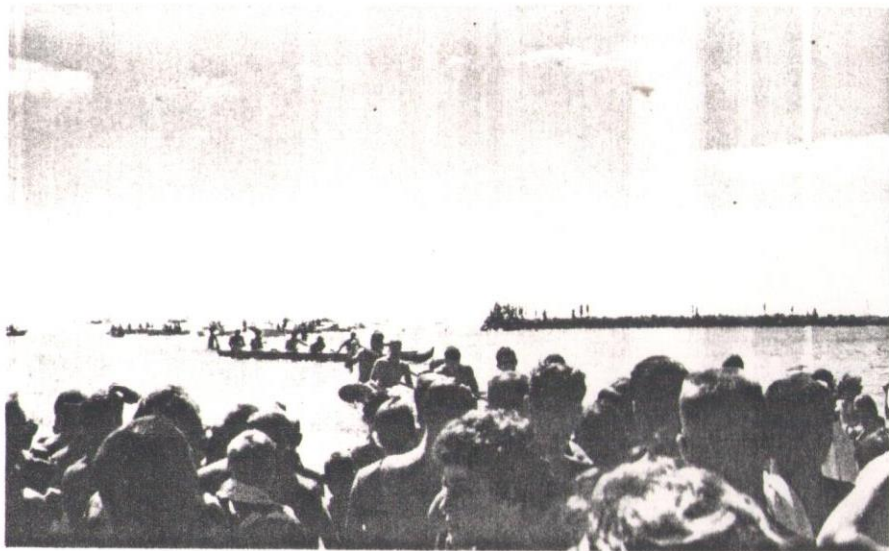


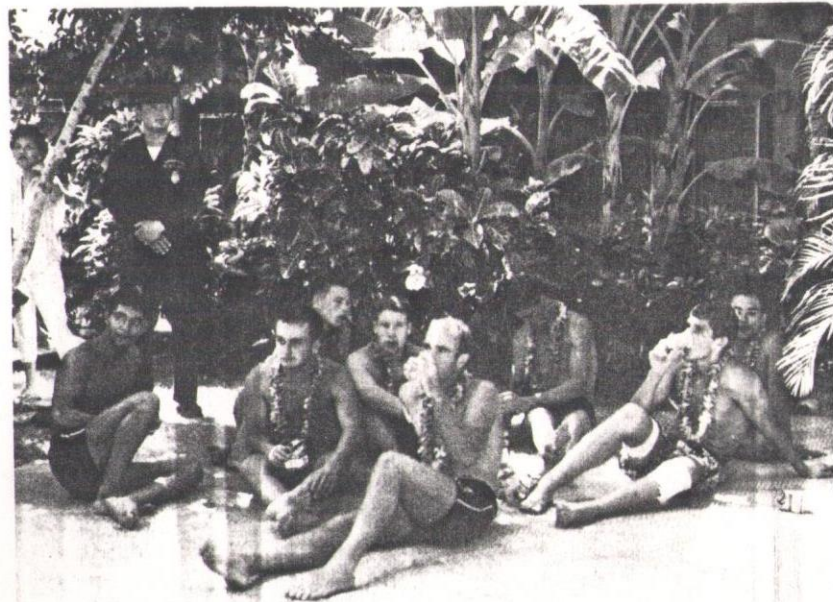
MOLOKAI-OAHU CLASSIC



1. A surprise second finish by Outrigger.



2. Exhausted Rick Steere is lifted from the canoe.



3. Lei bedecked paddlers relax at the end of their crossing.

The Waikiki Surf Club came from behind to stage a miraculous finish and its second consecutive victory in the Molokai to Oahu Outrigger Canoe Racing Classic.

The 36-mile channel crossing, the most exciting in its eight year history, was made by the seasoned WSC crew in six hours and ten minutes.

Although more than one half mile behind the leading Kai Oni crew off Koko Head, the seasoned Waikiki Surf veterans were first at the Kahana-moku Beach finish line.

Consequently they walked off the headlines and the trophies was the Outrigger Canoe Club's inexperienced and last minute team that amazed all in finishing just two minutes behind the winning team.

Kai Oni, who led through most of the race, was third in six hours and ten minutes. Lanikai, Hui Nalu and F followed in that order with only a few lengths separating them.

The Kamehameha crew from Honolulu was seventh in 7:10; and Molokai

last of the crews to finish in 7:31.

The Newport Dunes Canoe Club first mainland entry in the Aloha Week kickoff event, swamped in the middle of the treacherous channel. The Californians, who had never paddled in such rough waters, flipped over while attempting to negotiate a particularly steep swell. At the time the Californians were fighting for a fourth position.

The Outrigger crew of Francis Soares, Rick Steere, Bob Moncrief, Joe Napoleon, Henry Hollinger and Doug Carr opened with a sprint of 51 strokes per minute as the canoes left the starting point at 7:14 a.m. Six minutes later they were clocked at an unprecedented 63 strokes per minute! The young crew averaged 50 strokes per minute up to 9 a.m. and were among the leaders in the pack.

