



Nancy
Hanks
Lincoln
Public
Library

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Historical Book Collection

DUKE KAHANAMOKU,
HAWAII'S GOLDEN MAN

HAWAII'S CULTURAL
HERITAGE SERIES

DUKE KAHANAMOKU,
HAWAII'S GOLDEN MAN



WRITTEN BY
JOE BRENNAN

Hogarth Press



A BIESTER-O'CONNELL PRODUCTION
FOR HOGARTH PRESS • HAWAII
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

*Copyright ©1974 by Hogarth Press-Hawaii, Inc.
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 73-86431
ISBN 911776-26-5*

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or by information storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from the publisher.

Manufactured in the United States of America



CREDITS

Also special thanks to the following people who helped Joe Brennan write the first book about the Duke:

Bernice & David Kahanamoku

Aunty Maria Piikoi

Janet Bell

Mrs. Mary H. Hendrichs

Paradise of the Pacific Magazine (now Honolulu Magazine)

Mrs. Dee Prather

Mrs. Bernyece Harvey

Outrigger Canoe Club

Marion K. Dowsett

Vernon "Red" McQueen

Emma Lyons Doyle

Kathleen D. Mellen

Charlie Amalu

HAWAII'S CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES

Books published:

THE ANCIENT HAWAIIANS: *Who Were They? How Did They Live?*

THE ANCIENT HAWAIIANS: *How They Clothed Themselves*

KAMEHAMEHA, FIRST KING OF HAWAII

DUKE KAHANAMOKU, HAWAII'S GOLDEN MAN

HAWAII'S PEOPLE FROM CHINA

Books planned:

QUEEN LILIUOKALANI, HAWAII'S LAST MONARCH

HAWAII'S PEOPLE FROM JAPAN

HAWAII'S PEOPLE FROM PORTUGAL

HAWAII'S PEOPLE FROM SAMOA


PANIOLOS (HAWAIIAN COWBOYS)

 CONTENTS 


	PAGE
<i>The Beach Boy</i>	7
<i>The Champion Comes Home</i>	15
<i>Surf's Up</i>	19
<i>You Can't Win Them All</i>	25
<i>A Real Hero</i>	31
<i>Pau Hana Years</i>	37
<i>A Picture Gallery</i>	42
<i>Pronunciation Guide and Glossary</i>	48
<i>Glossary</i>	51
<i>Bibliography</i>	61
<i>Index</i>	63



Duke Kahanamoku



THE BEACH BOY



MORE THAN ten thousand people waited. A King and a Queen waited.

“Kahanamoku wanted on the starting platform,” a man called out, and then repeated, “Kahanamoku wanted on the starting platform!”

The American team was growing desperate. Where was their man? Months and months of hard training, all leading up to this moment—the final heat of the 100-meter race for the Olympic championship. Duke was nowhere to be found.

Then his friend, “Turk” McDermott, a champion backstroke swimmer, had an idea. He took off on the run to the Duke’s room. Sure enough, there he was, asleep, taking a nap.

“Wake up, Duke, hurry up. They are waiting for you.”

Duke jumped out of bed. Together they ran back to the stadium pool. Duke was almost sick with the thought that he might lose out on this big chance.

When they got there, Duke ran up to the official starter and apologized, “I’m sorry. I was asleep. Am I too late?” he said, breathing heavily.

“No.”

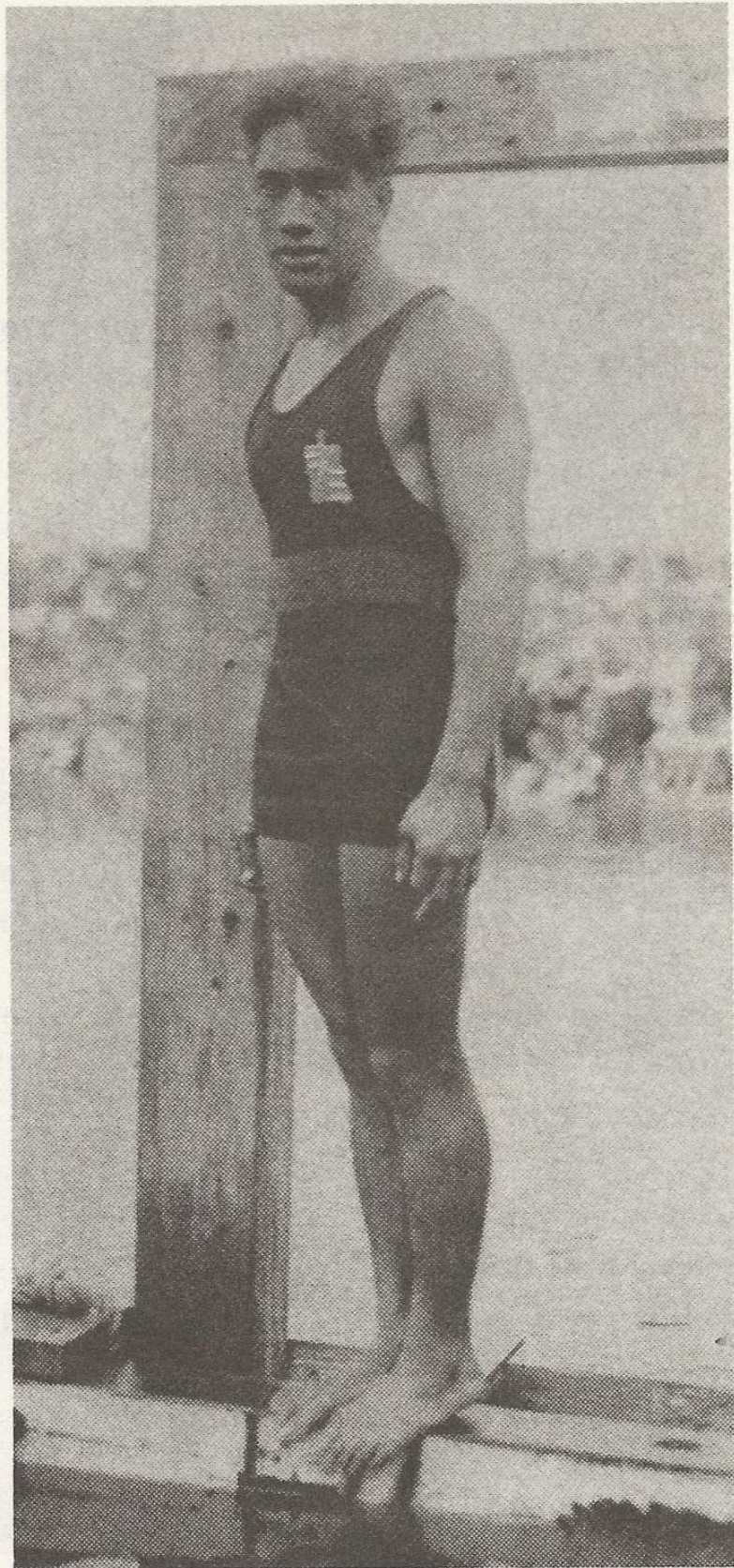
“Can you hold it up until I get my suit on?”

The starter was unhappy with another delay but agreed.

A few short minutes later the pistol cracked and the race began.

Seconds later, there was a new Olympic gold medal winner in the 100-meter swimming championship. Duke Kahanamoku was now the champion of the whole world, and the whole world is a very big place.

Honolulu, in the Hawaiian Islands, is a small place in this



The legendary Duke in his prime.

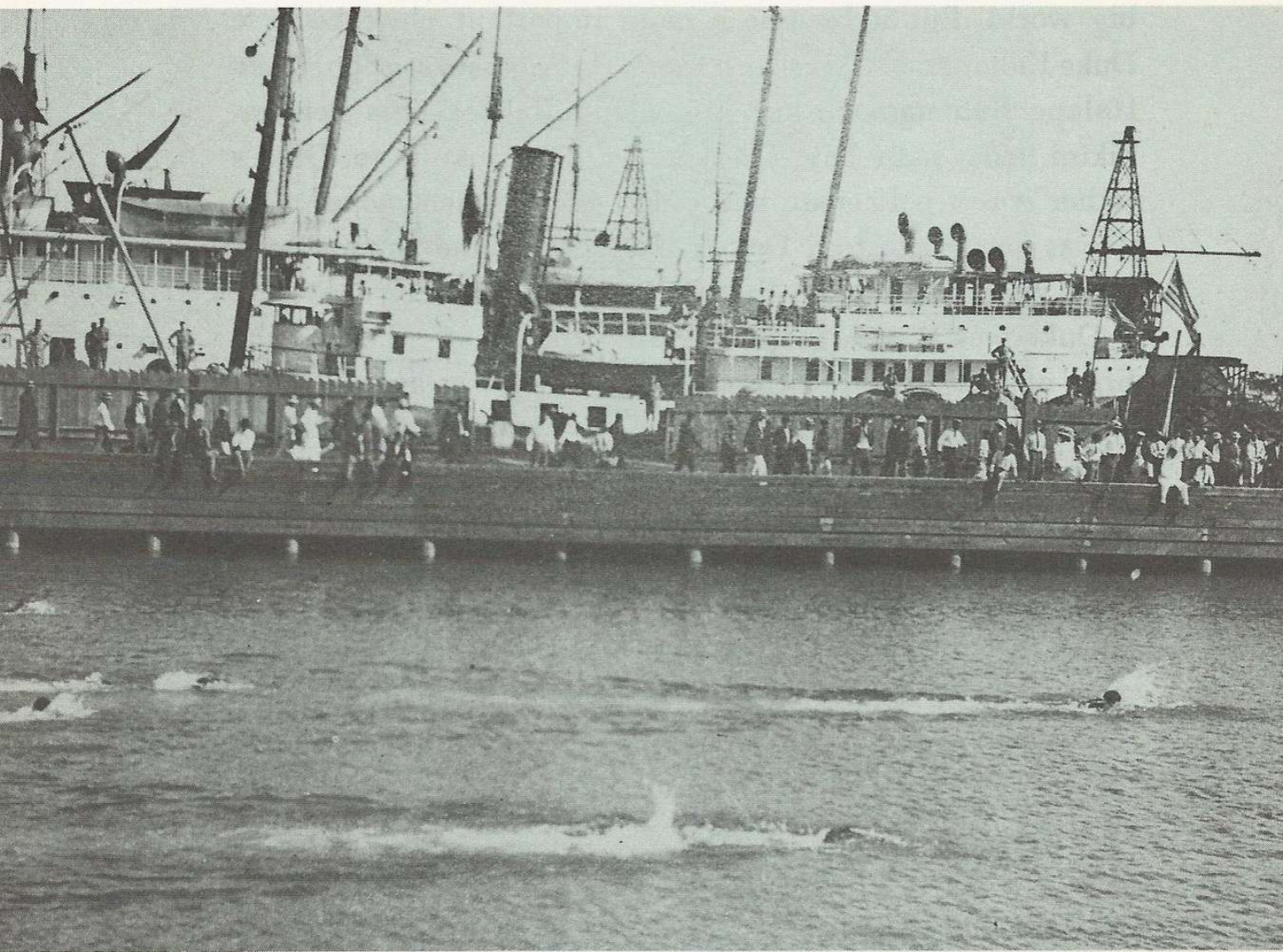
big world. But it became a more important place because Duke Kahanamoku was born there. On August 24, 1890, Duke Halapu Kahanamoku and his wife, Julia Paakonia Lonokahikini had a baby boy. They named him Duke Paoa. Duke's father was a policeman and didn't make much money. But it was enough to feed Duke's six brothers and three sisters. They were not rich but they were a happy family.

