



OUTRIGGER "REGATTA-DAY"

Another fine historical article by Edwin North McClellan, writer, historian, radio commentator, world traveler, retired Marine officer and good friend. We thank him for his many contributions to the Forecast and hope for many more.

By Edwin North McClellan



Outrigger-Canoe Races were features of King Kalakaua's Birthday (November 16) Celebration, and Regatta-Day (third Saturday in September) which succeeded the "King's Birthday" as a national holiday. Outrigger-canoes once formed a substantial part of transportation between Honolulu and Waikiki and other places. Hawaiians at first, and then *Haoles*, perpetuated outrigger-canoeing for use and sport around Oahu. Many men who, later helped create the Outrigger-Canoe-Club, aided in keeping the Hawaiian sport of outriggering on the programs of the many Regatta Days in Honolulu Harbor and on the Ala Wai. The first record of commemorating the "King's Birthday" with aquatic-sports was about 1875. About 1882 the phrase "The Regatta" attached itself to the "King's Birthday" holiday commemoration. Aquatic-sport is fundamental—and prosperity-producing for the Territory—particularly at Waikiki, home of the Outrigger-Canoe-Club.

"THE REGATTA," NOVEMBER 16, 1882

It was the "finest and most complete Regatta," reported the newspapers of the outrigger-canoe and other competitions in Honolulu Harbor on November 16, 1882. The course for the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race was around a buoy anchored off the Marine Railway and back to the starting-point. The winner of this race was the *Leleanae* (E. K. Lilikalani) closely followed by the *Kokeauiha* (J. W. Pilipo). The Outrigger-Canoe-Sailing Race was won by the *Iwalani* (W. B. Namahoe) with the *Keaumiki* (J. W. Pilipo), second.

"KING'S BIRTHDAY" REGATTAS CONTINUED UNTIL 1896

Hundreds assembled on the Esplanade on November 16, 1883 to view the "Regatta." The Six-Paddle-Canoe Race's victor was the *Leleanae* (E. K. Lilikalani), the *Ihihilauakea* (Kahuli) finishing second. Winner of the Outrigger-Canoe-Sailing Race was the *Ohuli* (Waiohikaia); Mignon (W. M. Giffard), 2d; *Malolo* (S. Naauao), 3d; and *Hokulele* (J. H. Makole), 4th. On November 16, 1884 the *Kala* came in first in the "Regatta's" Six-Paddle-Canoe Race. The *Puakauwahi* took second honors. These two canoes reversed places in the Sailing-Canoe Race, the *Puakauwahi* winning and the *Kala*, trailing. Thus did the "Regatta," as part of the King-Kalakaua-Birthday Celebration, continue down the

Eighties and up the Nineties. But, with the death of Kalakaua in 1891, interest in his Birthday diminished. Then, in 1896, "Regatta Day" was born in the Legislature of Hawaii, to encourage Aquatic Sport in Hawaii including outriggering, surfboarding and swimming.

JUDGE ROBERTSON "FATHER OF REGATTA-DAY"

Representative A. G. M. Robertson introduced a bill which replaced the Birthday of King Kalakaua as a national holiday with the "third Saturday of September," Regatta-Day. On June 8, 1896 Judge Robertson explained that "there is a considerable local feeling in favor of a Holiday at a time of the year suitable for aquatic sports" and that a day of September would be excellent for a Regatta-Day. The bill passed both Houses on June 12, 1896, and, thus, Regatta-Day became a National Holiday to be devoted to aquatic sports. Features of Regatta-Day, in addition to rowing, were outrigger-canoeing, swimming and diving.

REGATTA DAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1896

The first Regatta-Day was staged in Honolulu Harbor on September 19, 1896. The course for the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race was from the Judges' Stand to the first Can Buoy off the Marine Railway, and return. *Keiki* won, with *Kaimoa*, second. "Every native who could scare up a piece of rag as large as a handkerchief for a sail" entered his canoe for the Sail-

ing-Canoe Race which was won by the *Keiki* with the canoe *I* next. On Regatta Day, September 18, 1897, in Honolulu Harbor, the *Honuakaha* (Prince Kuhio) finished first in the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race; *Kakaako* second; and the *Kauahe-ahē* in third place. One of the defeated canoes was the *Waikiki* (David Kawanakoa). The wind was poor for sailing and all but two of crews paddled. The "Judges didn't like their activities," and the prizes were given to the two that "came over the line sailing." First prize went to the *Kakaako* (Kehoku) and second to the *Kauaheahē*. This was the last Regatta-Day under an independent Hawaii.

FIRST "REGATTA-DAY" UNDER AMERICAN FLAG

"The business-center of the Town was closed-up and deserted," on Regatta-Day, September 17, 1898. The *Kakaako* took first-honors in the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race with the *Leilani* second. *Maui-Boy* won the Sailing-Canoe Race. The *Kaiulani* took second honors. Three craft started in the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race on Regatta Day, September 16, 1899. The *Liloa* (L. P. Scott) won this race followed in by the *Waikiki* (L. P. Scott) and *Kakaako* (Hanaukana): The *Kakaako* also won the Sailing-Canoe Race. The *Kano-hololeake* was second.

