

On the Crest of the Waves

By CHARLES E. HOGUE

The little man in negligently fitted hand-me-downs stood on the Kalakaua avenue board sidewalk and watched with eager interest a dozen sun-bronzed lads bending to the paddles of outrigger canoes or balancing skillfully on surfboards as they glided ashore at the mouth of "Moana" stream on Waikiki beach. He ran agile fingers through a billygoat beard and chortled audibly. Alexander Hume Ford, one time Chicago police reporter, was giving birth to another of his many ideas to spread widely the fame of the land he had adopted as his home.

"The only Islands in the world where men and boys ride upright upon the crest of the waves," he crowed with delight. Then he hurried away to find a typewriter with which to engross the phrase in a letter proposing the organization of the Outrigger Canoe and Surfboard Club.

That was on April 7, 1908. Before nightfall, he had the names of James F. Morgan, James A. Wilder, Richard H. Trent, John Waterhouse, W. R. Castle, J. A. McCandless, H. P. Wood, A. M. Brown, A. L. C. Atkinson and J. A. Gilman, together with his own, affixed to a document calling for an organization of "prominent gentlemen" interested in surfing at Waikiki.

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Last Saturday evening, on April 8, 1950, the Outrigger Canoe Club celebrated its forty-second anniversary. During this month and next it will halve its initiation fee for senior members and thus increase an enrollment which in the past forty-two years has grown from a charter roll of some 89 senior and 14 junior members to a total of more than 1,800.

Housed now in recently rehabilitated quarters embodying the best features of modern beach clubhouses, the Outrigger Club began its career in two modest grass shacks. "Moana" stream, a watercourse that has disappeared in the course of the Ala Wai drainage development, supplied the club's first fresh water bathing facilities. In the interim, its quarters ranged through a thatched pavilion that bridged the stream and a wooden structure paid for largely from funds raised by the club's original "beach boys." These were the ardent young amateurs who first attracted Alex Ford's admiring attention forty-two years ago. Among whom are some of Honolulu's leading citizens of today. That is another story to be told soon.

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The original Charter List of the club, a typewritten and penciled document which Club Manager E. P. (Ted) Magill keeps carefully framed, shows the following members:

A. L. C. Atkinson, James A. Wilder, J. A. Gilman, James F. Morgan, Arthur Brown, J. P. Cooke, George Castle, W. R. Castle, Harold Castle, James A. McCandless, H. P. Wood, R. H. Trent, F. L. Waldron, A. Gartley, C. R. Frazier, C. Brown, W. G. Smith, W. R. Farrington, A. H. Ford, R. A. Lyon, W. W. Hall, C. T. Wilder, Willard Brown, A. F. Griffith, C. D. Wright, W. W. Thayer, A. H. Hawes, Jr., D. W. Anderson, Leslie P. Scott.

Ollie Sorenson, Dr. Scudder, L. S. Herbert, E. A. Mott-Smith, G. Osborn, John Waterhouse, John Guild, James Fleming, Frank E. Thompson, Frank Halsted, K. B. Porter, James H. McNerny, Dr. E. L. Hutchinson, Dr. F. H. Humphries, Kenny Winter, Dr. L. J. Blackman, H. M. Chandler, E. T. Winant;

E. D. Tenney, George H. Angus, A. S. Prescott, Chris Jenkins, R. Atkinson, J. H. Walker, A. Wilder, C. Medcalf, F. L. Davis, Sam White, H. A. S. Gilles, W. J. Cooper, G. R. Warren, E. H. Hand, C. Albright, H. C. Christian, G. C. Ellis, C. F. Jenkins, A. J. Stout, W. A. Purdy, F. W. Carter, Judge S. M. Ballou, George F. Henshaw, W. D. Westervelt, H. R. MacFarlane, Jr., H. M. Ayers, Charles S. Crane, C. F. Maxwell, M. C. Webster, E. B. Blanchard, C. H. Dickey, W. L. Castle, Lucius E. Pinkham, W. L. Warren, A. L. Robertson, C. W. C. Deering, W. Williamson, C. Wilder, George R. Carter.

Junior members: G. Simms, A. L. Scroggy, Curtis Hustace, Frank Hustace, Harold Hustace, Arthur Gilman, Atherton Gilman, Lane Webster, Platt Cooke, James McCandless, Guy A. Rothwell, Dexter Fraser, Fred Bailey, Harry Steiner, L. Steiner.

The list is a typical Alexander Hume Ford document, the names being jotted down in the form familiar to his own use, with the probability of some omissions. For Alex Ford was a man of brilliant ideas—who despised detail.



HOGUE