiated by the new hotel corporation with the Bishop Estate," continued the announcement "they have taken over that section of the Club Grounds adjacent to the Seaside property, on which part of the Pavilion, the men's bathhouse, and the bathhouses of the Women's Auxiliary stand. The dividing line runs from the beach along the front of the men's bathhouses and straight back until it crosses the line of the present Seaside property. This will make it necessary for the Club to move the Pavilion now standing on the beach, construct new men's bathhouses, and for the Women's Auxiliary, to either move some of their bathhouses or obtain new quarters for their members." A campaign to raise thirty thousand dollars was started by the Club with the Women's Auxiliary cooperating.

"Teams of members (were organized) under the direction of Ernest T. Chase to obtain pledges from members which may be paid over a period of ten years," stated the announcement in the *Star-Bulletin*.

At a meeting of the Directors on Sunday, July 12, 1925, Hart Wood, Chairman of a Committee of Architects (consisting of Guy Rothwell, one of the earliest members of the Club, and Ralph Fishbourne) had been authorized to call for bids for the creation of the New Outrigger Canoe Club.

## PAVILION MOVED BACK FROM THE BEACH

The plan called for the "Pavilion to be moved back into the filled land about 150 feet from Kalakaua Avenue," ex-

plained President Farrington. The Pavilion will "be raised to sufficient height to make room for the construction of new locker rooms beneath it"; and "one-half of the Pavilion will be for the use of men and the other for women . . . ; proper construction will be added on each side to provide showers and other bathroom equipment."

President Farrington further announced that the Club's grounds will be beautified; that the *hau* trees will not be disturbed, and that the "two *hau*-tree *lanais* will stand as at present." An encouraging note appeared in the announcement which stated that the Royal Hawaiian Hotel will assist the Outrigger Canoe Club and the Women's Auxiliary to meet part of the expense of moving. In conclusion, President Farrington explained that accommodations for canoes will be provided on the site of the present Pavilion on the beach but farther back from the water, "by erection of a distinctly Hawaiian shelter with the use possibly of a coconut-thatched roof."

I was a keen observer of this operation which moved the famous Pavilion from the beach back to near Kalakaua Avenue. And I read with much interest Don Watson's story in the *Star-Bulletin* of November 16, 1925, describing progress of the "New Club."

"Before another month has passed the Outrigger Canoe Club expects to have completed the first unit in a program of construction which will give it equipment, little dreamed of in the early days of the organization." The "new Bath-houses are under the old Pavilion, which has been moved off of the beach and back onto the reclaimed land just off Kalakaua Avenue. Before the Waikiki Reclamation Project went through, this used to be a wide stream which sometimes flooded Waikiki with muddy water. Through the efforts of the Outrigger Club, it has been turned into solid land and, where a pond once appeared, automobiles are now being parked and the Club's new home stands. . . . By the time the new Royal Hawaiian Hotel is completed in January, 1927, the Outrigger Canoe Club hopes to have completed the additional improvements which will equip it to carry on with better facilities than ever before its very distinctive work

in the life of Honolulu."

The *Star-Bulletin* of August 1, 1925, published a fine picture showing Harry B. Smith (Sports Editor, San Francisco *Chronicle*), Dad Center (Captain of the Outrigger Canoe Club) and Joe Farrington (President of the Club) helping to *hapai* an outrigger canoe on the Outrigger Canoe Club beach at Waikiki.

#### PRESERVING BEACH AND BATHERS' RIGHTS

"Bathers at Waikiki are again up in arms because of the encroachment on the beach of property owners," reported the *Advertiser* of August 4, 1925. "When the Board of Harbor Commissioners meets tomorrow afternoon it will find in its correspondence a letter from Judge John A. Matthewman, former Attorney General and now representing bathers and others interested in preserving their rights at the famous beach." The letter of Judge Matthewman referred to "rights of the public to the beaches at Waikiki . . . difficulty of getting to the beaches . . . seawalls, buildings . . . in such a manner as to practically abolish the beach . . . public might walk along the wall . . . accretion . . . ownership of the new land. . . ."

"The Honolulu Chapter, American Association of Engineers, has undertaken a campaign that deserves the support of every loyal citizen in Honolulu," stated an *Advertiser* editorial (October 11, 1925). "And that is the creation and maintenance of a beach or beaches, in Honolulu that will be in keeping with the fame of Hawaii." The *Advertiser* of October 28, 1925, carried a possible promise of Attorney General William B. Lyman to take action against anybody "who may be in illegal possession of any portion of the beaches."

(To be continued)

#### CANOE OWNERS, ATTENTION!

By order of the Board of Directors! All private canoes parked on beach in front of Club must be covered by tailored canvas canoe covers, covered with fire resisting paint in conformity with the style cover adopted by the Club. For information as to cost and availability of such covers see Fred Mosher.