HAOLE CANOES APPEAR IN 1900

For a long time *haole* residents of Waikiki had owned outrigger-canoes. On Regatta-Day, September 15, 1900, we find some of them racing in Honolulu Harbor. The Six-Paddle-Canoe Race was won by the *Alabama* (Arthur M. Brown) "with all kinds of ease." The *Kakaako* crew was reported "to have been under the spell of a *kahuna* during the race." The *Waikiki* (L. P. Scott) and *Puakalani* (Prince Kuhio) were also entries in this race. The *Takatoa* (John Wilson) and *Nonoa* (*Teominatun*), manned by South Sea Islanders, ran away from the other eight starters. An Hawaiian canoe, the *Kealoha* (Moku) was 3d. Regatta-Day, September 21, 1901, saw the old *Alabama* of Arthur M. Brown, winning the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race. *Imi* (J. Namalehua) was second. The Canoe-Sailing Race was taken by the *Marine Railway* (Makuda). A special sailing contest for

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South Sea Islanders was won by the sailing canoe *Taimapaitaun*. The *Liloa*, entered by the Hotel-Annex, won the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race on Regatta-Day, September 20, 1902. *Alabama* (Arthur M. Brown) was second; *Ala-Huki-Moku* (Pea), third; and the *Halekulani* (Alford C. Wall), fourth. Other entries in this race were: *Waikiki* (Hotel-Annex) and *Makani Kona* (D. R. Vida). The Sailing-Canoe Race was won by the *Halekulani* (Alford C. Wall) with the *Marine Railway* (J. K. Ai), coming in second. On September 19, 1903—Regatta-Day—there were four starters in the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race: Arthur M. Brown's *Alabama*; A. C. Cunha's *Kaiukauwea*; Dr. Alford C. Wall's *Halekulani*; Walter F. Dillingham's *Malolo*. Two other entries were: *Kanoelani* (Pahukula) and *Pualani* (Inauha). *Alabama* won with *Kaiukauwea*, second. Centerboards were barred in the Sailing-Canoe Race in which the *Alabama* was the victor; *Halekulani*, 2d; and *Malolo*, 3d.

REGATTA-DAYS, 1904 TO 1907

On September 17, 1904 the Six-Paddle-Canoe Race of Regatta-Day was won by the famous *Alabama* (Arthur M. Brown); *Keomoku* (Arthur M. Brown), 2d; *Malolo* (Walter F. Dillingham), 3d. The *Alabama* repeated her victory, in the Sailing-Canoe Race, followed by the *Malolo*. On Regatta-Day, September 16, 1905, the "old reliable" *Alabama* (Arthur M. Brown) defeated the *Keomoku* in the paddling-race. The *Alabama* also won the Sailing-Canoe Race, leading the *Keomoku* and the *Malolo*. The best race of Regatta-Day, September 15, 1906, was the Six-Paddle-Canoe. The entries included the old *Alabama* (Arthur M. Brown) with her black-hull and yellow band at the gunwale manned by six Hawaiians wearing red sweaters; Dr. Alford C. Wall's beautiful koa *Hanakeoki* (haole crew); and Prince Kuhio's *A* or *Aa* from Waikiki, crewed by men of Kona. The *Aa* defeated the *Alabama* and *Hanakeoki*. Regatta-Day, September 21, 1907 was very interesting. The haole crew which had manned Dr. Wall's *Hanakeoki* in 1906 paddled Rusty Brown's *Alabama* in 1907, determined to wrest the Terri-

torial Championship from the Kona crew. 10,000 spectators lined Honolulu Harbor. The *Aa* (Kona crew) won by six lengths from the *Alabama* (of Waikiki), with the Kamehameha Aquatic Club's entry a poor third.

OUTRIGGER CLUB IN REGATTA-DAY, 1908

Probably the first entry of a crew of the Outrigger Canoe Club in an outrigger race was on July 18, 1908 during the Great-Fleet-Welcome at Waikiki. It was a boys' crew led by Harold Hustace in Walter F. Dillingham's *Malolo* which lost to the *Le Ilima* manned by Hawaiians. Prince Cupid's *Aa* defeated an OCC crew in the *Keomoku*; in the *Malolo*, Atherton Gilman, Lane Webster, Kenneth Brown and Zen Genoves, represented the OCC and won the four-paddle race. Dr. Wall's *Halekulani* won the Big Canoe race from Prince Kuhio's *Aa* and Brown's *Alabama*. On Regatta-Day, September 20, 1908, the *Aa* won the Big Canoe Race followed-in by the *Hanakeoki* representing the OCC. The *Mihikinaiao* (Auliua) won the sailing-canoe event. On Regatta-Day, September 18, 1909, Prince Cupid's *Aa*, crewed by Outrigger-Clubbers, won the Big Canoe Race from Dr. Alford C. Wall's *Kaimookalani*. The *Aa*'s crew was: Kenneth (Rusty) Brown, Harry Steiner, Willy (Knute) Cottrell, Edmond Melanphy, Dad Center and Zen Genoves. It was *Haoles* vs. Hawaiians on Regatta-Day, September 17, 1910. The Hawaiians in the *Aa* defeated the "Outrigger Club Sextette" in the *Hanakeoke*, their names being: Kenneth Brown, "Knute" Cottrell, "Monk" Dodge, Pete Young, Ted Melanphy and R. Hitchcock. Although suspended during the wars, Regatta-Day stayed alive until 1949 although during its latter years it was held on the Ala Wai. Judge A. G. M. Robertson, "Father of Regatta-Day," died about 1947. Two years later Regatta-Day died. In May of 1949 the Legislature of Hawaii deliberately killed Regatta-Day, a holiday that the Legislature had created in 1896 to perpetuate Aquatic Sports in Hawaii. The Outrigger Canoe Club can re-capture the tradition and prestige of Regatta-Day by re-establishing that Great-Aquatic Day on September 20, 1952, with a program of Outrigger Canoe Races at Waikiki.