

# Looking back at the 'Waikiki Beachboy'

## FROM PAGE D-1

ter. Most of the beachboys were good swimmers, surfers, canoe paddlers and fishermen. They didn't accept just anybody."

The Royal Hawaiian Hotel, opened in 1927 by Matson, brought the world's spotlight to Waikiki and the increased crowds included the rich and famous. Bing Crosby, Cary Grant, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and Mickey Rooney all came to pay their respects to the beachboys. Shirley Temple was even named honorary captain of the Waikiki Beach Patrol, a second beach concession founded in 1934 by the Outrigger Canoe Club.

**W**AIKIKI really began on that little 'postage stamp,' they used to call it, between the Moana and the Royal," said Charlie Lambert, a beachboy from the early 1950s. "I grew up as a kid in Waikiki and first hit the beach when I was about 12, carrying umbrellas and chairs at the Moana Bathhouse."

Timmons said it was Lambert, who later headed up sales for Sheraton Hotels in Hawaii, who came up with the original idea for the book. A longtime collector of Waikiki lore and photographs, he helped Brett Uprichard write a cover story on the old-time beachboys that appeared in Honolulu maga-

zine's 1982 Holiday Annual.

Lambert, who said he's always wanted "to preserve the precious past of Waikiki," interested publisher Gaylord Wilcox of Editions Limited in the project and contacted Timmons, who had previously done a series of interviews with beachboys in 1977.



Timmons

"Waikiki Beachboy," which was designed by Steve Shrader, celebrates the golden age of Waikiki. Its pages capture a romantic, almost innocent time when visitors arrived on ships, surfers rode the waves on wooden boards and musicians strummed their ukuleles along the Moana pier.

**I**T'S not yet in bookstores but is on sale at First Interstate Bank branches and from the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation for \$25 - a discount price which benefits the Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides support to deserving Hawaii athletes and helps perpetuate sports that are part of Hawaii's cultural heritage.

Timmons also will appear at a series of book-signings, including one today at The Willows Restaurant (see information box on Page D-1).

"The Willows is a great place to hold the book's first public

autograph session." Timmons said. "It was there in 1944 that a lonely CBS war correspondent named Arthur Godfrey wandered into the restaurant one night and met a group of beachboys. When they found out that Godfrey could play their ukulele, he was invited to sit in with the house band. Al 'Kealoha' Perry and the Singing Surfriders."

**P**ERRY'S band, which was also the regular orchestra for "Hawaii Calls" showcased the talents of another ukulele player, Squeeze Kamana. Godfrey became good friends with Squeeze and the other beachboys and, later became a na-

tional spokesman for Hawaiian music and the carefree beachboy lifestyle.

Timmons, born in Washington, D.C., and a resident of Hawaii since 1962, is now a writer and editor at the East-West Center. He's always liked going to the beach but, unlike Lambert, said he's never hung out in Waikiki.

"If the truth be known," he said, "I'm more of a golfer than a beachboy. Maybe that's why I loved writing this book. I could become an honorary beachboy just by sitting down with my typewriter."

## LINKS TO STYLE

