

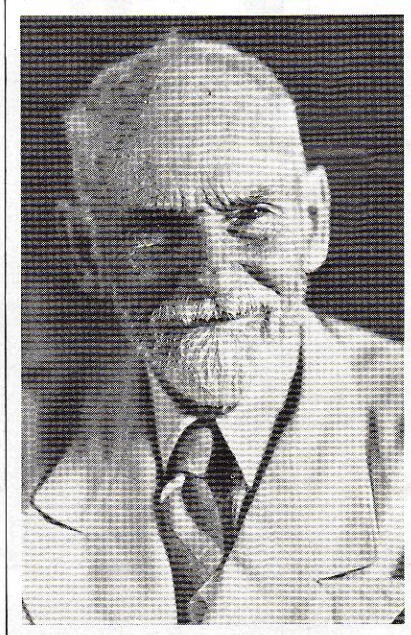
Alexander Ford: Shaping Hawaii's Image

For the past nine years, one of the major attractions of Labor Day in Honolulu has been the annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim, a grueling sprint of something over two miles through open waters off Waikiki Beach. The winner of the event is awarded the Alexander Hume Ford Perpetual Trophy which is kept on permanent display at the Outrigger Canoe Club, one of the several sponsors of the event.

There is an irony in the presentation of this award. While the event in itself is widely known, there are few who know why the trophy carries Ford's name and fewer still who know anything about the man's remarkable career. This is unfortunate, since he was once an extremely influential force in Island social and political circles and, in all probability, contributed more than any other single individual to the development of Hawaii's current cosmopolitan reputation and image.

Ford first visited Hawaii in 1899 while en route to Asia on business. In 1907 he returned and remained, more or less permanently, until his death in 1945. During these years he devoted seemingly boundless energy and

imagination to a host of civic and internationally oriented undertakings. On the civic front, for example, he sparked the effort that led to the creation of the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1908, and then served as the new group's first president. This, of course, is the reason the swimming trophy is named in his honor. Two



years later he played a similar role in the formation of the Hawaii Trail and Mountain Club, a group that is likewise still active today. Throughout this period, he was also centrally involved in the effort to establish tourism as a viable Island industry.

Busy as he was with civic endeavors, Ford devoted even greater amounts of time and effort to international activities. In 1910 he started a new journal entitled *Mid-Pacific Magazine*, a monthly publication concerned with travel, social and later, international issues. It appeared regularly thereafter until its demise late in the depression.

A year later he founded an international group called the Hands-Around-the-Pacific Club which evolved into the famed Pan-Pacific

Union in 1917. Under his long-time leadership, the union organized an impressive and unprecedented series of international conferences in Hawaii, spawned three new international organizations that have since remained active, brought Hawaii to the attention of government and opinion leaders the world over and, most important, popularized the now common perception of Hawaii as a unique, multi-cultural society bridging the void between East and West. Clearly, Ford has to be counted as one of Hawaii's great forces of this century.

Ford's place in the Hawaiian scheme owes far more to chance than to management. Born into a prominent Charleston, South Carolina, family on April 3, 1868, he developed an interest in journalism and the theater while in his teens. Foregoing college after graduation from a military prep school, he joined the staff of a local newspaper and became active in amateur theatrical circles.

Leaving the South in the 1880s, Ford settled in New York, where he

developed friendships with a number of socially prominent individuals and wrote a play—*The Little Confederate*—which was produced on Broadway in 1889. His pursuit of a career in the arts took him to Chicago around 1890 where he was involved in the publication of several "little magazines," but the effort foundered on economic grounds. Reverting to journalism, he joined the staff of the *Daily News Record*, where he remained for nearly a decade.

