

CHAMPION SPRINT SWIMMER OF THE WORLD RETURNS FROM THE MAINLAND

Duke P. Kahanamoku, Home Again, Reports Hawaiian Party Had Great Time--Had Everything Fixed to Go Into Aviation Service In Washington When Spanish Flu Got Him

By DUKE P. KAHANAMOKU

Glad to be back in Hawaii? Well, I rather guess I am. Honolulu looks like heaven to me and early in the morning I expect to take the first dip in the sea at dear old Waikiki since my return. I got back here today in the Shinyo Maru from San Francisco and landed at 4 o'clock, too late in the afternoon for a salt water swim.

I met many people and things on the mainland but my encounter with the Spanish influenza, with which I became acquainted in Washington, D. C., was one which will remain green in my memory as long as I live. The way the sickness was sweeping through the mainland I really thought it was goodbye Hawaii for me.

Well, I got over it all right and here I am. I was weighing 200 pounds when the "flu" knocked me out and they took me to the Emergency Hospital in Washington. When I got out ten days later my weight had been reduced to 175 pounds. But the trip home, especially in the boat from the Coast, did me a lot of good. As soon as I landed I went on the scales and tipped the beam at 191½ pounds.

Sorry Too Late for Service

They tell me that I don't have to be inducted into service now, since the war is over. I am sorry such is the case, for I have been trying to get into the service right along.

My natural bent was to go in the air service. Somehow, I have felt that in this branch I could be of more service to my country than otherwise. I made every effort while in Washington to get admitted into the flying corps.

I knew personally Lieutenant Colonel Harmon, Major Clark's brother-in-law, and I sought him out in Washington. He gave me every encouragement and for a time I thought it would be a go. He sent me to Major Reynolds, head of the aviation service. He, too, thought I could make it, and recommended me for admission. Major Reynolds thought that I had the right build and physique for this branch of the service. He said he would fix it up for me and handed me an application to sign.

Just then there came to me in Washington Major Field's consent that I take my physical examination over there and I did. And then came the Spanish "flu" and it sure did for me. If I live to be a centenarian I will always be sorry illness should have come my way just at the time I was on the threshold of realizing the ambition of my life—become a Yank aviator.

I recovered slowly and made the trip to San Francisco by easy stages, but I have not given up all hopes of going into the aviation service. I am ready to answer the call now, be whatever it may be. Meanwhile I guess I will have to look around for some kind of a job. It takes money to live and I can not very well do so without going to work. Being a world champion doesn't bring me poi and fish and bread and meat and I have those who are dependent on me.

The Hawaiian boys had a great time during the trip. We were away almost six months. Still I have been away longer than that on previous swimming trips. When I competed in the Stockholm Olympiad I was away nine months from Hawaii. Two or three times since I have made trips which kept me away five or six months and the Australian trip also had me away from Honolulu several months.

Everybody was nice to us in the mainland; they couldn't have been kinder and the members of the party certainly appreciate it all and we are deeply grateful for the sincere and kind treatment which was accorded us.

Tour Helpers Praised

Chair Tait, the coach and trainer whom the Navy kindly allowed to accompany us, beat the whole bunch in the trip back home. That was the only race he won during the wanderings which carried us over tens of thousands of miles around in the United States and Canada. Tait was a wonder, though, in his work and we all owe him a lot for his efforts and services. He is just as much entitled to credit for the many records established by Lane, Kruger and myself as we are.

Owen Merrick, manager of the tour and our publicity man, could not have worked harder than he did. There were many times after meets and all that that he would be still up and doing while we were reposing in peaceful slumber. The last I heard of Brother Merrick was that he was just about getting ready to start for "Over There."

I have been asked since my return if it is true that I was left stranded after leaving Washington and that some kind friends had come to my rescue to see me back home.

No, that is not so. No one could get stranded with such treatment as we all received in the mainland. I have no complaint to make on any score except as to what the "flu" did to me and for that the good mainland people can not be held responsible.

Trip Was Big Success

Was the trip a success? Yes, the trip of the Hawaiian swimmers was a success in every sense of the word, even if I say so myself. We were able, in the name of American Hawaii to do our little bit for the cause and the Red Cross came in for our share of the work. And sure the tour advertised Hawaii. No kapa about it at all.

Swimming is now all the go in the mainland and I can say that the re-

TELLS TOUR STORY



DUKE P. KAHANAMOKU, Who Returned Yesterday From the Mainland

cent trip was a great boost for the game everywhere. We swam in places where the art as an athletic pastime was hardly known. They are now all doing it.

There were more records broken and new ones established by the swimmers of the party than has been known to have been the case in any other trip and tour of this kind. The credit for all this belongs to dear Hawaii.

Clarence Lane is a sure comer. The boy is traveling in the water faster than ever before and some day will be the swimming champion of the world in the sprints. Harold Kruger has no equal in the whole world today in the long stroke distances and it will be a long time before the world produces another like him.

Mates Left In Service

The two boys were left by the party at Pelham Bay, New York, where they are doing their bit for the country as swimming instructors at the naval station there. They will be back in Hawaii as soon as their services are no longer required and they have completed their higher education. Lane was taken down with appendicitis in Washington and for a time we thought he would have to undergo an operation. The doctors fixed him up though, and he did not have to go under the knife.

I was still in San Francisco when the news indicated that the world war would be over in a short time, but this news did not seem to cause a wild outburst of enthusiasm among the people. Even though San Franciscans were then in a death grapple with an epidemic of influenza, the feeling was that Uncle Sam should go on with the war until the last Hun had laid down his weapons of murder, rape and arson and with bended knee acknowledge that he was beaten and was ready to take what an outraged world had prepared for him.

Celebration In Mid-Ocean

The news that the armistice had been signed and that the world war was over, after four years and more of German atrocities, came to us by wireless aboard ship in mid-ocean. For a time the passengers were stunned. They hardly realized the greatness of the news. Then it all burst forth. There was a spontaneous celebration. Everybody cheered and made merry. The steamer whistle blew for half an hour. Yes, the Yanks and their good European friends sure had the Hun beaten to a frazzle.

Well, this is about all I have to say about the trip. I'm off now to bed and for an early morning dip in the sea at Waikiki.

And not another word, written or spoken, could be gotten out of Duke P. Kahanamoku.

W. S. S.

Official Advertiser Calendar of Sports

Nov. 10—Opening of the Oahu Service Athletic League football series.

Nov. 16—Interscholastic League football games, 3:30 p. m., Kama vs. McKinley at Kalihii Field; Puns vs. Military Academy, at Alexander Field.

Nov. 18—Opening of Bethel Street Bowling League series.

Nov. 23—Interscholastic League football games, 3:30 p. m., Puns vs. Kama, at Alexander Field; Military Academy vs. McKinley, at Kalihii Field.

Nov. 24—Championship tournament of Honolulu Golf Club for Wall & Dougherty Cup, Mennahua links.

Nov. 28—Baseball, Capital vs. Judiciary Building, Moiliili Field, morning.

Nov. 28—Boxing exhibition card by Second Hawaiian Infantry at Schofield.

Jan. 1—Auto and motorcycle endurance race meet, Kapiolani Park.