EDWIN N. MCCLELLAN

# Waikiki Christmas and New Year's

BY EDWIN NORTH MCCLELLAN

Summer Christmas on the Beach at Waikiki! From that gorgeous spot the Outrigger Canoe Club broadcasts a loving *aloha* to the world. The Coral Crescent and OCC on the glorious island of Oahu reverently remember the Birth of Jesus Christ. Their motto is that it is more blessed to give than to receive. And on New Year's Day the Club resolves to reach nearer the Hawaiian skies in approaching perfection.

### WAIKIKI—GREAT CREATOR'S HOOKUPU TO WORLD

The unique Beach of Waikiki is the Great Creator's *hookupu* to the world. There is only one Waikiki. The serene and beautiful aquatic Eden, smiled on by the most hospitable Nature in the Universe, invites all peoples to enjoy its magnificence, grace, charm and hospitality, every minute of the year. Waikiki gives lavishly and expects nothing in return but the happiness of your presence. So, come and get your sunshine vitamins from the Coral Crescent. Come and enjoy, in day, the sun and the sunlit billows, in the evening the soft sunsets, and at night the brilliant stars, full silver moon and lunar rainbows. Come to the land of *luaus, hula, holokus, hookupus, kahunas* and Waikiki.

Every day is a perfect day at Waikiki but Christmas and New Year's are special days of great joy when Waikiki carols its Christian Christmas and New Year's welcome.

### ALL HAWAII COMMEMORATES CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S

The Islanders—of almost every race, creed and color—commemorate the Holiday Season in Hawaii with the same spirit and manner as do their fellow Americans on the Mainland. Christmas trees are imported by the thousands even though we have trees that would adequately express Christmas; we have our own holly; the stores at Waikiki are filled with gifts; the streets are thronged; stockings are hung up; children go to bed on Christmas Eve, firm in their faith in Santa Claus; and awaken early Christmas morning, to find much to strengthen that faith in Kriss Kringle.

### EARLY WAIKIKI CHRISTMASES AND NEW YEARS

The first Christmas and New Year's of Waikiki is clouded in the mists of tradition; but let it always be understood that the *spirit* of Christ always dominated the Hawaiian Polynesians of whom the first were *menehunes.*

### FIRST OCC CHRISTMAS

Outrigger Canoe Club's initial Christmas was that of 1908 and its forty-seventh is in this grand year of 1954. Between those years the Club has brought value and happiness to thousands of people—and will continue to do even though its members are denied that rightful gift of complete American citizenship which statehood would give them.

### SOME CHRISTMAS "FIRSTS"

John Ledyard, with Captain James Cook, in 1778, was the first American to see Hawaii. Officers and men of the British vessels *King George* and *Queen Charlotte* were the first white *haoles* to celebrate Christmas in Hawaii—on Kauai, the Garden Island, in 1786—providing shipwrecked Spaniards do not rate that honor. These same Britishers discovered Waikiki in 1786. Probably the first American ship to visit Waikiki was the brigantine *Hope* commanded by Captain Joseph Ingraham on May 27, 1891. The first Christian Christmas commemorated at Waikiki probably was that by Don

Marin, Manine or Manini, the old Spanish *kamaaina*. Then followed many Christmases including that of American missionaries in 1820.

The first American Navy and Marines Christmas was in 1826 when the kind-eyed chief, Captain Thomas Catesby Jones of the *Peacock*, led his officers and men in Christmas ceremonies. On that day Kamehameha III and Captain Jones celebrated the first treaty—signed two days before—ever concluded by Hawaii with a foreign nation, and in the true Christmas spirit it provided for perpetual peace and friendship.

It was many years later that the U. S. Army, U. S. Air Force, and U. S. Coast Guard commemorated their first Hawaiian Christmas.

**KINGS, QUEEN, PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS**

Every king of Hawaii and the one queen, spent Christmases and New Years at Waikiki as did many millions of commoners. The only president ever ruling Hawaii — Sanford Ballard Dole — loved Waikiki, lived there and served as president of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

All of the Territorial governors of Hawaii enjoyed Waikiki and many were members of the OCC—Sanford Ballard Dole, George Robert Carter, Walter Francis Frear, Lucius Eugene Pinkham, Charles J. McCarthy, Wallace Rider Farrington, Lawrence McCully Judd, Joseph Boyd Poindexter, Ingram Macklin Stainback, Oren E. Long and Samuel Wilder King.

**EVERY KIND OF CHRISTMAS IN HAWAII**

Almost every kind of a Holiday Season may be enjoyed in Hawaii—a balmy, green and coral Christmas at Waikiki with surfing, canoeing and sunbathing, or a White Christmas on the big scenic

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# WAIKIKI CHRISTMAS

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island of Hawaii where the snow-covered slopes of Mauna Kea permit skiing, snowshoeing and even skating on a lake of ice.

### MARVELOUS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S AT WAIKIKI

Christmas and New Year's at Waikiki are marvelous. Beauty of Hawaiian nature fills and thrills everybody fortunate enough to be here on those days, far from ice, sleet, snow and wintry storm. Glamorous nature fills the sky, beach, air and sea—and the mountains and valleys in the background. Soothing trade breezes temper the loving warmth of the sun. Waikiki expresses a special Christmas and New Year's *aloha*. Flower-perfumed breezes, sifting through palm fronds whisper it, lovely birds trill it from rendezvous in broad shade trees, fleecy clouds spell it out in azure sky, and blue surges of the splendid Pacific roar out the magnificent *aloha*.

### INVIGORATES BODY, SATISFIES SOUL

Mother Nature invigorates the body and satisfies the soul at Waikiki. Laughing blue waters of the great ocean, surging over the protecting coral reef, in white lacy ruffles, roll indolently on the beach, so safe for young and old, while the bold, in canoe and on surfboard, find rugged nature beyond the reef. Velvety coral sand clings affectionately to your brown skin.

Hovering protectingly over you are the not distant Koolaus while Diamond Head, like a crouching lion, is sentinel over all.

### WAIKIKI, SAFEST PLACE IN WORLD

On Christmas and New Year's Day, as well as on every other day of the year, Waikiki is the safest place in the world, from typhoons, hurricanes, cyclones, twisters, tidal waves and blizzards. Serenity and happiness reign on the dream beach all year, from Christmas to Christmas.

Waikiki is the nearest thing on earth to the Fountain of Youth. It is on that coral crescent that the supreme elixir of life is found.

### WAIKIKI CHORUS OF MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Every person of Hawaii, every bird, every drop of water, every grain of sand, every gentle puff of the trade breeze, every ray of sunshine, every flower and tree, every white cloud-island anchored in the blue sky, every mount and valley, and all the sugar cane and pineapples join in the chorus of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and *Aloha* from the Outrigger Canoe Club, from Oahu, from all Hawaii and from the beach at Waikiki.

*Outrigger Club*
*Waikiki Beach*
*Honolulu, T. H.*

*Gentlemen:*

*On behalf of Mrs. Birdie Bassett I am very sorry to inform you that Clarence Bassett drowned on August 8th while swimming in the Bay at Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California. Funeral will be at Avalon August 11th at 2 p.m.*

*Yours very truly,*
*CARSON B. HUBBARD*

Our sincere condolences to the family of Clarence Bassett. (He was a non-resident member, joined February 1, 1954.)