

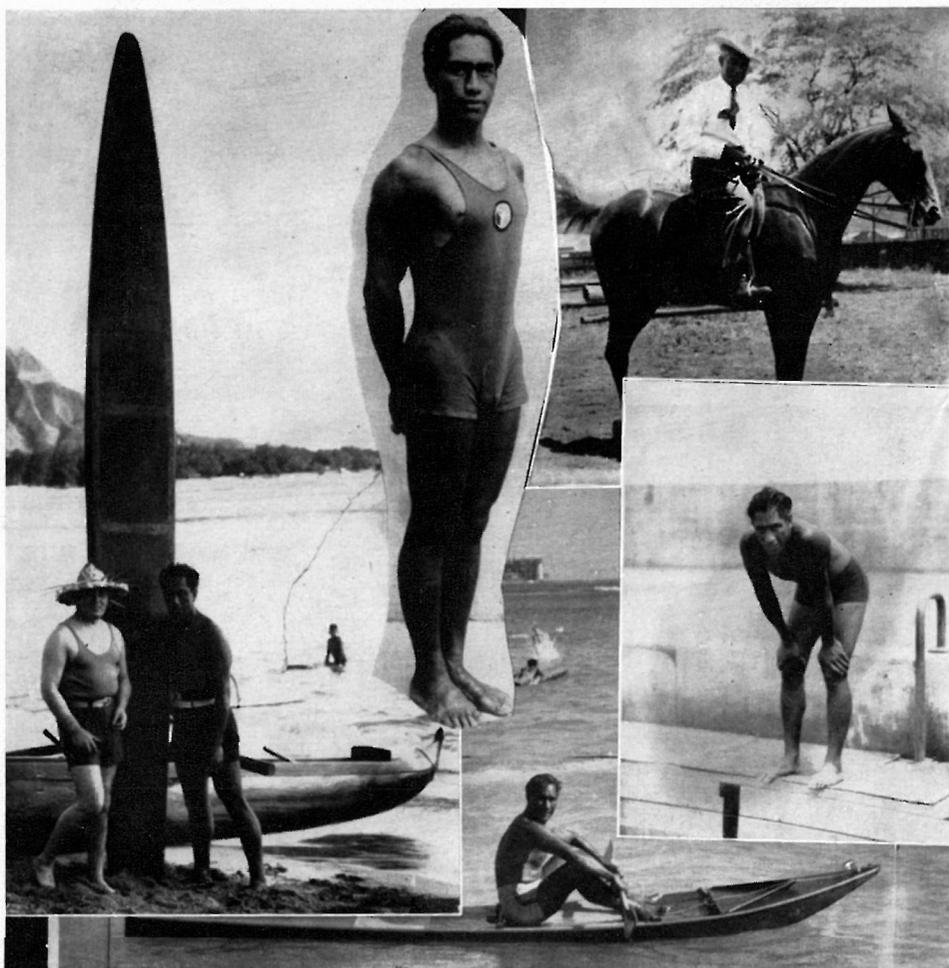


OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

AUGUST

FORECAST

1950



A few shots of Duke Kahanamoku whose birthday will be celebrated on August 26th by the Outrigger Canoe Club. (See stories and more pics inside.)

THE BRONZE DUKE OF WAIKIKI

By Edwin North McClellan

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Duke Paoa Kahanamoku is a full-blood Polynesian of Hawaii. In his powerful symmetrical body flows the blood of ancestors of Caucasoid stock who many centuries ago started from the southeast mainland of Asia. These ancient men and women became masters of the sea whether in their outrigger-canoes, on their surf-boards, by swimming and by fishing.

It may be that the name Kahanamoku means "working on ship"—or something similar; but, according to excellent authority, the name was given to the Kahanamoku (Kanaiaupuni) Clan by Kamehameha or one of his *alii*s, early in the nineteenth century, to commemorate the "Putting together of the Islands of Hawaii to form the Kingdom." More about this later.

DUKE KAHANAMOKU DAY, AUGUST 26, 1950

It is but fitting that on the occasion of his sixtieth birthday, Hawaii should unite with the Outrigger Canoe Club in honoring Hawaii's greatest athlete, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. The Club has therefore declared August 26th, *Duke Kahanamoku Day* and will celebrate the occasion with Surf Board Races, Canoe Races, Swimming Races, Volleyball games and a Dinner Dance (Holoku - Aloha Shirt Dress) in the evening. Details will appear on the bulletin board, by mailed notices and in the daily press.

