

"Air and Water Will Lead Him to Fame and a Princess"

Norman Ross, World Champion,
Descendant of Bird People of
Mythology, Fulfills Prediction
Known to His Mother



Lieutenant Ross the
Flyer Found the Air
His Element



Paakalani or Flower of
Heaven, Ross' Princess.



Norman DeMille Ross,
World Champion Swimmer,
Met Friend of Kings.

By DEWITT HARRY.
ROMANTIC in the extreme was the marriage of Norman DeMille Ross a short time ago to Miss Beatrice Paakalani Dowsett of Honolulu. It must have given many a thrill to the readers of the world news, for Ross, as the greatest swimming champion ever known, had been featured in all countries for years. Interesting as this culmination of an intensely virile career was in its bare facts, the hidden story, now told for the first time, surpasses the best of fiction. For Ross, predestined from childhood to fame and success, merely fulfilled another act of his destiny in marrying Miss Dowsett of the royal blood of Hawaii.

Miss Dowsett, known as Paakalani, or "Flower of Heaven," in her native land, would have been a princess had the royal house survived and the beautiful tropical principality not become a part of the United States. All who know her admit that she is endowed with all the graces and ability that would make her notable in any royal circle. But Ross' marriage to this beauty of the Pacific did not surprise any of his friends who were in the secret, for they knew he was to marry a princess.

Career Foretold Before Birth.

In these days of miracles, if we are to believe Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and other investigators, Ross' case is just an ordinary example of the fulfillment of destiny. His mother, Mrs. C. E. Ross, knew before his birth that a son was to come who would astound the world in many ways. Thirty years ago there were not so many believers in the supernatural as today, but even then Mrs. Ross was convinced that there was such a thing as a predicted life. She was convinced by many seemingly trifling occurrences just before Norman was born and during the childhood days of the boy.

Norman did not appear much different from the other boys and girls he played with in Portland in those days, but there was something not apparent. His mother all this time kept her secret, for nothing was to be gained by revealing it and she knew that the time would come. She had been told in various ways that her son would "conquer air and water, and that air and water would be his friends," and that "kings and emperors would be proud to know him and that he would marry a princess," also that "more would be written about him than any other man of his time." Pretty heavy predicting this, and mighty hard for ordinary people to believe, but the information came to his mother in such a way that she knew it was truth and rested content, for her son's life was all laid out in advance.

First Test Saves Future.

The boy grew up and naturally took to the water. He soon proved to have more than ordinary ability as a swimmer and diver and in the local tanks soon assumed a natural leadership and went to the front in competition. Soon after he had established a fine reputation in Portland there came an opportunity to enter competition north of here in a number of meets. At that time Ross, a lad of 17, wore the colors of the Multnomah club.



When Only Two Years
Old Norman's Future
Was Known.

He won handily on Puget sound and in British Columbia and repeated his victories in Spokane and then again at Coner d'Alene, Idaho. His work attracted such attention that a flattering offer was made, an excellent one he thought at that time, for him to take charge of a pool at Spokane as instructor.

Norman, resting in Spokane from his strenuous competition, wrote his mother of this offer and of his determination to accept. Mrs. Ross did not think a great deal about the matter, but she awoke from a nap that same afternoon with an uncontrollable impulse to call a certain telephone number, one that she had never known before. A woman answered in another section of the city and they determined to meet. On comparing notes the woman, unknown to Mrs. Ross at that time, said that she, too, had had some sort of a dream and in it she had been informed that it was necessary to get some absent boy home as soon as possible.

Success Was Expected.

Comparing notes, they determined to telegraph an emergency message to Ross at Spokane so that he would return at once. This they did and the boy came home before he had signed any contract as an instructor or had accepted his new position. A few days later he was to enter another meet and the newspapers published accounts of his turning professional. Because of his mother's intervention and quick work in getting him home before he could join the professional ranks Ross was able to repudiate these statements and take part in the meet and retain his amateur standing. This was

the first of many interventions of this character that have been working towards Ross' reaching the pinnacle of fame and towards the fulfillment of the pre-natal predictions affecting his life.

Of the career of this world champion it is not necessary to go into details. Suffice to say that at one time he held the majority of the world's middle distance records, unquestionably being one of the greatest athletes at this branch of sport ever produced. Honolulu produced aquatic champions and the climate there seems to favor the swimmer. For this reason almost all of the world's champions, at one time or another, visit the islands and compete or give exhibitions. Ross was no exception to the rule, and it was there that he met his princess, just as the prediction of his mother knew ran. Mrs. Ross has always been firm in her belief in her son and nothing that he has done has been surprising to her, for she knew all of it in advance.

Princess Found in Hawaii.

Miss Dowsett, a descendant of the royal line of Hawaii, was admittedly one of the most liked girls in the territory at the time Ross and she were married. She was educated in Hawaii and in the universities in California and their romance was an exceptional one. The marriage took place on the mainland and they now have a son, Norman Alexander Keavilani Ross, Keavilani meaning foundations of heavenly joy. Ross, as one of the leading experts on aquatic sports in the country, is making his home with his princess and son in Honolulu at the present time.

