

# WATER SPORTS of HONOLULU

By Bromley B. Barrettson

**H**ONOLULU goes in for water sports to a greater extent, probably, than any other city in the world. All kinds of aquatic games are indulged in, but the most popular are also among the most dangerous and are specialized in here to a degree that makes them almost a distinctive Hawaiian diversion. Surf-riding is one of the most common of these water sports and is full of excitement for both participants and onlookers. In outriggered canoes the natives ride the breakwater waves as they rush shoreward, and, it is almost superfluous to add, it is a sport that calls for a steady nerve and no little skill.

Riding the surf on planks is another form of this sport practiced by the visitors at Waikiki beach, and is just as exciting and dangerous.

But the most exciting and dangerous of Hawaiian water sports is shark hunting. This sport is indulged in in the vicinity of Honolulu bay. Power boats of about four tons displacement are generally used. In the company of a congenial Honolulu sportsman I went out to try my hand at the game. We left the harbor at 8 o'clock in the morning, at which early hour the bay and vicinity is alive with people engaged in all kinds of fishing. Just as we started we came across a number of Japanese; some were wading up to their waists in the shallow water and others were angling from boats. Outside the bay men in two-oared punts were hunting for sea turtles, which in these waters average from 400 to 500 pounds in weight. I watched one of the boats for a while. It moved slowly along, then suddenly stopped. An oarsman seized a rifle from the side of the boat and fired at a turtle just seen rising to the surface of the water, but it is no easy matter to hit a mark at a distance of from 50 to 60 yards from a rolling boat, and the turtle escaped. Twice after that I heard the fisherman fire, then silence followed. He had lost sight of the prey. Apparently the turtles are not very plentiful, as I saw but two during the entire day.

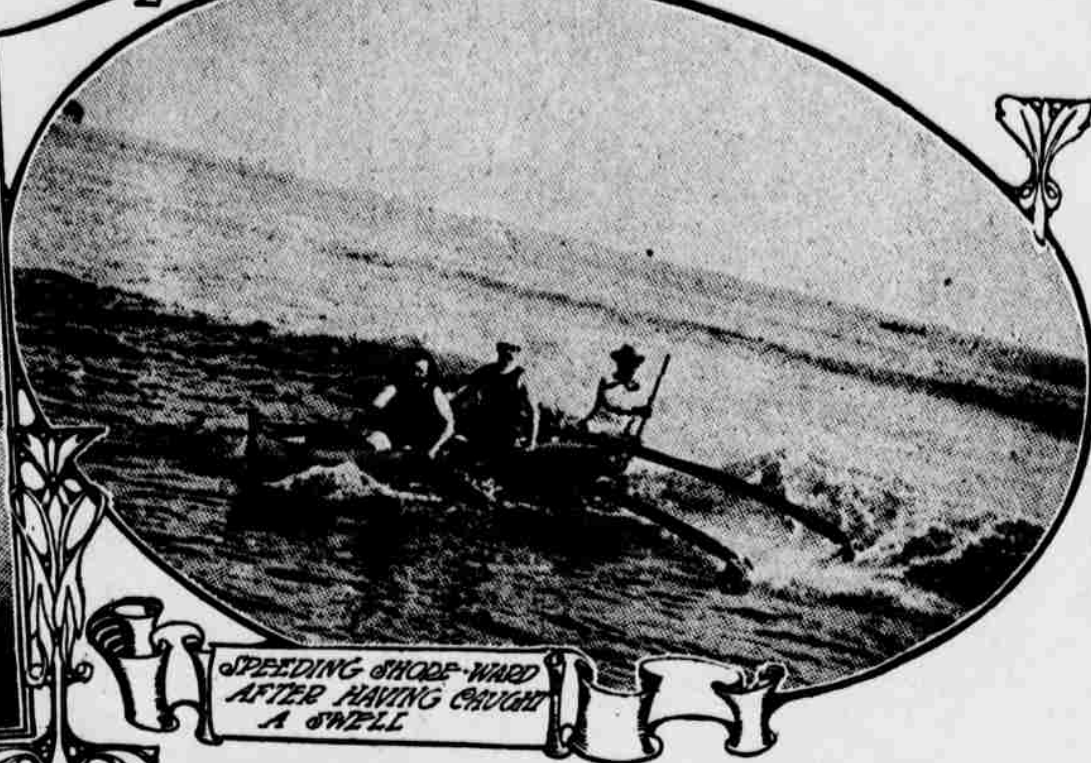
Arriving at the shark-haunted spot, about a mile from shore, we stopped our motor boat and prepared to try conclusions with the dreaded monster of the deep. Our bait—two fat-tailed, flayed sheep—was attached to an air-tight tin buoy and thrown overboard. The hooks were attached to the buoy by ropes several yards in length. After waiting an hour and a half, during which time the traditional trade wind had wafted our little craft well out from shore, our boatman called our attention to the fact that a shark was hovering around the bait attached to the buoy. From a distance the presence of the monster in the rather rumpled water was betrayed by a yellowish-green, bluish, shadow-like line just below the surface of the water. We let the creature swim about to his heart's content, and after reconnoitering for a few minutes he took courage and bit a large chunk off the sheep, using such force that part of his body actually rose above the surface. Twice, after short intervals, he again attacked the bait. Meanwhile, we had been drawing the bait nearer the boat. By this time two other sharks had appeared, but one of them seemed to have had a taste of the hook, for he writhed as if in pain and then swam away. Our young boatman, who had had considerable experience in harpooning sharks, took up a position on the covered part of the boat, harpoon in hand,



