

EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

THE CORAL CRESCENT OF WAIKIKI AT CHRISTMAS AND **NEW YEAR'S**

By Edwin North McClellan

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The Coral Crescent of Waikiki-the Great Creator's Christmas hookupu to the world. There is only one Waikiki. The serene and beautiful Beach at Waikiki, smiled on by the most hospitable Nature in the Universe, invites all peoples every minute of the year to enjoy its magnificence, its grace, charm and hospitality.

Every day is a perfect day at Waikiki but Christmas and New Year's are special days of great joy when Waikiki carols that Christian Christmas Welcome - it is

more blessed to give than receive. The Coral Crescent of Waikiki gives abundantly and expects nothing in return but the grand happiness of your presence.

NATURE AT WAIKIKI SAYS MELE KALIKIMAKA AND HAUOLI MAKAHIKI HOU

Mother Nature invigorates the body and satisfies the soul at Waikiki: blue waters of the Great Ocean, surging over the protecting Coral Reef in white lacy ruffles, roll indolently with happy murmuring on the beach, so safe for young and old; velvety coral sand clings affectionately to your brown skin; not fardistant the verdant Koolaus smile reassuringly on you at Waikiki; and dependable Diamond Head, like a crouching lion, is a sentinel over all.

Christmas and New Year's at Waikiki are marvelous. Beauty of Hawaiian Nature thrills all who are lucky enough to be on the Coral Crescent during the Holiday Season, far from ice, sleet, snow and storm. Nature fills the sky, beach, air and sea—and valleys and mountains beyond with all that is perfect. Soothing, flowerperfumed trade-breezes sift through palm fronds and whisper a Special Blessed Aloha. Lovely birds trill their greeting from rendezvous in broad shade trees, fleecy clouds spell aloha out in the azure sky, and the laughing Pacific waters roar the Waikiki Welcome of peace and good will to all peoples.

Every drop of water, every grain of sand, every gentle puff of the tradebreezes, every ray of sunshine, all the white cloud-islands anchored motionless in the blue sky, and the neighboring mountains, join in the chorus of Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Aloha from Waikiki.

WAIKIKI BEACH, SAFEST SPOT IN WORLD

Waikiki Beach is the safest spot in the world from the wrath of Nature which only purrs at the Coral Crescent. No tvphoons, hurricanes, cyclones, twisters or blizzards, on the Dream Beach, and tidal waves are spectacles to enjoy rather than to fear. Other parts of Hawaii may have destructive tidal waves but not Waikiki.

You can walk as fast as the waters of a Waikiki tidal wave come in and recede. An earthquake on the Coral Crescent is a tickling sensation. Waikiki is fogless and smogless.

Waikiki—the nearest thing on earth to the Fountain of Youth where the supreme elixir of life may be found.

FIVE WAIKIKI GOOD NEIGHBORS

Joining hands to give malihinis, kamaainas and all others, the thrill and joy of the Holiday Season are Five Good Neighbors living right in the center of the Waikiki Coral Crescent. Founded on ancient hospitality, grace and charm of Old Hawaii these Five Waikiki Good Neighbors preserve and offer you the good that is Hawaii. Contiguous, holding hands and rubbing noses, the Fine Five have featured the Waikiki Environment for years.

Facing makai, toward the Great Ocean, from right to left they form a unique Hawaiian lei, beautiful and useful-the Royal Hawaiian Hotel with a natal date of 1927 but carrying with it all the carlier traditions of the old downtown Royal Hawaiian and the Waikiki Seaside of the Gay Ninetics and before; the Uluniu Women's Swimming Club which received its name in 1926 but was born in 1909 as the Outrigger Canoe Club Women's Auxiliary: the Outrigger Canoe Club with birthday of May 1, 1908; the Moana Hotel, the keel of which was laid in 1899. and which was commissioned in 1901; and the SurfRider Hotel, the Junior Good Neighbor of the Coral Crescent. Before next Christmas brand new Waikiki Good Neighbors may join this Original Five.

WAIKIKI CHRISTMAS OF 1953

The Beach at Waikiki is thronged on Christmas Day of 1953. Teresa Oberlin, suntanned kamanina goddess and Queen of the OCC, lies face to the sun on the Outrigger Beach.