Duke was born a subject of King Kalakaua, who was the King of Hawaii. But, before Duke was eight years old, King Kalakaua had died while on a visit to San Francisco. Liliuokalani became the Queen, but she was soon forced to give up her throne to a rebel group. Not long after that the Duke became a citizen of the United States.

Duke grew up near the ocean. In a big family, a child has lots of time to see what is going on in the world around him. Duke saw the ocean, and they liked each other right away. The sea liked the Duke because he respected it. Duke liked the sea because it was always there waiting to help him have fun.

However, learning got in the way of fun. Books didn't interest Duke. He used to say "I am only happy when I'm swimming like a fish." He dropped out of McKinley High School in his Freshman year to become a beach boy. Life was a fun thing. The future would take care of itself.

Duke, the beach boy, soon began to realize that he was a very fast swimmer. He swam faster than any of his friends; he beat everybody he met. He liked being a good swimmer, so he worked at making his arms and legs stronger, making his breathing better. He had the feeling he could be a champion. Hawaiians knew how good he was. But it wasn't until April 11, 1911 at Alakea Slip in Honolulu Harbor that Duke raced against some very good swimmers from the Mainland and won, in a big way.



Duke Kahanamoku winning sprint swim and smashing world amateur record in Honolulu in 1911.

Nobody could believe what he had done. This big, strong Hawaiian young man had raced the one hundred yards from four to five seconds faster than it had ever been done before, anywhere in the world.

The story of the victory was told to the people on the Mainland, who had to decide if it was to be an official world record. They could not believe it and they did not accept it. But now, they knew about the Duke. He was invited to enter swimming races on the Mainland. But Duke didn't have the money to go. Friends and business people then got together and collected enough money.

Many people came to see his first Mainland race. They had heard stories of how fast he was. Duke raced and lost. He not only lost, but he was last.

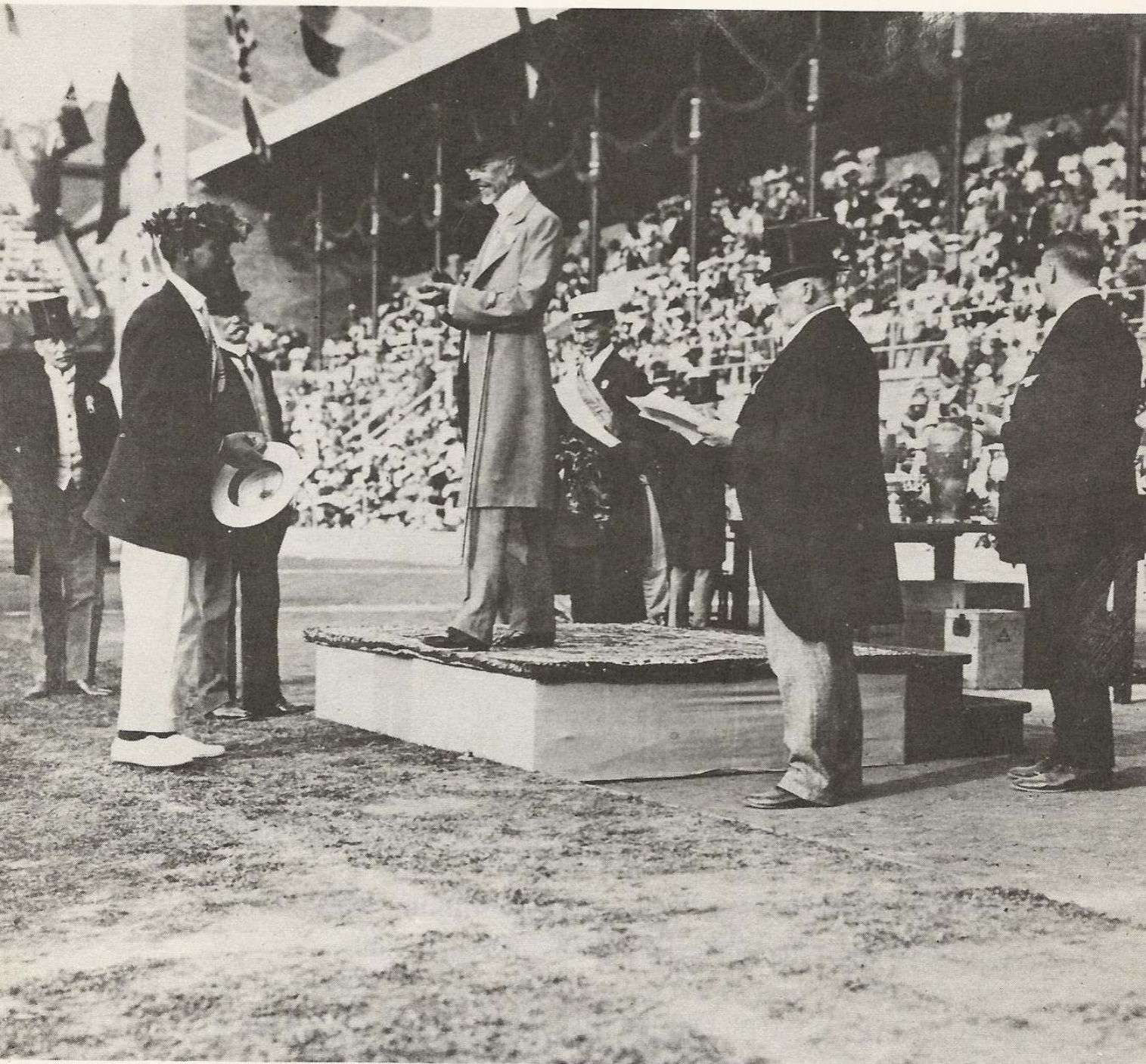
What the people watching didn't know was that when Duke dived into the water for the first time, he was shocked by its coldness. Mainland pools were cold. His muscles were tied up in knots.

In his next race, Duke was smarter. He took a swim in the water first. Then he raced. He won going away—he broke the world's record.

Duke kept on winning. The Mainland people got to know him, and they liked him. His way of swimming was different and there were many stories in the newspapers about it.

It was also true that not many people on the Mainland had ever seen a real live Hawaiian before. Duke was quite an oddity to most of them. Photographers took pictures and newsmen wrote many stories about this quiet young man from the far isles. Duke wasn't sure why they thought he was so different, but he liked the attention. What they saw was a Polynesian man, straight and tall, whose color was deep golden and whose muscled body moved so swiftly in water.

Duke kept swimming, and won the right to represent the



Duke Kahanamoku being awarded the laurel wreath for Olympiad swimming at Stockholm in 1912.

United States in the Stockholm Olympics. As you know, he woke up from a nap and won the 100-meter gold medal. He also broke the world's record. But what Duke remembered most was King Gustav of Sweden giving medals to the winners. Duke was waiting with a group of swimmers. Then he thought he noticed the King signalling to him. He didn't move because he thought it was a mistake. One of the swimmers with him said, "Hey the King wants you."

Duke was nervous when he went over to the royal box. The King took his hand and shook it warmly. Then he introduced Duke to his Queen. Duke didn't know if the King was speaking Swedish or speaking English with a Swedish accent. He did know that even if he didn't understand the King's words he did understand that the King was being very friendly. Duke thanked him, shook hands again, nodded to the royal family, and returned in a daze to his place with the swimmers. The stadium burst into applause.



S.S. WILHELMINA

SAN FRANCISCO



THE CHAMPION COMES HOME



AFTER the Olympic Games, Duke swam in meets all over Europe, and then on the Mainland.

Finally he came home. The ship, *Wilhelmina*, sailed into Honolulu harbor with all of her flags flying. The passengers were waving and ships in the harbor blasted their horns.

The hero had returned. Duke Kahanamoku, champion of the world.

Duke was enjoying all the attention: There were *luaus*, parties and dinners given in his honor. In the streets all kinds of people called out nice things to their "brother." Others patted him on the back and wished him good things. The newspapers were full of stories about their hero. Now that he was great, some people tried to find a reason for his greatness. It must be that he had the blood of chiefs in his veins. "No," said Duke, "I'm no *ali'i* at all . . . I'm just a beachboy from Waikiki."

At first it seemed to be as Duke said it was. Nobody was able to find anything special about his ancestors. At least not until Bernice Pauahi Pahi Bishop, the last of the Kamehamehas spoke up. She explained that the Duke's great grandfather or grandmother or both were related to her. So, if she was related to the great Kamehameha I, so was the Duke. Other persons added more facts. And it was discovered to be true that Duke had the blood of *ali'i* in his veins.

Life is never all *luaus*, parties and fun. Soon it came time for Duke to think about going to work. He was a champion swimmer and there was the blood of the *ali'i* in him, but he was still not a rich man. He had bills to pay and no money to pay them with.



