

RUTH STACKER NOW COAST SPORT WRITER

Honolulu Mermaid Makes Initial Bow In San Francisco Newspaper

Ruth Wayson Stacker, who now and then used to write swimming "stuff" for The Advertiser, is now writing for the San Francisco Examiner. Ruth is attending the University of California. Introducing Miss Stacker to the San Francisco public, the Examiner of February 5 ran a two-column "face cut" of the Honolulu girl and gave her the following editorial mention:

"Miss Ruth Stacker, premiere woman swimmer of the swimming center of the globe, Honolulu, has joined 'The Examiner' staff and will hereafter be a regular contributor to its sporting pages.

"Miss Stacker will cover the entire field of aquatic sports and her writings will be authoritative as well as interesting and complete. 'The Examiner's' new reporter is a newspaper woman as well as a swimmer, having had nearly as much experience in newspaper office as in the briny deep.

"Ruth Stacker is a short distance swimmer, specializing in distances up to the quarter mile. She still holds one world record, made in her first swimming competition at the age of fifteen years. The record is for the thirty-yard dash, and though Dorothy Burns and other feminine exponents of speed in the water have tried to lower it, the time still stands at :17 3/5 seconds."

Miss Stacker announced in her first contribution on swimming that she was organizing a San Francisco auxiliary of the Honolulu O. O. U., and that great interest was being shown in the Coast city concerning the 440 yard race for girls over thirty years of age, an event which was first broached by Will B. Stout, secretary, at one of the recent Honolulu Y. M. C. A. swimming meets, and approved by Rudolph J. Smythe, president of the National O. O. U.

Below are given excerpts from Miss Stacker's initial article in the Examiner with reference to Hawaii and Hawaiian swimmers:

"Cable advices from Frederick W. Reubien, president of the A. A. U. were received by William Unmack today, giving sanction to Miss Fanny Durack's exhibition tour of the United States as an amateur swimmer. According to Mr. Unmack, arrangements are being made for a tour of the East after an engagement in Vancouver on August 3. In such an event Honolulu will be sadly disappointed, as they are fast making plans to engage the Australian mermaid for their Labor Day meet in September.

"Swimming in Honolulu is booming, regardless of the fact that Lady Langer is out of the game, along with George Cunha and several others. Duke Kahanamoku, Clarence Lane and John Keli still uphold the standing and this team will probably make hard competition for California's swimmers. Lane is swimming a close second to Duke and Keli is dependable for the century and furlong.

"There are at least thirty young girls from the Outrigger Canoe Club and Palama Settlement in the Islands who in the next year will be numbered among the very best. Coach 'Dad' Center of the Outrigger Club is planning to bring a team of four girls to San Francisco for the summer meet if it can be arranged. Center's girls are under fifteen years of age and all make the fifty under thirty three seconds. Such a relay team would be a feature at any meet. The swimming situation certainly looks big for the coming season.

"George Cunha, the Hawaiian swimmer at American Lake, is learning dentistry. George will be some dentist when the war is over.

"There is a possibility of having Duke Kahanamoku appear here in the spring with a team from the Islands. That is, if the draft is not called before the champion leaves to the mainland. This will be a big drawing card to any of the meets held here this year.

"Claire Tait, one time Pacific Coast diving champion, who for the past two years has been coaching the Outrigger Canoe Club swimmers, is chief yeoman in the navy service stationed at Pearl Harbor. Tait still holds his position as coach for the club and with 'Dad' Center is getting up a first class aggregation."