



EDWIN N. McCLELLAN

Aquatic Olympic Games at Waikiki

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN

The idea is not new. Several times it has been suggested in the *Forecast* that surfboarding and outrigger canoe racing be placed on the Olympic program at Melbourne in 1956. "We certainly would enjoy reading of Hawaiian yachtsmen, motorboatmen, surfboarders, outriggerites, but especially divers, preparing to compete at Melbourne," reported the *Forecast* of October, 1952. "Why not an Olympic Outrigger canoe race at Melbourne in 1956 with entries from Hawaii, California, Philippines, Australia and Mid-Pacific." As an Aquatic Area, Hawaii should have, before now, leaped at the suggestion. The Outrigger Canoe Club and the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association could have led the way in urging the Olympic Fathers to place surfboarding and outriggering on the program.

POLYNESIAN OLYMPIAD FOR WAIKIKI

No realistic reaction was observed from the above suggestion that surfboarding and outriggering be included in the 1956 Olympic Games at Melbourne. However, Hawaii could be host in 1956 for Aquatic Olympic Games at Waikiki distinct from the regular Olympics. The Visitors Bureau could, with profit to Hawaii, get behind such Olympic Aquatics, with the same fervor as did the Promotion Committee practically create the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1908.

This idea goes back to at least May of 1911 when the *Advertiser*, May 6, 1911, reported that the May-1911 *Mid-Pacific Magazine* made a plea for a "Polynesian Olympiad to be held in Honolulu."

As reported in the *Star-Bulletin*, September 23, 1925, Judge William T. Rawlins recommended that a huge Aquatic Olympiad be held at Honolulu, in 1926.

PAN-PACIFIC OLYMPIAD OF SPORTS AT HONOLULU

In 1927, George David "Dad" Center was coach and manager of an American Swimming Team that journeyed to Japan. He left Honolulu in September of 1927, as the representative of the Pan-Pacific Union, to urge the organization of a Pan-Pacific Olympiad of Sports, with invitations from the Pan-Pacific Union to have the first meet held at Honolulu

in 1929 or 1930.

Before sailing, "Dad" told the Pan-Pacific Union: "I believe in swimming as one of the greatest sports in the world and a great developer of mankind. That is why I am so interested in having as many of the countries on the Pacific get together every two years in an athletic contest like this to develop our swimmers, so that we can build up a team to represent Hawaii and America in the final Olympics every four years." In the *Forecast* of October, 1950, I wrote that "it might be an excellent idea if the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1950 revived the 1927 proposal for a Pan-Pacific Olympiad of Sports," made by "Dad" Center. The suggestion is renewed in 1955.

AQUATIC OLYMPIC GAMES AT WAIKIKI

These aquatic games could be held every year. They would attract many visitors and bring enjoyment to residents. Of course the events should center around surfing—surfboarding, body-surfing and outriggering; but other aquatic events should be included; like swimming, diving, plunging, water polo, yachting, motor-boating, water-skiing, aqua-planing and fishing.

Invitations to compete in the Aquatic Olympic Games of 1956 at Waikiki should be sent to Hawaii, California, Florida, New Jersey, Philippines, Indo-

nesia, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa (and other Pacific Islands), Peru, Mexico and other South American and Central American republics bordering on the Pacific.

OLYMPIC SWIM POOL NEEDED

At Waikiki we have the surf and other necessary conditions for the Aquatic Olympiad. However, we need a Fresh-water Swim Pool of Olympic dimensions where records could be made and accepted. Just why the Waikiki Big Hotels have not given the visitor and resident—*malihini* and *kamaaina*—a Real Swim and Dive Spot in the vicinity of the Outrigger Canoe Club, is difficult to explain.

DUKE KAHANAMOKU BACKED OLYMPIC POOL

Early in July of 1946, the *Advertiser* editorialized in favor of an Olympic Pool and on July 9, 1946 announced that Duke Paoa Kahanamoku was "one hundred per cent back of the plan to build a fifty-meter Olympic Pool.

"I believe that we should get started on this project right now," declared the Duke. "In my opinion, we should build a pool fifty meters long and at least twenty-five yards wide, so that indoor and outdoor pool events can be staged in the same place. Let's build the world's finest pool right here in Honolulu. In that way we can put Hawaii back on the map as the swimming center of the world."

Duke Kahanamoku favored the Waikiki end of Ala Moana Park as the site for the proposed Olympic Pool. "I feel that the Moana Park site is ideal," he explained, and suggested that a committee be organized immediately to handle the details of raising money for the proposed Olympic Swim Pool.

"HOW ABOUT IT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN?"

What do you all think about this matter — Dad Center, Duke Kahanamoku, Gay Harris, Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo, Toots Minvielle, Zen Genoves, Knute Cottrell, Lew Henderson, Lorrin Porter Thurston, C. Dudley Pratt, Mariechen Wehslau, Helen Moses, Sam Kahanamoku, Bill Smith, Soichi Sakamoto, Clarence Crabbe, Thelma Kalama, Ford Konno, Yoshinobu Oyakawa, Bill Woolsey, Paul Withington and Dick Cleveland, *Advertiser*, *Star-Bulletin*, Visitors Bureau, Governor Samuel Wilder King and Mayor