RIDING the SURF



THE CATCH AFTER A DAY'S SHARK HUNTING



SPEEDING SHOREWARD AFTER HAVING CHANGED A SWELL



OVERSEAS READY TO START FOR THE WATER WITH THEIR SURF BOARDS

They wasted little time fooling with the bait and quickly made off. So it seems not all sharks are alike in disposition, or perhaps a difference in the degree of hunger or a half-satisfied appetite explains the contrast in conduct. Out of patience with the clumsy hastiness of our fisherman, we returned from our first trip empty-handed.

On the occasion of our second excursion we started at 7 o'clock in the morning and were accompanied by an experienced fisherman and an expert harpoonist. We started under favorable auspices. The sailors on a large vessel that had been riding at anchor since the previous evening informed us that four or five sharks had been seen hovering about the vessel, on the watch for prey. For bait on this occasion we used a large joint of beef, instead of sheep. We stopped near the large vessel and set our bait. The sailors signaled to us that a shark was swimming about, now here,

ready to thrust. The shark again approached the boat and we could see his every movement quite distinctly. We gradually drew the bait almost up to the boat and the infuriated monster was now biting ravenously at the bait within easy reach of our craft. As he rose partially to the surface our man drove the harpoon into him, but not in a fatal spot, and as I thought, not with sufficient force. The harpoon merely grazed his side. Four times

the boatman threw the harpoon, each time missing, and finally the hungry creature gave up in disgust and relinquished all further attacks upon the bait.

That it was always the same monster that made the furious attacks on the bait I was quite convinced, for I could clearly see the marks of the harpoon on his body. The behavior of the second shark, which only tasted the bait, and of the third was quite different.

now there, and in less than half an hour one of the hooks had caught one of the monsters. For ten or twenty seconds the victim tugged vigorously to free himself and then remained so still that we thought it had escaped. However, with a view to examining the bait, we began to pull in the rope, and with it came a good-sized fish. To prevent a long struggle I put a bullet into its side the moment it reached the surface of the water. All at once it stretched out and the harpoonist thrust his weapon into its flat forehead, about four to five inches from the edge of the mouth.

Scarcely had we tied the prey to the side of the boat, when the men on the big steamer began to fire at the sharks swimming all around us. They did no damage to the sharks and certainly did not improve our sport, for none of the monsters appeared again for some time.

As my fellow fisherman had important business to transact I took him ashore during the forenoon, and returned to continue the sport. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon a courageous or very hungry shark attacked the bait four times before he met his doom. As an experiment I shot him in the belly, and the bullet had a much more decisive effect than in the case of the first fish. The length of the first fish was 6.5 feet, and that of the second 7.8 feet. The former was yellowish-green in color and the latter was striped like a tiger.

On this day the sharks took little notice of the large bait floating on the surface and were evidently looking for prey deeper down. I can find no satisfactory explanation for this as the weather conditions were practically the same on both days. It is possible that the difference in bait was responsible, as the fat, flayed sheep used on the first occasion were white in color, while that employed on the second day was dark in color and devoid of fat. The natives believe that the sight of the shark is defective, and that that is the reason the monster rarely attacks the brown-skinned natives. Perhaps they are right.

## Corea, A Land of Contrasts

Contrasts between the customs of Corea and those of other countries are striking everywhere. In other lands when a man wants to remove a hog from one pasture to another he drives it or toils it with corn. Not so in Corea. Here a stout laboring man catches a full grown hog, ties its feet together, puts it on a wood frame made from the limbs of trees and carries it to market. The same wood frame is used by the porter who carries your trunk from the station to the hotel instead of using a truck or wheelbarrow.

