



HOO MALI MALI

(Kid 'em along)

RED McQUEEN

HERE'S TO YOU, DAD

One of the best loved guys in our town embarks on a new milestone tomorrow.

May 1 marks the retirement of George (Dad) Center from Theo. H. Davies and Company after nearly 50 years of employment.

This is not Dad's "obit" so we shall not attempt to extoll his virtues, which strangely enough is generally done only after some one kicks off.

But it was a touching aloha that the "black gang" gave him recently at the Davies garage. It was off limits for the company's brass. The black gang had Dad all to themselves and the esteem in which he was held by this element of the company was clearly manifested by a hundred per cent turnout. It was a tribute reserved for only such grand persons as Dad.

The black gang is known to hold little shindigs on various occasions such as Christmas eve and Dad promised the boys that he wouldn't fail to be with them. That seemed to make his retirement less drastic.

Of course, Dad will always be remembered by the community most for his contributions to swimming.

He developed some of our greatest swimmers, foremost among them, Olympic Champion Clarence (Buster) Crabbe.

Ludy Langer and W. W. (Wild Bill) Harris were earlier proteges of the famed mentor, once described by Yale's Bob Kiphuth as the greatest coach in the game.

Dad was named head coach of the United States Olympic team of 1920 that included such local luminaries as Duke Kahanamoku, Ludy Langer, Wild Bill Harris, and Pua and Warren Kealoha.

Dad made several trips to Japan and Australia with outstanding Island swimmers.

Dad didn't confine his coaching to the boys; he also developed some of the Islands' greatest mermaids. Mariechen Wehseleau Jackson was his outstanding pupil, developing into an outstanding member of the U. S. Olympic team for the 1924 games at Paris.

Helen Moses Cassidy, Lily Bowmer May, Janice Lovett Makinney, Olga Clark and Mildred Slight were other prize proteges of Dad's who carved their niche in Hawaii's aquatic hall of fame.

Retirement means more time for his beloved Outrigger and surfing at Waikiki where he has spent most of his leisure hours down through the years. It also means more time for golf at the Oahu Country Club, where for instance today, he will be in the thick of things when the Nuuanu clubmen and members of the Hawaiian Golf Club will get together for another of their famous inter-club matches.

It'll be here's to you, Dad! And he'll know what everyone means—fun and good health and the best of everything to a grand guy for a long time to come.