He had an offer to turn professional. This meant he would get paid for swimming. "No," Duke said, "I'm going to swim in the Olympics again." Professionals are not allowed to be in the Olympics.

Then a strange thing happened to Duke. He couldn't find a job. In truth, Duke didn't have any work skills. And nobody wanted to offer a champion with *ali'i* blood a job as a laborer.

Unable to find work in Honolulu, Duke began accepting invitations to swim in places away from Hawaii—on the Mainland, in Australia and New Zealand. This meant he didn't need any money because all of his costs were paid for him: his food, his ship tickets, and his hotel room. He could live like an *ali'i* everywhere except in his own home town.

Duke continued to swim as a champion should. He was equaling and breaking world records around the world. While there, he introduced the Australians to the sport of surfing. Everywhere people seemed to like him. The "Bronze Duke of Waikiki" the Honolulu Star Bulletin called him when he came home. Visitors to the Islands always asked to see and meet him. Duke was so famous that the mayor began asking him to meet and greet incoming ships and entertain the visitors. Duke had become "Mister Hawaii."



 SURF'S UP 

EARLY one Sunday morning the exciting cry, "Surf's up!" was heard on Oahu's south shore. This was no ordinary outside surf. This was something special, perhaps caused by an earthquake or a volcano on the ocean floor.

Young men with their boards hurried to Waikiki. This was the day of the big "Bluebirds," the giant waves that sweep in from the Diamond Head area and streak across in a solid line as far *ewa* as Honolulu Harbor.

Duke, too, heard the surf was up. With his giant board, an *olo*, a sixteen-foot, 114-pound hunk of wood, he hurried to the sea to challenge it. He put his board in the water and tried to get through the surf to where the swells were forming. He was blasted back into the shallows, his board flying one way, he the other way. Other surfers were with him, trying to break through. Again and again they tried only to be belted back. In time they all quit trying, all except Duke.

Somehow, somehow, he finally managed to break through. Happily he found himself out where he could study the waves. He was alone. The wave sets were being formed. He studied the glassy mountains of water that were forming in front of him. Prone, he worked his big, semi-hollow board toward south Diamond Head and farther out to sea. He knew that the oncoming China walls of water were the great Bluebirds which his father had told him about.

He worked his board to the edge of "Steamer Lane" where no smart surfer should be. At times he could see the people watching on the shore.

Suddenly, he saw it, a wave which seemed as high as Diamond Head itself moving towards him. Duke was scared, but



he turned his board shoreward, ready to climb on the back of this monster. He had to.

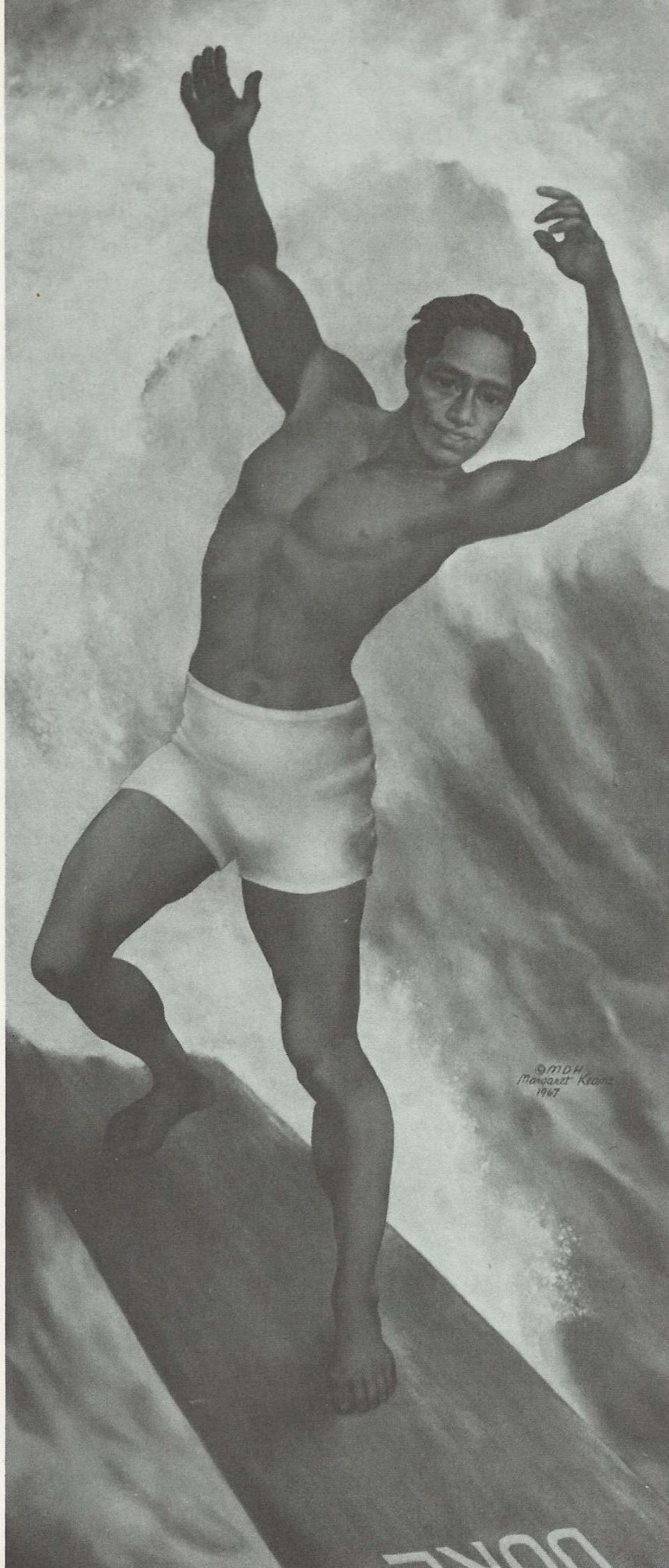
He was on his knees and digging hard with his hands and arms as the shining swell lifted him. He could see Castle Surf spread before him. He had never before been surfing this far out at sea. The wave climbed and climbed. His slant was right, the balance perfect, so he sprang to his feet. Upright now, sucking in air, left foot to the front, right foot a little to the rear, the water rushed him forward at an angle.

As the swell started to lean forward and curl, Duke shifted his weight on the board and angled to the left. He rode to the exact point where the pitch, slant and speed felt right. Now the wave was spilling its tons of water to his right. Duke kept to the left of the curl, and caught a wild ride in through the first of Castle Surf.

All Duke knew was that he was riding a wave which was bigger than anything he had ever known. For the moment he was still in control. The wave roared on a slant into the rear of Elk's Surf. It tried to shake Duke and his board from its back. Disaster threatened him at his right, so he swung even more to the left. He had to avoid the huge curl that could swallow him.

Suddenly, he was working into Cunha Surf. He could hardly believe he had caught the Bluebird and ridden it this far. The board was shaking badly. With the exploding curl to his right Duke worked left and nosed into the edge of Queen's Surf.

By this time, Duke's legs were aching badly. They were weary of fighting to keep him balanced. The curl caught up with him and he had to slam down to the base of the wave. It shot him and his board deeper into Queen's Surf where he finally had to prone out to avoid pearling (nose-diving) into the soup. Luckily, he was able to cling to his board all the way into the shallows.

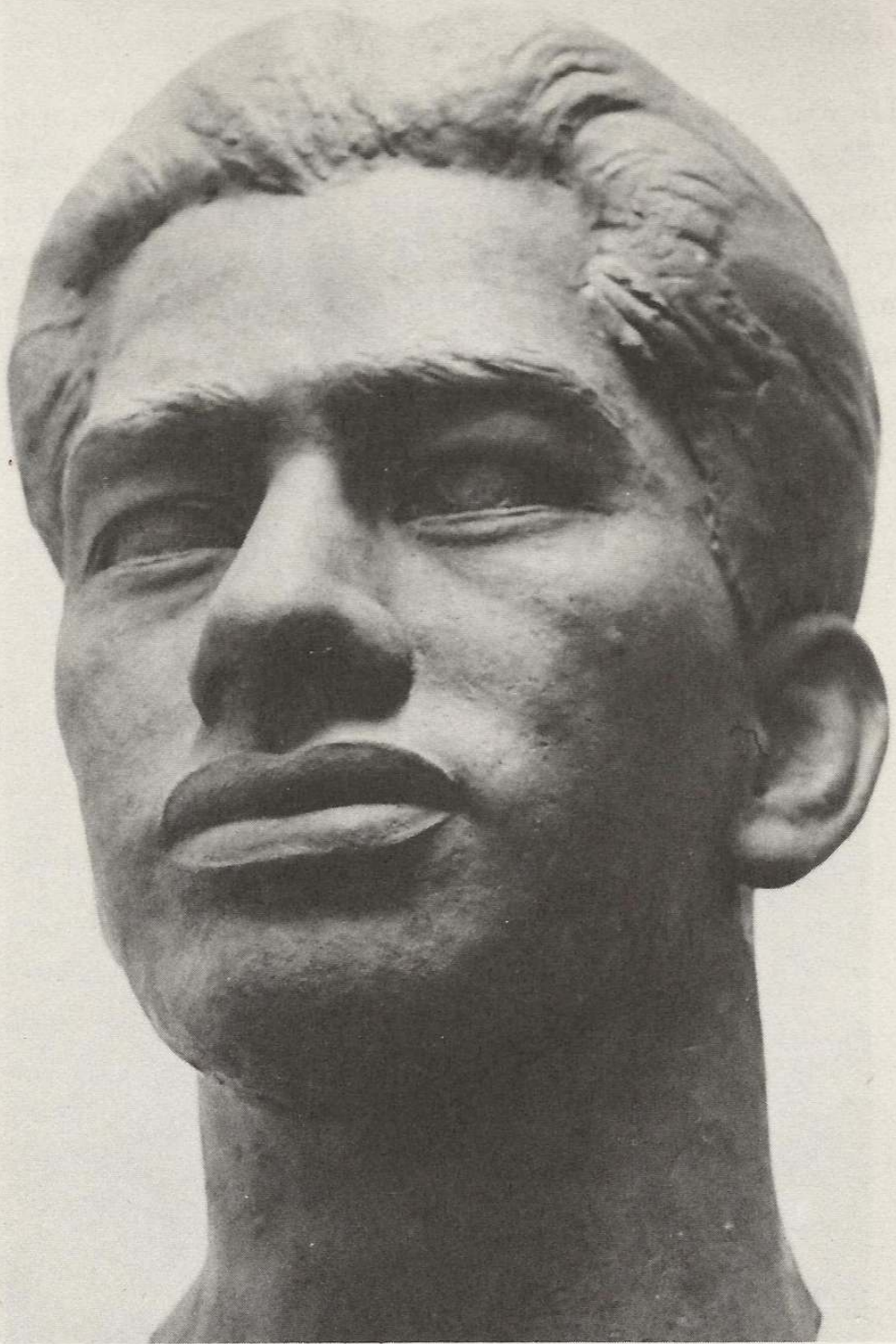


©MDH
Margaret Keane
1967


DUNK

He was exhausted, so he knew he must have ridden a very long way. As he lugged his board onto the beach, people were calling, applauding and waving at him. They realized that they had seen a great ride. For a marvelous mile and three-quarters, he had challenged the dangerous Bluebird—and won.


