



HOO MALI MALI

(Kid 'em along)

RED McQUEEN

SMITH PARTY IS HUGE SUCCESS

The testimonial dinner to Bill Smith, our great swimmer, at the Outrigger Canoe Club Monday night was a tremendous success.

Those who thought up the idea of honoring this grand son of the soil who returned the Islands to their former lofty position in the aquatic sun, deserve a world of credit.

As another famous Island athlete who deserved a similar tribute on his retirement from football not so many years ago put it after the banquet, the only thing wrong with the shindig was "we haven't had half enough of them."

Everyone showered lavish praise on Bill and he took it with the same modesty that has characterized his entire brilliant career. The youngster received many fine gifts. He probably cherishes most the life membership in the Outrigger Canoe Club that came from Earl Vida and his Honolulu Baseball League. This gift might have come from the club itself but we guess Earl thought of it first.

For a while we were afraid that the politicians—and they overran the place—would steal the show. Virtually the entire legislature was present and there was handshaking in great profusion but no cigars—too far away from the next election.

The good Senators and Representatives, however, had quite a time trying to out-talk some of the oldtimer athletes who were also out in great numbers.

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The main speaker of the evening was President Gregg M. Sinclair of the University of Hawaii who did an excellent job of reviewing young Bill's career as a swimmer, taking his listeners back to the lad's boyhood when his father decided that Bill Junior should take up swimming—"not with the idea of becoming a champion swimmer, but solely in the interest of his health."

At the age of ten Bill was stricken so severely with typhoid fever that his life was in danger for several years. His father carried him to the beach of Waikiki every day and his climb to the pinnacle of the aquatic sport begins from there.

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Not entirely for the benefit of the legislators present, but President Sinclair indicated elaborate post-war swimming plans at the University, hinting strongly that Soichi Sakamoto, great Maui coach who developed our Bill, might be brought here and be put to greater use.

Several measures are before both houses of the legislature that would provide a new fieldhouse and eventually a million-dollar sports layout at the University.

It is possible that both Smith and his former Maui and college teammate, Keo Nakama, now in graduate school at Ohio State seeking his master's degree, could be associated with Sakamoto in a swimming program at the University that would assure the territory of lasting aquatic fame.

Considerable reference was made throughout the evening to the proposed new sports plant at the University. The general opinion was that it was a swell idea.

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Just as it should be the highlight of the evening was the extemporaneous speech made by the guest of honor himself, in accepting a gift of a platinum wrist watch from the sportsmen attending the dinner, presented by Gov. Stainback.

Bill modestly credited his success to the superb coaching of Soichi Sakamoto and the excellent assistance of his teammate Keo Nakama and his coach at Ohio State, Mike Peppe. Bill expressed regret that they could not be here to share in the honors being bestowed upon him.

Young Bill, decked out in his uniform of a Navy athletic specialist, characterized himself as a silver-tongued orator, something unusual for an athlete.

Senator Francis Brown, one of the most beloved of Island athletes, impressed upon young Bill the importance of his present role of championing the cause of liberty for his country.

We are confident young Bill will emerge from the present conflict with a record comparable to his great achievements to date, and go on to greater heights in the athletic world.