Let us all unite in showing Duke we love and respect him and are proud to number him amongst our *great* members.

On following pages Edwin North McClellan has researched and assembled much history of Duke and his family which has never before appeared in print. We are happy to publish it for the first time—and perhaps Duke and his family may learn some things they never were quite sure of before. Aloha nui loa to you, Duke, and to all Kahanamokus.

During the early period of the reign of Kamehameha I, the ancestors—both paternal and maternal—of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku were among those who served the King. Today, Duke is the most noted full-blood Hawaiian alive. Certainly there is not one who has greater claim to being a modern *alii* of Hawaii or more worthy of being a full-descendant of Kamehameha-the-Great. Indeed, traditions in the Kahanamoku, Piikoi and Paoa families—passed down from lip to lip—voiced by reliable Hawaiians—establish that Duke's paternal grandfather or grandmother—or both—were related to Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop—the "Last of the Kamehamehas"—and through her to the Great Kamehameha.

Elizabeth Lahilahi Rogers Webb—former Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Liliuokalani—told me more than once that the Kahanamokus was an old family; that Grandmother Ka-ho-eha and Grandfather Kahanamoku of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku were *kahus*—retainers—of Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop.

"Aunty Webb"—as Duke calls Mrs. Webb—told me that to be a *kahu* or retainer, of an *alii*, was to be a close intimate friend of the Chiefess and, usually, a blood-relative or a *kahu-alii*. "As Queen Liliuokalani explained to me," related Lahilahi Webb, "when royalty is born those who work for them—*kahus*—are born, too."

Mrs. Webb pointed out to me that the reason so little is known about this rela-

tionship is because Hawaiian children were taught "not to talk" and, "under no circumstances could you get the intimate *kahus* or retainers to discuss their relationship to their Chiefess." Further, continued Lahilahi Webb, if children did know something about this relationship you would find that they had been directed by their parents "not to talk," and so, "they would not talk." Mrs. Webb told me that her aunt, Mrs. Julia Colburn, corroborated these views.

Certainly, there never was a full-blood Hawaiian more kingly in physical form or hospitable deportment, than Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. Duke has symbolized the Great Kamehameha in pageants and processions and one can well believe that he is descended from Kaoleioku, the first acknowledged son of Kamehameha I who was the ancestor of Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop.

GRANDPARENTS BORN ON "BIG ISLAND"

Being of the Kamehameha Clan, the ancestors of Duke Kahanamoku were of the "Big Island" of Hawaii where his paternal grandparents—Ka-ho-eha and Kahanamoku—were born. Duke's first cousin—Maria Kanehaikana Piikoi—a living history of the Kahanamoku, Paoa and Piikoi families and an acknowledged genealogical authority—told me that the grandfather of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku probably was the first to bear the name Kahanamoku (or Kanaiaupuni)—that name having been given to him by a Kamehameha or a powerful *alii* to commemorate the "putting together of the Islands of Hawaii to form the Kingdom." Cousin Maria told me this on several occasions and I also recall the late Emma Ahuena Taylor saying the same thing. Duke's ancestors through his mother—Julia Paakonia Lonokahikini Paoa—also added much to Duke's *alii* stature.

One of Duke's great-grandfathers (through his mother's line) was Paoa Hoolae. He was from the Big Island of Hawaii. His wife was Hiikaalani. Their son Paoa—Duke's grandfather—took the family name of Paoa (instead of Hoolae). Paoa's wife (Duke's grandmother) was named Mele (Mary) Uilama. Today, we have the Paoa family in Oahu with many proud to bear that name. And

Paoa is the middle name of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. Cousin Maria Kanehaikana Piikoi explained to me that the name Paoa (not Hoolae) appears in the Great Mahele (Division) of 1848 for lands in Kalia of Waikiki. I looked it up and found that Duke's Paoa ancestors were thus recognized as holding 3.22 acres in that part of Waikiki.

Cousin Maria also asserted that through the Paoa family, Duke is a descendant of Kinau (Premier, *kuhina nui* or regent) of the Kamehameha Line. Also that Ka-ho-eha (Duke's mother) was the granddaughter of Makue and Halapu (the middle name of Duke's father and brother Louis is Halapu) who are descended from the ancient Alapai family. This Alapai strain is observed today in the middle name of Duke's brother, Samuel Alapai Kahanamoku. The ancestors of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku—through both his father and mother—were warriors of Kamehameha the Great and no doubt fought to bring Oahu into the Kingdom reportedly receiving the name Kahanamoku in recognition of the final creation of Kamehameha's Kingdom.