A painting of the very young Duke at the peak of his surfing prowess.



Head statue of Duke at age 22.



YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL



DURING what was called World War I, the Olympic Games of 1916 were called off. Duke was asked to help raise funds for the Red Cross by doing swimming, diving, surfing and lifesaving shows. He accepted. He was doing what he loved, and he was needed.

In time, the swimming tour ended and Duke tried to sign up for the Air Corps. Then it happened. It was 1919, the time of the great influenza (flu) sickness which caused the death of many people in the United States. Duke caught it and became very sick. But he was tough and it didn't kill him, but it did leave him looking like a ghost, a very weak ghost.

"Poor Duke," people were saying, "he's all washed up."

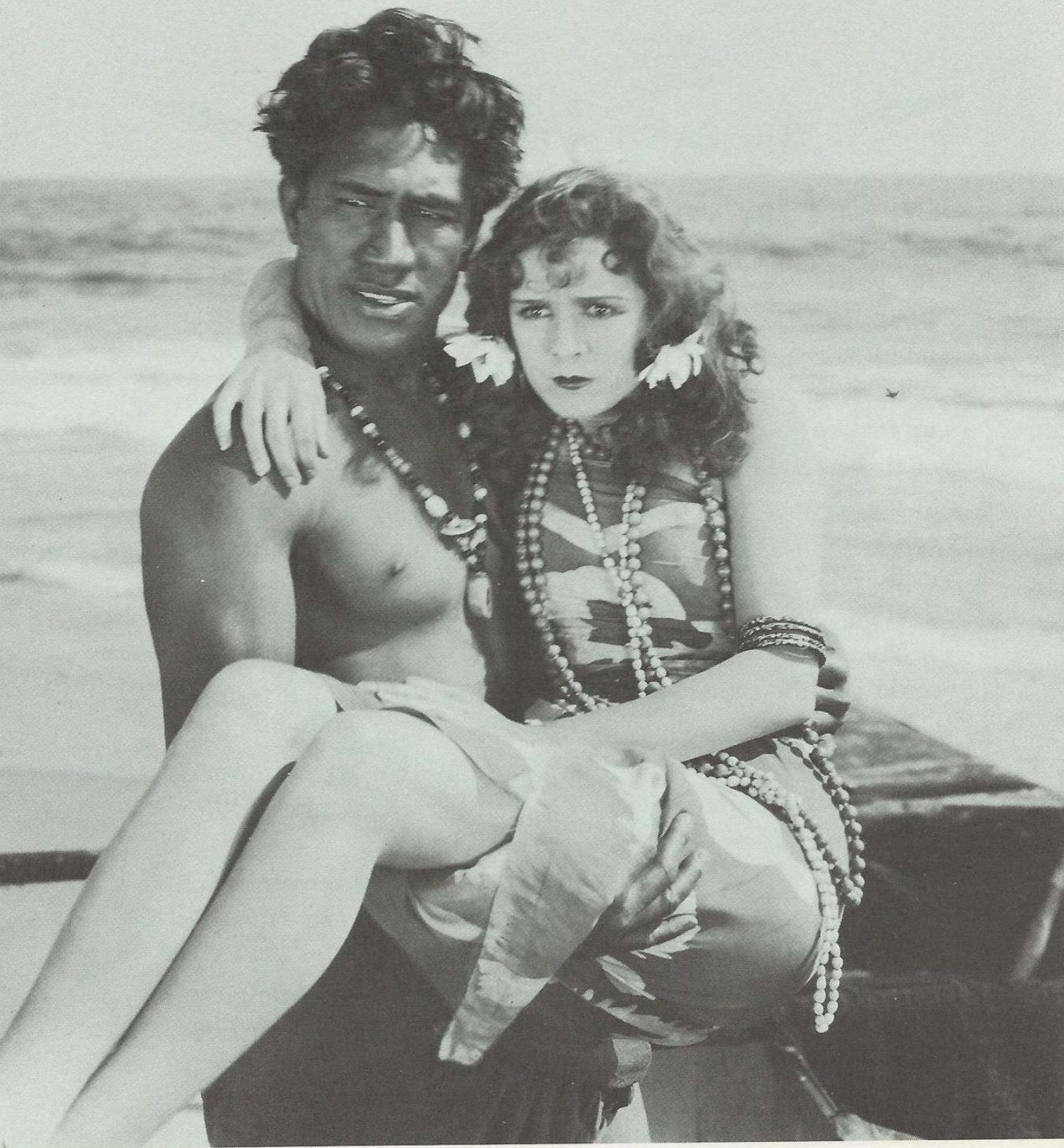
Duke didn't think so. Twenty-nine years wasn't old. He could get into shape again, and his friend, coach and trainer, George "Dad" Center promised to help him.

Duke worked. Oh, how he worked! Day after day, work, work, work. After many months his strength returned. "I'm swimming like a shark again," he said.

So good was he that he was chosen again as a member of the United States swimming team for the 1920 Olympic Games in Antwerp, Belgium.

On August 20th of that year, with King Albert of Belgium watching, Duke was at the starting line of the 100-meter free-style swim. The starter's gun went off. Duke pushed off in a long, flat dive, hit the water lightly and was off like a bullet, his arms and legs thrashing. One minute and $\frac{2}{5}$ of a second later, out of breath, he finished. Not only was he the winner but he broke his own world record by $\frac{2}{5}$ of a second.

Duke loved to win, but hated to beat anybody. To him it was always sad that only one person could win.



Duke and screen star Anita Stewart.

Duke also swam on the relay team that set another Olympic record. Later, Duke talked about it with King Albert in his royal box.

A few weeks later while swimming at a meet in Paris, Duke broke his 100-meter record again. He raced in London, New York, Chicago, Detroit and San Francisco before returning to Hawaii as a hero—all over again. Once again the banquets, luaus and parties for the champion. Everything was wonderful for a while but the time came again when Duke needed a job to pay his bills. As before, he couldn't find one. So he surfed at Waikiki and was called, "Champ." The tourists were happy to meet him, talk with him and get his autograph. To them, he was the symbol of the Islands, a native of Polynesia, a champion.

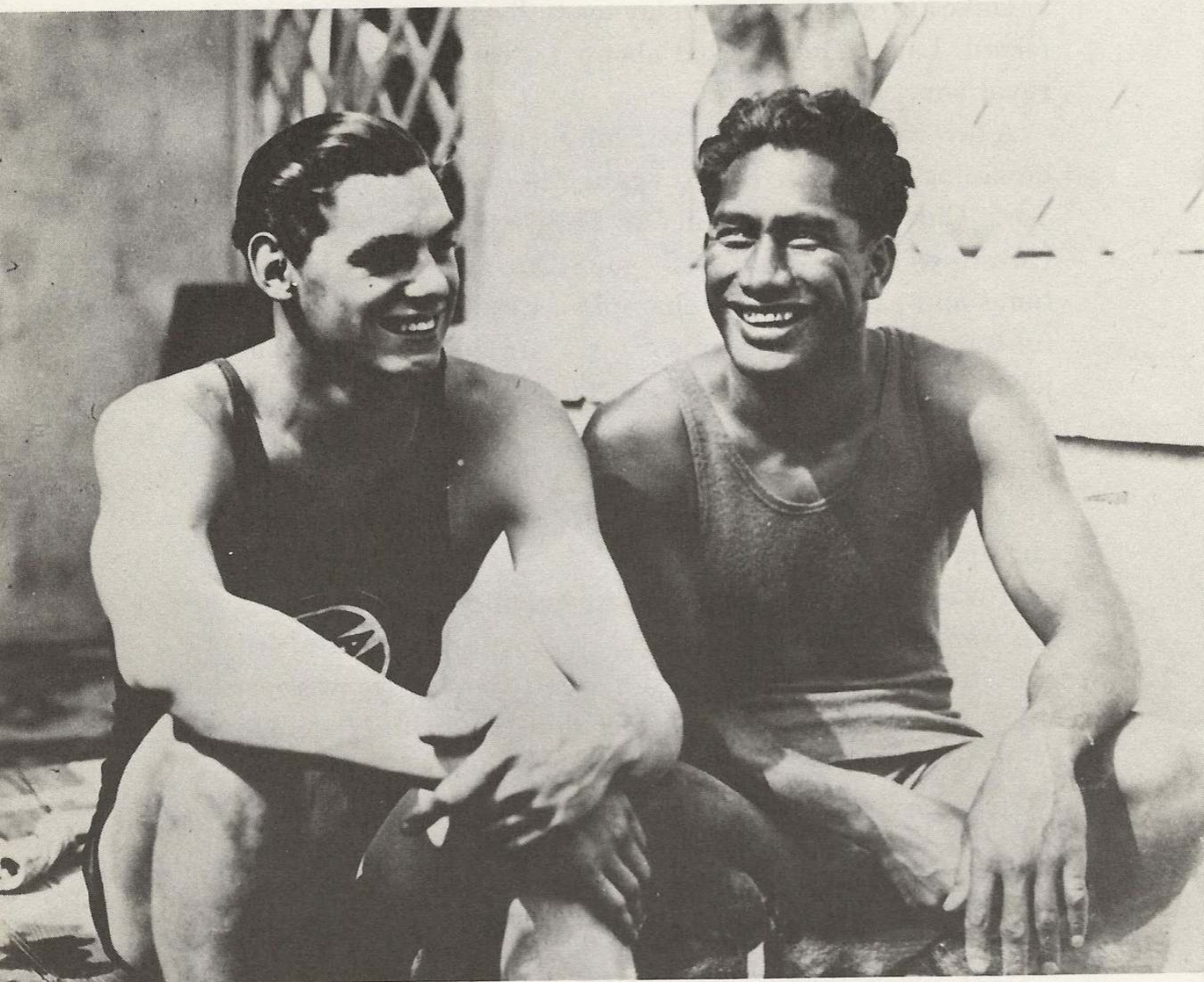
It was a happy day when Duke accepted a job as an actor. He went to Hollywood where they made the movies, silent ones in those days. Duke acted in many movies. He was everything from a Sioux Indian chief to a Hindu thief. As Duke said, "I played every kind of native except Hawaiian."

