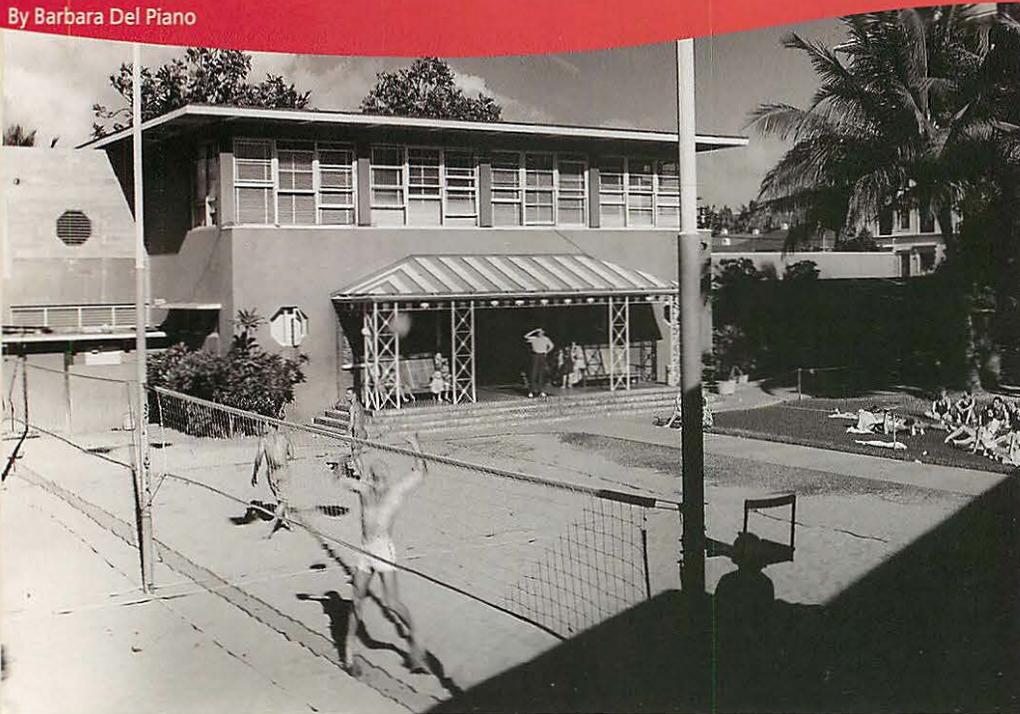


OH! THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

By Barbara Del Piano



LEFT: The Club Volleyball Courts and the adjoining lawn were favorites of all.

RIGHT: Ginny May, left, wears the old OCC swim suit, first made by Linn's and later by the Club and sold in the Logo Shop. Center, Ivanelle Ho, and Beverly Gram.

FAR RIGHT: Pop Ford enjoys lunch in the Dining Room in the old days.

The party was in full swing on the Koa Lanai, while back in the Duke Room two young people were busy filming interviews. It was the Old-timer's Last Hurrah in August and Marilyn Kali, *Outrigger* magazine editor, suggested soliciting memories of the "Old Club" for our archives.

Fortuitously, Ja-ne deAbreu, chair of the Historical Committee, which maintains the Club's archives, is a professional media producer and 2009 Telly Award winner. She liked the idea and expanded it from jotted-down notes to filmed interviews with several long-time and former members.

After making sure the interviewee was holding the microphone correctly and was properly positioned, the questioning began. Although each person had his or her own special memories, there was one that nearly each person had in common. And that was how every one knew each other, and the friendliness and camaraderie that pervaded the Club in those good old days in Waikiki.

Joe Gilman's dad, Arthur Gilman, was a Charter Member of the Outrigger in 1908 so Joe says he spent a lot of his childhood there and has been paddling all his life. He fondly remembers other old-timers like Chris Bode, Archie Kaaua, and John D. Kaupiko, stalwarts of the old Club.