FIRST DUKE IS BORN

A babe was born to Ka-ho-eha and her husband Kahanamoku on July 21, 1869 at Haleakala (home of Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop) in Honolulu just about where the Bank of Hawaii is now situated. Kamehameha V was King. At this time another royal event was occurring in Honolulu. The Duke of Edinburgh—Alfred Ernest Albert, second son of Queen Victoria—arrived at Honolulu in command of HMS *Galatea*, on July 21, 1869. Duke Alfred Ernest Albert called on King Kamehameha V the following day. Parties, balls, *luaus* and *hukilau*s, kept the foreign Duke busy during his happy sojourn on Oahu. Part of this time was spent at Waikiki so beloved by our Hawaiian Duke. The Duke of Edinburgh lived at Haleakala—the estate on which Duke's father—the first Duke—was born.

It was during this historic visit of Queen Victoria's son, that the babe born to Ka-ho-eha and Kahanamoku, was christened. He was carried to Bernice

Pauahi Paki Bishop. She was asked to name the child. Taking her scarf from her shoulders and placing it tenderly around the baby, Bernice softly said:

"Call him Duke in honor of the first time that the Duke of Edinburgh came to Honolulu." (Lahilahi Webb told me this and said that she had secured the information from others, including her aunt, Julia Colburn.) The baby christened by Bernice Bishop was the First Duke of Hawaii—Duke Halapu Kahanamoku.

"DUKE" IS BORN

And about this time, another baby was born in Honolulu. She was a girl—Julia Paakonia Lonokahikini Paoa. Her father was Paoa and her mother was Mele Uilama. Arriving at maturity these two—Duke Halapu Kahanamoku and Julia Paakonia Lonokahikini—wed. Their first-born was Duke Paoa Kahanamoku who early in life was known as Duke Paoa. Duke's birthday is August 24, 1890 and he was born at Haleakala—the same estate on which his father, the First Duke, had been born. Kalakaua was King, living at nearby Iolani Palace.

During his childhood Duke Paoa Kahanamoku divided his time at his parents' home at Haleakala and his grandfather's estate at Kalia in Waikiki. The Kahanamokus finally moved to Waikiki much to the delight of young Duke. The uncle by marriage—David Piikoi—and his first cousin—Maria Kanehaikana Piikoi—were familiar figures in Duke's early life at Waikiki. Duke's brother, David Piikoi Kahanamoku, keeps the Piikoi name in the family. And so, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku grew up to manhood, a glorious honor to Hawaii and to Waikiki.

Duke was a babe-in-arms when King Kalakaua died at San Francisco in January of 1891 and the King's sister—Liliuokalani—became Queen of Hawaii. Duke was about three years old—dividing his time between Haleakala in downtown Honolulu and Waikiki—when Liliuokalani was forced to abdicate in 1893. The Provisional Government—under President Sanford Ballard Dole—took over. Soon after, on July 4, 1894, the Republic of Hawaii was created with President Dole as the Chief Executive.

Duke remembers the American Flag going up over Hawaii on July 7, 1898 and he became an American citizen on April 30, 1900 under the provisions of the Organic Act.

During his early years Duke Paoa Kahanamoku received his education at the Old Waikiki School, later at Kaahumanu School and still later at Kamehameha School and McKinley High School. The youth Duke spent every hour possible on the beach at Waikiki—swimming, surfboarding, body-surfing and outrigger canoeing. Starting with a child's surfboard, Duke gradually graduated to larger boards as he grew in stature. He also learned the art of paddling and steering outrigger canoes in the grand surf at Waikiki.

Duke was just short of eighteen years when the Outrigger Canoe Club was organized in 1908 by a grand group of *haoles*. However, Duke did not join the Club until about nine years later. Today, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku is the best-known member of the Outrigger. My first view of Duke was on July 16, 1908 when he competed in a Surfboard competition off the Outrigger.

Frequently Duke has told me of the "gang" of good fellows that assembled every day on the beach—near the Old Moana Pier. In those days Duke learned not only to swim and surf but to play the *ukulele* and steel guitar. Space does not

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permit telling you about the little *Imp* and the wreck of the *Helga* on the Waikiki Reef, or of that water polo game on September 28, 1910 when George Freeth's team defeated Fort Shafter, seven to nil. Duke scored four goals and the *Advertiser* reported that "Duke Paoa could go through the whole Shafter bunch for a goal any time he liked."