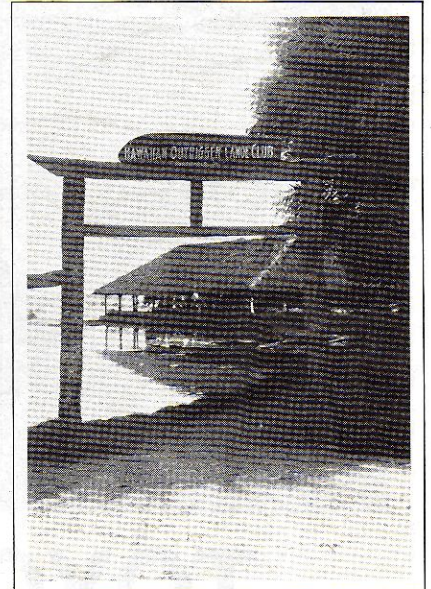
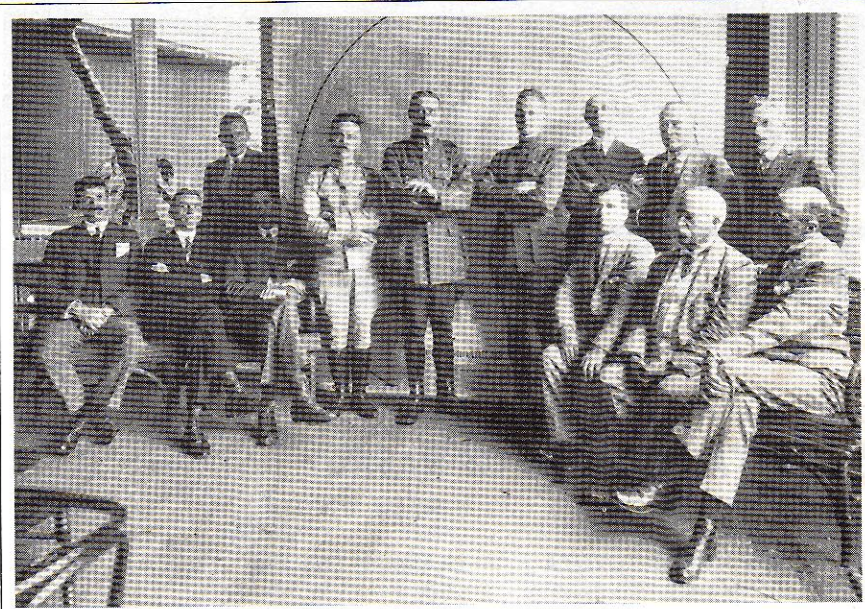
During his years with this paper, Ford was drawn to social activism. He editorialized against bigotry and parochialism in his newspaper stories, formed various civic organizations to combat racial prejudice and municipal corruption, and joined the Militant Church, an activist group known for its ecumenical governing board which included Robert G. Ingersoll, the celebrated agnostic.

These years were also important in the development of Ford's internationalist interests. One of his co-workers at the newspaper was William E. Curtiss, a vocal advocate of internationalism and subsequently the first Director of the Bureau of

American Republics, the predecessor of the Pan-American Union. The two men apparently developed a close relationship as Ford cheerfully acknowledged some years later that many of his own ideas grew from their association. This probably understates the case. In all likelihood, the Pan-Pacific Union was a direct copy of the Pan-American Union.

In 1899 Ford chanced to meet a Russian businessman who offered him a job in Vladivostok connected with the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Despite the fact that he had no meaningful business background, Ford accepted the offer and departed almost immediately via the Pacific. Aboard ship between California and Hawaii, he met several members of the Islands' well-known Castle family who hosted him during a short layover in Honolulu. Intrigued, he later noted, with what he heard and saw of Hawaii during the brief stay, he vowed to return in the future and, of course, did so in 1907.

The circumstances of Ford's return to Hawaii are not clear. It is clear, however, that he arrived



Ford in 1945, shortly before his death. The original Outrigger Canoe Club, shortly after its founding in 1908. A meeting of the Pan-Pacific Union (Ford is at rear right).

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Isle File

Paddleboard Records Set

Records were set in all three categories during the second annual Winter Waikiki Ocean Paddleboard Race yesterday off Outrigger Canoe Club.

Bret Goodfriend took the overall title, winning the 10,000-meter event in one hour, 15 minutes, two seconds, chopping two minutes off Chuck Kelly's mark of last year.

Pat Caldwell won the boys' division in 1:21.54, nine minutes faster than the mark he set last year, and Kisi Haine's 1:56:40 won the women's division, breaking her own record by two minutes.