He knew how to swim but at acting he was like a fish out of water. He was too shy. But at least it was a good job, he was earning a living and had fun working with actors like John Wayne and Ronald Colman.

Duke Kahanamoku was thirty-four years old. That was like being an old man as far as athletes are concerned, but he decided to try to keep his Olympic championship. "Don't do it," his friends said, thinking of his age. They were also thinking about a nineteen-year-old newcomer named Johnny Weissmuller. "Quit while you are ahead," they told him.

At the Olympic trials, Duke qualified again, only this time he finished second. Johnny Weissmuller won, but he had to break the Duke's world record to do it.

In Paris, they met again for the Olympic 100-meter cham-



The day youth was served: Johnny, 19—Duke, 34.


pionship. The two great swimmers had to settle which one was best. Johnny won. Duke was second, which still meant that, in the whole world, there was only one swimmer faster at 100-meters than he was. Yet he knew it was time to give up racing and leave it to the "kids."



Duke in Long Beach, California, stunting with a golf stance on his surfboard.



A REAL HERO



EX-CHAMPIONS don't get welcomed as heroes. So Duke didn't go home. He went back to acting in Hollywood. Acting wasn't what he was best at; swimming was. But there wasn't much money to be made at swimming.

Of course, nothing much changed. Whenever he wasn't making movies he was swimming or surfing, and loving it. Duke took pride in being in top condition all the time. He used to say, "God was kind enough to give me a good, strong frame; it's up to me to take care of it."

The weather wasn't good that June 14, 1925. Duke had gone with friends to surf at Corona del Mar on Southern California's coast. But surfers live with hope and they hung around the beach and waited for the weather to change.

The weather changed. It got worse. Gray shrouds of fog rolled in from the sea. The waves were high and the wind was gaining strength. At this point Duke and his friends decided to head back to Hollywood. Then they heard the sound of an engine which had to be coming from a boat that was too close to shore.

Out of the fog it came, a small charter fishing boat. It was being tossed around like a loose surfboard and was in serious trouble. Then the engine died and the boat lay helpless in a broadside position.

Duke could see some people holding onto the rails. A huge wave smashed into the helpless boat. Another sliced across her decks. A third wave finished her. Men were washed from the deck. The boat rolled completely over. The bottom of her hull was up.



Instinctively, Duke grabbed up his big board and ran to the surf. The first wave almost tore him from his board. Then he changed his tactics to get through the second and third waves. He locked his arms and legs around the board, turned it to an upside down position and allowed the flood of water to roar on over. It was his only chance to keep himself and the board together, and it worked.

With wild paddling and fantastic balancing, Duke reached the scene. A man had just slipped away from a floating hatch cover. His clothes were soaked and heavy and they were sinking him. His head disappeared beneath the surface and then his outstretched arms followed. Duke got to the spot, reached into the water and grabbed a handful of hair. He pulled him up and put him on the board. He grabbed two more half drowned men and loaded them onto his board. "Hang on! Hang on!" Duke pleaded.

He nosed the board toward shore, and the sets of waves towering to the stern of him could serve him or sink him. "Hold tight! Here we go!" They held and the angry water threw them at the shore. The backwash pulled and twisted at them, trying to take them seaward again. But Duke's friends were there to help.

With these men safe, Duke was on his way out again. He had to fight every inch of the way; going underwater, clinging upside down to his board when he had to. This slowed his progress, sapped his strength, and robbed him of his breathing. But it got him through those killer waves.

Again he was sweeping to the left with his board, cutting to the right, calling encouragement to the men who were crying out for help.

He managed to get two more big men aboard his surfboard, and found he had no room for himself. Duke shouted, "Lock your arms around the board!" They did as he ordered. In the



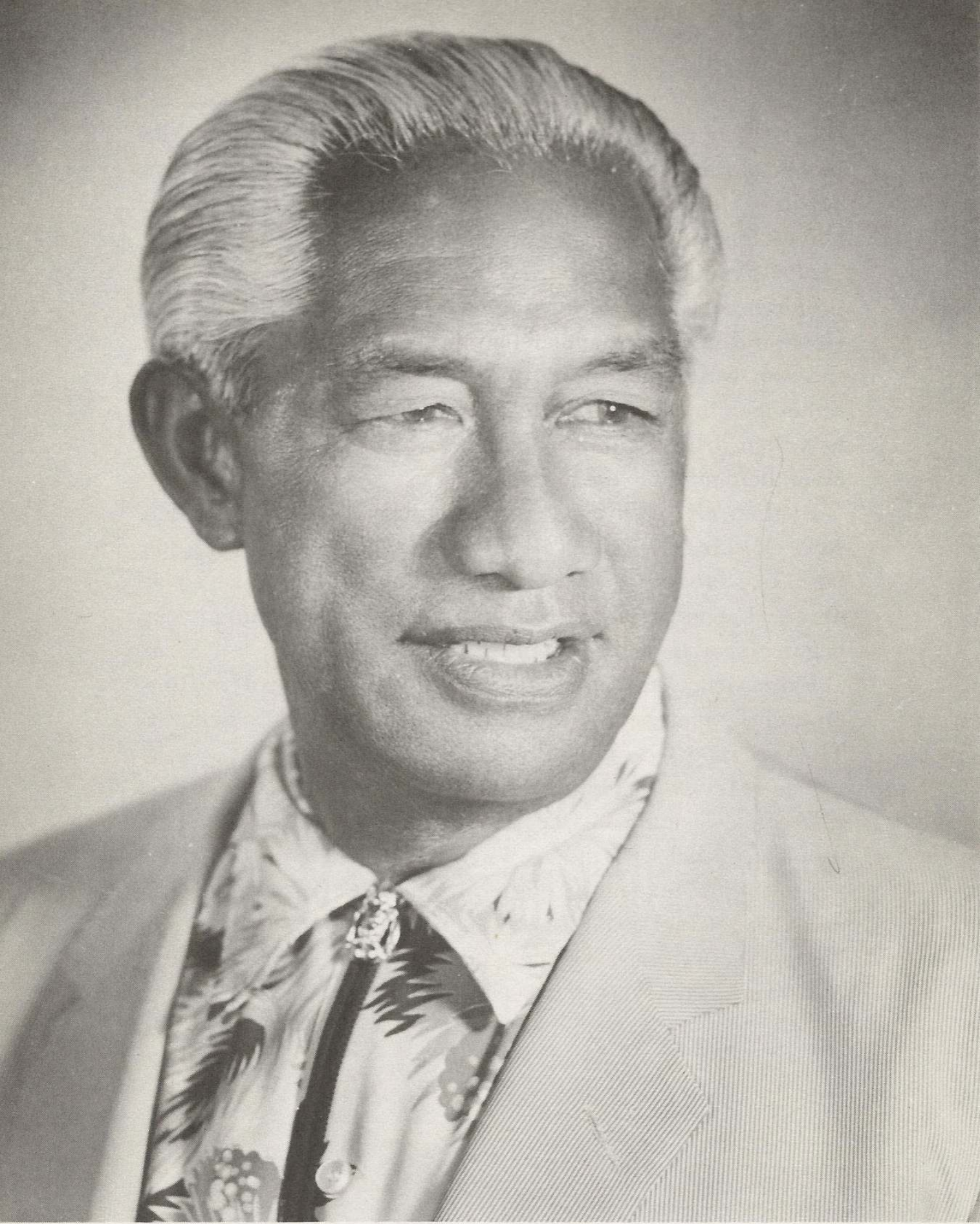
water, clinging to the rear of his board, he headed for the shore. A giant swell lifted them and turned them sideways but didn't upset them. They made it to the shallows. Again Duke's friends pulled the two to safety.

Duke was very, very tired. But he could still move and people needed help. He struggled seaward for the third time. He would never remember how he made it out through the slashing water that third time, but he did. Later, he would remember that he grabbed three more men and made them lock their arms around his board. Then he managed to guide all of them safely to the shore.

By then, alerted lifeguards from Balboa and Newport Beach were checking the waters hoping to save others. But it was too late. The boat was shattered. Its people scattered, saved or drowned. The guards with their lifecans and grappling hooks began to search for the missing.

Exhausted, Duke moved away from the crowd milling around the men he had saved. He lay on the sand, exhausted. Then the reporters found him.

The next day the Duke was a hero everywhere in the United States. He was hailed as a superman of a surfer. Five men had drowned in that sea accident. Twelve had been rescued, including the eight Duke had brought in. Said J. A. Porter, the Newport Beach Chief of Police, "Kahanamoku's performance was the most superhuman rescue act and the finest display of surf-board riding that has ever been seen in the world."





PAU HANA YEARS



DUKE CONTINUED to make a small living as a movie actor. The life of this ex-champ was dull, at least until he got the idea to try for the 1928 Olympics. He went into training but right in the middle of it, the flu got to him again and put him into bed for nine weeks. He didn't make the team.

In 1929, the Senate of Hawaii with the agreement of the House of Representatives, in the form of a resolution said:

“We would welcome Duke Paoa Kahanamoku's return and permanent residence in Hawaii. For, 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.”

After finishing his small role in the picture *The Fire Walker*, Duke came home. He was finished with making movies in Hollywood. He wasn't getting anywhere.

