

OUTRIGGER IS POPULAR CLUB

Organization With Headquarters At Beach Revives Ancient Sports

The Outrigger Canoe club—Hawaii's most famous club!

They're not pretentious, those little buildings huddled in the shadows of the Royal Hawaiian and Moana hotels. But they're a part of Hawaii at their best.

The fame of Hawaii's surfing at Waikiki has gone round the world, but surfing was almost a lost art before Alexander Hume Ford dreamed one of his many dreams, and turned it into reality through the medium of the Outrigger club.

In 1908, surfriding, the sport of Hawaiian kings, had almost disappeared from the waves of Waikiki. Then a grass hut appeared in the heart of the beach district; a few surfboards and some outrigger canoes followed; the Outrigger Canoe club was organized, and the art of surfing was saved.

The acre and a half of land fronting on the beach which the club obtained was far different from the attractive grounds which it boasts today. It resembled a little wilderness, which was put into condition only after much planning and hard work.

An early history of the club told of its aims and activities.

"In July, 1908, the largest crowd ever assembled on the beach gathered to witness the Outrigger Canoe club's regatta, given for the edification of the round the world fleet," said the account. "Never since the days of Kamehameha has so large a fleet of Hawaiian canoes appeared at Waikiki.

"One of the first projects put forth by the club was that here the dying water sports of Hawaii should be revived and kept alive that the children of Oahu might not remain entirely ignorant of old Hawaii and its ways, and that they might gain health and strength in the surf, that residents of all ages should benefit and customs be perpetuated that had no counterpart elsewhere in this world.

"The Outrigger Canoe club was conceived as an unselfish plan, not only to give all an equal opportunity to enjoy Hawaiian water sports, but also to provide a spot where at all times the stranger might enjoy the sight of a bit of old Hawaii, and the sport of surfriding, the fame of which has gone round the world and become one of our chief assets."

These remain today the aims and plans of the club and of its more recently organized women's auxiliary, the Uluniu club.

It has been especially a family club. Father, mother and the children have gone to the beach for the day, enjoying luncheon or supper under the big hau arbors. Volleyball courts have been built and other sports are enjoyed on the sand.

From time to time, the club has had financial problems, for it has kept its dues and fees at a minimum in order that as many persons as possible may take advantage of its facilities. But always the friends of the club have rallied, around, for what would Waikiki be without the Outrigger Canoe club?