

## SWIMMERS NIGHT AT AQUA PARADE TUESDAY NIGHT

Hawaii's swimmers—past and present—will have a chance to rehash aquatic history Tuesday night. It will be "Swimmers Night" at the Honolulu Stadium, where the HGEA-Buster Crabbe Aqua Parade of 1950 is playing.

Two sections—32 and 34—will be set aside for swimmers and their families. Although the seats are in the reserved area, only general admission tickets will be required, HGEA officials said in announcing the event. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

The idea of having a "Swimmers Night" was conceived the other afternoon when a group of near-legendary figures of the local aquatic world got together at an Outrigger Canoe Club party for Buster and Stubby Kruger.

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Except for Duke Kahanamoku, who was in New York, and Warren Kealoha, virtually everyone of the old gang that first put Hawaii on the swimming map was present.

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The oldest member, from the standpoint of history, was Lew Henderson, who managed Duke and Zen Genoves. Lew took these two early greats on their first trip to New York in 1911, when they were just kids.

That same year, Lew recalled, the Hui Nalu Club had been founded by the late William Rawlins. "Bill believed that the beach-boys should have a club," Lew said. "So he started one. He knew the boys were terrific swimmers because they were in the water most of the day and chasing surfboards had built up their speed.

"The first time Judge Rawlins laid out a 100-yard course at San Souci beach, four of the boys beat the world's record."

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It was about this time that the local AAU was formed and a meet was arranged for Honolulu harbor, between the Transport pier and Pier 5, where 50 and 100 yard courses were laid out.

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Duke, swimming for Hui Nalu, proceeded to clip 10 seconds off the world's record for the 100, then held by Charles Daniels.

But AAU officials in New York were skeptical. "They wired: 'We're from Missouri!'", when informed of Duke's mark, said Lew, "so we determined to show them."

Benefits were organized and sufficient funds raised to send Duke and Genoves—a coming distance swimmer—to the Mainland. Duke at that time was just 20 years old.

Henderson accompanied the boys on the trip and they gradually worked their way to New York City.

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"When we walked into the AAU office," Lew said, "the association secretary came over, shook the Duke's hand, and said, 'You need no introduction. Your swimming across the states has proven that you are on the Olympic team.' Duke went on from there to become the world's greatest sprint swimmer."

Such reminiscing went on all evening.

Zen, who also went on to great heights, was the oldest swimmer present at the Outrigger shindig and everyone marvelled at his fitness. Another one still retaining his marvelous physique and very much in evidence was Bob Fuller, Hawaii's greatest diver and Mr. Body Beautiful of his time. Another diving great among those present was Enay Makinney.

Then there was W.W. (Wild Bill) Harris, great freestyler, just back from the Coast after an absence of two years.

Dad Center, described by Buster Crabbe as the greatest swimming coach in the world, was very much in evidence. What's more, Dad cooked up the party at the expense of the Outrigger Club.

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Other oldtimers included Stubby's brother, Hanawaki Kruger, an aquatic star in his own rights; Clarence Lane, Sam and Sergeant Kahanamoku, Johnny Woodd, Toots Minvielle, Gay Harris, Billy and Mason Newport, Johnny and Bill Hollinger; and a whole slew of other aquatic characters.

Representing the distaff department were Helen Moses Cassidy, Mariechen Wehselau Jackson, Mildred Slaght Bauckham, Helen's mother who accompanied her on most of her trips, and of course the party wouldn't have been complete without Mrs. E. Fullard-Leo, Mrs. AAU herself, looking just as pert as a co-ed.

Yes, 'twas quite a shindig. Missed very much was Papa John D. Kaupiko, who was indisposed, but Papa Sterling, boss-man of the Kamaaina Beachcombers' Hui, took the bows for both of them.

An even more representative group including the Duke himself is expected to be on hand at the Stadium tomorrow night. Come on out and get into the swim.