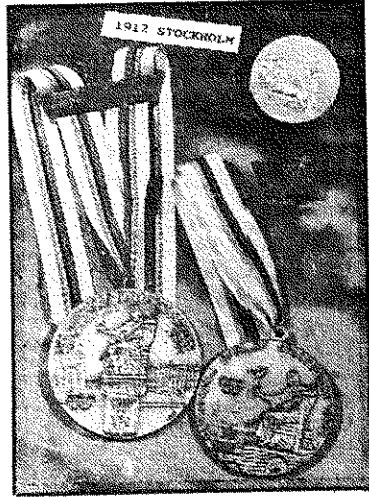


Replicas of the gold and silver medals Duke Kahanamoku won at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden. The original medals were stolen — then later recovered.



Duke

A Century of Aloha

By Cindy Luis
 Star-Bulletin

He rode into history on a wave of unparalleled accomplishments, a man named for royalty who lived up to both the expectations of being a Duke and being a Kahanamoku.

"Paoa was named in the old way, as the first born and as the first grandchild," said Kamaka Kahanamoku Miyamoto of her late cousin, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku. "And, as was the old way, he was given certain names and expected to live up to them."

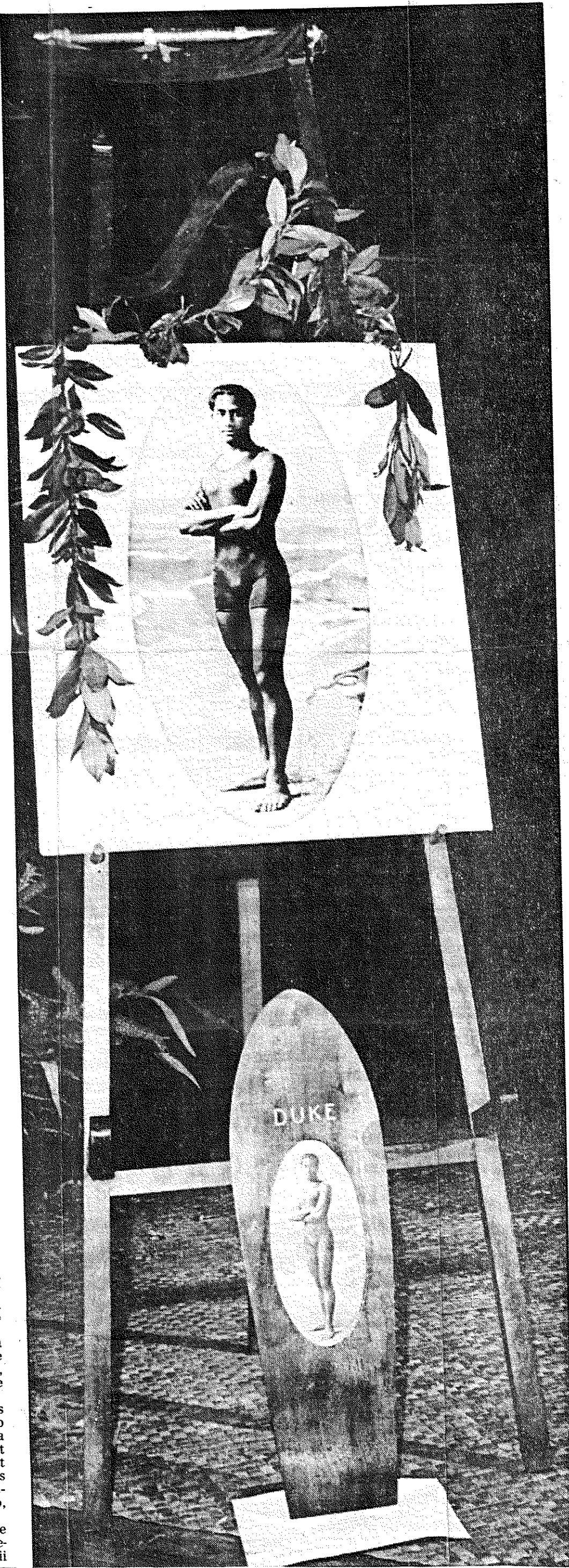
Olympic swimmer, world-record holder, Hollywood actor, father of modern surfing, water-sports pioneer, Honolulu sheriff, Hawaii's Ambassador of Aloha, a gentleman. The man whose 100th birthday will be celebrated Friday enjoyed a dozen different lives before his death in 1968.