I heard of these feats of Duke in November of 1910 when I made a visit to Honolulu aboard the Army transport *Sheridan* and spent some time enjoying the hospitality of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

HUI NALU—DUKE BREAKS WORLD RECORDS

The famous Hui Nalu was organized in 1911 and Duke was one of its charter members. As a representative of the Hui Nalu, Duke started the entire universe by breaking world swimming records on August 12, 1911. On that date, in Pacific waters that flooded the harbor of Honolulu, Duke—twelve days before his twenty-first birthday—established new world records in the fifty and hundred yards distances, and won the two hundred and twenty yards race. Duke swam to world fame on that day in Alakea Slip. The AAU did not accept the records but Duke's victories at the Stockholm Olympics smashed his own records and of course they stood for years.

Hawaii decided to send its own Duke to the Olympic Games at Stockholm even though he had never swam in a tank or pool. Funds were raised. Arriving at Philadelphia, Duke was blessed by coming under the coaching of George Kistler—coach at the University of Pennsylvania. I had known Kistler very well when I spent many happy hours in the pool in which Duke of Waikiki trained.

The Hawaiian *aloha* of Duke Kahanamoku made him the center of all eyes as the Red Star Liner *Finland*—Olympic ship—sailed for Europe in June of 1912. Before the Duke boarded the *Finland* he sent a public message to Hawaii in which he expressed his "sincere and grateful" thanks to everybody for the "splendid financial assistance and encouragement by which I am enabled to take part in the great Olympic Games." He pledged "to put forth my best efforts to win and to

add to the glory of the United States and Hawaii."

KING GUSTAF AND HIS QUEEN SHAKE HANDS WITH DUKE

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, of the United States and Waikiki, broke a world swimming record before royalty in the Olympic Games at Stockholm, Sweden in July of 1912. July 10, 1912 was a royal day for Duke—when medals were awarded by a King. It was a brilliant scene. An enormous crowd banked high above the Royal Box. King Gustaf and his Queen, and a throng of courtiers, diplomats, military and naval attaches, and others were in or near the King's box. When the announcement was made that Duke Paoa Kahanamoku had established a new world record for the 100-meter distance (breaking American C. M. Daniels' record) there was a tremendous roar from the huge crowd. As the applause reached its height King Gustaf leaned forward and beckoned to Duke—who was standing close by slightly forward of the little group of swimmers. Duke hesitated and then, urged by his fellow Americans, mounted to the Royal Box. King Gustaf rose and clasped the hand of the Hawaiian modern *alii*, speaking a hearty congratulation. The King introduced his Queen to Duke who accepted his honors and the ovation modestly.

DUKE THE ALL-AROUND ATHLETE

An Olympic Champion, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku also is a splendid all-around athlete. The Duke has missed few sports and he was superb in all in which he participated. Among his athletic activities were golf, yachting, water polo, surfboard sailing, outrigger canoe (paddling, steering and sailing), body-surfing, barge-rowing, singles and doubles sculling.

"My ambition was to become the world's champion single sculler," Duke confided to me not long ago. "I did not think much about becoming a swimming champion back in 1908 and 1909, although I knew I was pretty fast then. However, I could not afford a scull so I took up rowing with the local clubs."

Take that Fourth-of-July Regatta at Pearl Harbor in 1916 to illustrate, for in-

stance. "Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, who owes his fame to his swimming prowess, has branched out into a new line of aquatics," reported the morning Honolulu newspaper of July 4, 1916. "He has taken to rowing as naturally as the proverbial duck takes to water and, if ambition counts for anything, Duke should add new laurels to his name for he has been entered in three events," in the Fourth of July Regatta. Well, Duke rowed Number Four in the boat *James L. Torbett* and helped the Myrtles to defeat the Healanis. Duke was stroke in the boat *Pearl-C* or *Kahululani* with George Chillingsworth, which won the Pair-Oar Race. Duke defeated Bob Fuller of the Healanis in the Scull Class-A Race. These were only a few of many rowing victories. I will describe another Day of Victories.

"I CHRISTEN THEE DUKE PAOA KAHANAMOKU"

Regatta Day of 1917 was a beautiful one with Nature making it perfect. The rowing races were staged in Honolulu Harbor. The White and Red Colors of the Myrtles flew high that September 17, 1917, as the Club won seven races and Duke contributed his aid to two of the victories. It was a big day for Duke. Mrs. Ritchie Rosa (wife of William L. Rosa, Myrtle Coach) stood near the bow of the new barge built by Harada in which the Myrtle senior crew was to race and smashing a bottle of white wine over the brand new craft, said, "I christen thee Duke Paoa Kahanamoku."

