

Chick Daniels: Waikiki's most celebrated beachboy

He lived life to its fullest, enjoying wine,
women and song and making
everyone smile along the way

By GRADY TIMMONS

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IN THE PURSUIT of money the Polynesian is irresponsible; in the pursuit of happiness, dedicated. Whether or not it is true, this adage speaks volumes about Waikiki's most celebrated beachboy, Chick Daniels. But it also suggests a disquieting paradox: How can a life fully lived seem to have been squandered?

Beachboys who knew Chick always said that he *could've been a millionaire*. Some said it with wide-eyed amazement and others with a twinge of envy, for Chick made and spent a fortune, and had a good time doing it. "Chick had to have fun with his money," recalled his

Right: A big baseball fan, Chick went to the World Series eight years in a row with millionaire Ed Bennecke. Photo courtesy of Bobby Daniels.



Left: "People just sort of gravitated to Chick," one longtime visitor recalled. "He always had a story to tell and a song to sing. He had his uke and he'd be entertaining and singing around. He had that happy personality." Photo courtesy of Bobby Daniels.

Opposite: During his 50 years as head beachboy at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Chick Daniels handed out towels, umbrellas, and advice. Photo courtesy of Joe Daniels; hand-colored by Ron Hudson.