



The Macfarlanes of Waikiki

By Marilyn Kali

The name Macfarlane has been associated with the Outrigger Canoe Club since its founding in 1908.

Henry R. Macfarlane Jr. was a charter member of the Club. He was the oldest son of Henry R. Sr. and Eliza Macfarlane who arrived in Hawaii in 1846 via New Zealand, and whose Waikiki home was where the International Market Place once stood. Eliza planted the famous banyan tree that still grows there in what was then her front yard. The family home was known as Kaluaokau.

The Macfarlane family also included sons George Walter (G. W.), Edward, Frederick and Clarence, and daughter, Blanche.

Henry Jr.'s brother, G. W. Macfarlane was Chamberlain to King Kalakaua. His home in Waikiki was later turned into the Park Hotel. It was purchased by James Castle and was rebuilt as the Castle Estate or Kainalu. Castle's widow sold his home to the Elks Club, and the OCC now leases half of the land from the Elks for our current Clubsite.

G. W. also owned the Royal Hawaiian Hotel (in downtown Honolulu), and the Seaside Hotel which was next door to the original Outrigger Canoe Club. When a fire burned down cottages at the Seaside Hotel in 1914, it also set the thatched roof of the Club's dance pavilion on fire. After the fire, the Club moved the floor of the pavilion closer to the beach and made it its Clubhouse.

Another brother, Frederick Washington Macfarlane, also lived in Waikiki. His residence was on Kalia Road, next to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel Annex, also adjacent to the site of the original OCC Clubhouse.

Brother Edward C. Macfarlane was the premier and minister of finance under Queen Liliuokalani. He owned the Royal Hawaiian Hotel with his brother G.W.

A fifth brother, Clarence W. Macfarlane, was the father of transpacific yacht racing, founding the Transpacific Yacht Race in 1906. Clarence was also credited "as being the first Caucasian in Honolulu to master the sports of surfing and canoeing in outriggers," according to the *Honolulu Advertiser* in 1941.

Frederick W. Macfarlane had three children with his wife Amelia Wildemann: Walter, Guy, and Alice Macfarlane. Walter married Alice Kamokila Campbell, with whom he had five children: Alice, Walter James, Muriel, Kala and Wyatt.

And of course, we all know Walter James Macfarlane, better known as Walter Mac, for whom the 4th of July Macfarlane Regatta is named. Walter Mac was president of the OCC from 1937-1943. He was responsible for raising the funds to build a new Clubhouse when the Club had no money and the old Club buildings had been condemned due to termites and wood rot.

The Board of Directors was so grateful for his leadership through those trying times that they dedicated the 1941 Clubhouse to him. Two years later Walter Mac was on the mainland where he got typhoid fever and died. The 1943 Kamehameha Day canoe race, sponsored by the Club, was renamed for him and

changed to the 4th of July. The Macfarlane Regatta is a long-standing tradition in Waikiki, celebrating its 76th year in 2018.

Walter Mac's sister, Muriel Macfarlane and her husband Walter Flanders, were also long-time members of the Club. Their daughters (Alice, Mary and Judy) and their families have also played an important part in OCC's history. Alice married Rab Guild, a two-time OCC president, and they had four children, Rici, Walter, Di and Lissa Guild. Walter is a past OCC president, and Winged "O" and Lissa is currently on the Club's Board of Directors.

Alice's sister Mary Flanders Philpotts-McGrath is also a past president of the Club, and her son Billy is very active in the canoe racing program.

Muriel's sister Alice, had two children who are both members, as are their families: Jim Growney and Alice Robinson.

The Macfarlane-Flanders family descendants will be at the Macfarlane Regatta paddler's breakfast and pep rally, and at the awards ceremony later in the day to award the perpetual trophies to the winners of the Senior Men and Women's races.

The Macfarlane name is deeply rooted in the history of the Outrigger Canoe Club and their contributions have allowed the Club to survive and prosper for 110 years.

So on the 4th of July this year, the 75th anniversary of Walter Mac's passing, let's remember a family that has given so much to our Club. Without the efforts of Walter Mac in particular, the Outrigger Canoe Club would probably not exist today.

Macfarlane Post Race Party

Tickets for the annual post-Macfarlane regatta party at the Club featuring the Tropical Soul Band are on sale now at the Front Desk.

Entry tickets are \$8 each in advance, \$15 on July 4th. There is a limit of five tickets for Regular, Senior, Life, Intermediate, Nonresident, Service and Honorary membership categories. There is a limit of three tickets for all other categories.

The BBQ will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the sand near the Snack Shop. Music will begin at 6 for dining, and again at 8:15 for dancing.

Waikiki fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

The Club closes at 11 p.m.

OCC Bylaws Town Hall Meeting

Monday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

The Board of Director's proposed changes to the Club's Bylaws will be presented to the membership for information and discussion. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

Copies of the proposed changes are available at the Front Desk or on the Club's website, outriggercanoeclub.com.