

ANCESTRAL OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN



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Polynesian roots of the Outrigger Canoe Club have been nourished for over eight centuries by every grain of Waikiki sand and every drop of Pacific water that caressed the Coral Curve. Those roots have sent up many structures to comfort aquatic humans but it was not until May 1, 1908, that the greatest of all appeared—our own sturdy Outrigger Canoe Club, the Golden Anniversary of which we commemorate May 1, 1958. Twenty-five years later will come our Quinseptuagesimal.

A symbolic Rainbow of Ancient Promise always has arched over the King of Beaches from the Ala Moana to Diamond Head. It pledges that as long as the Soul of OCC lives, Surf-Sports will never disappear from Waikiki. The Lovely Spirit of Waikiki forever has whispered into *kamaaina* ears—"keep alive your Polynesian heritage." Aloha to all those who, down the centuries, have retained for us the sports that made Waikiki famous round the world.

VISITORS PRAISE WAIKIKI

One has not enjoyed Hawaii until Waikiki has been visited! Nathaniel Portlock and George Dixon who, in 1786, sent a party from the *King George* and *Queen Charlotte* to "discover" Waikiki Beach, saw King Kahekili's surfers off the Beach. Master William Barkley anchored the first *haole* ship—the *Imperial Eagle*—off the famous Crescent Curve. Joseph Ingraham was in command of the first American ship to visit Waikiki—the *Hope*.

One after another they came to worship nature at the Spurting Waters—George Vancouver in 1793; Jonathan Thorn of the *Tonquin* in 1811; John Marshall Gamble in the U.S.S. *Sir Andrew Hammond* in 1814; Lord George Anson Byron in 1825; Herman Melville; Edwin Booth; Chester Smith Lyman who, in 1846, enjoyed the Young Chiefs OCC at Waikiki with calabashes of water as a showerbath; Mark Twain; Crown Prince Oscar of Sweden in 1884; Charles Warren Stoddart; Robert Louis Stevenson; Joaquin Miller; Matthew Arnold; William Howard Taft and Bob Taft in 1900; Jack London and Burton Holmes. Those are just a few!

JAMES DODD'S LONG BRANCH BATHS

The Easy Eighties will never return to Waikiki. In those carefree years a surfer reached the haven of Waikiki by hiking, horse-riding, carriage or bus, bicycling or outrigger. Right on the spot, where the OCC clubhouse now adorns the beach,

was James Dodd's Long Branch Baths to which Dodd's Bus would convey one.

HOLMES, FIRST MOVIES, SURFING

Burton Holmes arrived at Honolulu aboard the *Moana* in June of 1898. He made the first movies of surfing at Waikiki. Prominent people, including Princess Kaiulani, and a large fleet of outriggers, were shown in the pictures. The Princess had her own Outrigger Canoe Club.

MARSHAL BROWN'S OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

But it was Marshal Arthur M. Brown who had the nearest thing to an OCC, ten years before the OCC's natal day. Burton Holmes was entertained at Waikiki by Marshal Brown with a *luau* featuring a *poi*-fattened dog. They all went outriggering in the "Marshal's Fleet of Five Canoes" out to the Royal Surf Kalehuawehe.

"Mr. Brown's *Lanai* . . . really was the Home of the Outrigger Canoe Club," wrote Mr. Holmes ten years later.

WAIKIKI CANOES IN REGATTA DAY RACES

For a long time *kamaainas* of Waikiki had owned canoes. In 1900, on Regatta Day, Arthur M. Brown's *Alabama* won the Six Paddle Outrigger Race in the Harbor of Honolulu. From then on many Waikiki canoes were victorious on Regatta Days. They and their owners and crews later helped create the OCC. *Alabama*, *Waikiki*, *Puakalani*, *Malolo*, *Aa* or *A*, *Halekulani*, *Keomoku*, *Hanakeoki* and others. Arthur M. Brown, Walter

(Over)

F. Dillingham, Dr. Alfred C. Wall and Prince Kuhio were a few of the owners.

THE OLD MOANA PIER

The Old Moana Pier, constructed about 1890, was present as Nature's *Kahuna* to bless the OCC on May 1, 1908. In early days it jutted out from the American Legation *Moana* of American Minister Harold M. Sewall. July 4, 1898 was a notable occasion when Minister Sewall held a reception attended by a member of OCC's Hall of Fame—President-Governor-Judge Sanford Ballard Dole.

MOANA HOTEL OPENS—1901

The Moana Hotel opened its doors on March 11, 1901, to form with the Royal Hawaiian Annex (Seaside), across the stream Apuakehau, an attractive site for the OCC. Already there were suggestive whispers heard for an OCC.

