

THE CLUB AND WAIKIKI, JULY-DECEMBER, 1925

By Edwin North McClellan

(Continued from January Issue)

The year 1925 was one of *construction* for both the Club and Waikiki. The Outrigger Canoe Club filled up *The Lagoon*, moved the big *Pavilion* from the Beach to about 150 feet from Kalakaua Avenue, and constructed new bathhouses. Creation of the new Royal Hawaiian Hotel and Gardens started but they were not opened until 1927. The Old Seaside, with its traditions and memories, were gone forever, though the name was retained for the cottages moved to *mauka* of Kalakaua Avenue. However, in 1925 only a vivid imagination could envision Waikiki as competing with downtown Honolulu as a business area. But with the erection of the Royal Hawaiian, there were some of us who saw Waikiki's Kalakaua Boulevard as the Fifth Avenue, the Chestnut Street, or the Rue de la Paix, of Honolulu. Business remained away from Waikiki; there were no theatres. The Moana Hotel and the Outrigger Canoe Club formed the center of social and aquatic activities at Waikiki.

GETTING FROM PEARL HARBOR TO WAIKIKI

I had many official and social responsibilities at Pearl Harbor—where I was on duty as Second-in-Command of the Marine Barracks. But we often got down town, and to Waikiki. I joined in with civic plans as often as possible. I became a member of the Ad Club and attended its meetings at the Young Hotel. I wrote articles for the *Star-Bulletin*, *Advertiser*, and *Paradise-of-the-Pacific* and broadcast on the radio.

We would drive from Pearl Harbor along the narrow road *makai* of the OR&L Company's railway tracks with canefields on our right (Hickam Field was a thing of the future); across the railway tracks; through Moanalua beauty past Fort Shafter; along King Street through town to Kalakaua; along that noble Avenue over the Waikiki Canal to the Outrigger Canoe Club and the Moana Hotel.

However, before we drove our automobiles beyond the Naval Station, we had considerable difficulty in securing drivers' licenses from the City-County. The relations between the Services and the Honolulu Police were not as satisfactory as they are in 1952.

A CHANGED WAIKIKI

I found Waikiki somewhat different from the Waikiki of my visits in 1908, 1910 and 1913. The absence of the Seaside Hotel was the biggest blow. Haleku-

lani Hotel was not yet a prominent part of the Beach. Edgewater and Gray's Beaches were there; Fort DeRussy dominated its end of the Beach; *walls* that spelled doom of Beaches despite groit stood insultingly; Waikiki Tavern and Prince Kuhio's Establishment were at the Diamond-Head end; a house fronted by a stone-jetty requiring one to swim or to go to Kalakaua Avenue to get around it; a fenced-in wall sticking out into the ocean mounted with two guns pointed with a Pier. There was no Kuhio Beach and futile imported sand; and the Desha-Law required an un-native attire. However, the Outrigger Canoe Club and the Moana Hotel helped to balance the ledger. There was the old Moana Dining Room extending a bit over the water. I remember that on September 1, 1925, we entertained at dinner in that old Moana Dining Room. There was the Banyan Court, the Moana Public Bathrooms where one could secure a bathing-suit, towel and locker, for a price. And the old Moana Pier of Romance.

MOANA PIER

Reminiscence carries me back forty-five years to that old Moana Pier which some people in 1925 thought was ugly. But in it lodged part of the Soul of Waikiki. It was a real joy, day or night. On it, under the full moon shining down like a new-silver-dollar, the Beach-Boys sang their plaintive Hawaiian songs — *Lei o na Hawaii*, *Old Plantation*, *Imi au i a oe*, *Two-and-One*, and concoctions like *Duke's Mixture*, an unorthodox composition of a dozen songs and voices. Hotel guests were pleased with the

Beach-Boy vocals as well as their instrumental music. Couples — not always youngsters — found a *Lovers' Lane* on the Pier — the gayest Promenade of Waikiki and Honolulu. The pavilion at its end was the best spot from which to view arriving and departing ships. With no Boardwalk, Waikiki needed that Pier, now gone. I encouraged athletics among the Leathernecks and attended many of the games and meets of our civilian friends. Among such was —

