

# GAY HARRIS

## After 14 Years In the Swim Game, Outrigger Star Still Going Good

### Harris Not Only Swims, But Rows, Surfs and Plays Water-Polo With Best; Is Swim Authority

By LOUI LEONG HOP

ANYONE who can exact favorable comment on the sporting page, must necessarily possess the merit which entitles one to that distinction.

Take the case of Albert Gay Harris, one of Honolulu's own boys in the swimming world and who is declared Hawaii's most reliable all-around aquatic man.

Gay Harris, as he is better known in sports circles, broke into the water game about ten years ago when he started with the Outrigger Canoe club and despite the fact that he is not mentioned in the same breath with Clarence ("Buster") Crabbe or Duke Kahanamoku, few have had a longer, more uninterrupted service in the fastest company than Harris.

Of course, Harris has many other outstanding attributes besides his long experience in swimming competition.

First of all, he is an all-round aquatic expert by divine right. Not only does he come from a family of stars in swimming and other water sports (his cousins, George Harris in California's swimming limelight and the famous William Harris now at Manila) but what is more impressive, he is the son of an old-time swimmer and a member of the famous Myrtle crew, Albert E. Harris. So the stage was all set for Gay.



LOUI

Then Gay is a most noiseless water performer. He is modest in what he does and never boasts of his achievements. He never quits the home team although the score sheets sometimes look like a flock of spare tires.

#### Swim Authority

Which is all well and good, you say, but not enough to bring him into the coveted limelight. Where is the punch? So right here it must be noted that Gay, in the opinion of George ("Dad") Center, the most reliable all-around swimmer ever developed in Hawaii, an authority not only on swimming matters but also on water polo. He is invaluable to the A. A. U. and, because of this fact, was appointed chairman to arrange the Men's Outdoor National Swimming championship meet held here last year.

It was Harris who arranged the snappy program of The Star-Bulletin world's championship swimming meet the other week. And it will be Harris who serves as chairman of the National Outdoor Women's swimming championship meet to be staged here next year.

#### Career

Albert Gay Harris was born in Honolulu on May 31, 1901. He attended Punahou school, leaving there in 1921 and has been connected with the Hawaiian Electric ever since.

In swimming competition, Harris specializes in the 100 and 200-meter backstroke. He made the Hawaiian Olympic swimming team in 1924 and went to Paris. During the western trials held at San Francisco and then the national trials at Indianapolis, Harris shined up well.

He took part in a meet held at Palo Alto during the western trials and established a tank record of 1 minute eight seconds in the 100-meter backstroke. In that race, he defeated Warren Kealoha, Henry Luning and Charles Pung. In the Indianapolis races, Harris finished fifth in the backstroke event and six only four were to be selected. Harris was not made a member of the team. But that didn't discourage him. He kept on with the team to New York and there landed a job as trainer.

At Paris Harris did not perform but he learned much. It was here that he got the idea of bringing Japanese swimmers to Hawaii and when he returned he made a report to George ("Dad") Center, who boosted the idea skyhigh, with the result that Japan's best swimmers invaded Hawaii.

Harris told of the time when he won his first race. It was back in 1914 and he was a mere lad in short pants. The race was staged in the harbor between Piers 5 and 6 during the Mid-Pacific carnival held annually in February. He took first place in the 50 yards for boys under 15. That started him on his career.

Harris participated in the first Castle swim, held annually by the Outrigger Canoe club. He held the record until 1926, when "Buster" Crabbe came along and shattered

the mark.

Besides swimming competition, Harris rows. He is a member of the Myrtle Seniors and was stroke for the Red and White in the last regatta. In 1925 he rowed on the best Myrtle junior crew in history and which broke the record in the Hilo regatta that year.

Then Harris can paddle himself handily on a surfboard. He was instrumental in starting the annual surfboard paddling races each New Year's Day in the canal.

#### In the Family

George Harris, now a member of the Hollywood A. C. and holder of many Pacific Coast swimming records, is Gay's cousin.

"George's father, George S. was one of the noted swimming promoters in his time and coached as well as managed the Hawaii tug of war teams," Gay said.

Bill Harris' father, W. W., who is now at Manila, was once captain of the Myrtle crews. He was not only a good oarsman but a good swimmer.

"If that is not sufficient," Gay stated, "to prove that the Harris family is an aquatic one, I refer you to Arthur Harris, my uncle. He was considered one of the best swimmers in Hawaii before Duke Kahanamoku, Kealoha and the others came up. Ask any of the old timers, they'll tell you about him."

Gay stated that he is not planning to retire. Even after 14 years of active competition, Harris appears to be in first class condition and good for many more.

"No, I'm not thinking of quitting," Harris said. "swimming is my racket and I'm going to stick to it."

### KEEPING UP WITH THE JO

AL, THE SPECULATORS ARE CHARGING SCANDALOUS PRICES FOR SEATS TO SEE YOUR SON-IN-LAW'S PICTURE THE LION TAMER. CAN'T YOU FIX ME UP WITH A COUPLE?



### FRECKLES AND HIS FRIEND

THE BIG SECRET OF OSCAR'S IS OUT!! HE'S GOING TO FLY TO ARABIA... YES-THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ALEK-FRECKLES TAKES THIS ALL WITH A

OSSIE'S GOING TO MEET ME SAYIN' HE'S FLY TO ARABIA GETTIN' US UP THINKIN' A BIG SECRET THEN'S GOING TO COME SPRING TALK ON US!!