DOWN THE PRE-OCC YEARS

Down the pre-OCC years, surfing at Waikiki was glorious and never in danger of extinction. Surfing was practiced by both Hawaiians and Whites. On March 20, 1905, a great throng gathered in front of the hotels as the Royal Hawaiian Band played on the Moana Pier. Young surfers rode standing upright on their boards that day.

"The surfing is glorious!" exclaimed Alice Roosevelt in July of 1905.

Harold Hustace was the Waikiki Surfboard Champion of 1906. In this year, George F. Macfarlane acquired the Royal Hawaiian Annex and renamed it the Seaside Hotel. Seaside Manager Fred Church sponsored surfing.

NEW YEAR'S REGATTA—1907

Alatau Leonard Charles Atkinson laid many a coral block in the foundation of the Outrigger Canoe Club. On December 16, 1906, he proposed to the Promotion Committee that a "New Year's Regatta, Waikiki Beach," be held, limited to "Hawaiian Aquatic Sports" on surfboards and in outrigger canoes and swimming. J. F. Morgan and F. L. Waldron were appointed a committee to arrange the Regatta.

There we have a definite beginning of the OCC. Weather interfered and the Waikiki Aquatic Regatta was not held until March 16, 1907, when a program of fourteen events was run off. Familiar

canoe names appeared in this Regatta—*Hanakeoke, Halekulani* and *Keawamalie*—while a few person-names were: Archie Robertson, A. M. Brown, Kenneth Brown, Vince Genoves, J. F. Morgan, F. L. Waldron, Lane Webster, Dr. Alford C. Wall, Harold Hustace (surfboard winner), Harry Steiner, and James McCandless. Practically the entire charter membership of the future OCC were contestants, officials or spectators. "As far as the memory of man runneth, there never has been such a large gathering," reported the *Advertiser*.

MORE VISITORS—1907 AND 1908

Jack and Charmian London in the summer of 1907 lived in their "Brown Tent Cottage" on the present site of the OCC. Alice Roosevelt returned to Waikiki as Mrs. Nicholas Longworth in July of 1907. A. H. Ford visited Hawaii for a short while in 1907 but made no recommendations for an OCC. R. K. Bonine, an eminent motion-picture photographer, visited Waikiki in 1908 and gave the King of beaches additional prestige.

BURTON HOLMES AND A. H. FORD—1908

Burton Holmes arrived back on the *Siberia* March 3, 1908. Alexander Hume Ford landed from the *Moana* the next day. Ella Wheeler Wilcox was here at the time.

BURTON HOLMES' SURFBOARD CARNIVAL

"Mr. Holmes has become the hero of the youngsters at Waikiki," explained the *Advertiser* of March 12, 1908. "They are arranging A Surfboard Carnival for him on March thirteenth, while their elders close the sport with an outrigger canoe race."

"Both Mr. Holmes and Mr. Bonine were at the Moana Hotel, on March 13, 1908, trying to get a lifelike pictures of the surfriders and canoes," reported the *Evening Bulletin* of March 14th. "There were many on the lawn who watched with interest the many canoes and surfriders."

WAIKIKI CLUBHOUSE FOR SURFERS

"Honolulu is to have a Clubhouse at Waikiki Beach for Surfboarders and those interested in Canoe-Surfing," announced the *Evening Bulletin*, March 14, 1908. "Mr. Archibald Stout (Manager)

and William Lishman (Proprietor) of the Seaside Hotel, at the request of A. H. Ford, granted the site and A. L. C. Atkinson has promised to promote and organize the Club. Burton Holmes and E. K. Bonine are registered as the first and most enthusiastic non-resident members."

BURTON HOLMES AND OCC

"Burton Holmes was bubbling over on March thirteenth . . . while looking over the ground upon which he hopes the Lanai Clubhouse will grow during his absence from Hawaii," reported the *Bulletin*.

"The only marvel to me," Holmes said to the *Bulletin* reporter on this pioneer slate of March thirteenth, "is that it never has been done before. When I first came to Hawaii ten years ago it was Mr. Brown's *Lanai* that was really the home of the Outrigger Canoe Club as it is today. . . . I believe that the building of a *Lanai*, for those who wish to own canoes but have no place to keep them, is a splendid idea."

ANNUAL OUTRIGGER AND BOARD RACES

Burton Holmes looked at the OCC site as he spoke. "There should be a large non-resident membership. . . . One man to look after surfboards and canoes will be the only force needed so that the surplus from dues not needed in adding more *hau* trees can be devoted to cups and prizes and the expense of conducting Annual Outrigger Canoe Races and Carnivals, while an Annual Surfboard Series of Races would not only tend to keep alive this King-of-Sports as Jack London named it, but should attract visitors from all parts of America."