



EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

1908—OCC GOLDEN BIRTHDAY—1958

By EDWIN NORTH MCCLELLAN

Fifty years is a very brief period in the four-and-a-half billion years of Mother Earth; but that golden half-century is an inspiring part of the million-years old Waikiki Story. The fabulous rise of the OCC has strengthened its desire to serve the public and members as well as to perpetuate Hawaiian aquatics. The OCC's move to its new home 1963 or before will give it greater opportunities to serve. Continuing its policy of truth there will be an OCC as long as there is a Beach at Waikiki.

Years before Christ was born in Western Asia, the Caucasoid antecedents of the Polynesian inhabitants of Waikiki, sailed in double canoes from southeastern mainland of Asia. They, or their descendants, reached Indonesia. Urged by some strange migratory instinct, their children navigated from island to island as the centuries passed. One year, no one knows which, some of these nomads of the Pacific, arrived at Hawai'i-iki, the South Seas Fatherland of the Polynesians in the Central Pacific. Several years, maybe 1200 A.D., after the Birth of Christ, there arrived in Hawaii—possibly at Waikiki—from the south, a fleet of large double canoes. On board were the descendants of those who had left southeast Asia. It was not long before men and women from Polynesia (Hawaiians) were swimming, surfboarding and outriggering at Waikiki. Those fine people left an aquatic heritage of which the OCC today is the trustee.

MAY 1, 1908

In the Spring of 1908 the Great Creator of the Universe put in the minds of a large number of American Men an idea of creating a Club to foster surfboarding, outrigger-canoeing, swimming and other aquatic sports of Hawaii at Waikiki.

My list of OCC charter members contains one hundred and forty-nine names. All of them share in the glory of the OCC birth-travail. Let me mention a very few.

A FEW OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS

George H. Angus, Alatau Leonard Charles Atkinson, Watson Ballentyne, R. K. Bonine, A. M. Brown, F. W. Carter, George Carter, Bruce Cartwright, George Castle, Harold Castle, W. R. Castle, C. J. Crane, J. P. Cooke, W. A. Cottrell, Walter F. Dillingham, Sanford Ballard Dole, Chester Doyle, Wallace R. Farrington, A. H. Ford, Charles R. Frazier, J. R. Galt, the Gilmans, Vincent Genoves, James W. Harvey, Burton Holmes, Rex Hitchcock, Allan Herbert, H. L. S. Herbert, the Hustaces, William Lishman, H. R. Macfarlane, James A. McCandless, the McInernys, Ernest A. Mott-Smith, James A. Morgan, Henry P. O'Sullivan, Lucius Eugene Pinkham, A. L. Robertson, William P. Roth, Guy Rothwell, Dr. Doremus Scudder, Robert

W. Shingle, Archibald J. Stout, Harry Steiner, Edward D. Tenney, Richard Trent, Guy H. Tuttle and his two sons, John Waterhouse, Alford C. Wall, William D. Westervelt, Lane Webster, Sam and C. D. Wight, Charles T. Wilder, James A. Wilder, Arthur A. Wilder, Kenny Winter, H. P. Wood (with powerful Promotion Committee backing), and Alexander Young. There is glory enough for all! The Outrigger Canoe Club was born on May 1, 1908, with a solemn pledge to see to it that Hawaiian Aquatics did not perish from Waikiki.

DOWN THE YEARS—OLD HAWAII

Waikiki and the OCC have made the surfboard and outrigger canoe known all over the world. "*Malihinis* and *kama-ainas* alike—for either sentimental or financial reasons—want Old Hawaii to dominate the lovely Coral Crescent of Waikiki," explained the *Forecast*, August 1955. The *Advertiser*, December 8, 1908, reported that the Outrigger Club had declared that "only Hawaiian canoes will be given space on the grounds." Catamarans (not to be confused with ancient double canoes), Canadian canoes and other modern craft, appeared and disappeared. Recently, the "cat" returned, but will depart some day.

