

# BATHING-SUIT CENSOR

By Edwin North McClellan

Censorship of bathing-suits at Waikiki was a main issue in 1910. Mayor Joseph J. Fern—according to the newspapers—asserted on May 14, 1910, that the job at Waikiki, as Municipal Censor of bathing-suits, was entirely beyond his jurisdiction. Bertram Rivenburgh, the Mayor's Secretary, displayed a succession of becoming blushes whenever the matter of his being a likely candidate to fill the office of Bathing-suit Censor was mentioned in his presence.

During the entire year of 1910 the Promotion Committee (our current Visitors Bureau) was very active under the leadership of its Secretary, H. P. Wood. The Committee headlined surfing and swimming at Waikiki as a lure for tourists.

## ATLANTIC CITY AND "STATUETTES"

About 1909, the Committee had recommended that a life-sized statue of a Surf-Rider—as he rides the waves at Waikiki—be exhibited at Atlantic City, N.J., where it was proposed to maintain a branch of the Promotion Committee. It was additionally suggested that Model Statuettes of this Surf-Rider be struck off and sold. "The wax cast of the Surfer, which Artist Osborne has made for the Promotion Committee, will be shipped to the Mainland today," reported the *Hawaiian Gazette* of January 14, 1910. The "Statuettes" will be "placed upon the market at a reasonable price."

Secretary Wood arranged for an Hawaiian Exhibit at Atlantic City. A vote on this subject was unanimous according to Committee Chairman, W. A. Bowen, and he appointed W. H. Hoogs as chairman of a sub-committee with members R. H. Trent and H. P. Wood, reported the *Hawaiian Gazette* of February 11, 1910. "The Atlantic City Promotion Bureau for the Promotion Committee is

assured," reported the same newspaper on February 18th. Ernest Kaai and his Hawaiian Singers will perform at the New Jersey resort, although another newspaper said that Professor Vierra would lead an Hawaiian Orchestra there.

By March of 1910, W. H. Hoogs had charge of assembling a shipment to the Atlantic City Exhibit. "Hawaii's Booth, along the famous Boardwalk at Atlantic City, will be in readiness to cater to public taste, whether for the luscious pineapples of Hawaii-nei or the attractive literature issued by the Hawaii Promotion Committee," reported the *Advertiser* of March 14, 1910. "H. P. Wood, Secretary" leaves "on the *Lurline*," March 14th evening, "for the Mainland." He "expects to be at Atlantic City by April first to secure the best available space for a booth." The *Hawaiian Gazette* informed Honoluluans that H. P. Wood and Lloyd Childs had departed March 14th on the *Lurline*.

## GEORGE FREETH

"Secretary Wood will make an effort, while in California, to induce George Freeth, the famous Hawaiian swimmer," now at Venice, California, "to go to Atlantic City" reported the *Advertiser*. "Mr. Wood is shipping two surfboards to San Francisco to be sent by rail to Atlantic City, and two Hawaiian outrigger canoes will be sent via Tehuantepec."

While in California, Secretary Wood made an offer to George Freeth, "to accept employment by the "Promotion Committee to give exhibitions of surfboard riding and canoeing in the Atlantic Surf, to show his excellent swimming-stunts," publicized the *Advertiser*, April 21, 1910. "Freeth is a Honolulu boy and for many years was an attraction at Waikiki Beach where he became an expert in all aquatic exercises."