

old sidekick, Turkey Love. "He showed me one time, in one week in tips he made \$2,000. That's like \$20,000 now. He hired a plane and took six of us to Moloka'i. We opened a bar, drank, came back. That was Chick Daniels. He made it and he threw it away."

In a world obsessed with accumulating money, Chick was obsessed with spending it. As head beach attendant at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, he had the money job, and he had the personality to exploit it. Hawaiians said that Chick was *kolohe*, or "crazy." Not crazy as in nuts but "wild-kind crazy—good fun."

"You want to know about Chick Daniels?" said John D. Kaupiko, grandson of the famous beachboy of the same name. John D. recalled a scene at the Los Angeles airport in 1952, when he was returning home from college. He was standing in a ticket line, and across the terminal he saw a baggage porter coming toward him. The porter was making his way through a crowd, and there was "this half-crazed guy" riding in his handcart. Suddenly, John D. realized who it was.

"Uncle Chick!"

"Young John D.!"

Chick was wearing shorts, a tank top, and no shoes. He was also out of his mind. He had been drinking. He wanted to give John D. some money, but he did not even have a wallet.

"What are you doing here, Uncle Chick?"

"I've been kidnapped! Young John D. I went to see this wahine off at the airport, and she told me she was taking me with her on the plane."

For the greater part of his 83 years, Chick Daniels was toasted by celebrities who carried his name, and sometimes his person, back to Hollywood. He led the beachboy's life, and he led it to the hilt. But in the end that life rose up and struck him like a surfboard from behind. The beachboy who could not go broke ended up a broken man. Perhaps there is a message here. Perhaps there also is a message in his madness. Certainly no beachboy ever had as much fun, spent as much money, or was as well loved as Chick Daniels.

*F*ew men are so charismatic as to define an era, to have their birth coincide with its beginning, their
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From the book Waikiki Beachboy, written by Grady Timmons and published in 1989 by Editions Limited.

"Chick always answered his phone, 'I'm ready.'"

—Michael McPherson,
Beachboy

Below: During the filming of *Bird of Paradise* in 1931, beachboy Chick Daniels entertains stars Joel McCrea and Dolores Del Rio. Others in the photo are the make-up man and hairdresser. Photo courtesy of Joanne Makalena Takatsugi.