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OCC SILVER ANNIVERSARY—MAY 1, 1933

A description of an imaginary celebration of a real OCC Silver Anniversary, would read like a dream come to life. Only my imagination can see a grand Aquatic Carnival on that 25th B.D.: a Lei-May-OCC Birthday Dinner followed by a wonderful dance. But, it didn't happen.

LESS THAN TWO YEARS

Just a short year away is the Golden Anniversary of the OCC. "It is now time to start preparing for the commemoration of the Fiftieth Jubilee of the OCC in 1958," explained the *Forecast*, May 1951. "It is time to appoint a Committee to prepare for the Golden Jubilee of the OCC, May 1, 1958," warned the *Forecast*, April 1956. "How about appointing a Golden Anniversary Committee to prepare for May 1, 1958?" asked the *Forecast*, December 1956.

PROGRAM FOR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

"On May 1, 1958, the OCC will reach its Golden Anniversary," editorialized the *Forecast*, December 1956. "It is not too early for our Board of Directors and our Entertainment Committee to begin planning a gala year of celebration of this event . . . Regattas, parties for old-timers, dinner-dances, and many other events celebrating our Fiftieth Birthday, are but a few of the things that suggest themselves. Let us not forget our Founders and our Traditions."

THE 1963-SITE

The present OCC Lease expires in October of 1963. Recently a lease was signed by the OCC with the Elks Club for a superb new OCC site near Diamond Head and Castle Point. The OCC took possession of that leasehold on October 1, 1956.

Historically and for other reasons, it is interesting to observe that the acquisition of the 1963-site started with a letter dated April 23, 1951 addressed to the officers and directors of the OCC. In that letter, Ernest Warren Stenberg, presented for their "consideration a possible solution to the perpetuation of the Outrigger Canoe Club at Waikiki." He explained that he had reasons to believe that the Elks Club "would consider either selling approximately one-half of the Kalakaua property [fee simple] or leasing same for ninety-nine years to the OCC . . . With the erection of groins, the dumping of sand and making other improvements such as removing coral, not only can the beach be made and held, but it would be a wholly private beach . . ."

A GOLDEN CELEBRATION AT 1963-SITE

What a wonderful party it would be if OCC members assembled at the 1963-site near Diamond Head and Castle Point, on May 1, 1958 or some other appropriate date, to commemorate that grand Natal Day of May 1, 1908 and the eventual occupation of the New



Here is a rare picture of the old club pavilion taken about 1917. Snapshot loaned by Mrs. Louise Cordes.

Site with a palatial Club structure. Such a party on their own private beach would long be remembered by those taking part. Everybody would see with their own eyes that in moving to that site the OCC was advancing—would be able to carry on, untainted by commercialism, its mission as outlined by the Founding Fathers of 1908.

CENTENNIAL, MAY 1, 2008

The Centennial of the OCC will be commemorated on the Beach at Waikiki at the 1963-site near the Elks Club. It will be a glorious affair. Let's make the Golden 1958 Celebration something so superb that the OCC of 2008 will have to go-some to exceed it. And don't forget—the OCC will live forever.

SPACE VISITORS ON MAY 1, 2058

One of the most remarkable functions ever sponsored by the Outrigger Canoe Club of Waikiki, was on May 1, 2058, the occasion being its 150th Anniversary. Excerpts from the Outrigger Canoe Club story were read and caused much comment. The morning was devoted to a Water Carnival which was featured by using surfboards once honored by the

legendary hero—Duke Paoa Kahana-moku. An ancient Hawaiian outrigger canoe named the *A* or *Aa*, was paddled by a crew of old men. A spectacular dinner-dance took place in the evening. Much time was devoted by the guests to viewing the contents of the OCC Museum of the Hawaiian Aquatic Hall of Fame.

Among the many honored guests were space-men-and-women from all the inhabited planets, stars and other celestial bodies. They arrived in spaceships which surfaced on the Bay of Waikiki.

"Aloha! I'll be seeing you on the Beach at Waikiki, May 1, 1958!"

Deepest Sympathy

To Howard Soule and his children on the loss of his wife and their mother on March 14. Her untimely and tragic death will long be remembered by her many friends who will miss the cheerful and pleasant personality of Jean.