He shared his given name with his father, whose birth in 1869 coincided with the first visit to the islands by the Duke of Edinburgh. The senior Kahanamoku was born at Haleakala — the Waikiki estate of Princess Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop. It was the princess who suggested the name.

The younger Duke, born in the same home, came to rule the water, both ocean and pool, as surfer, swimmer, and canoe steersman and paddler.

It was through his prowess as a swimmer — the first man to swim 100 meters in under a minute, and the world's fastest for more than a decade — that the destiny determined by his surname began to unfold. *Kahanamoku*, said Miyamoto, means "uniting the islands."

The name was given to the Kahanamoku family by Kamehameha I, or one of his ali-



Many artifacts commemorating the accomplishments of Duke Paoa Kahanamoku — who was an Olympic medalist, the "father" of surfing and a lifelong ambassador of aloha — were on display last week during the "Remembering Duke" symposium at the Bishop Museum. The photo on the easel, left, is a blowup of the miniature below. The wooden frame is a replica of Kahanamoku's board, presented to Mrs. E.C. Merrill — by the Duke — with an inscription on the back; it's now part of the Bishop Museum collection.

Duke's 100th to be Celebrated in Nostalgic Style

By Alice Guild

Do you sometimes wish that you could return to those wonderful days of Honolulu in the 1930s? Here's an opportunity to do just that for one very special evening.

The Duke Kahanamoku Centennial Boat Day Ball, a benefit for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation, will culminate the month-long celebration of the Duke's 100th birthday.

The \$125 per person gala will be held on Duke's actual birthday, Friday, August 24. The festivities will be held in the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village near the site of the Paoa family home on Kalua Road.

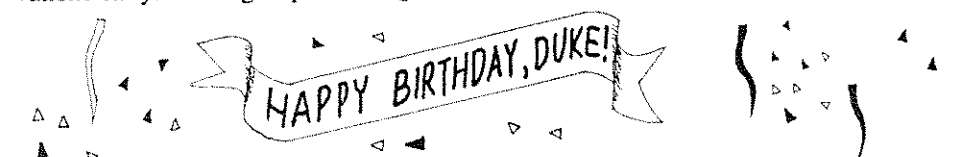
The evening will begin with "dockside" cocktails and a typical 1930s boat day send-off. The Coral Ballroom will be transformed into the grand salon of a Matson liner, featuring the Captain's Table, hosted by Robert Pfeiffer and Matson Navigation Company.

Following dinner, guests will be able to table-hop and reminisce or dance away the evening to the big band sounds.

OCC members will want to make reservations early. Put a group of 10 together

tion in greater measure may become Patrons at \$3,000 or Corporate Sponsors at \$5,000. Each will receive a table for 10 and special recognition in the program.

Attire is cruise formal, so let your imagi-



and leave the names at the Front Desk. You will then be sure to receive the invitation and reservation forms by mid-July. In addition to organized tables, no-host tables will be available.

Those who wish to support the Founda-

tion be your fashion guide.

The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation benefits Hawaii's scholar-athletes and deserving athletic competitors, with an emphasis on water sports.

DUKE: His aloha reunited Hawaii

Continued from Page B-1

early in the 19th century, to recognize their help in forming the kingdom. A hundred years later, Hawaii's first Olympian and athletic hero brought the islands together again, galvanizing them with his international accomplishments.

Dubbed the "Hawaiian bronze god" at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Kahanamoku was a tanned and muscular 6 feet, 190 pounds. The Europeans were intrigued by this unknown swimmer from the other side of the world who wore his name as if it were a royal title.

Yet, because of a mix-up in schedules, Kahanamoku nearly slept through fame. While the semifinal heat of the 100-meter freestyle was being run, American qualifiers were resting aboard their ship and missed the race. After a heated argument, Olympic officials agreed to a special heat, allowing the Americans to qualify for the final if their times were better than those of earlier heat winners.

Kahanamoku not only bested the best of the qualifying times, but also broke the Olympic record by three seconds. He then won the gold medal easily — the first of five Olympic medals over a span of 20 years and two sports.

Stockholm was just the first of Kahanamoku's Olympics; there were to be three more, the last in 1932 when, at age 42, he made the U.S. water polo team which won the bronze. Though he didn't make the swim team in 1932, he was timed in the 100-meter freestyle trial at 59.8 seconds, a time that bettered his winning performance at the 1912 Games 20 years earlier.

There could have been two other Olympics for the Duke, but World War I canceled the 1916 Games, and a debilitating flu cost him a chance for Amsterdam in 1928.

