

Uluniu Women's Swimming Club

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN

(Part One)

Uluniu (or "Growing Coconut") Women's Swimming Club, with emblem designed by Huc M. Luquiens, of a block U with a coconut tree growing from its base, is pledged to the "encouragement of canoeing, surf-riding, swimming and all other aquatic sports." Mrs. Frances Mills Swanzy kindled the flame in 1908 that lighted the way for this splendid organization of women on the Beach at Waikiki. Other feminine leaders have carried-on magnificently.



EDWIN N. McCLELLAN

The Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club came into existence shortly after the Outrigger Club was created on May 1, 1908. From its beginning it was virtually an independent organization and finally assumed that status, as we will see by reading about how it evolved into the Uluniu Women's Swimming Club.

First efforts to initiate the Women's Auxiliary were made in September of 1908 and the project flickered but did not die out at that time, for nine ladies signified intention of joining the proposed organization (*Advertiser*, March 27, 1909).

THE FEMININE IDEA PERSISTED

"In the meantime, the Ladies Bathhouse will be opened and wives, daughters and feminine friends of the Club members invited to make use of it," reported the *Advertiser*. November 21, 1908. A circular letter was sent to the women of Honolulu furnishing information about the proposed Auxiliary. "The Ladies Auxiliary membership cards are now ready and the Ladies Bathhouse and exclusive quarters on the Outrigger Grounds [are] in preparation," announced the *Advertiser*.

VICE-PRESIDENT SWANZY OF OCC

"Mrs. Frances Mills Swanzy is the new Vice-President of the Outrigger [Canoe] Club—and will appoint a Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary," published the *Advertiser*, December 8, 1908. "Work will go on at once fitting up the Ladies Bathhouse, and the Auxiliary will soon have its Dressing-Room and Lockers completed."

OCC WOMEN'S AUXILIARY STARTS

"It was on March 11, 1909, that a special preliminary meeting was held . . . the Constitution and By-Laws were drawn up, officers elected, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club (to give its full title) came into existence with sixty members," wrote Gertrude Rasch in *Paradise of the Pacific*, August, 1922. In the same magazine of January 1937, Susan Fountain wrote an interesting, illustrated article on the same facts

FIRST OFFICERS

The *Advertiser* of March 14 and 27, 1909, reported that a Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club was in process of organization, a preliminary meeting having been held on Wednesday at Mrs. Swanzy's home. Officers elected



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were: Mrs. F. M. Swanzy, president; Mrs. H. M. von Holt, first vice-president; Mrs. J. H. Soper, second vice-president; Mrs. Gerrit P. Wilder, secretary; Mrs. S. G. Wilder, treasurer; trustees were the above five officers and Mrs. George R. Carter, Mrs. J. M. Dowsett, Mrs. Brainerd-Smith, Mrs. E. I. Spalding, Mrs. F. A. Schaeffer, Mrs. Ralph Forster, and Miss Laura Wight.

GRASS-HOUSE FOR FEMININE MEMBERS

There is a grass-house designed for the exclusive use of the feminine members of the Club, continued the *Advertiser*. The Club proposes to furnish chaperones from two to six every school-day at the Outrigger Club so that the young school misses may be properly looked after while taking an outing at the Beach.

Other ladies present at this organizational meeting of March 11, 1909, according to the *Advertiser* of February 27, 1949, were: Mrs. Allan White, Mrs. Joseph Gilman, Mrs. Alexander G. Hawes, Jr., Miss Charlotte Hall and Mrs. George Straub. The *Paradise* of August 1922 ex-
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plained that Mrs. W. A. Wall joined the Auxiliary shortly afterwards.

"UNDER THE HAU TREES"; AND GRASS-HOUSE OF ALLAN HERBERT

"An area under the *hau* trees was given as its exclusive meeting-place and a small grass-house, which Mr. Allan Herbert of kindly memory had built on the grounds, was finally turned over to the President of the Outrigger Canoe Club who at once gave it to the women by whom it was used for several years, with various improvements, as their first bath-house." (*Advertiser*, March 14, 1909, March 22, 1925, April 22, 1949; *Paradise of the Pacific*, January 1937 and August 1940; *Forecast*, September 1950.)

FIRST FUNCTION OF AUXILIARY

"In a cozy little grass-house, presented by Allan Herbert, the members of the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Club will serve tea this afternoon at Waikiki," reported the *Advertiser*, March 27, 1909. "This will be the inauguration of the New Club or, rather, the first function to be given under the auspices of the Women's Auxiliary of the old Outrigger Club."

LITTLE BEACH HOME, "THEIR VERY OWN"

"Of later, there has been unusual activity among the women who desire the right kind of a place for their children and themselves at the Beach, and the result is that they now have a splendid little home near the Outrigger quarters

which is 'their very own,'" continued this same *Advertiser*.

"Yesterday afternoon [March 26, 1909] the finishing touches to the New Home of the Ladies Division were put on, and this afternoon [March 27, 1909] the members will be on hand to celebrate.

"ON THE BANKS OF THE LAGOON"

"The place is, indeed, very pretty, situated as it is on the banks of the Lagoon near the Large Pavilion on the water, which the ladies have been granted use of. Mrs. Swanzy has been instrumental in organizing the Ladies Section of the Club and she has been elected its President."

BEACH CHAPERONES

"From now on there will be a regular schedule of affairs on the Beach, for the feminine members of the Outrigger Club have arranged things in the right manner," continued this *Advertiser* of March 27, 1909. "On school days there will be some lady belonging to the Club at the Grass-House from two o'clock until six every afternoon to act as chaperone for the girls who like to go in bathing."

"Some six months ago" an attempt was made "to form a Women's Auxiliary," but the project was not supported. "But now, the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger is apparently stronger than the main organization [Outrigger Canoe Club]. There are between forty and fifty active members and they are all taking a deep interest in the work."

"Altogether, the Club has about thirty chaperones who will act during the com-

ing months . . . Annual fee is five dollars for each member. Girls under ten years of age and boys under six years are allowed to accompany their parents." (*Advertiser*, March 27, 1909.)

CHARLIE THE STEWARD AND MIONO-SAN

"The first Club building was a little grass-house with six bathrooms, donated by Allan Herbert," wrote Gertrude Rasch in the August 1922 *Paradise of the Pacific*. "Charlie, the present [1922] steward of the Women's Club, was then in the employ of the men and, for a time, served both clubs. However, the Women's Club soon demanded so much of his time that he was released by the men and has ever since served the Women's Club faithfully and efficiently." Smiling, little Miono-San was Charlie's assistant.

(To be continued in some later FORECAST)