

Big White Fleet Visits Waikiki - 1908

(Concluded)

OFFICERS ENTERTAIN

That evening was one of interest and pleasure. We had met many young ladies and we threw a party for them in the *Wisconsin* Junior Officers' Mess. I'll never forget the feminine shriek that came from pretty lips as one of our guests bumped her head into a hammocked bluejacket swinging just outside the mess-room entrance.

Next day, in obedience to orders, I went out to Pearl Harbor (Wai Momi) by the OR&L and returned by automobile. We took a ride in one of the battleship steamers to be "sold" on the Pearl Harbor idea by the Pearl Harbor Subcommittee of the Fleet Entertainment Committee. After steaming around the Lochs we landed on the Peninsula where a fine recreation hall—resplendent with Hawaiian decorations and bunting—had been erected. Long tables tastefully arranged *a la luau* was loaded with lots of food including chowder (but no roast dog) that satisfied our hunger. It was on that day that I saw Ford Island or *Mokuumeume* for the first time. I also heard stories of *kahunas* and legendary heroes, of beautiful heroines of ancient Hawaii, and of *Kaahupahau*, the blonde Shark-Queen of Oahu, whose cave-castle was in Puuloa or Pearl Harbor. Yes, tales of the *menehunes*, too, were told us. Hawaiian hospitality at Pearl Harbor that day was unsurpassable. Then, back to town.

POLO MATCHES

Next morning I read in the newspapers that while we were out at Pearl Harbor the Kauai Polo Team had defeated Oahu by the very large score of 6¾ to 1. Oahu (Blue and White) was represented by Walter F. Dillingham, George Angus, J. F. Fleming and G. P. Dennison, while the Kauai (Red and White) team was formed of Arthur Rice, J. Malina, Chas. A. Rice and C. A. Dole. The referee was Frank Baldwin; goal judges were Harold Castle and Worth Aiken; and the time-



Edwin Norib McClellan, who has written this article, has a background of unusual experience. He circled the globe with the big white fleet in 1908 and visited Hawaii many times and is now a resident. Retired Lt. Colonel of the Marine Corps, and historian, editor, writer and traveller, he is presently Dean of radio commentators in Hawaii.

keepers, John Walker and Clifford Kimball.

Society turned out in its fullest strength, on the evening of July 20th, to honor the enlisted men of the Fleet at a Ball staged at the Moana Hotel, Seaside Hotel and Outrigger Canoe Club, in a duplication of the Ball and Reception given to the Officers on the 17th. Music was furnished by the Kaai Glee Club, Fleet First Division Band, and other musical organizations. Walter F. Dillingham was in charge of this very interesting social affair.

I again got out to Waikiki on the late morning of the 21st for my last swim and enjoyment of Outrigger Canoe Club cordial courtesy. Luncheon at the Moana Hotel and back to the *Wisconsin*. That afternoon we said a regretful parting-aloha to the many friends we had made in Honolulu, at the grand gala reception given by Admiral Sperry to the public aboard his Flagship *Connecticut* alongside the Oceanic Dock. Then, back to our ship where we junior officers threw our last party in Honolulu in the Steerage Mess Room to our many Honolulu friends.

DANCING AT ROYAL

Some of us, after dinner, took in the dance on the *lanais* of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on Hotel Street to the music of Ernest Kaai's Orchestra. There were

fireworks that evening and the Fleet gave a sensational illumination picture as the ship-profiles were outlined in electric lights—a fiery revelation. We crawled into our bunks early on the morn of July 22d. I recall that our mascot cub-bear (which had been presented to us at Seattle) startled me as I entered my stateroom, when it scuttled off my bunk.

We did many things and heard of many things which I have not mentioned.

TRANS-PACIFIC YACHT RACES

We saw the finish of the Second Trans-Pacific Yacht Race which was started by Teddy Roosevelt by signal in California and ended at Diamond Head July 19-20. The *Lurline* won, followed by *Gwendolyn II*, *Lady Maud*, and *Hawaii*. We visited the Hawaiian Opera Company, the Orpheum and Midway Theatres. We saw the Archives and heard of the Bishop Museum. We walked by Washington Place where former Queen Liliuokalani lived. We felt the sadness of the Hawaiian people over the death of one of their last *aliis*—Prince Kawanakoa at San Francisco, and our friends described to us the magnificent funeral of the Prince on June 21st after his body had laid in state at Iolani Palace. People were still talking of the nomination of William Jennings Bryan as presidential candidate of the Democrats. "Link" McCandless was the "new Moses" of the local Democrats. Joseph J. Fern was Mayor of Honolulu and his office was in either the McIntyre Building at King and Fort Streets or at the mauka-ewa corner of Alakea and King Streets. We heard of the *hukilau* but saw none. However, I saw women wearing *holokus* but no *muumuus*. Of course we saw Punchbowl, Tantalus and Roundtop. Liquid sunshine was an occasional visitor during our stay. M. Nunes still was manufacturing *ukeles* which he reportedly had invented in 1879.

A TOURIST BUREAU

The Promotion Committee (forerunner of our old Tourist, and present Visitors Bureau) with its Secretary H. P. Wood, was very active. Japan was angry over the Panama Canal and there was talk of the Fleet having been sent out by the President as a warning to Japan, yet

Compliments of

BEVERLY MANAGEMENT CORP.

Bryson Apartment-Hotel (stay with us while in California); Roxbury East and West Apartments, Culver Hotel (rates \$2.50 and up); California Country Club; Westside Tennis Club, et al, projects of the Beverly Management Corporation, Bo Chr. Roos.

400 No. Camden Drive

Beverly Hills, California

Bo Chr. Roos, President CR 1-5611

Miki Saito (Japanese Consul at Honolulu) published in *The Star* words of the "traditional friendship between Japan and her first and greatest friend, the United States." Civic and religious organizations of men and women of Japanese ancestry expressed similar friendship. However, strange as it seems, Consul Miki Saito departed from Hawaii the following month, being succeeded by S. Uyeno.

Our glorious visit to Hawaii was ended and, of all the joys and fun I experienced, the greatest were those when the Outrigger Canoe Club was my host. We steamed away from Honolulu on July 22, 1908, and my last view of Oahu that meant most to me was of Waikiki Beach.

ENTERTAIN AT YOUR CLUB

•
LUNCHEON

•
DINNERS

•
COCKTAILS

•
BEACH SPORTS