It has been said that Kahanamoku swam only fast enough to win, particularly in non-serious competition. He was genuinely stunned, but gracious, upon finally losing the 100 meters to Johnny Weissmuller at the Paris Olympics of 1924. "It took Tarzan to beat me," Kahanamoku joked later.

"I often asked him about that, his not always trying his hardest," said State Rep. Fred Hemmings, a former world-champion surfer who traveled to meet with Kahanamoku in the 1960s. "He'd say, 'No need to embarrass the boys if you're already winning.'"

"I've seen a picture of him after he did lose a race at Honolulu Harbor. And he was smiling. This was the Duke I knew, a man who had just lost an athletic event and could smile."

"He had this sense of being. He never lost anything in defeat because he knew he had tried his best. It was, 'So be it. We'll race again and the best man will win again.'"

Two weeks ago, five of the Duke's Outrigger Canoe Club crew paddled out to the deep water off Waikiki to scatter flowers — as they have every year since Kahanamoku's death in 1968. A frigate bird uncharacteristically attended the ceremony; with its soaring so reminiscent of Kahanamoku's diving form off Honolulu Pier during the annual Boat Days celebration, the chicken-skin feeling was undeniable.

Crew members recalled another time when porpoises frolicked through the strewn flowers.

And then there's the story of Kahanamoku's funeral.

In 1983, his brother Sargent recalled the event as part of the Outrigger Canoe Club's oral history project.

"The canoes went out two abreast and I planned to go out beyond the reef, where we would form our circle. . . . But we could not make that circle. It just seemed like we had hit a wall. All the canoes came to a dead stop in the water. . . . Every man in the canoes

In honor of Duke's 100th birthday

Events celebrating Duke Kahanamoku's centennial.

■ A statue of Kahanamoku will be dedicated in a public ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday, Kulo Beach Park, Waikiki.

■ The Duke Kahanamoku Centennial Boat Day Ball, 7 p.m. Friday, is sold out. It has been moved from the Hilton Hawaiian Village to the Sheraton Moana Surfrider.

■ A display of art related to the Kahanamoku legend and heritage is on display through Aug. 31 at the University of Hawaii Art Gallery on the Manoa campus.

■ "Duke Kahanamoku Through Hawaiian Eyes," a presentation of the UH Hawaiian Studies program, is set for 5:30 p.m. Aug. 31 at the UH-Manoa Campus Center.



Duke Kahanamoku

was trying to paddle forward, but the canoes were not moving. I said to brother Bill, 'I guess this is the spot where he wants to be.'"

"And it was interesting. . . there was no racing — no yelling or screaming (traditional at a beach-boy's funeral as the canoes race back to shore). Later on, I saw a picture. . . and believe it or not (it was) a picture of a shark's fin cutting through the water near where brother Duke was dropped. . . . Bill and I have often thought back to that day."

"Duke was never afraid of the blue water. Could this shark be an aumakua for brother Duke, there to guide him home?"

Kahanamoku, with deeply ingrained Hawaiian beliefs, considered the shark his aumakua, or guardian, according to his brother Bill. When Duke first went to Australia in 1915 for a swimming exhibition, he took his surfboard beyond the reef, even though lifeguards warned him of sharks.

"When he came in (some three hours later), the lifeguards asked him if he saw any sharks," according to Bill Kahanamoku. "Yeah, I saw plenty. 'And did they bother you?' 'No, and I didn't bother them.'"

During that trip, Kahanamoku introduced the sport of surfing to Australia. The surfboard he fashioned for that ride with the sharks remains on display near Australia's Freshwater Beach.

Some say that his fearlessness led to Kahanamoku's rescue of eight fishermen from a capsized boat in the raging surf off Corona Del Mar, Calif., in 1925. According to newspaper accounts, three times he braved explosive breakers to pull men onto his board and surf to shore, finally walking away after doing all he could.

Twelve out of the 17 men aboard were saved. Said Newport Beach, Calif., police chief J.A. Porter: "Kahanamoku's performance was the most superhuman rescue act and the finest display of surfboard riding that has ever been seen in the world."

In 1938, Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent Ernie Pyle wrote of Kahanamoku:

"At 20 he was a worldwide hero of sports. For a quarter of a century he has traveled and been acclaimed."

"But he has kept his balance. He has never stooped, nor lost his dignity. And of the many types of dignity, I believe none can surpass the simple serenity of the pure Hawaiian."

When Kahanamoku taught the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) to surf off the Moana Hotel in 1920, no one thought it odd. The king of surfing and the future king of England were as royalty should be with each other — respectful and comfortable.