Back in Hawaii, his old problem returned. Duke couldn't find a good job. Mayor Fred Wright appointed him as superintendent of the Honolulu *Hale* (City Hall). When Duke went to his work, he learned he was now a janitor. He was very disappointed. He had helped to make Hawaii a better known and a more loved place in this big world, but Hawaii didn't seem to have a useful place for him.

So it was with a sense of not belonging that Duke began thinking of trying for the Olympics one more time. At 42 years of age, he went into training. He didn't drink or smoke, and he swam and exercised every day. Finally, he had a test swim



Duke and Nadine are married in Kona in 1940.

and was timed at 59 and 4/10 seconds for the 100-meters—faster than he had ever done it in his whole life. But in the trials, he failed to make the 100-meter swimming team. However, this 42-year-old man did qualify for the water polo team and went to the Olympics. The polo team lost in the finals. The loss was nothing to be ashamed of, but champions prefer to win.

Back in Hawaii, the same old problem returned. How to make a living. He leased a gas station where he pumped gas, changed tires and so forth. The tourists came. They bought gas from him. They took pictures of him doing his work. He was making a living, but wasn't happy doing it.

It was at this time that some friends asked Duke to run for Sheriff of Honolulu. Happy for the chance, he ran for the office and won. He had finally found his kind of job.

Five years later, when he was fifty years old, Duke married a nice *haole* girl named Nadine Alexander. Together they shared his new world of meeting and greeting people who came to visit beautiful Hawaii. It was an exciting life, and he met and talked with Presidents Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Kennedy. He was a guest on most of the big TV shows on the Mainland. Reelected regularly as Sheriff for 26 years, he was "Mr. Hawaii, Hawaii's Ambassador to the world."

Then the job of Sheriff became *pau*. Hawaii did not need a Sheriff any longer. Duke was out of work again, but not for long. A new job as "Official Greeter" was made up, and Duke got it. His job was to "sell" the world on how great a place Hawaii was. He was very good at it.

More prizes and honors came to him. In 1965, he was one of the first (charter) members of the Swimming Hall of Fame. In 1966, he was made the first member of the Surfing Hall of Fame. In August, 1967, 6000 people went to his birthday party.

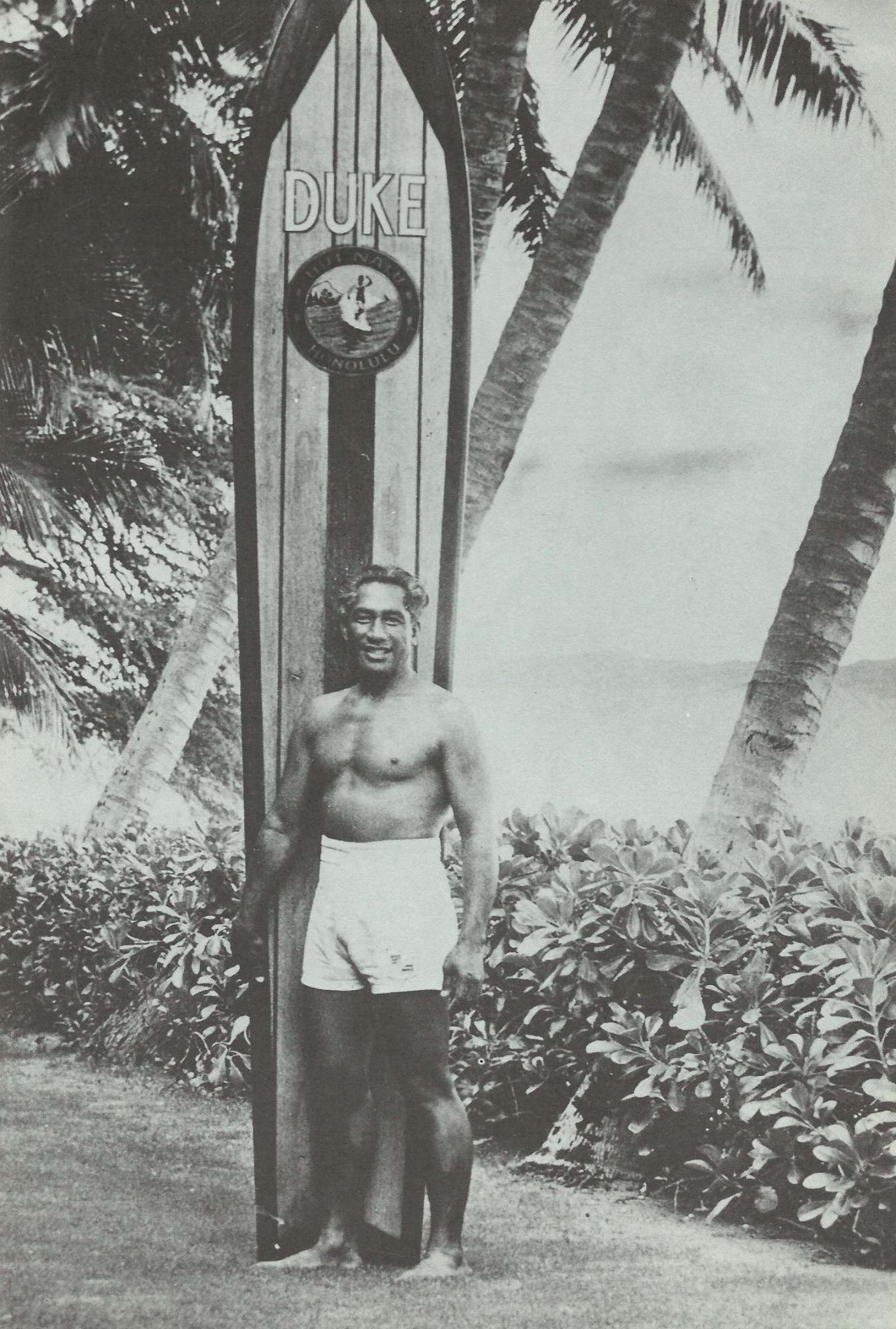
Duke was 78 years old, and had been sick off and on, but it still came as a surprise when on the afternoon of January 22, 1968, the world learned that, "Duke Kahanamoku is dead." A heart attack killed him as he stepped ashore from his little cabin cruiser. He died close to the sea he loved. And the world was richer for his having been a part of it.

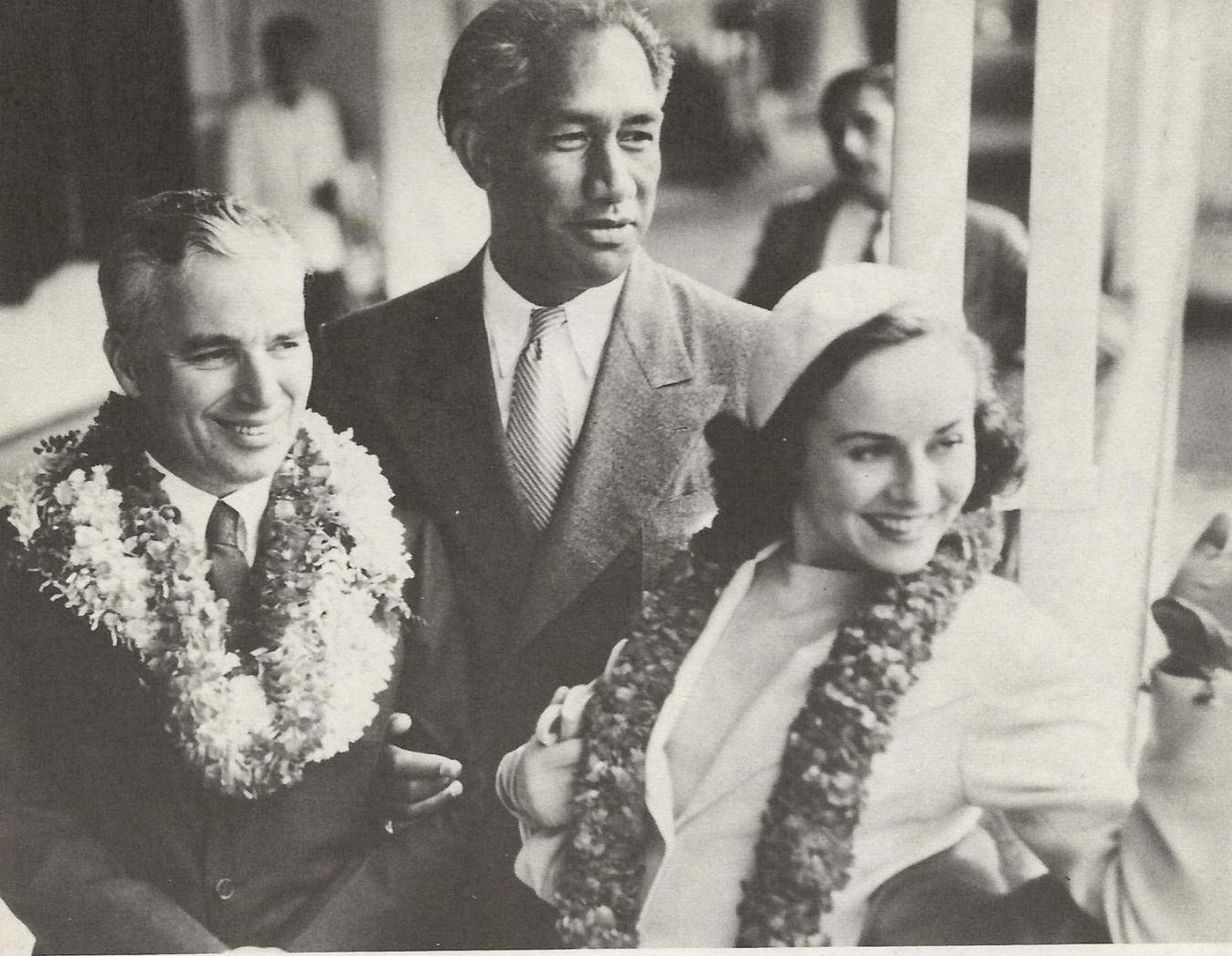




A PICTURE GALLERY







Duke with Charles Chaplin and Paulette Goddard.



Duke and Fred Hemmings Jr., Makaha champion, 1966.