The Spirit and Soul of Waikiki she is!" murmured handsome Patrick Amherst, King of the OCC, to himself as he walked from the Hau Tree Lanai toward the feminine Sun Worshiper.

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Teresa!" wished Pat as he dropped alongside the lovely maid. Looking up at the bronzed haole, the girl replied:

'Same to you and many more of them." Teresa threw back her hair which gleamed like gold in the Christmas sunlight of Waikiki. Her great grandmother would have been shocked to see Teresa so exposed in that Bikini bathing suit, but this was 1953, not the Days of the Hawaiian Monarchy.

THE WAIKIKI CHRISTMAS FISHING FLEET

'I see that the Waikiki Christmas Fishing Fleet is out in full strength this Holiday Season," said Pat. "Indeed it is," replied Teresa. "Fishing for husbands is the great outdoor and indoor sport of Waikiki at Christmas and New Year's. It is the world's most wonderful Beach of Sweethearts and Bridegrooms. Listen, Pat, you can even hear the Great Ocean humming the Wedding March, No surfboarding this morning?

"Yes, later, but the temptation to be with you was greater than the Great

Surf," replied Pat.

KING AND QUEEN OF SPORTS AT WAIKIKI

"What a wonderful place Waikiki Beach is for aquatic sports," remarked Teresa, "Nature created a surf unequaled in the world for surfboarding and riding the outrigger. These two aquatic activities are the King and Queen of Sports

(Continued on Page 12)

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CORAL CRESCENT

(Continued from Page 42)

during the reign of President Joe Farrington. In ancient eras surfing was one of the most popular sports in the *makahiki* games during the Hawaiian holiday season."

THE "FORECAST" SOURCE OF INFORMATION

"Say, young feller, where did you get all this information?" asked Teresa.

From the Outrigger Canoe Club's monthly, The Forecast, edited by Ernie Stenberg," grinned Patrick. "Also from The Story of the Outrigger Canoe Club, a book by a chap named McClellan. Between the two one gets satisfactory information about not only the Club but of Waikiki back to the days when Waikiki Beach was not even dry land but fathoms under Pacific salt water."

"Your sources are excellent," admitted Teresa; "but, changing the subject, did you attend the *Menehunes*' Christmas Party last night here on the Beach?" Pat admitted that he had not, explaining: "A devil of a *kahuna* had me in tow last night after I parted from you at the Big OCC Dance." Teresa then waxed informational:

"The Coral Crescent of Waikiki is the best known beach in the world," explained Teresa. "Waikiki was the first capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Kamehameha-the-Great, and all his successors, as well as President Sanford Ballard Dole, the only President of the Republic, maintained residences at Waikiki and they surfed in the waters in front of us."

FAMOUS VISITORS AT WAIKIKI

"A great many of the most famous people in the world have visited this unique Coral Crescent," added Pat. "There've been too many to even list their names at this time. I guess there is not a movie, radio, television or stage star who has not relaxed on this Coral Strand of Waikiki."

"I know one," laughed Teresa. "Which is?" questioned Pat. "Look at that sign —Dogs not allowed on this Beach," replied Teresa. "Yet, even a mynah is welcome on the Beach for just look at that cocky bird strutting his stuff within a yard of us," said Pat. Teresa brought the conversation back to famous visitors:

"Sometimes out here on the Beach at night I can see walking on the sands the wraiths of Herman Melville, Edwin Booth, Mark Twain, Charles Warren Stoddart, Robert Louis Stevenson, Joaquin Miller, Matthew Arnold, Jack London, Burton Holmes, George Bernard Shaw and other literary giants."

