



By **RON HAWORTH**

Memorable evening

Many of Hawaii's most celebrated water athletes, headed by Duke Kahanamoku, gathered this week at the Outrigger Canoe Club for a banquet.

The Duke, an athlete whose Olympic feats have made him a citizen of the world but who in truth belongs to Hawaii and her people, may have been the only surprised person in the room when he was given Outrigger's top award, the Winged O.

Surfers Joey Cabell and Fred Hemmings were singled out for their one-two showing at Makaha. John McMahon, an enduring surfer with more years and waves behind him than Cabell and Hemmings combined, did the honors.

Everywhere one looked he saw watermen. Dr. Harry Huffaker demolished his steak with the same gusto he swam the Molokai Channel.

And no one made more trips to the awards table than all-around waterman Mike Holmes. The only thing left for Holmes to do with the ocean is drink it dry.

For one and all—from 11-year-old Heidi Hemmings, who steered the novice girls canoe crew, to the distinguished Duke Kahanamoku, it was an evening to remember.

Another poll

Public opinion polls are sweeping the country, covering subjects from politics to the fate of Diamond Head, and once again the calendar has rolled aside 12 months and come back to Surf Spray's poll.

For those who were not with us last year, this poll was begun with the idea of giving deserved credit to those individuals who might not fare too well in a California surf poll.

For example, we wonder how many of those California names who flunked out at Sunset and Makaha last month will be riding high in Surfer Magazine's annual poll to be released this spring?

True, these were but two contests of dozens held during the year, but two more important in world stature would be hard to find.

Certainly the name of Jock Sutherland will rank high, but will George Downing, who entered only Makaha and the Duke meet, get as much as an honorable mention?

It's doubted.

The results of Surf Spray's first poll were both gratifying and ridiculous.

The volume of ballots received was indeed heartening, but far too many were cast in jest. Perhaps the temptation was too great for those readers who enjoy a little tongue-in-cheek.

Today we attack the basic problem from a different angle:

—If Hawaii had but one surfer to represent us in a world round-robin contest, in varying surf conditions, who would be your choice?

—If Hawaii were to nominate a single surfer to take on all comers on both the South and North Shores, who would be your choice?

There it is. A simple and condensed ballot. And as the politician said "We ask your support." Vote for the surfer you think would best carry Hawaii in those two categories.

* * * *

And while we have your undivided attention, here's another thought.

What would you, the reader like to see Surf Spray report? Should you feel there is some area of the sport this column has overlooked, point it out.

The coming year will be a challenging one, and one we hope will carry surfing even further toward its ultimate goal of major sport status.

Future columns will feature a joint interview with Fred Van Dyke and Rick Grigg, and Paul Strauch will speak his mind concerning the Hawaii Surfing Association.