

Duke Kahanamoku

Duke Kahanamoku was far more than simply Hawaii's best-known citizen for over half a century.

In a very real way, he was, as he remains, a symbol of the friendly good will and vigorous achievement in sea, surf and on shore that has marked the Hawaiian people for the world.

It has become an image all Hawaii, all races, have come to share—in fact, an obligation we want to maintain.

Some would call it the Aloha Spirit and say the Duke was its best example.

WHEN HE TURNED 75 two years ago, we and others said the only question for history is how big Duke's legend will become.

Some of the things bearing his name include a scholarship foundation, a beach, a swimming pool at the university, an annual regatta, a restaurant and nightspot, a line of sportswear, a music and recording company, ukuleles, surfboards, a surfing club and an international surfing championship.

All these will help perpetuate Duke's name, as they already have for generations of youngsters who

were born after his famous swimming and surfing achievements.

But far more important is perpetuating Duke's spirit — the friendly, modest young Hawaiian boy whose real accomplishments won the respect of the world, the older man who carried his legend with modest dignity. These are goals all might seek.

HE WAS the "Bronze Duke of Waikiki," and his name was as magic as that of Diamond Head in evoking the image of a pleasant Polynesia.

Many things changed at Waikiki over the many years of Duke Kahanamoku's long life from Monarchy to Jet Age. And in his final few years he aged rapidly into a man reflecting his memories.

But if there was a certain sadness in this there were those days when surfers and sailors off Waikiki would see Duke out on his boat, obviously happy in his element, his silver hair shining in the sun, his eyes gazing in across the surf he rode so well.

That Duke Kahanamoku must always be a part of Hawaii. It is a great sadness to lose him in body now. We must never lose him in spirit later.