

# Outrigger Club Has Been Beach Home of World Stars

The growth of the Outrigger Canoe club from the place where you "dressed under a tree" and got your paddle, to the fine seaside recreation center of today, is a theme essential to any tale of Waikiki's development.



**Mr. Center**

And no kamaaina is better qualified to tell this story as George (Dad) Center, for 31 years a director of the Outrigger club and coach of half a dozen world champion swimmers.

"Dad" recalls the day back in 1908 when a little knot of enthusiastic beachboys and beachgoers put their heads together in the huddle which produced the Outrigger Canoe club.

"We chipped in with what time we had," he said, "to the development of the new club. Its program was to bring into full glory the old Hawaiian sport of surfriding, and to provide a center of healthful recreation on the beach.

#### Not Always Smooth Going

"The tide was not always smooth, and it looked at times as though our club was going into a dive. But we learned to roll with the waves and to make the most of each small ripple of encouragement.

"Those who stuck to the Outrigger club equally through thick and thin years knew they had a good thing. Volleyball courts were set up, a two story pavilion was constructed on the beach front, a dance hall and recreation court graced the upper floor of the locker building.

"Honolulu was back of the Outrigger Canoe club, for facilities and opportunities to use Waikiki beach were outstanding in the club," Mr. Center said.

#### A. H. Ford Helped Start Club

Alexander Hume Ford was a

dynamic personality in founding the Outrigger club.

He was a restless, roving newspaperman and magazine writer. Coming to the islands, he decided to stay, and began a career here that became almost legendary. It used to be said of him that he started at least one new club a week. The Outrigger was one of his favorites. He helped put it through the infantile stages.

Today Mr. Ford, retired and not well, is living at the Fred Baldwin home, on Maui.

Filling a large role in the developing drama of the Outrigger Canoe club, Mr. Center has tutored to worldwide fame such aquatic personalities as Duke Kahanamoku, Buster Crabbe, Pua and Warren Kealoha, Marieken Wescleau, Bill Harris and Helen Moses.

#### Coach of American Team

As a special tribute to his contribution in the field of athletics, Dad Center was made coach of the American swim team participating in the 1920 Olympics at Antwerp.

Speaking of the current improvements of the Outrigger club, he said: "We all hoped, and a few foresaw, that someday the club would grow into the achievement of today. But it is difficult to see how this could have been done without the invaluable aid of Walter Facfarlane (now president of the Outrigger club), who has led the drive for support of the building program over the past several years."

## Royal Hawaiian Band Will Play at Wahiawa

WAHIAWA, Oahu, Feb. 14. — A concert sponsored by the Wahiawa Community association will be given by the Royal Hawaiian band, conducted by Domenico Moro, at 8 p. m. February 21 at the Leilehua high school auditorium.

Taking part in the program will be Miriam Leilani, soprano; William McKee, tenor; Carmin Gavino, soprano; Joseph Kamakau, bari-