In other countries the tiger, the leopard and the elephant inhabit the tropics. In Corea these animals flourish in a climate as severe as that of Ontario. The fur of the Korean tiger is longer and glossier than that of his cousin in the jungles of tropical India, for the same reason that the coat of a raccoon is finer in winter than in summer when it is not needed for warmth.

The Korean tiger is a royal looking beast, seen frequently standing in a commanding position upon a snow-covered mountainside looking down disdainfully at a passing train and growling the protesting native's answer to the shriek of the invading "mogul."

Sporting Englishmen have a few shooting boxes in Corea and like to hunt elephants there because the climate is far more agreeable to them than that of Burma, Ceylon or Africa, where elephants are found.

Five bulls loaded with the branches of trees used as firewood are a common sight in the

streets of Seoul. Ponies are ridden, but never used to draw vehicles as they are in other countries, and cattle are never killed for beef. Cows, which have been known in Corea for scores of centuries, are never milked, or were not until a few years ago, and the Coreans never knew anything about dairy products.

In most countries the horse is considered a better mount than the donkey. Not so in Corea. There the meek and slow moving ass is regarded as the best riding animal.

Street signs are relied upon in the cities of other countries, and nowhere are they more used than in China, which formerly exercised a shadowy suzerainty over Corea and was her neighbor. But in Seoul they were not used at all before the Japanese came. In almost all other countries women are fond of going shopping and merchants strive to please them.

In Corea it is otherwise. The women regard shopping as a necessary evil, and the merchants keep their goods in closets instead of on counters and shelves and in showcases. The merchant does not hustle for trade or argue for a sale. If the customer asks for something else she is likely to be shown what the merchant has and told that he has nothing like what she wants.

The Korean method of fingering the violin is exactly the reverse to that of western people. The Korean fingers the instrument near the bridge with his right hand. With his left he plucks the strings at the other end and he uses no bow at all.

In most countries retailing liquors is not regarded as a suitable avenue of activity for an aristocratic woman whose fortune has dwindled. In Corea a lady in distress may operate a saloon without fear of any social stigma resting upon her. And a bar is the only kind of shop she may keep with impunity. Her maid acts as barmaid, but the saloon is given space in the residence without injuring the tone of the establishment. A woman of social distinction may make shoes provided she makes such as the common people wear. To make shoes for her own class would remove her from that class.

A Korean lady in reduced circumstances may become a physician, and to protect the occupation from overcrowding the law of Corea, before the Japanese occupation, provided that no woman who was not an aristocrat might practice medicine. Powdered tiger claws, bear's gall and other remedies that do not appear in the pharmacopoeia are prescribed. But the common custom is to cure disease by making a straw image of the patient and emphasizing the seat of the affliction by making the afflicted region or member abnormally large. The manikin is thrown out of doors, and it is believed that any one who picks it up will get the disease.

Bacteriologists agree that this is sometimes the case, but they disagree with the Korean physicians as to the relief of the patient by this means. The appearance of the manikins found in the street or along the roadside is often ludicrous. When all efforts to cast off the devil fall the patient is put out of doors and left to die.

Even in the amusements of children contrasts with western customs are observable.

Instead of making a "seesaw" Korean girls and boys lay a long board over a log or fence with one end fastened down and jump up and down on the elevated end, the impact of the weight tossing the other into the air. A long residence in Corea would be required to ascertain all of the differences in custom marking the antipodal point of view. In most countries the octopus is a dreaded sea monster and a synonym for evil. Black is not worn for mourning in Corea. White is prescribed by custom.

### Classified.

"What did the young engineer say after the woman he met on the hotel porch had put him through a catechism about himself and his business?"

"He said that porch seemed to have thorough equipment as a pumping station."

### Encouragement.

She—It must be a hard blow to a man to be rejected by a woman.

He—Indeed it must.

She—Do you know, I don't think I could ever have the heart to do it.

### Might Be a Road-Building.

"Here is a man who is evidently going out of politics."

"What makes you think so?"

"He advertises a steam-roller for sale."

### On to Him.

"I once thought seriously of marrying for money."

