



EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

ULUNIU WOMEN'S SWIMMING CLUB

(Concluded from February 1956)

by EDWIN NORTH MCCLELLAN

The Uluniu Women's Swimming Club is a grand and happy asset of the home-life of Oahu and Waikiki. The Uluniu will continue to fulfill the ideals of the devoted women who were its first sponsors. It will forever bless Waikiki and Hawaii as it serves The People. The "Growing Coconut Club" has made a splendid record in the past and it has a bright future. The OCC is very proud that the Uluniu, like Eve from Adam, came from the body of OCC.

"The Ladies Annex building is completed and its grounds have been cleared up generally," reported the *Advertiser* of April 7, 1909. "The Ladies Annex is the finishing touch to make the [Outrigger Canoe] Club the attractive social and athletic institution it now is and should remain."

GRASS HOUSE IN FLORAL PARADE 1910

Outrigger Canoe Club members constructed a grass-house that appeared on the Trent Trust Company float in the Fifth Floral Parade, February 22, 1910. Next day the grass house arrived at the OCC just when its members were feasting at a picnic. "The gentlemen of the party arose from the repast, took off their coats and juggled the structure into its present position for the girls' use" as a Boat-House, reported the *Advertiser* of February 25, 1910.

FIRE DESTROYS WOMEN'S BUILDINGS 1914

"The buildings of the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Club, the Dancing Pavilion [thatched lanai] recently erected over the Moana Lagoon and the Purdy Cottage belonging to the Seaside Hotel, were destroyed by fire last night," announced the *Advertiser*, August 2, 1914.

BATH-HOUSES FOR WOMEN GUESTS 1916

The *Advertiser* of December 2, 1916 stated that the new Outrigger Canoe Club Bath-house at Waikiki for women guests, was nearly ready for use, according to J. Ashman Beaven, Club Secretary. Secretary Beaven also informed the newspaper that the Entertainment Committee was planning a buffet supper and dance to celebrate the Bath-house opening.

NO SKIRTS FOR GIRL SWIMMERS 1918

"It is not the intention or the desire of the Women's Auxiliary or the Outrigger Club to force women swimmers to wear pleated skirts in the water or to attempt to go beyond the region of good

common sense in asking for bathing suit reforms at Waikiki," said a member of that organization on June 21, 1918 to an *Advertiser* reporter. "Our stand is well understood by the greater number of the best women swimmers in the City and they are with us in our agitation. All we are trying to do is to prohibit such costumes as are becoming too common and which appear to very many as being over the line of decency."

AUXILIARY SUPPORTS AQUATICS

The Honolulu morning newspaper of June 6, 1918 reported that the Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club planned to hold a swimming meet for women on July 4, 1918.

"By Article One of its Constitution" the Women's Auxiliary stood "pledged to 'the encouragement of canoeing, surf-riding, swimming and all other aquatic sports,'" explained Gertrude Rasch, in the *Paradise of the Pacific*, August 1922. "For some years, however, it did not take any specially active part in swimming events."

SWANZY AND FULLARD-LEO CUPS 1920

"In 1920, the first swimming meet for women [note above for July 4, 1918], held under the auspices of the Women's Outrigger Club, was staged, and it is now [1922] an annual event. As several Hawaiian Championships are awarded to this Meet, it brings out the best swimmers in the Islands. One of the most interesting trophies is the cup given by Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo for public school girls, the cup going to the school whose

entry wins it. The chief trophy of the Meet is the beautiful silver cup, known as the *Swanzy Cup*, donated by Mrs. F. M. Swanzy. This is a twenty-five year trophy, going each year to the girl scoring the most points in certain fixed events—the winning of the cup for three years awards it permanently to the winner. In 1920 the *Swanzy Cup* was won by Gerd Hiorth of the Outrigger. In 1921 and 1922, the trophy went to Mariechen Wel-selau, the Outrigger's speedy champion and, judging from the way this little mermaid is making and breaking records, it looks as though 1923 may see it pass into her hands for 'keeps.'

The *Hawaiian Annual* of 1924 carries the phrase: "Women's Auxiliary Canoe Club . . . Originated March 1909." The same phrase appears also in the magazine for 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928.

LEASES AND OCC-AUXILIARY RELATIONS

A letter dated February 17, 1925 of Julie Judd Swanzy, "President, Women's Auxiliary, Outrigger Canoe Club," was published in the *Advertiser* of the next day. The letter explained that the "*Lanai* now occupied by the Auxiliary," is "on

the grounds under lease from the Queen Emma Estate to the Outrigger Canoe Club, and is occupied by the Auxiliary in exchange with the Outrigger Canoe Club for the beach frontage of the lot leased by the Women's Auxiliary from the Bishop Estate. The bath houses of the Men's Club and part of its *lanais* now occupy this site."

ULUNIU WOMEN'S SWIMMING CLUB 1926

"The Women's Auxiliary of the Outrigger Canoe Club went out of existence yesterday afternoon," reported the *Advertiser*, February 17, 1926. "The organization will be known as the Uluniu [Women's] Swimming Club of Honolulu"—"Under the Growing Coconut Palm."

2ND TRANSPLANTING "GROWING COCONUT"

"A new lease of Bishop Estate property adjoining the Moana Hotel was secured and a new clubhouse was erected," described the *Advertiser* of February 27, 1949. "This was occupied in the spring of 1926. Over three hundred members and guests attended the housewarming tea."

(Continued on page 21)

ULUNIU

(Concluded from page 13)

"From the name of this property, Uluniu or 'Growing Coconut,' this Club adopted its present name, Uluniu Women's Swimming Club, as suggested by Mrs. F. M. Swanzy. Its emblem, a block U with a coconut tree growing from the base, was designed by Huc M. Luquiens. Thus the Club became a 'transplanted coconut.' "

FRANCES MILLS SWANZY RETIRES 1926

"At the annual meeting held February 1, 1926, Mrs. [Frances Mills] Swanzy retired as president and was succeeded by Mrs. Alfred L. Castle," reported the *Paradise of the Pacific*, January 1937.

DOWN THE YEARS

Mrs. Alan M. Nowell was elected president of the Uluniu in 1931. "In 1933 Mrs. Arthur L. Andrews courageously assumed the presidency and the necessity of financial rehabilitation of Club affairs," wrote the *Advertiser*, February 27, 1949. "With the recovery of Honolulu from the depression, plans long considered, for a completely new clubhouse for the Outrigger Canoe Club were revived. In this connection a new layout of the properties occupied by the two clubs became necessary and new surveys and leases were drawn up with the Territorial Hotel Company."

"THIRD TRANSPLANTING" ABOUT 1935

"Again in 1935 the Uluniu Club was to be moved," continued the *Advertiser*. "Since this lease has many years to run, Club members feel confident that in this, its third transplanting, the *Growing Coconut* found its permanent location. For this move the Territorial Hotel Company and the Bishop Estate trustees assumed much of the cost. The buildings were shifted to its present location near the Royal Hawaiian Hotel."

We will end our part of the Glorious Story of the Uluniu Women's Swimming Club of Waikiki, at this point. We hope some efficient and enthusiastic soul will amplify it.