Heard Hurls PR to Win

Clifford Heard hurled a five-hitter and also drove in three runs with a pair of triples to lead Pearl Ridge to a 9-1 Rural AJA baseball victory over Ewa yesterday.

In other games, Waipahu beat Hale Wai, 6-2, and Pearl City topped Wahiawa, 12-9.

Curt Watanabe had to hits and drove in two runs to pace Waipahu past Hale Wai, while Charles R...

burg, Gary Iwatani and Randy Nakama each had three hits as Pearl City topped Wahiawa.

World Masters Marks

Stan Thompson set three world senior master track records in the 65-69 age bracket yesterday during the 1979 Hawaii Senior Olympics at the University of Hawaii's Cooke Field.

Three of Thompson's records were in hurdles events: a 23.3 second timing in the 110-meter high hurdles, a 22.7 time in the 110 low hurdles and a 1:42.0 time in the 400-meter high hurdles.

Thompson set another mark in the high jump, with a height of 1.37 meters.

Wrestling to Kaiser

Kaiser High School won the St. Louis-Kaiser Christmas Wrestling Tournament Saturday night at the Kaiser gym with 112 points.

Kahuku finished second with 77, and was trailed by St. Louis, 65; Foster High of Seattle and Kamehameha, 59, and Radford, 52.

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HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN

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You Don't Need a Fancy Big Boat to Have Fun Sailing

Who says that you have to own a fancy big boat, belong to an expensive yacht club, and sign on several burly crew members to have fun afloat?

Not any of the 25 skippers competing in last Saturday's Oahu El Toro Championships on Kaneohe Bay. These sailors' idea of fun was to be scrunched inside of a bathtub-sized \$300 plywood dinghy, and then race six heats in a wind storm.

With steady helmanship, 19-year-old Steve Martin, who makes sails for a living, reeled off four second places and a fourth to win the hotly-contested best five-of-six race regatta by a single point.

"AFTER CLARK Fremgen scored three consecutive first places in the morning," said Martin. "I had to stick to him like glue in the remaining heats just to stay in contention. This may have unnerved Clark for I continued sailing among the leaders and he got some bad races."

The 22-year-old Fremgen scored a 7, 9 and 3 in his final three heats.

Conceding the regatta's two top spots to the youth, Honolulu's Charles Dole then showed the rest of the fleet how experience pays by placing third.

"I guess I proved that I'm not over the hill yet," smiled Dole, a 60-year-old veteran of more than four decades of sailboat racing. "I particularly enjoyed passing the kids when the wind was strongest. I think that I may have even surprised one or two of them."

AND TO PROVE that sailboat racing is an equal opportunity sport, Kaneohe's Shirley Trefz not only became the regatta's top woman finisher, but she placed a high fourth

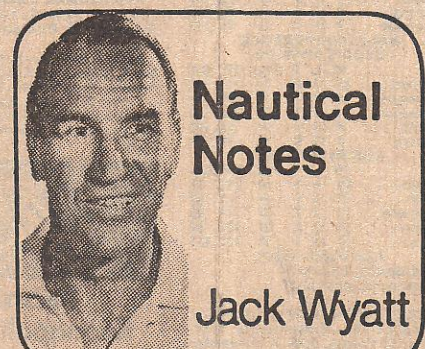
overall. Kaneohe's Bob Holland came in fifth.

With Hawaii's high cost of boats and its severe mooring shortage, inexpensive and easy-to-store one-person watercraft have become increasingly popular.

"Our windsurfer business has doubled each six months for the past year and a half," boasted Kailua's Colin Perry, the owner of Windsurfing Hawaii.

"On some of our products, the cus-

tomers have a one-to-six month wait. The windsurfer, because it's fun and convenient, has become Hawaii's most popular watersports toy."



Nautical Notes

Jack Wyatt

OTHER ONE-MAN sailing craft include the Laser, the Sunfish, the Hobie-14 catamaran, plus other small boats.

"The Laser has taken off," explained Phil Drips, a Laser official who sells them, "primarily because the boat is exciting to sail; it's relatively inexpensive, and the Laser can be stored in a garage and can be carried to the water on a car. New people into boating, who can't find

mooring, are turning to small trailerable watercraft."

However, there are other watercrafts who feel that paddleboards, kayaks and one-man outrigger canoes may provide the answer to Hawaii's recreational needs.

