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NEXT THURSDAY'S revival of the Thanksgiving Day Castle Swim will probably serve to flush out many of Hawaii's great swimmers of bygone days.

They're a little bit gray of hair and round of opu. They puff a little when they walk up a hill, and they—some of them—may be found in bars of a late hour.

But to Hawaii's water sports addicts, they're still the grand old champs.

Most certainly, you'll see on the beach on Thursday, a pair of sneakers filled with a pair of feet topped by a big-chested, curly-haired hunk of man whom everybody calls Dad.

He's George David Center, retired coach of the Outrigger Canoe Club, who'll be 67 years old Christmas Day.

DAD USED TO fill the sports pages with columns of newspaper stories of his own personal feats and those of the teams he whipped together.

Gay Harris, 52, who frequently takes canoe-loads of people out surfing (not for money, "for love,") swam for the Hawaiian Olympic swimming team in 1924. In 1921, he swam in the championship relay against the Yale University Swimming Team.

The captain of the "foreign" team was Lorrin P. Thurston, Kona boy who is publisher of The Advertiser.

In 1926, Gay and Dad Center took the first Island swimming team to Japan.

Then there's Stubby Kruger, who used to appear in movies with Johnny Weissmuller, Duke and Sam Kahanamoku, Ah Kim Yee, 53, who swam for Healani Yacht and Boat Club and Toots Minvielle, among a host of others.

Toots, who is chairman for Thursday's swim, himself won the Castle Swim on four occasions before the event was last held two decades ago.