*As Honolulu's Sheriff and official greeter, Duke welcomed
President John F. Kennedy.*



Duke congratulating surfing champion "Corky" Carroll.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY

BY DOROTHY KAHANANUI

PRONUNCIATION:

1. Vowels are “pure”—pronounced without the off-glide so often present in English and without the nasal quality heard in the speech of some people—like *a* in *bat*.
2. Vowels—when marked with the macron—are always stressed or accented but with a little more “pressure” (in duration) than primary accent in English. In some other publication the writer refers to macron marked vowels as “long duration” vowels. Such vowels are pronounced as follows:

ā: as in “calm”	lālā (branch; limb)
ē: as in “they”	pēpē (baby)
ī: as in “machine”	kīkī (to shoot, as a gun)
ō: as in “low”	pōpō (round mass)
ū: as in “rule” or oo in moon	lūlū (to scatter)

3. Vowels—unmarked—are stressed sometimes. They may be referred to as “short duration” vowels. Whether stressed or not, there is no difference in value. In this work, a stressed short duration vowel is underlined. Short duration vowels are pronounced as follows:

a: as in “around” or like <i>u</i> in <i>but</i>	l <u>a</u> la (diagonal)
e: as in “set”	pe <u>p</u> e (flat, as a flat nose)
i: as in “sit”	k <u>i</u> ki (to sting)
o: as in “obey”	po <u>p</u> o (rotten)
u: as in “pull”	lu <u>u</u> (sheltered)

Note: Some authorities say there is a third value sound but

because it is impossible to list English equivalents these cannot be verbally identified.

4. Double vowels¹—some are words in their own right (see below), some can pass as diphthongs. Only one combination has no English equivalent. The first vowel in each pair is ALWAYS stressed but the stress is different from that of a macron marked vowel, and there is no identifying mark. In this volume a stressed unmarked vowel is underlined (in the glossary). Double vowels are pronounced as follows:

ae: like <u>i</u> in "high"	h <u>ae</u> (flag)
ai: like <u>i</u> in "light"	m <u>ai</u> (directional)
ao: like <u>ow</u> in "now" (no nasal twang)	m <u>ao</u> (cleared, as rain)
au: like <u>ou</u> in "couch" (pronoun: I; noun: an era)	m <u>au</u> (always)
ei: like in "weight" also like <u>ai</u> in "wait"	l <u>ei</u> (wreath)
eu: none. <u>e</u> as in "set", <u>u</u> as in "put"	k <u>eu</u> (more, often prefaced by <u>a</u>)
ia: like in "alleluia" (he/she/it/that)	k <u>ia</u> (mast)
iu: like <u>ew</u> in "new"	n <u>iu</u> (coconut)
oe: like <u>oy</u> in "boy"	m <u>oe</u> (to sleep)
oi: like in "loiter" (approximately)	p <u>oi</u> (paste made of taro)
ou: like in "soul" (o-form poss., zero- class)	h <u>ou</u> (new; perspiration)
ui: like in "quick"	n <u>ui</u> (large)

¹The term "double" is used in other writings to identify two vowels side by side.

5. Consonants: Except for *w*, consonants do not pose serious pronunciation problems. When preceded by *a*, *e*, or *i*; *w* is like *v* in *level*—soft *v*, (I call it), made by placing the upper teeth over the lower lip lightly.

lawe (to take)—*lave* *ha‘awi* (to give)—*ha‘avi*
hewa (wrong)—*heva* *kiwi* (horn)—*kivi*

After *o* and after *u*, *w* is like in *way*

‘*owā* (split; cracked)—also spelled ‘*oā*



‘*auwē* (alas! oh dear!)—may be spelled ‘*auē*

6. The glottal stop—an inverted or upside down apostrophe—indicates a guttural break similar to the sound made when one says “oh-oh” quickly. Webster says it is a sound “articulated in the glottis.” This is difficult for some non-native speakers to do, especially if several occur in a word.

7. *Comments:* This guide is primarily for teachers with little or no experience with the Hawaiian language. However, others may find here some comments which have never crossed their mind.

Compare carefully the English equivalent of macron-marked vowels—which are always stressed—and the first of each pair of vowels in double vowels—also always stressed. Notice that the two have different sound values. *Mālama* (to keep or take care of) has a long duration *ā* and two short duration *a*'s, one stressed and one unstressed. The macron *ā* is like in *calm*, the other two, sound like *a* in *around*. The only difference is, one is stressed and the other is not stressed.

Because dealing with Hawaiian words in print is a very new experience for most of us, it is probably well to plan a get-acquainted session—with the words that is—before trying to use them.

 GLOSSARY 

(Surfing terms used in this book, plus many which we did not have occasion to use)

Angling—Riding across a wave, either to the right or left, rather than straight toward the beach.

Back paddle—When a surfer decides not to take off; so he backstrokes to keep from being sucked over the falls.

Backing out—Sitting back on the board while on a wave that could have been ridden.

Backwash—Water going back out to sea, after a wave has broken on the shore.

Bail out—When a surfer decides it's time to abandon ship.

Beach break—Waves which break in close on shore, rather than over sandbars or reefs.

Beach bunny—Girl who goes to beach to watch surfing, usually a non-surfer or beginner.

Big gun—An eleven-footer, or longer; surfboard specially designed for large waves.

Blown out—Surf which has been wind-whipped and made unsurfable. Sometimes it refers to a surfer being blown off the top of a wave and down the backside; a strong offshore wind sometimes does this.

Bottom turn—A swinging turn made at the bottom or well below the crest of a wave.

Bowl—The rising of a wave when it is activated by rolling over a shallow section of the bottom. It causes the wave to break harder and faster.

Break—When a wave builds to a point where the crest falls over.

Catching a rail—When the down-wave rail of the surfboard catches into the surf and dumps the boardman.

Channel—An area of deep water where the surf isn't forming and is suitable for paddling seaward.

Choke—Leery of big surf.

Choppy—Bouncing, ruffled surface water brought on by stiff winds.

Climb—When a surfer leans his weight on the inside rail of the board to cause it to climb back to the ridge of the wave. Repeated, it is referred to as dropping and climbing.

Closed out—A bay or cove is closed out when the sets are so big that they break straight across with no rideable shape to them at all. Also, when a surfer is slanting on a wave, and the wave completes its break before the rider has completed his ride. Also used when the waves are so huge and close together that the surfer can't paddle out to get in position to get set for a wave.

Cowabunga—The hilarious and exultant shout of a surfer.

Crest—The very top of the wave.

Curl—The curved section of a breaking wave.

Cut back—To turn toward the breaking section of the wave.

Cutout—To pull out of a wave by kicking out or otherwise.

Deck—A surfboard's top surface.

Digging a rail—Same as catching a rail.

Ding—Hole or fracture in a surfboard.

Doggers—Multi-colored swimming trunks, ordinarily made of canvas or some tough fiber.

Drop—Sliding down from the top to the bottom of a wave.

Dropping in—Taking off on a wave and continuing the slide down the face of it.

Dumper—A wave that breaks and curls straight down from the top and dumps a rider.

El Spontaneo—A hot dogger's stunt done with the head dip position and with the arms wrapped around the back of the legs or body. Ordinarily the feat is done at the nose of the surfboard.

Face—The unbroken, silky front of a wave.

Fiberglass—A glass cloth used in surfboard building.

Fin—A skeg or fixed rudder at the tail of the board.

Fins—Rubber or synthetic foot-flippers for swimming, skin-diving, etc. Often used in body surfing.

Five toes—Hanging five toes over the nose of the board.

Flyaway—Stepping to the tail of the board and wrenching your body and board sharply to get out of a wave.

Free fall—When a surfer falls from the top of a wave.

Gassed—When a surfer gets wiped out on a wave.

Getting Bombed—When a wave avalanches over a surfer.

Glass off—When the wind has died and the surf has smoothed out to a glassy surface.

Goofy-footed—Riding a surfboard with the right foot extended forward.

Grabbing a rail—Bending down, or kneeling, to pull up on the down-wave rail while angling across a wave. Sometimes a pullout done by grabbing the rail on the side away from the wave and pulling the board into the wave to keep it from being washed away. Also to steady the board while riding the curl or tube.

Green waves—Unbroken waves that are steep enough for riding.

Gremmie or Gremlin—A young, poor-mannered surfer who is a beginner at riding the waves; sometimes little kids, not necessarily troublesome.

Hair—Nerve to take off on enormous waves.

Hairy—Scary.

Hanging ten—Walking to the nose of the board and putting ten toes over the edge. Sometimes five.

Hawaiian pullout—Going to the nose of the board, sitting down and simultaneously twisting your body, right or left depending upon the wave, and pulling the surfboard out of the wave.

Head dip—A forward riding stunt where the head is lowered almost flush to the nose of the board.

Heavies—The very large waves.

Ho-dad—An anti-surfer hoodlum; often just an ill-mannered beach bum who doesn't surf but hangs around the regular surfers.

Holding the rail—When a surfer grabs the edge of his board to keep his balance in the soup.

Hook—The curling portion of the wave.

Hot Dogger—A surfer who performs highly skilled stunts on the waves.

Hot dogging—Performing on a wave with fancy turning, nose-riding and other maneuvering tricks.

Humping—Waves rising up rapidly just prior to breaking; sometimes refers to huge waves.

Insepia—Riding on the nose of a board with one foot forward and both hands stretched out in front.

Inshore—The shoal water just off the beach and inside the break.

Inside—The surfing area closest to the beach and inside the breaking surf.

Kamikaze—When a surfer stands on the nose of his board with his arms forming a cross with his body.

- Kicking out*—Stepping to the tail of the board and pulling it out and over the top of the wave.
- Knots*—Lumps that swell up just below the knee and on the top of the foot as the result of paddling on one's knees.
- Kuk*—A raw beginner who is just learning to surf.
- Late Take-off*—Catching a wave as it starts to break, which usually ends in disaster. Generally, the wave has already started to crash.
- Left slide*—Angling left on a wave that is breaking from right to left.
- Line*—A wave that forms a steep, long wall of water, ordinarily making for an extremely fast ride.
- Line up*—Keeping track of your position in the water by lining yourself up with two fixed land objects.
- Nose*—The bow or front of the surfboard.
- Nosing*—When the front of the surfboard slips under water while riding a wave.
- Offshore wind*—Wind blowing off the shore toward the sea. It pushes spray off the crests of the waves; also makes a wave hold up better.
- Out of control*—Coming down a wave and not being able to control your board.
- Outside*—Beyond the surfline where the waves don't ordinarily break. Also the yell or warning that a wave is approaching.
- Over the falls*—When a surfer becomes caught in the curl of a wave and gets sucked over with it as it crashes.
- Paddleboard*—A hollow wood surfboard (sometimes light foam or plastic) used to paddle across water.

