

# Outrigger Canoe Club

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN

May Day is Outrigger-Canoe-Club Day as well as Lei Day, for it was on the first of May in the year nineteen hundred and eight that the Outrigger Hui first saw the light of day. So, Lei Day celebration next year should whirl around the Beach at Waikiki to the accompaniment of dashing surfboards and speeding outriggers.

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May Day next year will be the thirty-second birthday of the Outrigger Canoe Club. During all the long interesting Hawaiian years this sturdy Club has supported the prosperity of Hawaii and added to the attractiveness of the Paradise of the Pacific. It has perpetuated the art and sport of both surfboarding and outrigger-canoeing. It has consistently performed an important civic duty that Honolulu has accepted without much expression of appreciation. This year of 1939 the Outrigger Canoe Club starts a new era. Old buildings are razed, new buildings are raised, a new lease of constructive life begins, but the Club carries on with the original determined will—surfboarding and outriggering must go on forever!

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"Nearly a hundred persons have already given their names for membership in the proposed 'Outrigger' Club at Waikiki," announced the Honolulu Advertiser of April 16, 1908. "The promoters of the Club invite all interested in surfing as a sport, or as an attraction to visitors, to send their names to Charles R. Frazier, 122 King street." A circular letter dated April 15, 1908 was broadcasted, signed by James F. Morgan, A. H. Ford, James A. Wilder, Richard Trent, J. Waterhouse, J. A. McCandless, H. P. Wood, A. M. Brown and A. L. C. Atkinson. "Make Waikiki always the Home of the Surfers with perhaps an Annual Surfboard and Outrigger Canoe Carnival." was the theme of the epistle. Just such a Carnival could take place at the Beach on May 1, 1940—an Outrigger-Lei Festival. Several locations were considered. Among them was the "Famous Virtue Villa." The "Native Hawaiians will be encouraged to aid in the renaissance of surfing, free quarters and a native grass shack are planned for those who can ornament the scenery by deftly handling a board or a canoe on the crest of the waves," explained The Advertiser.

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Another meeting was held on April 24, "when about forty members attended the first meeting of the Outrigger Club at the Promotion Committee Rooms." The "meeting was called to order by E. A. Mott-Smith, and on the nomination of A. L. C. Atkinson, seconded by J. F. Morgan, A. H. Ford was elected temporary chairman, R. H. Trent, treasurer and H. P. Wood, secretary," reported The Advertiser of April 25, 1908.

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The Outrigger Canoe Club was formally organized on May 1, 1908, and the following officers elected: A. H. Ford, president; L. H. Herbert, vice president; Henry P. O'Sullivan, secretary; R. H. Trent, treasurer; Charles R. Frazier, auditor; Kenny Winter, captain; J. P. Cooke, Harry Macfarlane, Jr., and J. R. Galt, trustees. There was a membership of about one hundred and fifty. It was decided to build a lanai on the piece of ground along the Moana Stream, Ewa side, at Waikiki. Queen Emma's cottage was adjacent to the site of the proposed lanai and the estate of this queen was still in possession of the land to be occupied by the club of surfing enthusiasts. And so started the Outrigger Canoe Club that has contributed so much to Hawaii.

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Practically every person of any importance supported this Club by becoming members. That good habit of the year 1908, and the subsequent years, should be indulged in by everybody who is interested in making Honolulu prosperous and attractive, and in keeping alive that part of Old Hawaii known as surfboarding and outrigger-canoeing.