THE SWIMMING MEET AT PALAMA POOL

The Palama Pool Swimming Meet took place on the night of August 26, 1925. The *Rotary Club* entered the following swim-stars to carry the ideal of "Service Above Self:" Arthur A. Hauck (Captain), G. Stanley McKenzie, Robert L. Maconel, Ralph Johnson, and Ernest Clark. "The *Ad Club* will put in a strong four under Dad Center as Captain," reported the *Advertiser* of August 26, 1925. "Members of his team will be Percy Nottage, Col. Blackman, Bob Gilman, and Bob Fuller of Olympic fame. The *Representatives Club* quartet may prove the *dark-horse* stuff. Ez Crane, as Captain, has the following reliables: H. Harvey, Harold Kay, and Allen McGuire."

Dad Center surprised the other teams with substitutions in the above-named *Ad Club* team. "The *Ad Club* took first place [in the Club Relay] with Hartman, Gilman, Dad Center, and C. Dudley Pratt swimming. The *Representatives Club* placed next, while the *Rotary Club* . . . brought up the rear."

"In the exhibition of life-saving, Dad Center and two of the Outrigger boys gave demonstrations of the uses of the surfboard in saving drowning persons; and also in teaching people to swim. Following this, Dudley Pratt and S. Wright gave a demonstration of the various holds and breaks that are common in life-saving work . . . Miss Pratt and Miss Bogert also gave demonstrations. The Meet was closed by a sensational fire-dive by Fred MacDonald."

REGATTA DAY

The newspapers, several times, published information concerning "The First Annual Hawaiian Henley" on the Waikiki Canal to feature the opening of the Territorial Fair. However, I read of no

evidence that this interesting rowing-battle between the Healanis and Myrtles took place. But, September 19, 1925 was Regatta Day and the contestants rowing in Honolulu Harbor were: Healani, Myrtle, Honolulu, Navy, Police, Kunalu and Hilo. The Healanis won the Senior Race with Navy second and the Myrtles, third. However, the Myrtles took point honors. "Yabo" Taylor [of the Outrigger Canoe Club] was coxswain of the Myrtle crews. Gay Harris, of the Outrigger Canoe Club, was stroke of the Myrtle Junior crew. In this month of September, 1925, Judge Bill Rawlins suggested that Honolulu be host to a huge Aquatic Olympiad in 1926.

WEHSELAU WINS SWIMMING DUEL WITH GARATTI

Eleanor Garatti and Lester Smith — Mainland swimmers — arrived in Honolulu from San Francisco on October 20, 1925. The Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club and the Hawaiian Association of the Amateur Athletic Union, sponsored a Swimming Meet in the Punahou Pool on October 29-30-31, 1925.

Mariechen Wehse lau (OCC) defeated Eleanor Garatti in three major events of the meet. These were the freestyle events of fifty; one-hundred; and two-twenty yards, while Garatti won from Wehse lau in the fifty-yard backstroke. In addition to these victories Wehse lau won some Hawaiian championships. She also won the Swanzy-Cup for all around feminine swimming for the second year, defeating Dot Waters, Leilehua Judd and Pauline Laird, all of OCC.

C. Dudley Pratt (OCC) was third in the plunge; Hess (OCC) won race for boys under 15 with Trotter (OCC), 2nd; Gay Harris (OCC) was second in the 150-yard backstroke; Gay Harris was third in hundred freestyle; Makinney of the Outrigger Canoe Club won the dive; Miss Bickerton (OCC) was third in the Women's freestyle Junior; Wehse lau won the Women's breaststroke with Waters second and Judd third; Wehse lau won the Women's dive with Laird second and Judd third; in the plunge, for women, Waters finished second and Wehse lau third; Hui Makani won the

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220-yard Club-Relay with OCC second; the water-polo match was won by Outrigger Canoe Club (Minvielle, Wood, Kammy Ross, Gay Harris), score 3-2, and so they carried away the cup offered by Gay Harris. Among the officials were: Dr. Paul Withington (OCC) one of the marshals; Dad Center, C. Dudley Pratt and Mrs. K. C. Leebrick (all OCC) members of the Games Committee; Ernest Tucker Chase (OCC), scorer.