Mark Auerback, coaching the Outrigger team from an escort boat, mapped his strategy after one look at the choppy seas. He theorized that the OCC could make better time through the short, rough spaces between swells.

The crews, widely separated in mid channel by the heavy sea, reach Koko Head with Kai Oni far in front. Bringing up the rear were Waikiki Surf then a close vying for position by the Outrigger, Lanikai, Hui Nalu.

Kai Oni looked like a sure bet as a winner. The WSC lay more than one half mile to the rear, and off Koko Head, the Outrigger appeared a mile from Kai Oni.

At this point, the Outrigger moved slightly inland and lengthened its stroke to 45 per minute in smoother water.

With attention focused on the Kai Oni crew and WSC, now hugging the shoreline, the Outrigger suddenly popped into second place as the crews reached Diamond Head. Kai Oni had fallen to third, having taken the shorter but more treacherous route across the bay.

The OCC crew sprinted across Waikiki to hang onto a slight lead over surprised Kai Oni, Lanikai, Healani, and Hui Nalu crews.

More than ten thousand lined the shoreline as the crews raced for the finish. They had listened to a stroke by stroke account of the exciting race and sent up a cheer for the Waikiki Surf's winning crew, but were openly surprised at the Outrigger's finish. They had been mentioned sparingly throughout and definitely counted out of the race.

The Outrigger had been spelled by its alternates, Kimo Moncrief, Mel Carr, and Nat Norfleet. Only steersman Doug Carr, who made the crossing with Mark Auerback in the only winning outrigger crew in 1956, remained in the canoe the entire distance.

As testimony of the gruelling 36 mile ordeal, club captain related that he literally peeled protective gloves off the skinned hands of Henry Hollinger and Bob Moncrief.

Rick Steere had to be lifted from his seat in the boat.

A year no one will forget.

MOLOKAI NOTES

. . . Nat Norfleet, 16, is believed to be the youngest paddler ever to make the crossing since the birth of the Molokai-Oahu classic in 1952.

. . . The average age of the Outrigger paddlers was 19 as opposed to the winning WSC crew average of 28 years.

. . . The paddlers were on a high protein diet two weeks prior to the race. Steaks, fruit juices and concentrated honey was shipped from the Outrigger so its paddlers could avoid the more greasy foods served on the beach.

. . . Wilbur and Roy Crow were outstanding in guiding their escort boat within shouting range of Auerbach.

. . . of great assistance on shore was Ron Sorrell, and his assistant

Jimmy Haine, who worked all day coordinating and planning the paddlers' return.

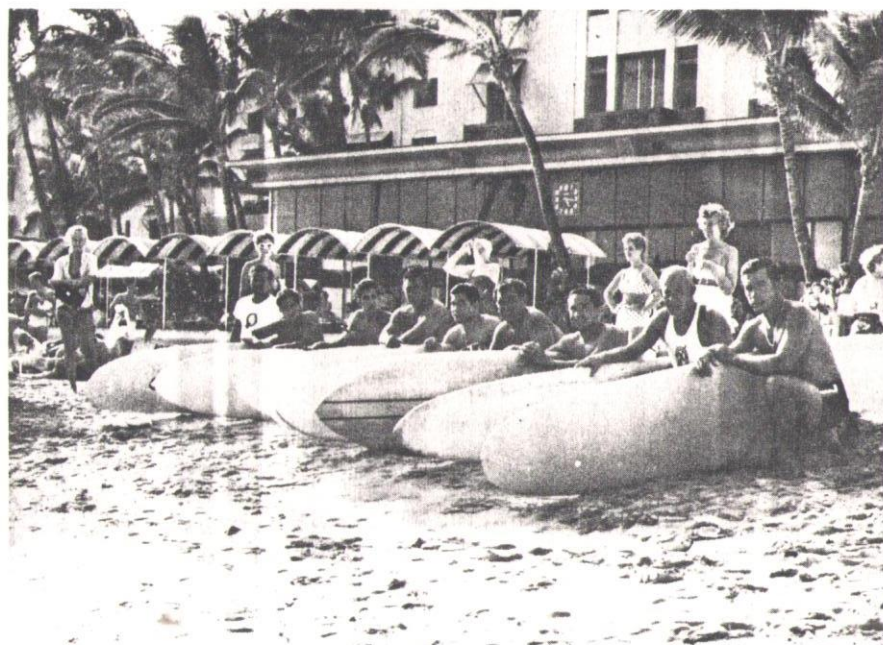
. . . The two Moncrief boys were opposing older brother Dave, who held down a seat in the Hui Nalu boat, with Rabbit Kekai and Percy Kinimaka of the Outrigger Beach Services.

. . . A record 1500 turned out to Kawaikiu beach to join in the entertainment preceding the race.

. . . Governor Quinn arrived at Kawaikiu before dawn in a helicopter.

. . . It took a half ton of teriyaki venison, many barrels of poi, miles of long rice and countless chickens (not to mention incidentals) to feed the large crowd.

. . . And one reporter managed to keep from falling off the escort boat *this* year.



Some of the Outrigger Beach Service boys who have doubled in acting roles with recent television series being filmed in the islands.