"Not to mention John L. Sullivan, Jack Sharkey and Jack Johnson," laughed Patrick. Teresa smiled back and added:

"John Ledyard, in 1778, was the first American to visit Hawaii, but while he may have had a distant look at Waikiki he never visited the world-famous Beach. Waikiki was discovered by white haoles in 1786 in which year the Hawaiians of Kauai served a Christmas Dinner of dog and hog to the same haoles." You catch your breath, Teresa, and I will give you more information from this valuable book:

FIRST AMERICANS AT WAIKIKI

"The first American merchantship to anchor in Waikiki Bay was the brigantine *Hope*, commanded by Joseph Ingraham, in 1791. The first American Naval Officer to visit Waikiki was Lieutenant Jonathan Thorn in 1811; the first American Marine was Captain John Marshall Gamble in 1814. The first Army and Air Force personnel arrived in Hawaii many years later." Teresa then carried the Waikiki ball:

"Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who lived at the Royal Hawaiian in 1934, was the first President to see Waikiki, 'Ike' Eisenhower was the first President-Designate, Herbert Hoover the first former-President, John Nance Garner the first Vice-President, and Charles Warren Fairbanks the first former Vice-President to visit Waikiki."

CHRISTMAS AND THE OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

"After that somewhat dry historical dope, let's talk of Waikiki, romance, Christmas and the OCC," intervened Patrick.

"Sure, let's," replied Teresa. "The first Christmas of the Outrigger Club was in 1908 when they commemorated the Season with illuminated surfboards and outriggers in most memorable fashion. The forty-sixth OCC Christmas is today in 1953. Between those years the hospitable OCC brought happiness and value to

millions of people of Hawaii and the remainder of the Earth People. The OCC never has asked for anything but the goodwill and the presence of everybody in Hawaii; but the Club has given tremendously in the Christmas Spirit, to millions."

"This Paradise of the Pacific truly is a most remarkable part of the United States," said Pat. "I read here in the Forecast that you can enjoy both summer and winter sports at Christmas in these Hospitable Islands. It is summer at Waikiki on the Glorious Island of Oahu and winter at Mount Mauna Kea on the Big Scenic Island of Hawaii, Over there one can snowball, ski, snowshoe, bob-sled and ice-skate. In Hawaii we have our own holly, we import many Christmas-Trees, the stores of Waikiki are filled with gifts, the streets are thronged, stockings are hung up, and children have faith in Santa Claus; and on Christmas the Islanders of almost every race and religion celebrate the Birth of Jesus. Santa Claus arrives in an outrigger canoe on the Beach at Waikiki!'

SANTA PRESENTS CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO OCC

"Look! There comes Santa Claus, now!" exclaimed Teresa. Sure enough, there Santa was with a pack on his back, standing on the platform of a double canoe, waving a Christmas Aloha to the OCC. Reindeers paddled the canoe while, as outriders on surfboards, were Madame Santa and the little Claus. Kriss Kringle landed amidst a colorful ceremony in which President Herbert M. "Yabo" Taylor led in receiving St. Nicholas.

"This is a Special Daytime Visit to honor the Outrigger Canoe Club for its outstanding contributions to the happiness and prosperity of Waikiki, the Potential Forty-Ninth State and the rest of the world," explained Santa Claus. "I have several Christmas Gifts for the OCC which I will now present." President Taylor, the Directors, and several Honorary Members including Admiral Arthur W. Radford, General-Commandant Lem Shepherd of the Marines (the surfboarding general) and Governor Samuel Wilder King, stood in a body to acknowledge the Gifts of Honor from the Jolly Ruler of Good Cheer.

"First, here is a plaque on which is inscribed the conclusion of Santa Claus' Board of Experts on Happiness and Welfare, that the OCC has with great civic unselfishness brought the very favorable attention of the world to Waikiki and the remainder of Hawaii, that it is spreading the fame of Waikiki and Hawaii, has led in encouraging good fellowship, aquatic sports, other healthful activities, all in the hospitable and Christmas Spirit of the Hawaiian string of rare and precious pearls,' as Joaquin Miller called your lovely Fleet of Islands. Place this plaque in a prominent spot on your Club Grounds where all can read that Santa Claus approves of the OCC."

