

No Tourists, But Strike Has No Fears For Beach Boys



Slow days for these beach boys, "Molokai" Horner, "Sally" Hale and "Splash" Lyons. (Advertiser Photo.)

As long as Waikiki's beach boys can catch an elusive lunch at the end of their fishing spears, and go troubadoring at night with a guitar, an ukulele and a baritone, the deserted beaches and the Pacific maritime strike hold no terror for them.

According to spokesman "Sally" Hale of the Waikiki beach patrol, Honolulu's beach boys who officially smooth pillows and hoist umbrellas for visiting tourists, are now enjoying their own vacation on a beach which supports only two umbrellas and one surfboard student-tourist.

"The boys are not broke," Sally declared. "One of the 15 still has a tourist job, and the rest are living on what they gleaned during the bumper tourist season. In case they really need some extra money, the beach patrol pays them to re-paint outrigger canoes, re-condition surfboards, and repair the umbrellas."

PLENTY OF GAMES

According to Hale, the boys amuse themselves playing dominos or tennis, catching fish on the reefs for lunch, and singing for parties in the evening.

"It's not like the good old days though, when a boy considered \$15 a day the normal wage, and, if he exerted himself slightly, he could pull down fifty bucks daily with little effort," Sally reminisced.

"Those boom days were back in '28 and '29, when people had more money than was good for them and when a fifty dollar tip was expected instead of a fiver. Now the beach looks like it did back in 1920, before tourists began to be attracted here by South Sea island ads."

RECALLS "DAVE"

When asked whether he recalled the time in April of 1920, when the then youthful Edward, Prince of Wales, visited Waikiki, the veteran beach patrolman smiled. "Yes, we all remember Dave—the beach boys all called him Dave. He was a good egg, and he actually learned to stand up on a surfboard before he left the islands."

As he described several impressions of the former British king, "Sally" recounted one story that has never been published, which had to do with the heroism of Duke Kahanamoku, whose quick thinking narrowly averted an accident which might have been a serious one to the prince.

"We were out surfing in the big waves, and Duke was riding tandem with the prince," "Sally" explained. "Suddenly a surfer in back lost control of his board, and it came hurtling toward Duke and 'Dave.' Duke saw it just in time, and he crawled up over the prince. The board struck Duke square on the back, but it just missed the prince's head by inches."