CLUB'S ANNUAL SWIM-MEET

"The aquatic dope-bucket was tipped considerably at the Outrigger Canoe Club's Annual Swim-Meet at Waikiki Beach on Thanksgiving Day [November 26, 1925] when Gay Harris defeated A. J. ["Toots"] Minvielle, Jr., for first place in the Castle Cup Event," reported the *Star-Bulletin* of November 27, 1925. H. Wood was third. This event was inaugurated in 1917. "By defeating Minvielle, Harris won the Harold Castle Trophy which has been taken by Minvielle the last two seasons." The course was from the "old Castle Home to three stakes opposite the Outrigger Canoe Club grounds."

Mariechen Wehseleu won the Women's Open event over a course starting at the Public Baths and ending at the three stakes; Janice Lovett was second and Leilehua Judd, third. Beatrice Newport won the novice race for girls with A. Douse second and Eleanor Bickerton third. Course, from Cunha Surf to stakes.

Hans Bahr won the event for boys under sixteen years, Edgar second, and H. Field third. Course, Public Baths to Stakes. In the race for boys under sixteen, B. Wood finished first, A. Hess second and W. Newport third. Course, Cunha Surf to stakes. R. Askew won race for men over thirty with A. S. Baum second and Pat O'Sullivan dropping out with cramps. Course, Cunha Surf to stakes.

The officials were: "Mouse" Smith, starter; A. E. Minvielle, Sr., Clerk-of-Course; Edric Cook, F. Turner and Dad Center, timers; Sam Starret and R. Cowan, judges.

ECCENTRIC SANDS OF WAIKIKI

Groins were relied upon to save the Sands of Waikiki. On July 25, 1925 Max Long told Ad Club that "Honolulu might benefit greatly if it improved the beach" at Waikiki. On August 5, 1925, Judge John Albert Matthewman protested to the Board of Harbor Commissioners about encroachment of property-owners on the Beach. Former Mayor George F. Wright, as Past-President of the Engineering Association of Hawaii, on October 9, 1925 addressed a letter to the Association calling for beautification of shoreline from Ward Street to Diamond Head. The Association passed a Resolution calling for a complete program for Waikiki Beach. Oahu was becoming keenly conscious of the "sins against Waikiki" but the mood soon passed off.

MANY OTHER THINGS OF 1925

Herbert Dowsett and Harold Dillingham departed on August 1, for the Star Yacht Races on Long Island Sound; Polo was prominent at Kapiolani Park; Navy Dirigible *Shenandoah* cracked-up in September and never used the Ewa mooring-mast; Commander John Rodgers arrived by air and sea with his Navy Flag Seaplane PN-9 No. 1; Mrs. Gordon May (Lillie Bowmer) was swimming well on Pacific Coast; Waikiki Social Club building gutted by fire in October; Daisy the elephant and her 13-year-old attendant (Dorothy Mockini) in Kapiolani Zoo, received publicity; lava activity still prevailed at Kilauea; Cunard Liner *Carinthia* arrived November 3, with 377 passengers who visited Waikiki; University of Hawaii sponsored a Swim-Meet on November 6; Armistice Day was commemorated; Duke Paoa Kahanamoku played left-tackle for Healanis as National Guard team defeated them on Moiliili Field seven to nil; "Adventuring Through Waikiki" (*Star-Bulletin*, December 5); Burton Hooper won the Diamond-Head Five-Mile Run, December 12, time, 29 minutes, one and a fifth seconds, with Fong Mow second, Merageas (U.S. Army) third, and Helbush fourth.

1925 was a wonderful year for the Club and Waikiki but 1926 was destined to be even more complete. I was in Hawaii all of 1926 and most of 1927.