SANTA CLAUS HAPPY AT WAIKIKI

"I have more Christmas Gifts for the OCC," explained Santa; "but, first allow me to say that I am always Iull ol joy in these Islands of Perpetual Christ-

(Continued on Page 46)



CORAL CRESCENT

(Continued from Page 45)

mas Spirit and Happy Hospitality. Here I enjoy the hookupus, luaus, hulas, ukuleles, leis, chants, meles, poi, taro, squid, clam-chowder, pa-u riders, liquid sunshine, distilled juice of the ti, surfing, torch spear fishing, hukilaus, Upsidedown Falls, lunar and daylight rainbows, perfect sunrises and sunsets and the Outrigger Canoe Club. Hawaii is a Fairyland of Delight and Waikiki is its crown. Adam and Eve never would have sighed for the Garden of Eden after their expulsion if they could have looked upon the comfortable beauty of the Coral Crescent of Waikiki and heard its siren call.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT OF AN OLYMPIC DIVER

"Here is a Christmas Gift of a Champion Diver of Hawaii who will win points for Uncle Sam in 1956 at the Melbourne Olympic Games. He is in Hawaii right now. Go find him and give him the opportunity he and Hawaii deserve. Hawaii has had magnificent swimmers of both sexes but never an Olympic Diver.

"Here is another Christmas Present for you. It is events at the Melbourne Olympics in both surfboarding and outrigger-canoeing, with entries from Hawaii, California, Philippines, Australia, Mid-Pacific Islands and other areas. This gift is yours only if you persuade the Olympic Committee to add these events to the Olympic Program. You need a Dive-Coach and a standard fifty-meter swimming pool. Get them immediately and find that Diver. Now, more gifts:

PLAQUES HONORING HISTORIC VISITORS

"Here are ten plaques to place at your Club. They will please kamaainas and attract malihinis—plaques with inscriptions describing visits to Waikiki of Jonathan Thorn, John Marshall Gamble, Charles Wilkes, Matthew Calbraith Perry, Edwin Booth, Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, Joaquin Miller and George Dewey. I will have more plaques for you on Christmas Day, 1954, if you enjoy these ten Christmas Presents.

HONOR ROLL OF OCC PLAQUE

"Hundreds of members of the OCC,

down the years, have done tremendous things for the OCC and Hawaii, Many of their names have been forgotten. Here is a plaque with the names of a few such men and women-Martin Anderson, Lorrin Andrews, A. L. C. Atkinson, Rov Banks, G. W. William Barnhart, Dr. S. J. Beardmore, Dr. Irving Blom, A. M. Brown, Kenneth Brown, Le Roy C. Bush. Robert I. Bush, Ernest R. Cameron, H. B. Campbell, William C. Capp, Dad Center, Ernest Tucker Chase, Olga Clarke, Jack Cross, M. Vincent Danford, Warren Deane, Percy D. H. Deverill, Sanford Ballard Dole, Clarence H. Dver, William Ewing, Joe Farrington, Robert D. Fischer, A. H. Ford, Charles R. Frazier, Samuel M. Fuller, Judge Wilford D. Godbold. Leslie Asa Hicks, Albert Gay Harris, Burton Holmes, C. C. James, Murray Johnson, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, Dr. K. C. Leebrick, Walter James Mcfarlanc, James B. Mann, Charles Martin, A. E. Toots' Minvielle, D. E. Mooney, Helen Moses, Harold A. Mountain, William J. Mullahey, Sam Poepoe, H. Bryan Renwick, Ronald O. Smith, Fred Steere, Harry Steiner, Ernest Warren Stenberg, Herbert 'Yabo' Taylor, Rusty Thomas, E. W. Timberlake, Lorrin P. Thurston, Guy H. Tuttle, Philip L. Weaver, Mariechen Wehslau, James D. Willson, and Ken Winters. Next Christmas I will add names to this list.

GIFT OF CITATION FOR THE "FORECAST"

"No activity of the OCC is more vital to the Club's success and perpetuation than the *Forecast*. This Club Monthly is a valuable asset of both the OCC and Hawaii. It has helped to make the Club the best known organization in the Territory. It has carried the fame of Waikiki to the world. It is the great creator of Esprit de Club in the OCC. It has well carned this Citation of Merit from Santa Claus. Hang it up where all can readall should be encouraged to help the Editor make it bigger and better, if the latter is possible." Off rode Santa and his Party beyond the blue horizon. His last words were "Merrie Christmas and Happy New Year!"

TRY AN O.C.C. PLANTERS PUNCH