THE ISLAND APRIL-JUNE 2019

The Only Official Balboa Island Newsletter - Published by the Balboa Island Improvement Association since 1919

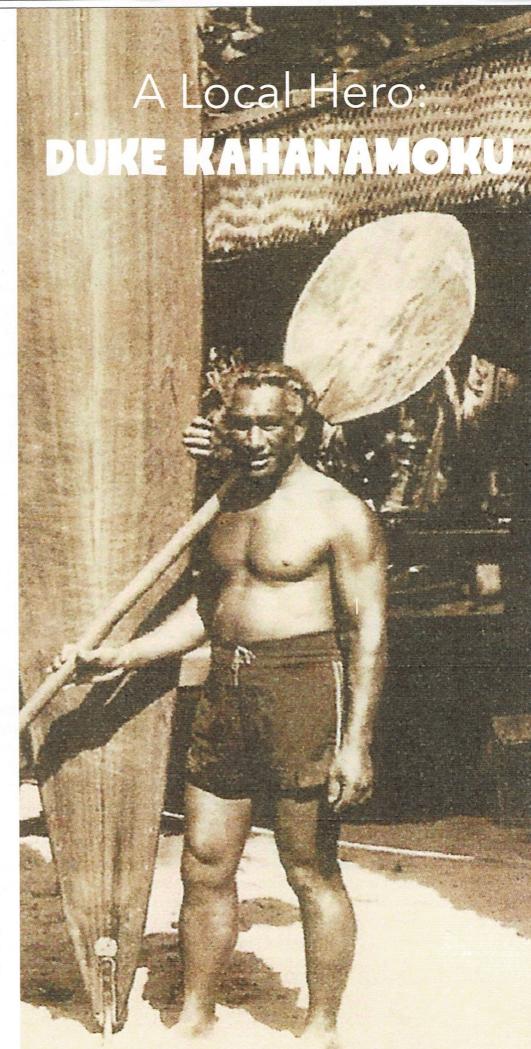




During his Newport Beach years, he was a volunteer in Antar Daraga's life-Saving Corps. On June 14, 1925, Duke became a legend in Newport Beach. Duke just emerged from his tent on the beach at Big Corona and entered the water for a morning swim, when he saw the Thelma overturned at the harbor entrance. Springing into action, Duke, and lifeguards Charlie Plummer and Deraga were able to save 12 of the 17 drowning men. Duke made three trips, delivering a total of seven men to shore on his longboard. Though loved the world over, this act of courage and kindness forever cemented Duke in the hearts of Newport Beach locals.

Duke Kahanamoku, the most influential surfer of all time, was a regular figure in Newport Beach during the 1920s and 30s. Born and raised in Honolulu, Duke, a full blooded Hawaiian, was a first rate swimmer and paddler. After surfing and other forms of native culture had been oppressed by missionary influence, Duke, his five brothers and friends reinvented the sport at the turn-ofthe-century. While winning five Olympic swimming medals from 1912 to 1932 (in Stockholm, Antwerp, Paris and Los Angeles) Duke captivated crowds in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, standing tall atop his 10 foot, redwood board. Usually posed in an elegant, straight back stance, it was not unknown for him to play to the crowd by ending his rides balancing on his head.

continued on page 11





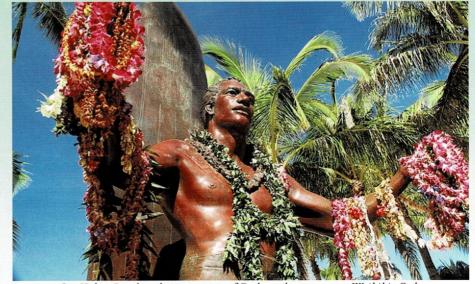
Duke on a fishing trip with John Wayne and his younger brother Robert (far left) in the Sea of Cortez.



Duke poses with Shirley Temple. He appeared in 19 Hollywood films and documentaries.



Duke socialized with the Hollywood and sports crowds, including Charlie Chaplin, John Wayne, and Babe Ruth.



On Kuhio Beach, a bronze statue of Duke welcomes you to Waikiki, Oahu



Duke was named after his father, Duke Halapu. His father was named by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop in honor of a visit from England's Duke of Edinburgh in 1869.