Paipo board—Hawaiian Islander's term for bellyboard; a very short board.

Peak—Highest part of the crest of a wave, usually tapering off with a shoulder on either side.

Peak up—When a swell begins to build up to break.

Pearling—When the nose of the surfboard dips deep enough to cause a slowup, or actually causes the board to submerge. Same as "nosing."

Pier break—Waves breaking close to or under a pier.

Pig board—Surfboard with a pointed nose and a broad tail.

Pin Tail—Surfboard with a long tapering tail which comes almost to a point.

Pop-outs—Mass produced surfboards of the cheaper variety.

Pounders—Crashing, unridable waves; combers and "dumpers" that are unmanageable.

Pull out—Getting off a ride by means of steering the board over, or through, the face of the wave. Several different ways of performing it.

Pushing through—Paddling the board seaward through broken waves.

Quasimodo—Riding on the nose of the board in a crouched position, with one arm forward and one arm back.

Rail—Edge of the surfboard.

Reverse pullout—Kicking out of a wave by twisting the body to the rear quickly and impelling the board over the top of the wave.

Right slide—Slanting right on a wave that is breaking from left to right.

Riptide or Rip—Current of water moving seaward or horizontal to shore, caused by massive quantities of water seeking an outlet to sea. Very dangerous when strong.

Rocker—The slight upward slope in a surfboard; the concave lengthwise curve of it.

Rolling over—Rolling beneath the board to allow a big broken wave to pass over board and surfer; done when trying to push through breakers.

Section—When a wave breaks in front of a surfer, making it difficult to make the wave.

Set—A group or series of waves coming simultaneously.

Shooting the pier—When a surfer rides through the pilings of a pier, or attempts to.

Shooting the tube—Surfing through the hollow section of the wave curl. Ordinarily done in a crouching or prone position.

Shorebreak—Waves breaking close to the beach. Often not too good for riding.

Shoulder—The unbroken portion of a swell to the side of a breaking wave. The section next to the white water.

Shuffle—A movement toward the bow of the board done by moving one foot after another and not crossing the feet.

Skeg—The fin or rudder at the tail of the surfboard.

Sliding—Riding down the wave.

Soup—The frothy, broken part of a wave; the white water.

Spiller—A cresting wave that breaks gradually forward.

Spinner—Surfer turning a complete circle while riding a wave.

Spoon—Same as the “rocker.”

Squatting through—When a surfer is compelled to crouch down to avoid being caught by the curl of a wave as it pours over.

Stall—The maneuver of slowing the board when it has begun to outdistance the wave; allows for the break to catch up. Surfer steps back toward the tail to do it.

Stoked—Seeing something a surfer likes.

Stringer—The strip (or strips) of wood laminated into a surfboard for decoration and strength. Sets the rocker.

Surfari—A surfing junket or trip in quest of good surf.

Surfs down—Flat surf; inferior for surfing; maybe none at all.

Surf's up—Big surf; possibly even unridable.

Swells—Unbroken waves.

Tail—The stern or rear end of the surfboard.

Tail block—Back of the board.

Takeoff—The start of a ride on a wave.

Taking gas—Getting trapped in the curl of a wave and losing your board.

Tandem—When two people ride together on a board; generally a man and a woman.

Ten toes—Ten toes hanging over the nose of the board.

Toes over—Walking to the front of the board and hanging ten toes over the end.

Top rack—A surfboard rack that fits on top of a car.

Trim—To steer the board so that it planes best across the face of a wave by placing the body weight on the board so that it sits correctly in the water.

Trough—The low space or chasm between two swells.

Tube—The hollow shaped tunnel formed as a wave curls forward for the break.

Tunnel—Same as the "tube."

Turning—Same as "angling."

Walking the board—Walking back and forth on board for control.

Walking the nose—Moving forward on the board toward the bow or nose.

Wall—The steep forward portion of a wave. The glassy face.

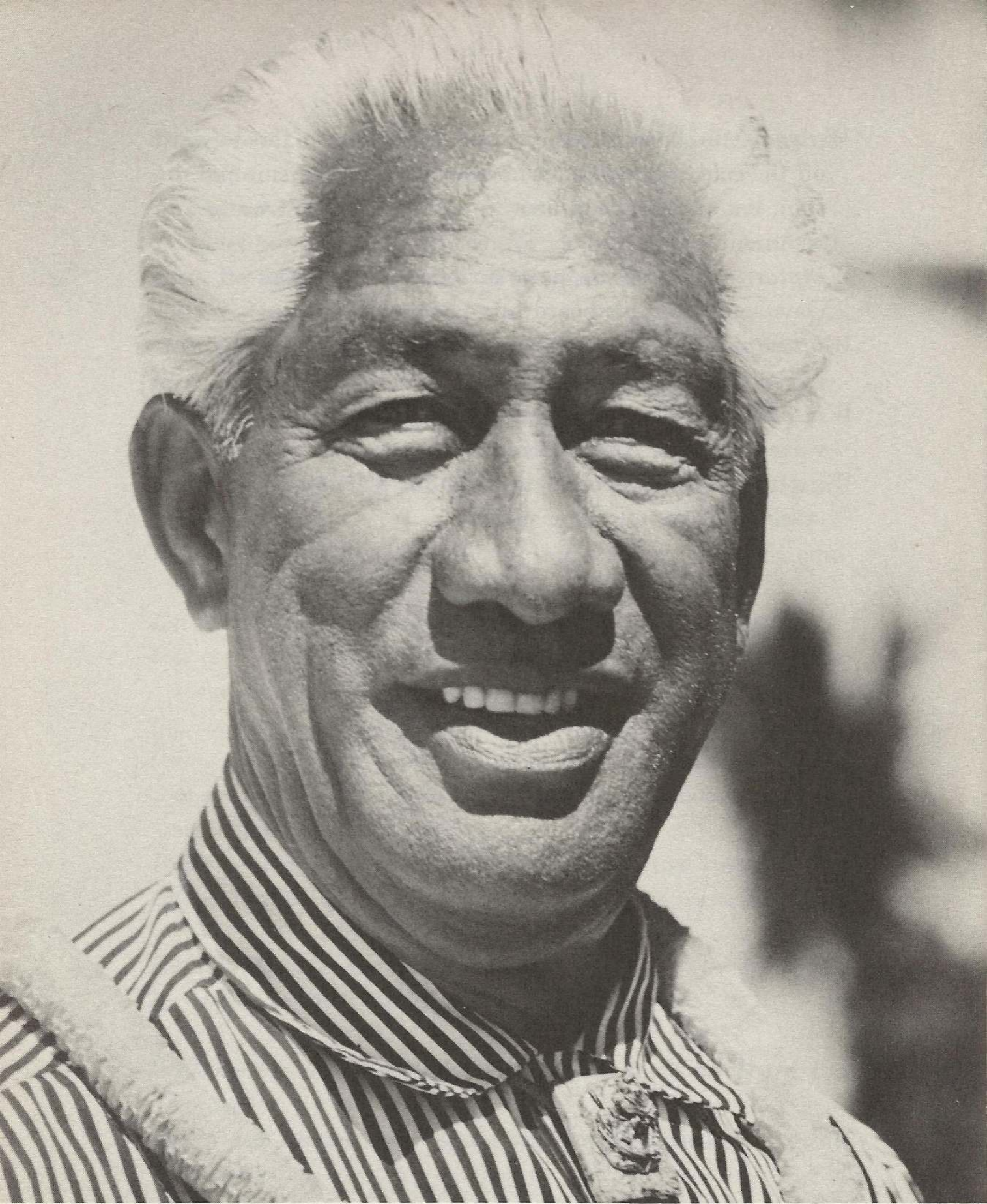
Wet suit—Rubber suit used by skindivers and surfers to ward off the cold. Allows water to enter between the suit and the skin, but enables body heat to warm the film of water and retain some of it.

Whipturn—Turn made by a surfer when he takes off on a wave and snaps his board into position swiftly.

Whitecaps—The tops of waves or swells blown off at sea, forming spume or spindrift.

White water—The foaming, bubbling, roily part of a broken wave or waves. Also referred to as “soup.”

Wipe-out—Being knocked down or off a board by either a crashing wave or another surfer.



Duke Kahanamoku at age 75.



BIBLIOGRAPHY



Duke Kahanamoku's World of Surfing

by Joe Brennan, Grosset & Dunlap, N.Y. 1968

Duke of Hawaii

by Joe Brennan, Ballantine, N.Y. 1968

World of Surfing

by Joe Brennan, Angus & Robertson, Sidney, Australia, 1973



INDEX

- Alakea Slip, 9
Albert, King, 25, 27
Ali'i, 15, 17
Antwerp, 25
- Beachboy, 9, 15
Bernice Pauahi Paki Bishop, 15
"Bluebirds": The Great Ride,
21, 23
- Colman, Ronald, 27
Corona del Mar: The Great
Rescue, 31
- Gustav, King, 13
- Hollywood, 31
Honolulu Star Bulletin, 17
- Kalakaua, King, 9
- McKinley High School, 9
- "Official Greeter of Honolulu," 39
Olympics, 7, 15, 25, 27
- Sheriff of Honolulu, 39
Stockholm, 13
Surfing Hall of Fame, 39
Swimming Hall of Fame, 39
- Wayne, John, 27
Weissmuller, Johnny, 27
Wilhelmina, 15
Wright, Mayor Fred, 37

Images Processed by Gary Brin
Copyright © 2023 Nancy Hanks Lincoln Public Library

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Historical Book Collection



Nancy
Hanks
Lincoln
Public
Library

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN PUBLIC LIBRARY
Historical Book Collection