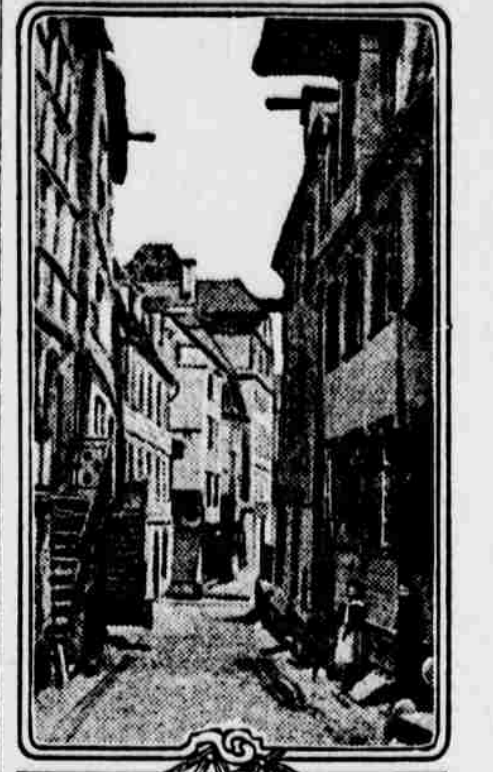
"Why didn't you, then?"

"The girl in the case was a thinker, too."

## HOLD BRIDE CHOOSING DAY.

Moving-Picture Machine to Reveal Mystery of "Chinadec" in Brittany.

Saint Jean du Doigt, Brittany.—More than usual interest has attended the annual "Chinadec" or "Bride-choosing Day," which is one of the festivals of this old-fashioned town of Brittany. A moving-picture apparatus has been present and has taken many pictures. The custom dates back to the middle ages, when, it is said, the laws of the church were so strict that no marriage between relatives to within the eleventh degree was permitted. The result was that young men could not



A Peep at the Medieval Town of St. Jean du Doigt, Brittany.

find brides even in neighboring villages, and rather long journeys had to be made to find eligible girls elsewhere. It was then that the church, after an understanding with the feudal lord of the place, who had a right to a fee for each marriage, arranged a common bridal day every year after Easter, and the custom has been maintained to the present.

The day is observed as one of great religious solemnity. There is no music or band, no dance of any kind—as, in fact, dancing has always been forbidden at St. Jean du Doigt because of the story of St. John the Baptist having been ordered to be beheaded by Herod after a dance.

From one to two hundred girls attend mass in the morning, and at 3 in the afternoon they again attend vespers in the old Gothic church. They are dressed in Bretonne fashion, of all colors, and wear long embroidered shawls reaching to their feet, and carry a mass book and an umbrella.

The young men stroll about some distance away on the walks, and seem to be rather indifferent. From time to time one of them leaves his friends and goes to the girl whom he has chosen. He salutes her ceremoniously, and speaks to her.

Then the umbrella plays an important role. If it is handed over to the young man, his proposal is accepted, and it is rare that it is not. The girl usually hesitates for a few minutes for the sake of decorum. The young man walks away to give the girl a last chance to reflect, and still retains his air of indifference.

Finally, after a few minutes of waiting, which seem to be only a traditional delay, the girl leaves the ranks and follows the young man, who then invites her to a small collation. Little by little the inns become crowded with young couples, who are thus partaking of a sort of frugal bridal repast. When night comes the couples return to the house of the chosen bride, and a real bridal supper is then given by the parents.

The girls who have not been chosen do not seem to be disappointed. They remain about the church till dusk, and sometimes till it is perfectly dark. If their parents are kind to them nothing is said, but it often happens that the unfortunate girls who failed to be chosen are roundly scolded when they return home without an intended husband.

## FREED CONVICT IS HIRED

Seattle Man Released Recently Goes Back to Old Position on Salary.

Seattle, Wash.—George Edward Adams, who was released after serving more than five years in the federal penitentiary at McNeil Island for the theft of many thousand dollars' worth of gold dust from the Seattle assay office, has returned to take up the position of bookkeeper which he occupied during his incarceration, not, however, as a prisoner, but as a civilian, at a salary of \$1,200 a year.

Friends of Adams worked for his release and succeeded in getting the parole, which cut off ten years, which good behavior and model conduct reduced to six years and eight months.

Adams made application for a temporary position, but according to the appointment it may be permanent and Warden Halligan will endeavor to keep him there, as his work has been more than satisfactory.

Death Followed Turkey Trot. Atlantic City.—While teaching her husband the intricacies of the "turkey trot," Mrs. Agnes E. Day, a vivacious matron of twenty-one, sank with a groan to a couch and died a few hours later. The exertion had ruptured a blood vessel.