Mrs. Ross attributes a great deal of his success to his placing himself in accord with guides or controls in a spiritualistic sense. She says that Norman recognized some unseen force in his life and never has tried to combat it. At times the champion felt that he would be successful and knew, even before he went into the water, that he should break records. One instance occurred when Ross, with this inexplicable feeling to guide him, was so confident that he smashed 13 world marks. At the conclusion of the meet and, even with his great exertions, he did not feel fatigued.

Bird Antecedents Discovered.

In a study of the Ross family tree and antecedents, an exhaustive undertaking made at one time by interested persons, it was discovered that Ross the cham-

pion came by his wonderful control in air and water through centuries of training. Ross proved in war times that he was the perfect aviator and, had the war not ended when it did, his career doubtless would have been that of the premier American ace, for a psychic revelation to this effect was known. Ross, during his training periods, performed some startling stunts never before thought possible and not likely to be duplicated. In one of them he was carried to sea in a plane and dived into the ocean and swam back to shore. His fellow officers did not think this possible, but Ross, with his perfect control in air and water, did it as a matter of course.

Now the reason for this, according to those who have looked up the ages old antecedents of this wonder athlete, is that the Ross family comes from Halcyon and her husband Ceryx who, in the old Greek fables, was turned to a seabird. Later unions in the early Ross tribe bring in Progne, who turned into a swallow, and Icyllus, who became a nightingale. It must have been these very early influences that gave Ross his wonderful sense of control in his particular elements. His mother never felt the least qualm when she knew her boy was flying, for the air is his friend and, though he fell three times, he was unharmed. His horoscope shows that he shall never be in danger from either air or water.

World Leadership Expected.

Knowing in his early childhood that her son was destined to travel over the entire world, to be the friend of kings, to win more honors and have more notice taken of himself than any other man of his time, his mother rested secure in her knowledge and did not discuss her information with many persons. It was by the merest chance that the information in this article was obtained, for she can see no harm in releasing it now that Norman's destiny is so nearly complete.

Swimming is a sport that is never at rest, records are constantly being lowered, especially in these days of clocking fifths of seconds. Then has come the startling development of new strokes. When the Cavillis first discovered and perfected the Australian crawl they astonished the swimming world. At that time they swam with a slow beat and then came the faster development, with the leaders of the sport establishing records with a four-beat crawl. Ross was one of the first swimmers to take up the six-

beat crawl and it was thought for a long time that the limit had been reached. However, swimmers are evidently somewhat like gasoline motors, they are reaching for a higher stage of perfection right along. The latest marvels of the water are doing what was thought impossible but a few years back, they are swimming an eight-beat crawl and clipping more fifths of seconds from world's records.

But Ross has had his adventures. He has known the thrill of beating the best men in his day, of lowering their time, of holding as his own the greater number of the world's records and of being the unquestioned leader in the water. He has performed all over the world and is one of the most traveled athletes known. His Olympic games performances were never before duplicated and he repeated his successes when representing the United States army in competition with other world forces. He has done all that his mother knew he would do, he has married his princess and has had his honors and remained unspoiled through it all. There may be more to his life, but if there is his mother has nothing to say of it as yet. Possibly she knows of yet other things that are to happen as intensely interesting as those of the past.

Busy Hour.

"Please state to the court," said the examining attorney to a witness in a case being tried in Cincinnati, a delicate little woman who seemed hardly to possess sufficient strength to stand, "exactly what you did between 8 and 9 o'clock on the Wednesday morning in question."

"Well," said the witness, after a moment's reflection, "I washed my two children and got them ready for school and sewed a button on Tommy's coat and mended a rent in Dorothy's dress. Then I tidied up my sitting room and made two beds and watered my house plants and glanced over the morning paper."

"Then I dusted my parlor and set things to rights in it, and washed some lamp chimneys, and combed my baby's hair, and sewed a button on one of her little shoes; and then I swept out my front entry and brushed and put away the children's Sunday clothes, and wrote a note to Tommy's teacher asking her to excuse him for not being at school on Monday."

"Then I fed my canary bird and gave the groceryman an order and swept off the back porch—and then I sat down and

rested for a few minutes before the clock struck 9. That's all."

"All!" said the dazed lawyer. "Excuse me, Judge, I must get my breath before I call the next witness."

No Sense of Humor.

Orton Tewson tells this story on Courtney Ryley Cooper, the well-known writer of circus stories.

"Coop," as he is known to his friends, had engaged a London bus driver to show him the sights of the town. A rival cabman approached from the opposite direction.

"Watch us 'ave a bit o' fun, sir," Cooper's guide whispered. Then he fished up a piece of twine with a noose at the end, apparently prepared in advance for the occasion, and began dangling it before the eyes of the approaching cabbie. Instantly the air sizzled with an exchange of oaths and whip lashings between the two drivers.

"What in the deuce was it all about," Cooper asked when the second cab had passed by.

"Oh, he ain't got no sense of humor," replied the driver, disgustedly.

"Why did you dangle that string at him?"

"Well, yer see, sir, it's like this 'ere. 'Is brother was hung this morning."