Duke had the eyes of thousands focused on him throughout the day. The mighty cheer which went up when the Myrtle Seniors won, was one-half for Duke personally. Duke, as was expected, also won the senior scull but lost the senior pair-oar race with his partner, Arthur Waipa Parker.

DUKE TEACHES PRINCE OF WALES TO SURF

HRH Edward Albert, Prince of Wales, arrived at Honolulu aboard HMS *Renown* on April 13, 1930. The British warship did not enter Honolulu Harbor but anchored outside in view of the Outrigger Canoe Club. At 11:35 a.m. the Prince, accompanied by Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, and others, stepped

ashore at Pier Eight. After making a formal call on Governor McCarthy at Iolani Palace, reported the *Star-Bulletin*, the Prince proceeded "to Waikiki to see Duke Paoa Kahanamoku do fancy surfing this afternoon." The "Outrigger Canoe Club sent over four canoes to the Moana Hotel, each manned by two or three Club-members and the remainder of the seats vacant for the visitors." One canoe had two movie cameras of Fox-Pathe lashed to it. Dad Center (Captain of the Outrigger Canoe Club) paddled Duke's surfboard—accompanied by others—to the outer surf. "Duke Kahanamoku handled the steering paddle and the Prince was given the place of honor on the little perch back of the steering-seat." After the outrigger canoeing the Duke gave the Prince his first lesson in surfing. As they sat in the canoe, Duke whispered to the Prince who nodded. Duke went overboard and straddled his board. The Prince joined him. They caught the third wave—a Prince in front of a Duke. "High on the top of a screeching curling comber, the long narrow board swaying and skipping along" at high speed they "rode from the point where the Big Surf starts to where it dies away by Moana Pier," reported the *Star-Bulletin*.

Prince Edward asked Duke Kahanamoku to let him catch a wave alone. Duke agreed. For a moment or so the Prince stood proudly erect but the wave upset him parting him from the board. He came up sputtering but grinning.

"I say, that was a nasty smack on the head," the Prince yelled to the Duke. Prince Edward tried it several times alone and learned from Duke Paoa Kahanamoku the aquatic art of Duke's ancient ancestors. On March 10, 1949 Duke told me—"We went out in an outrigger canoe first to give the Prince a ride. Dad Center brought out a surfboard for the Prince and one for me. The Prince and his cousin and I—in addition to the paddlers—were the only ones in our canoe. No secret service men were there. The Prince told me—"This is the first time I've been able to get away alone . . . never a moment alone, until now." Out at the reef the Prince and I got out of the canoe

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THE BRONZE DUKE OF WAIKIKI

(Continued from Page 7)

and took to the surfboards. The Prince learned fast."

The *Renown* sailed at daybreak on the 14th of April, 1920. Prince Edward explained that he departed with regret at cutting his stay in Paradise to one day. Another message, more formal, stated—"His Royal Highness has enjoyed his visit to Honolulu immensely. Especially was he delighted with the surfing. He was frightfully keen about it."

PRINCE OF WALES RETURNS TO WAIKIKI

"Swerving a thousand miles out of her course to satisfy the desire of HRH Edward Albert, Prince of Wales, to take another dip in the surf at famous Waikiki Beach," reported the *Star-Bulletin* of September 1, 1920, "the British battle-cruiser *Renown* arrived off-port at 8:30 o'clock," August 30, 1920 and at about 11:00 a.m. docked at the sea-end of Piers 8, 9, 10.

Headlines in the newspapers on the day of the Prince's second visit to Hawaii reported Duke Paoa Kahanamoku breaking a world swimming record at the Antwerp (Belgium) Olympic Games. According to A. P. Taylor in the *Advertiser*, this second visit of the Prince was because he wanted more of "that surfboard riding at Waikiki."

PRINCE, A MEMBER OF OUTRIGGER CLUB

On August 30, 1920, through his Private Secretary Godfrey Thomas, the Prince of Wales became an Honorary Member of the Outrigger Canoe Club. The Royal Letter of Acceptance hangs framed on the office wall of the Club's manager. The Club, in a letter dated June 18, 1920, informed the Prince that he had been made an Honorary Member; but this letter was not received by the Prince until after his arrival at Sydney in August. And Prince Albert Edward accepted with "much pleasure."

