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DUKE VISITS AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, 1915

By EDWIN NORTH McCLELLAN
(Concluding PART THREE from January 1957)

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, George Cunha and Francis Evans, were warmly greeted on their return to Sydney. "Glasses clinked for the last time . . . between the New South Wales Amateur Swimming Association and Duke Kahanamoku," wrote William F. Corbett in the Sydney Sun, February 28, 1915. "While Kahanamoku tucked under his arm a large parcel of medals to be placed in the treasure-box with a big collection of other valuable souvenirs, he told me of many good impressions the three Hawaii-born visitors would carry away."

"I have had a great time down here," said Duke amidst cheers as he responded to a toast. "I hate to leave such a wonderful place. I think, if I returned to Australia a year or so hence it might be to suffer defeat." Other toasts were proposed but The Duke honored those appropriately with a liquid not champagne.

DUKE, "A SPLENDID FELLOW"

"We all think Duke a splendid fellow," said Fred Williams, the Father of Surf-bathing in Australia. "What a wonderful knack he has of suiting himself to any position . . . This was especially noticeable at all gatherings and picnics of which he was the central figure."

HE LEFT SOMETHING OF "GREAT WORTH"

"Duke Kahanamoku has left something, the great worth of which will be demonstrated in swimming seasons to come," continued Mr. Williams. "The instinctive genius of the young Australian is well known. Already, hundreds of him may be seen practicing the 'Kahanamoku Kick', a method of propulsion different from other methods."

MELBOURNE

The Kahanamoku Party was cordially welcomed at Melbourne. Duke won the hundred-yard race in the Melbourne Swimming Carnival; George Cunha was second and Harry Hay, third; but in the hundred-meter handicap, The Duke and Hay swum a dead heat. Duke and George took part in many other races and exhibitions in the Melbourne area. Duke won twenty-five of thirty-three races (some handicap) in Australia. Next! Off to New Zealand—*Ai-Tea-Roa*, the Long Bright World; or *Nuku-Roa*, the Far-Stretching Land.

WELLINGTON, CAPITAL OF NEW ZEALAND

Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, George Cunha and Francis Evans, arrived at Wellington on the southern end of North Island aboard the *Moerake*, February 23, 1915. "We swum at Wellington and the water

was chilly," explained Podgie Cunha to me at Atlantic City on February 3, 1957. George on that date gave me lots of good information.

ON TO CHRISTCHURCH

From Wellington, the American Trio ferried across Cook Strait to South Island and railed southward to Christchurch,



Duka P. Kahanamoku who wears many hats. Here he is as a skipper.

the metropolis of Canterbury Provincial District. "The world's champion swimmer Duke Kahanamoku of Hawaii, . . . Francis Evans, . . . also Hawaiian; and Mr. G. Cunha another speedy swimmer, arrived in Christchurch from Sydney via Wellington," reported a Christchurch newspaper. Mr. W.E.D. Bishop, President of the Canterbury Center, extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the local swimmers. Other leading citizens voiced similar sentiments.

DUKE "WOULD PASS MUSTER AS A MAORI"

"Duke Kahanamoku would pass muster as a Maori (Polynesian aborigine of New Zealand), a rather big handsome Maori, with all the outward and visible qualities of the Native Islander," continued the newspaper, "only he comes from different latitudes, from a Little White Pearl of the North Pacific, the Islands of Hawaii, which to him is home." The Duke replied in his usual modest and brief style.

MEET MAORIS AT MAORI DINNER

The Surf Club took charge of Duke, George and Francis for a day. In the morning they motored to Rona Bay. Next, to Lyall Bay where they were guests of High Chief and Mrs. H. Tukino, at a real Maori dinner. The Americans were welcomed in true Maori fashion, with greeting "*Haere-mai*" and the Maori nose-pressing salutation. At the close of the meal, Mr. Tukino offered a toast to The Duke which was drunk with champagne. The Duke responded with an appropriate toast but wet it with a beverage other than champagne.

DUKE INTRODUCES MODERN SURFBOARDING

From the Tukino home, the Kahanamoku Party was escorted to the broad sandy beach at New Brighton by Canterbury Center officials. "It was a calm day which flattened the surf," explained the newspaper under Heading—"SHOOTING THE SURF." The Duke astounded hundreds of onlookers with an exhibition of surfboard-riding—both lying-down and standing-up.

"The water is excellent but nippy and the surf short in the break," explained The Duke. "The boards here should be much heavier, wider and tapered at the ends."

MAORI "HAKA"; MAORI BABY

After "afternoon tea" at the Surf Club, Duke and his two companions returned to the Tukino Residence. Mrs. Tukino made a nice speech. Chief Tukino inscribed a message in Maori in Duke's Autograph Album. Duke had his picture taken with a Maori baby in his arms. A *haka* was given on the lawn in the visitor's honor. Duke, George and Francis said *aloha* to the Tukinos and his friendly Maoris who, with much waving of shawls, farewelled the departing guests with "*Haere-ra! Haere-ra!*"

DOWN TO DUNEDIN

Aboard a railway train the American Swimming Expedition travelled southward across the fertile Canterbury Plains, running parallel to the ocean and often skirting it, through Ashburton, Temuka, Timaru, Oamaru and Palmerston, to Dunedin. Of course, Duke and George swam exhibitions in this very attractive town. At Dunedin, The Duke met an old Hawaiian who had made his home there for years.

BACK TO WELLINGTON

Duke, George and Francis, returned north by railway, and boat across Cook Strait, to Wellington. Stopping briefly at towns enroute, they arrived at Auckland the middle of March 1915.

AUCKLAND

Several races and exhibitions were swam at Auckland by Duke and George. The "Human Fish", as the Maoris called The Duke, broke the world's record for fifty-yards. He and George swam in the Calliope Dock, at the Hamilton Swimming Club and other places.

ROTORURA, THE AMAZING GEYSERLAND

For several days, Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, George Cunha and Francis Evans, enjoyed the wonders of Rotorura with its Spa, boiling springs, living-waters, and restful atmosphere, about one thousand feet above sea-level. The Duke talked with the Maoris, viewed their ceremonial dances, and their great war canoes on the Lake. He also saw the various articles of greenstone (nephrite) ornaments, clubs, ceremonial *Toki Pou Tangate* (greenstone adze with carved haft), *Tiki*

(greenstone ornament in human form), and other greenstone articles.

The Americans returned to Auckland and sailed homeward-bound aboard the *Niagara*. The Duke left behind him a record of forty-five victories out of sixty races (many handicap).

BACK HOME, APRIL 4, 1915

On the way to Honolulu the *Niagara* stopped at Suva in the Fiji Islands, where the Trio saw a most remarkable native swimmer who "leaped" through the salt water. Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, George Cunha and Francis Evans arrived at Honolulu, April 4, 1915. All three declared it was the greatest trip they had ever made. "The trip through Australia and New Zealand has been one great series of winning races and erradicating records," reported the *Star-Bulletin*. Above all, this grand expedition, led by the Bronze Duke of Waikiki, probably was the greatest creator of international goodwill ever sent out of Hawaii.

"*Aloha nui loa!* Duke, George and Francis, wherever you may be!"