

A Happy Birthday to Duke Kahanamoku

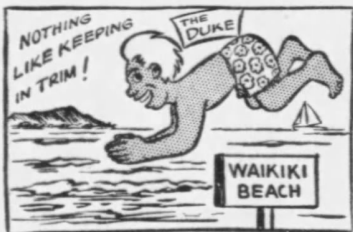
Hawaii's great swim champion and the most famous athlete to come off Waikiki beach is celebrating his 60th birthday anniversary today.

His millions of friends, followers and admirers around the globe join together in wishing a "Happy Birthday" to Duke Kahanamoku.

They will be happy to know that the bronze-tinted champion of yesteryear has never really "retired" from the water. Nearly daily, after a busy day in his role as city and county sheriff, "the duke" is seen on the beach "keeping trim."

Today, nearly four decades after his name started to make swimming headlines, Duke is still a perfect physical specimen.

He stands as a symbol of manhood—an idol among thousands of growing lads in Hawaii nei.



SMILE, CORDIAL NATURE REAL AS DIAMOND HEAD

Duke is kind, sympathetic, generous and friendly. His warm smile and cordial nature are as real and genuine as Diamond Head. Tall, husky, well-composed, the Duke is a striking figure with his silver-grey hair.

On a surf board, or in an outrigger canoe—a familiar scene on Waikiki most any afternoon—Duke's perfect, bronze-colored body glistens in the bright sun. He seems as much of a fixture to our famous beach as the sand itself.

While today is the occasion of Duke's birthday anniversary, the real celebration honoring Hawaii's favorite son is scheduled all day Saturday.

The Outrigger Canoe club has set the pace in the observance of Duke Kahanamoku Day Saturday. From early morning until late evening, the day will be marked with all the sports Duke loves—surfboard, canoe and swimming races, volleyball games.

A break try and dance at the Outrigger club will cap the day's activities honoring this distinguished son of Hawaii.

One race during the day will be a "25-yard sprint." This will feature the great Duke himself, with such other familiar names as George (Dad) Center, Sam Harris and others.

STILL ACTIVE IN LOCAL YACHTING CIRCLES

Duke is still very active in local yachting circles, a proficient skipper of local craft. He has his own Star and wins regularly in races held off Oahu shores.

As I started to write this piece on "the duke," I requested The Star-Bulletin librarian to send the Kahanamoku file to the sports department.

In a few minutes the library lost about half of its clippings.

It would take far more space than this column will permit to do any real justice to Duke's career.

It would take a book to cover his feats as a swimmer, his life as a public official, his appearances before the Hollywood cameras, his presence at social gatherings, his goodwill and business trips to the mainland, his graciousness as Hawaii's chief host.

Simply but sincerely the sporting world of Hawaii extends many happy returns of the day to Duke Kahanamoku!