Peter Nottage, says he too grew up at the Old Club. After joining in 1943, Peter traveled there each weekend by street car, and later, bus. He soon became an avid surfer and spent many memorable hours riding the waves at Canoe's, Blowhole, Queen's, and First Break.

Encouraged by her uncle, "Dad" Center, one of Outrigger's all-time great coaches and steersmen, **Pam Anderson** joined the Club at the age of 13 after which it immediately became her second home. "Uncle Dad" taught her surfing and paddling and Pam went on to become the Outrigger's first wahine steersman.

Steering in one of the Kona Regattas, Pam relates how the buoys drifted off, and caused the Outrigger canoe to ram one from Kona while making a turn, but still went on to win the race. Fortunately, the judges recognized the problem and the Outrigger was not penalized. The Club went on to win the Regatta.

A favorite activity that nearly everyone not only talked about,

but also participated in, was volleyball. **M. L. O'Brien** commented that the courts were a focal point of the Club. "When you walked in, there were always games going on to the right of the walkway, and on the grass on the left, were all of us watching or waiting to play."

Peter Nottage also reminisced about playing with friends, "Until we got booted off by the seniors, who of course, had priority." **Aggie Quigg** iterated M. L.'s comments about the lawn opposite the courts being the gathering place for members while they watched the games or simply chatted or read a book.

The **Martin sisters, Beryl (Haxton) and Joan (Rodby)**, played, but mostly on the small court with friends, among them **Billie Neal (Baird)**.

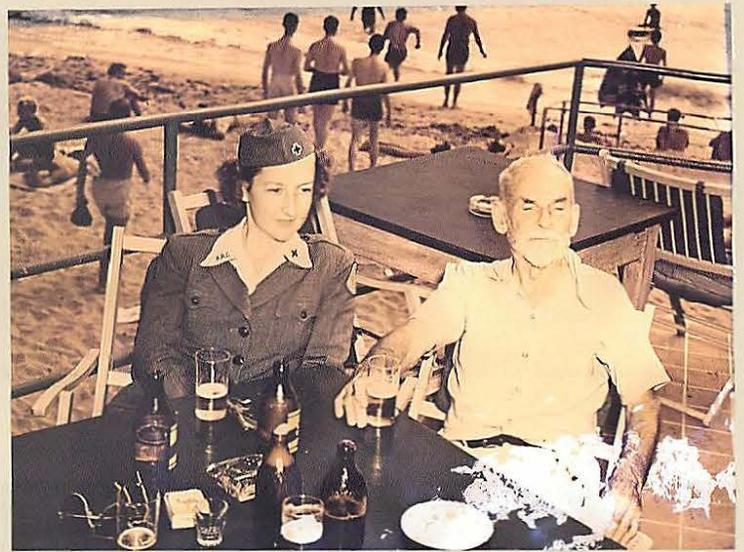
Romances often blossomed at the Club. It was where **Marian and Tommy Arnott** had their first date, and after their marriage, just about every Wednesday night and weekend were spent there. **Beryl Martin Haxton** met her husband, Bill, at the Outrigger, and often sat on the beach reading and waiting for him while he was out surfing.

Several people commented on the Beach Boys and how great an asset they were to the Club. Always gentlemen, most with super musical talent, they often gathered on the Hau Terrace after a day's work, talking story, singing old-time *hapa-haole* songs, playing ukulele, and entertaining members and visitors alike...including movie stars and celebrities.

Lovette "Lala" Thomas Black was one of many teenagers that hung around the Old Club before being able to join. To this day she cringes at the thought of encountering manager Henry De Gorog. Finally, she said with a sigh of relief, a generous uncle came up with the astronomical initiation fee of \$15.00.

She also had high praise, as did many others, for beloved "Auntie Eva" who, along with her regular front desk duties, dispensed her motherly wisdom to so many young girls. The Kahanamoku brothers were high on her list of exemplary people as well. She mentions how Sarge kept the boys in line and made sure they minded their manners and abided by Club rules.

