

DEBATE ON ORIGIN OF CRAWL STROKE

Kahanamoku of Opinion All This
Was Like Topsy "An'
Just Grewed"

Many andd heated have been the discussions on the world-known crawl stroke—who started it and how it all happened, says Ruth Staeker in the San Francisco Examiner of March 6. Sid Cavill, recognized authority on swimming says that it was discovered through a wager with his brother Tom, who declared he could beat "brer" Sid over the century mark with his feet tied. He did, and found that this mode of kick might be faster than the then popular trudgeon. Dick Cavill, youngest brother and fastest swimmer of the famous group, finally perfected what is known as the Australian crawl. Though the South Sea islanders have probably always swum in this fashion, this was the first that the white man knew of the stroke now used by every speed swimmer.

L. Fullard Leo, prominent in aquatic sports in Honolulu and a native of Australia, claims to have invented the crawl stroke in a Sydney tank and also to have taught the Cavill brothers how to swim. Mr. Leo has something over a hundred medals for both swimming and boxing and is credited with being the first to sprint the 100 in a minute.

Duke P. Kahanamoku, world champion, though much younger than either of these two men, claims that there is no inventor of the crawl stroke. Duke picked up the foot movement through body-surfing, at which he is an adept, and the short, snappy arm stroke was required through surf board riding. The champion claims that any one of a hundred people may have found themselves swimming this speedy stroke at the same time. Who knows?