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FORTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY OF OCC

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May Day of 1954 is the Forty-Sixth Birthday of the Outrigger Canoe Club. However, the foundation of the Club was laid on the ancient Coral Crescent many years before May 1, 1908 when it became a concrete—rather a grass-hut—reality to the people of Honolulu. That foundation is the spirit, morale, tradition and history of the Beach at Waikiki beginning with the first coral reef or lava peak pushing its way above Pacific waters at Waikiki. As one sits in the lush modern Outrigger Canoe Club the mind runs back to those distant days when only *menehunes* paddled a canoe or rode a surfboard in the Royal Surf Kalehuaweha and washed off the salt in the fresh-water stream Apuakehau.



Alexander Hume Ford, first president of the Outrigger Canoe Club and one of its founders.

Pic reconstructed from old foto by "Scoop" Tsuzuki, courtesy of "Dad" Center

ESPRIT DE CLUB

The spirit and tradition of the Outrigger Canoe Club filled the air, sea, sand and sky of Waikiki for centuries before this Forty-Sixth Birthday. Ancient Kings and Queens of Oahu were among the pre-charter members of the OCC and they created a beautiful and profitable background for the Club. These early Kings filled the need for an OCC in their times. One Royal Aquator of Waikiki was King Kakuhihewa who lived at Helumoa. Later there was the thatched palace of King Kaihikapu which stood near the stream Apuakehau from where the OCC now proudly sends out its blessings to the world. Another famous King of Oahu, whose grass-palace was an OCC, was Kualii, and King Peleioholani also was conducting his regal OCC at Waikiki on January 18, 1878 when Captain James Cook and American John Ledyard, probably saw Waikiki Beach at a distance.

EARLY SURFBOARDS AND OUTRIGGERS PART OF CLUB

The men of Captain Cook were the first white *haoles* to see a surfboard and an outrigger canoe both of which form an intimate part of the OCC's foundation. Captain Cook called the surfboard, *epappa*, while Captain King, Cook's successor, described it as a "long narrow board, rounded at the ends." George Gilbert of the Cook Expedition, wrote that the surfboard was a "piece of wood nearly in the form of a blade of an oar,"

about "six feet in length, sixteen inches in breadth at one end about nine at the other"; about "four or five inches thick in the middle, tapering down to an inch on both sides." Dr. Ellis, also with Cook, called them "shark-boards."

King Peleioholani was succeeded by Kumahana and he by Kahahana. Then King Kahekili arrived at Waikiki from Maui to rule Oahu.

KING KAHEKILI'S OCC

Kahekili lived at Waikiki in a grass palace which could be viewed as an Outrigger Canoe Club for he maintained canoes and boards and his subjects were members who enjoyed surfing in the same Surf of Waikiki as do modern OCC surfers.

One June day of 1786 a runner arrived breathlessly at the Royal Residence of King Kahekili in the large coconut grove of Waikiki. He brought news to the King that two British ships had anchored in Waialae Bay beyond Diamond Head. They were the *King George* (Nathaniel Portlock) and the *Queen Charlotte* (George Dixon). Later, in December of the same year, King Kahekili went out to the *King George* in a large double-canoe, paddled by sixteen stout Oahuans. The King invited the *haoles* to visit him at his Palace, or OCC, at Waikiki but, instead of accepting the invitation, Captain Portlock sent Third-Mate Hayward to reconnoiter Waikiki Bay. Hayward thus became the first white *haole* to visit the site of the present Outrigger Canoe Club. Kahekili was succeeded as King of Oahu by his son, Kalanikupule. In 1795 Kamehameha landed in the Waikiki Area and drove the forces of Kalanikupule inland, defeating them.

KING KAMEHAMEHA'S OCC

Kamehameha established his palace at Waikiki. Returned to the Island of Hawaii in 1796 but was back at Waikiki about 1803. As expressed by the *Forecast*, June, 1950: "Kamehameha the Great with his Queens, Chiefs and Chiefesses and their surfboards and outrigger canoes, maintained an early Outrigger Canoe Club at Waikiki." However, read in the *Forecast* of December, 1951, where Kamehameha and Kalanikupule argue

as to which started the OCC. "I started the first OCC at Waikiki!" exclaimed Kamehameha. "You did not," retorted Kalanikupule. "My father, King Kahekili of Oahu and Maui, did."

FOUNDATION OF OCC LAID

From the arrival of the first white man permanently at Waikiki there was *haole* interest in aquatic sports there. Surfboarders and outriggerists kept the sport alive. The *Forecast* of May, 1953, carries a description, by Charles Smith Lyman, of a Royal OCC on the Beach in 1846. Down the years the spirit and tradition of the OCC survived and grew in strength. In 1898, said Burton Holmes, "it was Mr. A. M. Brown's *Lanai* that was really the home of the Outrigger Canoe Club."

Finally, came May 1, 1908, the formal birth of the OCC, honored on May 1, 1954.

WE HONOR MANY FOUNDING FATHERS

On this May 1, 1954 we honor not one but many Founding Fathers of the Outrigger Canoe Club. Among them are: A. L. C. Atkinson, A. M. Brown, Kenneth Brown, W. R. Castle, Sanford Ballard Dole, J. P. Cooke, A. H. Ford, Charles R. Frazier, J. R. Galt, J. A. Gilmore, E. H. Hand, Allan Herbert, H. L. S. Herbert, Burton Holmes, H. R. Macfarlane (Jr.), J. A. McCandless, James F. Morgan, Henry P. O'Sullivan, Lucius Eugene Pinkham, Ernest A. Mott-Smith, Richard H. Trent, John Waterhouse, James A. Wilder, Ken Winters, and H. P. Wood.

OCC HAS KEPT FAITH

On this Forty-Sixth Birthday the Soul of the Outrigger Canoe Club is happy for it has kept faith with its Ancient Members and the Founding Fathers. It has perfected and perpetuated the art and sport of surfing as well as encouraging swimming, diving and fishing. The OCC has consistently performed an important civic duty to the people of Hawaii. It is now time to start preparing for the commemoration of the Fiftieth Jubilee of the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1958.