

FORTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY OF OCC

MAY 1, 1955

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN



1908 to May 1, 1955—forty-seven years of constructive work for Hawaii. The Outrigger Canoe Club. The deeper the roots the sturdier the OCC tree. And the OCC's aquatic roots go to the first coral reef and lava pin—the first outrigger canoe and first surfboard, at Waikiki Beach. The OCC in the spirit and tradition of the pioneer Pacific Aquatators at the Coral Peter Buck called them *Menehunes*. Modern Hawaiians and *haoles* cannot give us the Outrigger Canoe Club we enjoy today.

SO ANCIENT AND SO BEAUTIFUL

Waikiki, with its Regal Beach, Surf Kalehuawehe and its fresh-steam Apuakehau carried its centennial charm and graceful dignity. It, who filled up the stream and ended on Neptune's Domain, have completely spoiled it. Waikiki still has its ancient beauty.

There have been men and women who rode the surf at Waikiki. One day the White *Malihini* discovered Waikiki in 1786, *haoles* have spoiled the superb Coral Curve and its surf, sand and sun.

HARBOR AND WAIKIKI AQUATICS

The general use of Waikiki Waters for aquatic transportation, surfboards and outrigger held their own at the aquatic competitions took place in Harbor of Honolulu. There were the *Uma* of A. M. Brown; the *A* (or *Kanoelani* of Prince Cupid—the *Leilani*, *Halekulani* and *Ha-* of Dr. Alford C. Wall; the *Ka-* of Alatau Leonard Charles Atkinson; the *Malolo* of Walter Billingham; the *Alexander R.* of J. Harris; and the *Kanikeau* of K. to mention just a few of the boats that raced on both Harbor and Waikiki waters. There never was any doubt of Hawaii's national sport of outrigger becoming extinct at Wai-

SURF-RIDING FIESTA OF 1905

As Waikiki passed through the two Decades-Before-OCC, visitors flocked to Hawaii from all over the world. Waikiki and its unique surfing thrilled them. Robert Louis Stevenson, Mary H. Krout, John L. Sullivan, Joaquin Miller, Isabel Anderson, Charles Warren Stoddard, Alexander Agassis were among the many charmed with Waikiki Beach in the Eighties or Nineties. And not the least feature of those days was the American Legation *Moana* situated on the site of the Moana Hotel in which lived American Minister Harold M. Sewall. Extending from it into the Bay was the famous Moana Pier, constructed before Moana Hotel blessed Waikiki. The street-car and automobile made Waikiki accessible to the public.

Burton Holmes and his motion-picture man, Carl De Pue, made movies of Waikiki Surf-Riding in 1898; the Tafts enjoyed the surf in 1900; and the Moana Hotel opened its doors on March 11, 1901. The Royal Hawaiian Annex (Seaside Hotel) became a superb part of the Beach. Acting Governor A. L. C. Atkinson was Chairman of a Committee that welcomed Bill Taft, Alice Roosevelt, Nickie Longworth, Charlie Curtis and many others to Honolulu and Waikiki in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan praised Waikiki surfing that year.

THIRTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY

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March 20, 1905, a great throng gathered in front of the Moana and the Hotels, to witness the Surf-Riding Regatta, featured by men standing up on bucking surfboards. By July of 1907, surfing and outrigger canoeing were the favorite pastimes of the Moana and the guests.

"ATKINSON'S AQUATIC CLUB AT WAIKIKI"

L. C. Atkinson, on December 16, 1907, recommended there be held at Waikiki Beach a New Year's Regatta. Everybody got behind the project but unfavorable weather caused postponement and it was held on March 16, 1907. The Regatta included surfing, outrigger canoeing, swimming, gig-races and Canoe competitions.

Visitors continued to rave over Waikiki Beach. Jack and Charmion London were in 1907. So did Alice Roosevelt. Atkinson made a brief visit to Hawaii that

Burton Holmes arrived at Honolulu on March 2, 1908 and A. H. Ford and Arthur De Pue shortly after. R. K. Bonine of the Edison Company, already was in Honolulu. So were Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox and her husband. They all wrote and urged Waikiki for the world.

"HONOLULU TO HAVE A CLUBHOUSE AT WAIKIKI BEACH"

Honolulu is to have a Clubhouse at Waikiki Beach for surfboarders and those interested in canoe-surfing," announced the *Evening Bulletin*, March 14, 1908. Behind the project was the Promotion Committee of which H. P. Wood was the Secretary. "The only marvel to me is that it has never been done before," Burton Holmes was quoted in the *Evening Bulletin*.

