

WAIKIKI - AQUATICS - THE CLUB

MARCH-JULY, 1925

By Edwin North McClellan

Edwin North McClellan, Col., USMC, ret., dean of radio commentators, author, editor, soldier and traveler, has contributed many interesting and historic stories to the Forecast. It has been a labor of love for Hawaii and the Club. Many members have made complimentary remarks of his work and ask for more. We are glad to say that we have many more for future issues. — THE EDITOR.



In no year have the achievements of Outriggerites surpassed those of 1925. The Outrigger Canoe Club on the Beach at Waikiki should make history repeat itself. Swimming, diving, surfboarding, outrigger-canoeing, water-polo, aquaplaning, rowing, volleyball, track-and-field, horseshoe-pitching, and Hawaiian Hospitality, featured the Club's activities of 1925.

OUTRIGGER MERMAIDS

The *Star-Bulletin* of March 2, 1925, brought news to Hawaii that at Miami, Florida, Ethel Lackie (on the same date) had broken the 100-yard freestyle swimming world-record of the Club's Mariechen Wehselau.

Mariechen Wehselau (chaperoned by Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo) and Samuel Alapai Kahanamoku returned to Honolulu from Australia and New Zealand aboard the *Aorangi* on March 26, 1925. Miss Wehselau, according to the *Star-Bulletin* of April 3, 1925, was invited to participate in swimming-meets at New Zealand the following autumn.

"Mariechen Wehselau, Honolulu's best girl swimmer, has decided to accept the invitation to compete in the National Women's Championships to be held in Detroit next month," wrote the sports-editor of the *Advertiser*, July 5, 1925. "The Swimming Committee of the A.A.U. has allowed Miss Wehselau \$225 toward expenses but about \$400 is necessary and the needed amount will be raised here, for, already, the Outrigger Canoe Club is planning a number of entertainments while contributions will also be asked for by those interested."

Doris Helinihi and Beatrice Newport (Outrigger Canoe Club) finished first and second in the forty-yard swim-dash for school-girls in the Central-Y Tank on March 6, 1925, the first of a two-day meet. On the second day, Lillie Bowmer May (Outrigger Canoe Club)

placed first in the fifty-yard women's freestyle, beating Pauline Laird (Outrigger Canoe Club) and Doris Helinihi. Lillie also captured the fifty-yard backstroke with Pauline in second-place.

The New Palama Swimming Tank was opened on June 1, 1925, reported the *Advertiser* of June 2, 1925. Mariechen Wehselau won the 100-yard freestyle Hawaiian Championship race for women, followed in by Lillie Bowmer May and Leilehua Judd, all three girls representing the Outrigger Canoe Club. The fifty-yard (novice) freestyle for women was taken by Annie Dause (Outrigger Canoe Club). In second and third places were Beatrice Newport and B. Culman, both of the McKinley Club.

MEN SWIMMERS

It was at this swimming meet that three Hawaiian lads "caught the eagle-eye of George ("Dad") Center (coach of the Olympic American Swimming Team at Antwerp in 1920), as future great aquatic performers," wrote Mike Jay in the *Star-Bulletin*. These lads were John Woodd and Jim Komenaka, swimmers, and Robert Kea, diver.

Sergeant Kahanamoku won two first places (back- and breast-stroke) in the final swimming meet of the Central Grammar School, staged in the Westervelt Tank of the Nuuanu YMCA on March 6, 1925.

(Continued on Page 13)

There are also Polo Clubs which have no connection with the Military, but to play a match occasionally.

"Each player is armed with a long-handled mallet or club and should be mounted on a short-legged active pony. On Wednesday [November 3, 1880] every man was mounted on the best steed he could procure; there were five players on each side and four games were played. An occasional spill, not infrequent collisions, and now and then a stroke aimed at the ball, but resulting on the nose or knees of rider or horse nearest at hand, render the game particularly exciting, sometimes dangerous. It would be a capital game for natives, especially those accustomed to bullock-hunting and we hope to see it naturalized here."

The *Hawaiian Gazette* of November 10, 1880, according to Colonel McClellan, not only identifies this POLO-MATCH but names the teams and tells where it was played in Honolulu. The *Hawaiian Gazette* story is as follows:

A game of Polo was played at Palama the other day by the officers of H.M.S. *Gannet* and some of our Honolulu young men. Polo requires specially trained ponies which will answer to every touch of the heel and can turn round on a ten-cent piece. The animals last Wednesday (November 3, 1880) were quite unaccustomed to their work, and some of them kicked badly. We wonder a *Polo-Club* is not got up here; we have some excellent riders amongst us. This City requires good healthy amusement to keep it from stagnating."

If you ever do write your History of Pacific Polo you might correspond with Colonel McClellan for he usually has a fund of reliable information and in Polo he apparently has contributed the Pioneering Date of Hawaiian Polo known so far.

THE EDITOR.

WAIKIKI AQUATICS

(Continued from Page 4)

Hawaii was represented on the swimming team of Yale University this year by Ed Peterson. Ed was a member of the 200-yard relay team that broke the world's record on February 14, 1925, reported the *Star-Bulletin* of March 7, 1925.

"An International Swimming Meet at Honolulu during a whole week in June," 1926, at which Oriental, Australian, New Zealand, and Mainland United States, and local stars would compete, was projected in the chambers of Judge William T. Rawlins on March 11, 1925.

The Hui Makani Swimming Club held a meeting on April 17, 1925, reported the *Advertiser* of April 16, 1925. The same newspaper, of June 14, 1925, carried news that Harvey Chilton, of the

Hui Makani, was out to revive swimming in Hawaii.

Samuel Alapai Kahanamoku finished third in the 100-yard freestyle swimming dash on April 24, 1925, at San Francisco behind Johnny Weismuller the winner, reported the *Advertiser*.

At the opening of the New Palama Swimming Tank on June 1, 1925, K. Makinney, of the Outrigger Canoe Club, won the 220-yard (boys under 18 years) race. Hayward Wright (Hui Makani) took first place in the 50-yard novice freestyle; H. Yapp (Outrigger Canoe Club) nosed out Andrew Kinney (Hui Nalu) for second place. Warren Kealoha (Hui Makani) in addition to winning the 220-yard backstroke open, captured the plain high-diving from John Sable (of Schofield) and K. Makinney (Outrigger Canoe Club).

DUKE PAOA KAHANAMOKU

Word came to Honolulu from San Francisco, reported the *Advertiser*, March 28, 1925, that "Duke Kahanamoku is said to be training for the 100-yard event. He will swim for the Los Angeles Athletic Club," in the National AAU Championship at San Francisco the following month. While Sam Kahanamoku competed in this meet there was no news that Duke participated.

From another source came news that "Duke Kahanamoku, peerless Hawaiian swimmer now residing in Los Angeles, has not deserted the swimming game entirely for the movies." His "latest and most important role is that of a Hawaiian bodyguard in Victor Fleming's Paramount production of Jack London's absorbing story, *Adventure*."

"When the Olympic Games open in Holland in 1928," explained Duke Kahanamoku, "I again hope to be one of the participants in the swimming events. . . . I am training. . . . Take *Adventure*, for example. In a single week during the filming of this production I took part in three fights, paddled a canoe until my arms ached, and swam a 440-yard course four times under conditions that called for every ounce of strength I possessed." But, as Duke told me in March of 1951, "I did not swim at Amsterdam, for I caught the flu."

(To be Continued)