

"Pop" Ford's Reminiscences

By ALEXANDER HUME FORD

(Note: This is one of a series of articles by Mr. Ford, founder and for many years director of the Pan-Pacific Union, founder of the Outrigger club, and of other organizations. Mr. Ford recently returned from Maui, where he has lived for the past three years.)

IV. MORE ABOUT "TOUMALOUSE" MACKENZIE

Jack Mackenzie wanted to know what he could do to help the league along.

I said, "Jack, get a committee to raise \$60 to buy a three board canoe that the kids can wreck without asking anyone's permission."

Jack said: "Pop, committees are no good. If Roosevelt would fire the committee called congress the whole world would be better. Now, Pop, I've appointed and fired my committee." He took out his check book and made out a



Ford

check for \$60. He said: "Well, Pop, here's my report." This was at the Outrigger club not long ago.

Some of the fellows at the table about roared with laughter and said nobody would cash that check, but Henry de Gorog, the manager of the club, who was standing by, said to me when I asked if he would cash it, "Sure, Pop," and he reached into his pocket and fished out six \$10 bills, in exchange for the check.

I took Jack right down to the club carpenter, who I found was a man I had appointed to the job a quarter of a century ago, and in a minute the deal was closed.

As I was coming out into the lobby some of the older boys of 15 to 20 stopped me and said, "Pop, what are you going to do about us older boys who can steer and paddle a canoe?"

I said, "Wait a minute, I'll see Dad."

So I went up to see Dad Center and told him what Jack had done, and Dad leaned over and said, "Pop, I'm with you. Koa canoes cost \$500 now but I've got a bully good surfing canoe and it's yours. Let the boys who can handle it take it out and bust it whenever they can. They will know how to make new aikus and amas. Let them go to it, Pop," and we shook hands.

On the way back I met Mrs. L. Fullard-Leo, once my secretary. I told her what Jack had done, and she said, "Pop, I'll give you \$60 tomorrow. Tell the carpenter to make another canoe for my two boys."

Since then Dad has accumulated three more canoes that he puts at my disposal for the boys who have the guts to go out and fight the sea.

Some day I will want to tell the story of the 25 years of hard work that Dad put in building up the Outrigger club, for which I often get the glory and credit.

Dad is older now and he has a wife. I think he loves her more than his canoe, but we are both getting younger now that we can once more teach the kids to "fight the sea." I am developing three or four potential Dad Centers, and I believe now we will have a real renaissance of surfing sports, which seemed to me to have died out almost as completely as when I arrived here in 1908 and got the small boys together to organize the Outrigger Canoe club.

(Other articles by Mr. Ford will follow.)