Holmes and Ford has walked the beach on March 13, 1908 looking for a building site. Proprietor William Lishman and Manager Archibald J. Stout of the Hotel had promised a lease at no cost. Jack Atkinson had promised to promote and organize the Club.

1908, in the Club's Archives today, was sent out broadcast. It explained why an Outrigger Club should be created. It was signed by A. M. Brown, A. L. C. Atkinson, W. R. Castle, A. H. Ford, J. A. Gilman, J. A. McCandless, James F. Morgan, Richard H. Trent, John Waterhouse, James A. Wilder, H. P. Wood (Secretary of the Promotion Committee) and requested those interested to contact Charles R. Frazier.

FIRST OCC MEETING

The first meeting to organize the Outrigger Club was held in the rooms of the Promotion Committee on April 24, 1908. The meeting was called to order by Acting Governor Ernest A. Mott-Smith. A. L. C. Atkinson nominated A. H. Ford for Temporary Chairman and James F. Morgan seconded. Mr. Ford was elected as was Richard H. Trent, Treasurer, and H. P. Wood, Secretary.

A. L. C. Atkinson, A. H. Ford, E. H. Hand, H. R. Macfarlane (jr.) and Lucius Eugene Pinkham were appointed a Committee on Membership, Organization and Plans. H. L. S. Herbert was named as a Committee of One to secure members for the new Club from his Fishermen's Club.

ANNUAL DUES SET AT FIVE DOLLARS

Meetings of the MOP Committee were held in Mr. Atkinson's Office. Mr. Atkinson wrote the Constitution and Bylaws; Mr. Ford secured promise of a satisfactory lease; Mr. Pinkham reported progress on plans for a Beach Lanai Clubhouse. Annual dues were set at five dollars.

The expected arrival of the Big American White Battleship Fleet in July of 1908 stimulated creation of the OCC and an Aquatic Carnival was planned to entertain its personnel.

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB BORN MAY 1, 1908

"The Outrigger Canoe Club was formally organized yesterday at the Promotion Committee Rooms," reported the *Advertiser*, May 2, 1908, "and elected the following officers for the coming year: A. H. Ford, president; H. L. S. Herbert, vice-president; Henry P. O'Sullivan, secretary; Richard H. Trent, treasurer; Kenny Winters, captain; Charles R. Frazier, auditor; I. P. Cooke, Harry Mac-

"OWING LARGELY" TO H. P. WOOD AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE, OCC LAUNCHED

At that May First meeting, "H. P. Wood acted as secretary and it has been *owing largely* to his active assistance and that of the Promotion Committee that the Outrigger Canoe Club has been so successfully launched," declared the *Advertiser*. So, May Day is OCC Day as well as Lei Day.

The lease was signed May 19, 1908. The OCC continues grateful to Proprietor William Lishman and Manager Archibald J. Stout of the Seaside Hotel for without their material encouragement and that of Manager J. H. Hertsche of the Moana, there would have been no OCC. The thanks of the Club also went to Messrs. Kinney, Marx, Edward M. Watson, Bruce Cartwright, Ollie Sorenson and others, who donated their services that the OCC might start its existence without a debt to be paid in organization and legal fees.

FIRST LIFE MEMBER; GRASS SHACK FOR CLUBHOUSE

Allan Herbert became the first life-member on May 20, 1908. The first Clubhouse was formed of two grass houses moved from the Old Zoo about June 1, 1908 and placed midway between the Seaside and Moana. By June 28, 1908, the OCC buildings were in use by the members. The Club Carpenter constructed lockers for two dollars each.

WE HONOR MANY FOUNDING FATHERS

On May 1, 1955—the OCC's Forty-Seventh Birthday Anniversary—we honor not one, but many Founding Fathers of the OCC. Among the many are A. L. C. Atkinson, R. K. Bonine, A. M. Brown, Kenneth Brown, Bruce Cartwright, W. R. Castle, Charles S. Crane, Walter Francis Dillingham, Sanford Ballard Dole, J. P. Cooke, Wallace R. Farrington, A. H. Ford, Charles R. Frazier, J. R. Galt, J. A. Gilmore, E. H. Hand, Allan Herbert, H. L. S. Herbert, Burton Holmes, William Lishman, H. R. Macfarlane (jr.), J. A. McCandless, James F. Morgan, Henry P. O'Sullivan, Lucius Eugene Pinkham, Ernest A. Mott-Smith, Archibald J. Stout, Richard H. Trent, John Waterhouse, James A. Wilder, Kenneth Winters, H. P. Wood and the Promotion Committee of which he was secre-