

# Editor At Large

By THE EDITOR

Alexander Hume Ford is 75 years old today.

We don't see him around town like we used to, say 20 years ago.

Then he was one of our best known citizens—a restless, fast walking, fast talking, fast thinking, fast doing chap, with an eternal urge to improve the world and everybody in his vicinity.

He hails from South Carolina but there's nothing of the supposedly languorous south in his make-up.

And in those active, bustling years from his young manhood till long after he'd passed the half century milestone, he made his mark on the world to no small degree.

In his early years he was a world traveler and correspondent. He was one of the pioneer Americans in remote Siberia and the hinterland of other Asian countries. He worked on newspapers and magazines in New York and Chicago.

He came to Hawaii nearly 35 years ago. Soon he was starting the Outrigger club, the Trail and Mountain club, the Hands Around the Pacific club (later the Pan-Pacific club) and half a dozen others.

"Hume Ford," as we called him familiarly, was forever starting movements to bring conventions, scientific congresses and other groups to Hawaii. No celebrity was too big for him to tackle. He hobnobbed as familiarly with presidents and premiers and ambassadors as with the beach boys at Waikiki.

His thin, sparse frame, a bit stooped, his shock of uncombed and graying hair, his tuft of reddish brown graying beard, his keen and restless gray eyes, his peculiar half loping gait, and his rapid fire speech on any subject from aardworks to zymotechnics, were familiar to all Honoluluans.

He seemed indestructible by passing decades, invincibly optimistic of plans which ranged from volcanic depths to the stratosphere. And when a few years back, Old Father Time began to slow Hume Ford from his dog trot to a walk, and hair and beard turned from speckled gray to white, it was as if the statue of Kamehameha had begun to show signs of bowing of the royal head and buckling of the warrior knees.

Today Hume Ford lives at the Baldwin Home on Maui, with his memories of more active days. But many of the things he essayed have come to pass, and many of the ideas which once he planted before unbelieving eyes have sprouted and are being fruit or flower.

So here's a hail and aloha to Alexander Hume Ford, 75 years old, and an acknowledgement of the good that he has done as he passed through life. . . . They used to say of that great pioneer of the magazines, Samuel S. McClure, that he had 50 ideas a day—49 of them weren't worth a whoop in Hades but the 50th was the best blank-blank idea in any magazine office in the land. . . . Alexander Hume Ford has even a better batting average than that!