HOOMALIMALI

By RED McQUEEN

SPORTS EDITOR

HELP KEEP HUI NALU "ALWAYS ON TOP!"

Next possibly to Aloha Oe, nothing tears the strings of our hardened old heart like the alma mammy of the Hui Nalu beach club which winds up: "Always on top, Hui Nalu!"

You can't appreciate what we mean unless you've heard it sung on some occasion by a group of Hui Naluans.

We shall never forget an impromptu get-together some 20 years ago at the Waikiki mansion of a then multi-millionaire malihini. The boys eventually got around to "Hui Nalu."

The host, who had never heard it before and was pretty well looped, went on gabbering away. We tapped him on the shoulder and said: "Kuli kuli (meaning quiet) and stand up, that's Hui Nalu."

He did it but didn't like it. We could easily have been tossed out of the joint.

But several years later when the same grand guy, who is now dead, was practically a kamaaina, there was an identical situation in his same home.

A number of the Hui Nalu gang were there in addition to a lot of other fun lovers, both local and malihini. The boys broke out with Hui Nalu.

One of the malihini guests—and a multi, we may add—who was engrossed with a beautiful blonde, carried on as though it were just another song.

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LIKE A FLASH, who was at him but our old friend, the host.

"Don't you hear that song? Get up and shut up! That's Hui Nalu," said he.

Well, both these guys were made honorary members of Hui Nalu, such as we. And if they were here today, we probably wouldn't have to be doing this piece.

It is all inspired by the fact that John De Kaupiko, affectionately called "Old Man," and his Nui Nalu boys are in need of a helping hand.

Hui Nalu, despite the fact that it lost its clubhouse when the Moana bath house was torn down, and its guiding light when first Skipper Dude Miller and then George Brown passed away, is still keeping its oar in the water under the fine hand of "Old Man" John De.

To get to the Inter-Island Canoe championships at Kona on July 25, the Hui Nalu paddlers need assistance. So they are having a dance Saturday night at the Okole Maluna club, formerly Portuguese Hall, Hanauma Bay at Koko Head.

"Old Man" John De and his boys will be there and you can bet your Sunday hat that they'll do "Hui Nalu."

Come on out with your Aloha shirts and muumuus. Tickets at a buck a throw are available from any of the beach boys and at the desk at the Outrigger.

Leave us now give you a letter from Hazel Hollinger, Bill's wife, which inspired this piece and which contains excellent background about Hui Nalu:

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DEAR RED: During the recent Outrigger Canoe Races in which Hui Kalia, Waikiki Surf, Outrigger Canoe Club, Healani, Koolaupoko and Hui Nalu participated, a certain incident revealed to me that Hui Nalu will cease to exist, except in memory, without the support of all the old members and friends. I do not mean financial only, but definitely the moral support and interest of all those who recall with nostalgia the glory and fine fellowship that made Hui Nalu the top club of its day.

For over fifteen years one person, practically singlehanded, with only aid and encouragement from his good wife, has held the remnants of Hui Nalu together—"Old Man" John De Kaupiko.

In the "Twenty Years Ago" column of last Thursday's Advertiser I noticed Hui Nalu's crew for the Kona Races was publicized. The year that there were no races revived at that time was due to the efforts of Lorrin P. Thurston, Commander Baylis, Dr. Wall, Duke Kahanamoku, Dad Center, Paul Fagan, David Kahanamoku, John De Kaupiko and George Ii Brown. Mr. Brown was the president and due to his keen interest, Hui Nalu survived the loss of their Skipper Dude Miller. When they lost their clubroom in the old Moana bathhouse, due to progress and the march of time, plus the passing on of many members and executive officers, the club became semi-inactive.

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ALSO, INTEREST IN CANOE paddling races had tapered off. However, sparked by foresight and desire to keep the old Hawaiian sport alive, the Outrigger Canoe Club commenced to revive interest in paddling. But there were no clubs to compete with so "Old Man" John De and the chips dropped together. Dr. Wall furnished the famous "White Horse" canoe, Outrigger Club gave kokua and Hui Nalu was back in the races.

It has been a tough struggle for the "Old Man." Today, Hui Nalu's club is under a hau tree on the beach, the paddles and equipment are stored at the "Old Man's" house, the kids have no place to dress, but they still carry on. However, the younger generation can not know the glory and fine sportsmanship that the name "Hui Nalu" brings to the minds of we oldtimers. To many of them it is just a club name. Kids are in a grand sport and a good club but one by one John De has trained boys and girls only to lose fine paddlers to more progressive and aggressive clubs. John De has never asked for kokua but he needs our help, he is getting weary and his dream of "Hui Nalu Always" is fading.

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AT PRESENT THERE IS A drive on for a benefit dance to be held Saturday, July 18th to help defray expenses to send Hui Nalu Crews to the Kona races. The "Old Man" deserves to see old members and friends, in person, at the get-together. He needs our kokua and moral support so the crews will learn the club's background since 1911.

Maybe, Red, you can help spark the flame in your column that will bring a banner turnout to rose the old Hui Nalu song and give the grand young "Old Man" the courage to carry on the fight to keep Hui Nalu "Always on Top."

Aloha Nui,

(Mrs.) BILL HOLLINGER