

Finding Aid

to

A Surf Legend of Kauai

by George Mique

1955 - 1958

MS46-JJ

Kauai Historical Society

Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii

MS46-JJ

1folder

A Surf Legend of Kauai by George Mique

Mr. Mique was a member of the Nalu Ali'i Surf Club / the Royal Surfers which began in 1955. The author was born in 1939 and swimming was an everyday activity for him during his early years. He would watch Joe Kahaunaele on his surfboard - a red wood plank board – at Kapaa Beach. Kahaunaele offered a board for George to ride. The Kahaunaeles including brother Larry and cousin Miggie were also lifeguards, all left the profession in 1955. George kept watch on Wailua Beach with other volunteers who were interested in becoming lifeguards.

After a 3-week course at Nawiliwili Harbor they began lifeguard duties at Wailua Beach. George continued to surf - often with William Kaneakua and Albert Cummings - the founding members of the Surf Club. The name was suggested by Kaneakua's mother. There were six original members.

John Gilruth found a surfboard shaper who provided a mold for the club members to make their own equipment. Through trial and error and with some alterations the boards were finally perfected.

Surfing was an everyday activity after work. Requests for lessons from local folks and visitors to the islands. Income from the classes provided money for food and gas, some donated pineapples and other produce. Rounding out the meal with freshly caught seafood ended the day. A trailer was donated for the boards and later racks were added, these allowed lessons at other venues and increased club membership.

New surfers needed boards and as the club membership increased, Bob Morton and Alfred Giles became sponsors.

Bill Kaiwa of the Surf Club of Honolulu and Clarence Maki visited Kauai. Soon after the two clubs competed on Kauai. George Mique won and became a finalist for the 1959 International Championship at Makaha Beach where he placed 5th. As surfing became more popular other islands established surf clubs.

In 1964 Mique joined the Navy and the club "broke up," the same year, Larry Kahaunaele and club sponsor Alfred Giles rescued Frank Sinatra from drowning.

While working at the Coco Palms, Mique taught Jeff Hackman to surf when he was 5 or 6 years old, as well as Lee Marvin's children. Mique's transportation to work was on his surfboard.

These records were found in collections in August 2022, and are available for research.
Kauai Historical Society Accession Number: 2XXX.029.
Processed by Marylou Bradley in August, 2022.

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Folder list:

Nalu Ali'i Surf Club – Membership List:

Charter Members: George Mique, William Kaneakua, Albert Cummings.

First to join : William Kane, Henry Kane, Larry Kahaunaele

Sponsors : Bob Morton, Alfred Giles

Members: Herman Kane	Robert Rumion	Larry Ephan
John Gilruth	Douglas Fu	John Kauo
David Kauai	Henry Long II	David Kelekoma
Kenneth Cu (our advisor)		

Members nicknames and surfing spots are also included in this file.

First Surf Club on Kauai – history, three pages

Photocopies of original copies:

George Mique, Kapaa Beach

1958 group photocopy: William and Harry Kane, William Kaneakua,
George Mique and Albert Cummings

Coco Palms Hotel group: George Mique, Amel Valporn, Larry Kauheli, undated
Action Martial Arts Magazine's Hall of Fame and Spirit Awards Banquet 2003 –
award certificate for Master G. Mique, 2003 in Atlantic City, January
17 -19

Buddy Crabbe obituary October 26, 1958. His family owned the coconut grove in
Waipouli, surfers would request permission to walk through it to get to the
beach

Written requests to the Garden Island Newspaper publisher offering the surf club
story, 2 pages; additional request undated, 1 page

George Mique obituary 1939-2022 – photograph, with text on reverse side. The
San Diego Union-Tribune, April 17, 2022

fini