The Prince left the *Renown* about 12:30 p.m. and went to the Moana Hotel where a suite of ten rooms had been engaged. That afternoon David Piikoi Kahanamoku (brother of Duke who was at the Antwerp Olympics) took charge of the Prince of Wales. The Prince got

a real sunburn on the afternoon of the 30th as he spent the whole time surfing and canoeing. On that evening Johnny Noble played *Hula Blues* and other sweet dancing airs as the Prince of Wales danced with feminine beauty of Hawaii.

Of course, the Prince found time in his three-days vacation at Waikiki to perform his formal duties—including a call on Governor McCarthy. Prince Edward, through the newspapers, told all Hawaii, as he sailed away on September 1, 1920—

"MY FRIEND, DUKE KAHANAMOKU"

"I have made this second unofficial visit to Honolulu as long as my progress would allow because I knew that Honolulu was a delightful place for my holiday, not only for myself but for all the ship's company of the *Renown*. . . . I'm so sorry that I have to leave. . . . I see, too, that my friend, Duke Kahanamoku and other Hawaiian swimmers have been keeping up the great swimming reputation of Honolulu in the Olympic Games [at Antwerp], and I hope they have more triumphs still to come." Hawaii in August of 1920 cordially invites the Prince, with his gracious lady, to make another visit to Waikiki and see the fine Outrigger Canoe Club, of which he is a member.

DUKE GREETED BY KING ALBERT OF BELGIUM

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, Dad Center (Coach), and other Hawaiian members of the American Olympic Team, were among the three hundred American athletes who sailed from New York aboard the *Princess Matoika*, an Army transport. We will not discuss the so-called "Mutiny-of-the-*Motoika*" but you can see visible evidence of it in the round-robin hanging in the office of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

At Antwerp Duke broke his world record in the hundred meters, in the trials. He won the final on August 24, 1920, but there was a protest and Duke had to win the final all over again on the 30th. Duke was a member of the victorious American relay team which set a new Olympic record. Other Hawaiians did splendidly and scored points. Dad Center was delighted with everything.

"King Albert of Belgium presented the medals to Duke and shook his hand" described Dad Center to me recently. "The King congratulated Duke for his record-breaking race. However, the King also helped Duke out of a little difficulty. You see, Duke had a graflex camera and, before he was presented to the King, he moved out of his place to get some pictures of King Albert handing medals to other winners. The guards stopped Duke, but the King intervened, brought Duke up to the Royal Box and gave him special privileges in making camera shots."

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku has met many other sovereigns and potentates, including presidents of the United States and foreign presidents; but the events set forth above show the charming stature, modesty and dignity of the Duke of Waikiki in whose body flows the blood of *aliis*.

DUKE IN THE MOVIES

About 1922 Duke Kahanamoku signed a five-year contract and soon was in Hollywood in the "movies." But the silver screen did not stop Duke from swimming all over California and playing water-polo, too. Of course, we cannot name all the movies Duke appeared in. Some of them were *The Wanderer*, *Lord Jim*, *Golden Journey*, *Pony Express*, *Decatur*, *No Father to Guide Him*, *The House Without a Key*, *Lady of the Hare* and *The Rescue*.

SHARKS!

One day while filming *Old Ironsides* off Catalina Isthmus, Duke had a good-natured laugh on James Cruze, Wallace Beery and George Bancroft. It seems that after a day's filming Duke went for his regular swim—a long one. Some hundred yards out the above-named trio thought they saw a black fin in Duke's churning wake.

"Sharks!" yelled Beery and the three ran to the pier and started out to save the Bronze Duke in a launch. Duke turned toward the pier with the black fins still around him. The launch was close to Duke before Cruze noticed that Duke could hardly swim for laughing. The sharks were seals.

"There was one shark with me all right," explained Duke, "but he was a baby shark only about four feet long and not dangerous. I was just putting on a little private race with the seals."

Duke returned to Hawaii aboard the *City of Los Angeles* on August 19, 1927 to participate in the dedication of the War Memorial Natatorium at Waikiki, on August 24th. Swimming races were held and Duke declared that Buster Crabbe, who won the mile, "is a coming world champion."

After an *aloha* luncheon at the Hawaiian Civic Club, at which the Outrigger Canoe Club was well represented, Duke sailed back to California and the movies aboard the *City of Los Angeles* on August 28, 1927. Duke's last talkie was *Wake of the Red Witch*, in 1948.

