

"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.)

VI—SASAKI AND TOGO

This morning a miracle happened. A man stopped his car and offered to pick me up and at the same spot Bert Tarleton tells me he stood and counted 71 cars pass many of them with but a single occupant, the driver.

My good Samaritan said, "You don't know me, Mr. Ford, but when you started the Outrigger club I worked for Mr. Sasaki." It must have been Yama whom I had not seen for 40 years or more.

Sasaki was our first caretaker in charge of the commissary. Then Sasaki always gave any kid who said, "Pop says I can have a cone" a heaping helping of ice cream, and at the end of the month I paid the bill. Sasaki acquired a small store where he purchased his supplies for the club and some of the directors objected, so we lost Sasaki to Puna-hou where he remained for years while he learned that white help can sometimes outguess the Oriental, 10 to one.



Ford

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Sasaki had a young wife in 1908 who was expectant and when the youngsters asked him "how soon?" he would always reply, "little more come."

And Little More Come was the lad's name until he was big enough to swim and then one of the boys nicknamed him Togo and that was his name until he went to college.

It was Sasaki's boast that he set aside a thousand a year for Togo's university course and when I would ask, "how come on nine hundred a year?" he would grin and say, "Mr. Foad, you sabbe."

I asked Sasaki once what he would do if Japan fought America. He replied, "I must fight for my emperor but Togo, he fight for his president, but Mr. Foad, I always fight for you."

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Twenty years passed away and I was stricken and placed in a garage in solitary confinement to sink or swim. The only human being who came to see me regularly was Togo, now a graduated MD with a good practice.

He would often take me to his office for massage and treatment and would never hear of payment. After one horrible month I took my last dollar of savings and moved to the Courtland hotel where I at once began to improve.

There are good Japanese and when we have those canoe races in April I will have Sasaki at his old stand to deliver free cones to every participant and I know he will be as happy as I.

(Other articles by Mr. Ford will follow.)