
HALL, SANDRA KIMBERLY AND GREG AMBROSE, *Memories of Duke The Legend Comes to Life*. Honolulu, HI: The Bess Press, Pp. 145. Photographs, index, Hawaiian terms, \$22.95 pb.

There are other books written on Duke Kahanamoku, none with a more gentle spirit and admiration for this native Hawaiian. Duke still has a large part in the hearts and minds of the people of his state. His life is presented to the reader in five parts: swimmer, surfer, "chief," family man, and his farewell. It comes to the reader with anecdotes, interviews, transcripts from news articles, radio, and television. An impressive collection of black and white photographs comes from archives, museum libraries, and personal collections. The authors provide details not found in other books on the Duke.

A description of his swimming skills were described as his being "half man-half fish" (p. 10). Swimming is where Duke made his mark at the first AAU-sanctioned event held in Hawaii in 1911. He went on to win gold medals in the 1912 and 1920 Olympics. He was primarily self taught, and modified the Australian crawl to suit him and this in turn was later imitated by the Australians.

In his surfing, however, Duke came to worldwide attention. He is well known in Australia, where he traveled in 1914. He made a surfboard out of sugar pine and introduced one of the world's oldest sports to one of the newest countries. A fitting statue and memorial is at the Surfing Hall of Fame in Freshwater, N.S.W. Australia. He also introduced surfing to the west coast when he came to Hollywood to take part in films. Much later, museums and memorials were dedicated to him in Huntington Beach, California, New York, and Florida.

Returning to Honolulu, Duke was first appointed Sheriff and then became the official greeter of the state of Hawaii. He represented the best of Hawai'i, meeting kings and commoners. Bill Harris, bronze medalist in 1920, was quoted in the *Honolulu Advertiser*, "Mainlanders know little about Hawai'i. I have come to believe that all they do know is that it is the place where Duke Kahanamoku comes from" (p. 16).

The weight of being a public figure never seemed a burden as he carried out his official duties. Those individuals quoted in the book speak highly of his character as one who was never pompous and possessing the calm demeanor of his native ancestors. This is a weaving of stories of a man whose influence crisscrossed the population of the Islands.

Sandra Hall and co-author Greg Ambrose have written a book that will make one feel at home with the Duke. It is not analytical, but a popular tribute to a sports personality of heroic stature.

—BETSY OLSEN VANDEN BOSCH
San Diego, California