"We would welcome . . . Duke Paoa Kahanamoku's return and permanent residence in Hawaii," expressed a resolution adopted by the Senate of Hawaii (concurring in by the House), introduced on May 1, 1929, by Senator Henry K. Aki, for, said the resolution, "by his honorable conduct and prowess in many lands" this "distinguished Son of Hawaii" has "added much to the honor-*lei* of the Fair Land that gave him birth." Homesickness was a permanent ailment of the Duke. He finished the movie *The Fire Walker*, and then flew his home-ward-bound pennant on the *City of Honolulu* which landed him at Honolulu on December 20, 1929. Duke received a tremendous welcome from all Hawaii including members of the Outrigger Canoe Club, and Hui Nalu. He was greeted with his own song. Duke was still an amateur athlete.

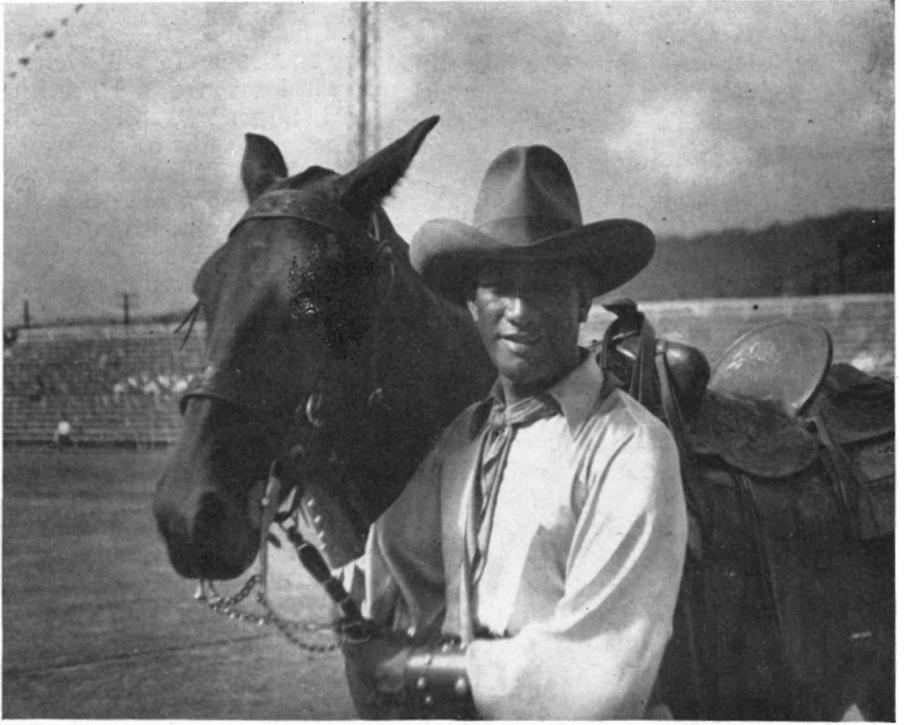
DUKE, THE SHERIFF

In 1931 Duke Kahanamoku turned towards politics as a career. He had unsuccessfully run (as a Republican) in the primaries of 1919 for the Honolulu Board of Supervisors. Mayor Fred Wright (Republican) appointed Duke, Superintendent of the Honolulu Hale (City Hall) and he assumed that office on January 2, 1931. Granted a leave of absence to help American swimmers for the Los Angeles Olympics, Duke left Honolulu aboard the *Mariposa* on June 16,



Duke and Wai

Lower—Lila Damita and Duke
Upper—Duke, the Champion Yachtsman



Duke as Sheriff and Marshal of Kamehameha Day Parade



lace Beery



... in the "Wake of the Red Witch"

1932. He failed to qualify as a swimmer at Cincinnati for the American team but did play water-polo. "Forty-two years old now and graying, the Duke advanced no alibis," reported the *New York Times*, except to say—"It was the legs." Duke returned to Honolulu.

Taking office in 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt arrived at Honolulu aboard the cruiser *Houston* in July of 1934. Included in the initial sensational aloha to "The President" were fifteen Outrigger Canoe Club canoes. Duke Kahanamoku was on a large double canoe "in the garb of ancient Hawaiian royalty symbolic of Kamehameha the Great." Duke shook FDR's hand several times at the various functions held in honor of the Democratic President.