"I expect a good turnout for our annual Diamond Head Paddling Championships on Christmas Day off Waikiki," reported George Downing, a prime mover of paddleboard racing in Hawaii.

"IN ADDITION to my 12-foot Downing Class paddleboards, there will be a lot of kids entered using boards that they made themselves. I feel paddleboard racing has a place in the Islands, and that it's an untapped sport."

For details on the Christmas Day paddleboard contest, contact Downing at Wave Crest Hawaii.

Outrigger Canoe Club's Tommy Holmes, one of Hawaii's most experienced canoe paddlers, and Kai-

lua physician Dale Adams, the Island's foremost kayak enthusiast, both feel that their respective solo sports are about to blossom locally.

"IN TAHITI, one-man outrigger canoe racing is a big sport—a highly-respected athletic contest," said Holmes, who has made more than 200 Molokai Channel crossings on every type of watercraft.

"There has been considerable interest locally in one-man canoes. There are already several boats of

this type in the Islands and there are more being constructed. I am thoroughly convinced that one-man canoe racing will soon become organized." (Only recently, three one-man canoes and 17 solo kayaks raced from Molokai to Oahu.)

So if you are looking for fun afloat but don't have the pocketbook of a Vanderbilt, Morgan or Getty, you might try one of these inexpensive watercraft. It could be your ideal yacht.

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drive in Asia. Although he drove himself to the point of exhaustion, he accomplished little. Tired and defeated, he announced his resignation while in Tokyo in 1934 and departed for Europe without returning to Hawaii. His small staff, under the direction of Ann Y. Satterthwaite, attempted to carry on without him, but the effort was doomed. By 1941 the last vestiges of the once great organization had disappeared.

Whatever the appropriate conclusions about the demise of the union, Ford's own demise warrants sympathy and compassion. Returning unannounced from Europe in the late 1930s, he plunged into a pathetic attempt to revive the union and reclaim the prominence he had once enjoyed. Exhausted and probably unbalanced by the effort, he was placed in a rest home on Maui in 1939. Four years later and supposedly recovered, he returned to Honolulu where he wandered about the city, attempting first to build a display facility for some large dioramas he owned, then writing a rambling series of reminiscences for a newspaper, and finally just sitting by the beach at the Outrigger Canoe Club he had founded so long before.

Mercifully, these circumstances were not prolonged. On October 14, 1945, he died at the Territorial Hospital. Symptomatic of his frequently chaotic life, he left an estate consisting of seven dioramas and \$299 cash. Largely forgotten by the time of his death, he doubtlessly would have been pleased to know that his few remaining friends conducted a funeral service at the Outrigger Canoe Club and that a newspaper noted his passing with the observation that he was a man "who did more than any other man to acquaint the whole wide world with the importance of Hawaii in the Pacific theater..."

The newspaper eulogy is appropriate. Despite his shortcomings and the fact that he could have contributed so much more than was actually the case, Ford surely did contribute more than anyone else toward the creation of the Islands' special international role and reputation. Given the import of this, it could be argued that his name belongs on more than simply a swimming trophy. —Paul Hooper

Left for continuation

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER

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Paddleboard marks fall

Three records were broken at the second annual Waikiki Ocean Paddleboard race held yesterday at the Outrigger Canoe Club Beach.

Bret Goodfriend in the men's, Kisi Haine in the women's and Pat Caldwell all broke times set in last year's initial meet.

Goodfriend swam the 10,000 meters (6.24 miles) in one hour 15 minutes and 2 seconds to erase the old mark of 1:17:02 held by Chuck Kelly. Haine and Caldwell shattered their own marks from last year.

Haine's 1:56:40 bettered the previous best of 1:58:12, while Caldwell's 1:21:54 was nine minutes better than the old record.

Men — 1. Bret Goodfriend 1:15:02, 2. Dale Hove 1:18:04, 3. Grady Hove 1:19:13, 4. Bruce — 1. Pat Caldwell 1:21:54, 2. John Scully 1:22:49, 3. Bruce Gordon 1:23:30, 4. — 1. Kisi Haine 1:56:40, 2. Anne Hogan 2:16:17.