Another favorite reminiscence, especially among the *wahine*, was of Linn's bathing suits. "If you didn't wear one, you simply



weren't "in," says Beryl Haxton. The heavy, cotton, two-piece suits with "saila-moku" buttons up the sides were all the style back in the forties. Eventually, the Outrigger developed a similar brand of its own, but with the Club's logo. This saved everyone the trouble of going to Chinatown for a new suit.

M. L. O'Brien has vivid recollections of the Club's founder, Alexander Hume Ford, or "Pop" Ford, as everyone called him. "He was a gentle old man," M.L. said, "who strolled the grounds daily, wandering around, seemingly at loose ends. But I feel sure he was taking in everything that was going on. I think several on the Club staff made sure, in a quiet way, that he was properly dressed and remembered to eat. He would make his rounds on the beach and then go upstairs to the dining room; but before he got to the top, he would sit on the steps, take off his shoes, and pour the sand out. He never said much to anyone. I just hope he was proud of what he started."

The author actually remembers "Pop Ford" speaking to her one day. As she was sitting on an overturned canoe in the passageway to the beach across from the surfboard lockers, he walked by and commented, "You have pretty knees," a compliment she has never forgotten.

It was "small kid time," back in the mid-thirties, when Ben Cassidy started hanging out at Waikiki beach. By chance, he got to know David Kahanamoku who became his mentor. "David taught me so many things," Ben reminisces, "not only how to swim, and surf, and exercise, but many other things as well; things that have remained with me throughout my life. He taught me the things that are important to becoming an honorable person. Not a Club member then, Ben went on to spend 30 years in the Air Force during which time he joined the Outrigger as a Service Member where his cousin Jimmy Pflueger was actively involved as a paddler and one of "Duke's Boys". In 1982, at the present site, Ben served as Club president.

Donna Lee Sandler Harris remembers going to the Club frequently as a child of about 10 with her parents for Sunday lunch. It was a special treat when Rose, their favorite waitress, slipped a scoop of ice cream into her glass of milk. She also remembers a young man named Rick who set up an easel near the Club entrance where he hand-sprayed original colorful designs on tee-

shirts and sold them for \$3.00.

Margo Armitage Morgan was never a member of the Club, but her parents were. Back in the '30s, as a small child, she often splashed around in the shallow water in front of the Club, or on her dad's surf board. She even remembers the Desha Law, passed in 1921 which remained in effect until 1949. It stated that "no person over the age of 14 years of age shall appear on any road or highway in the City and County of Honolulu in a bathing suit, unless covered suitably by an outer garment reaching to at least the knees."

As a sign of changing times, the author recalls playing volleyball one day in the late '40s or early '50s, when, for the very first time in Club history, a *wahine* strolled down the center walkway wearing a bikini. She says, "All the games on all the courts stopped...all the players stood open-mouthed as they watched this voluptuous gal go by. There might have been a whistle or two, but most of the guys were too dumb-founded to utter a sound. The manager, I believe it was Ted Magill, discreetly informed her that such attire was not permitted on the premises. It was a hot topic of conversation for weeks."

A true icon of the Outrigger was Duke Kahanamoku who pulled a team of paddlers into top shape for the first annual Walter Macfarlane Regatta on the Fourth of July, 1943. Tommy Arnott told his wife, Marian, how hard the original crew, consisting of Tommy Arnott, Tommy O'Brien, Thad Ekstrand, John Beaumont, and Jim Fernie worked under Duke's coaching.

It paid off when they won the top event of the day, the "Senior Six" and were the first to receive the magnificent Matson Trophy and partake of champagne personally poured into it by Walter Mac's mother, Kamokila Campbell. The crew, which changed from year to year, went on to win a total of seven times.

Oh yes! Those were indeed the days, and although it's been 50 years since the Club moved to its Diamond Head location from Waikiki, the memories linger on.

The filming was a first of its kind for a Club event, and when edited and put on DVD, will make an interesting addition to the Club's Archives. It may also be available to the membership for a nominal fee.