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku ran as a Democrat for Honolulu City-County Sheriff in 1934 and defeated his Repub-

lican opponent (Pat Gleason) by about 3,000 majority. He took office on January 3, 1935, and on the following January 22d was made a life member of the Pearl Harbor Yacht Club. (Duke is also a charter member of the Waikiki Yacht Club.) Duke Kahanamoku was re-elected Sheriff in 1936 and 1938 by the Democrats. He was married in 1940 to Nadine Alexander of Cincinnati, Ohio, and that year ran for re-election as a Republican. Everybody, almost, voted for Duke-the-Republican and he was returned to office that year and in 1942, 1944, 1946 and 1948. He again will be re-elected Sheriff under Republican colors in 1950.

"WAIT TILL I'M DEAD"—DUKE'S STATUE

Duke has been honored by the people of Hawaii many times in many ways. They gave him a house. Songs have been written about him (one by Sol Bright). Indeed, space does not permit a full list of his honors. He has endeared himself to Hawaii and the world by his modesty and willingness to help, and by the fact that Duke still is an amateur. Two swimming meets in his honor were created in 1937—"The Indoor Duke Kahanamoku" and the "Outdoor Duke Kahanamoku" meets. About this time Ernie Pyle spent a day or so with one of his heroes—Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. "There is something almost of reverence toward Duke" in Hawaii, wrote Ernie. "His character and his conduct have been so near perfect that he has become almost symbolic of Old Hawaii. . . . I had luncheon with him at the County Jail He has never capitalized on his fame."

Plans for a statue of Duke to stand at Waikiki Beach, started in 1936 with the Outrigger Canoe Club and Hui Nalu leading in the project. In February of 1938 a twelve-inch model of the statue by Tait McKenzie arrived at Waikiki. Duke's statue has not yet appeared at Waikiki because Duke Paoa Kahanamoku one day said—

"Wait till I'm dead to erect any statue."

DUKE THE HERO—SAVES EIGHT HUMAN LIVES

"Your prompt action and disregard for your own safety, a brave and heroic deed, fully upholding the best traditions of Hawaii in the greatest service that one



can render his fellow-beings . . .," wrote Governor Wallace Rider Farrington in 1925 as he forwarded a Gold Medal for Heroism to Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. "I know that I am expressing the thought of the People of Hawaii when saying that this latest victory of yours in saving human-life is greater, indeed, than all those you have won in the athletic contests that have made you a world figure."

Governor Farrington referred to the heroism of Duke on June 14, 1925, at Newport Beach, California, when he saved eight lives. Duke was "in the movies" at the time and, with a party of film-players, was at Newport Beach. The yacht *Thelma* was capsized by heavy seas. Duke was the first to reach drowning men—through terrible seas. He made three trips on his surfboard to the capsized yacht about a quarter-mile offshore. Five men were drowned and twelve were rescued—of which number Duke brought in eight. When asked how he performed such a feat, Duke modestly replied:

"I do not know. It was done. That is the main thing. By a few tricks perhaps."

"Duke's performance was the most superhuman rescue act and the finest display of surfboard-riding that has ever been seen in the world," reported J. A. Porter, Newport Beach Chief-of-Police.

"The *Star-Bulletin* suggests that Hawaii recognize this heroic deed at once and in a suitable form—that Hawaii give to Duke Kahanamoku a medal for valorous action forwarded to him by the Chief Executive of the Territory, Governor Farrington." (Editorial, June 25, 1925.) "Mr. Robert B. Booth, a lifelong friend of Duke's father, and his uncle Piikoi, both of whom were fine types of Hawaiian mankind, has consented to act as Chairman of a Committee to raise the very modest sum needed for a suitable medal," editorialized the *Star-Bulletin* of June 30, 1925. The fund was raised almost overnight. Wall - and - Dougherty made the gold medal. It was conspicuously engraved "For Heroism" and carried the Hawaiian Coat-of-Arms. Governor Farrington forwarded the medal with the words heretofore quoted.

On September 4, 1925, Duke Paoa



Kahanamoku was the guest-of-honor of the Hawaiian Society of Los Angeles at the Alexander Hotel. He was presented with this Gold Medal from the People of Hawaii. Lorrin Andrews, President of the Society, presented the Medal to Duke in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering. Mr. Andrews read to the assemblage the letter of Governor Farrington. Miss Pauline Steele, Secretary of the Society, placed a lovely lei of beautiful Hawaiian flowers about Duke's neck. And, on Christmas Day of 1925, the Los Angeles Athletic Club presented Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, Gerard Vultee and Owen Hale, each with a gold watch.

Aloha—Duke Paoa Kahanamoku!

AUGUST 26
will be celebrated
 as
DUKE KAHANAMOKU
DAY
with Special Events