

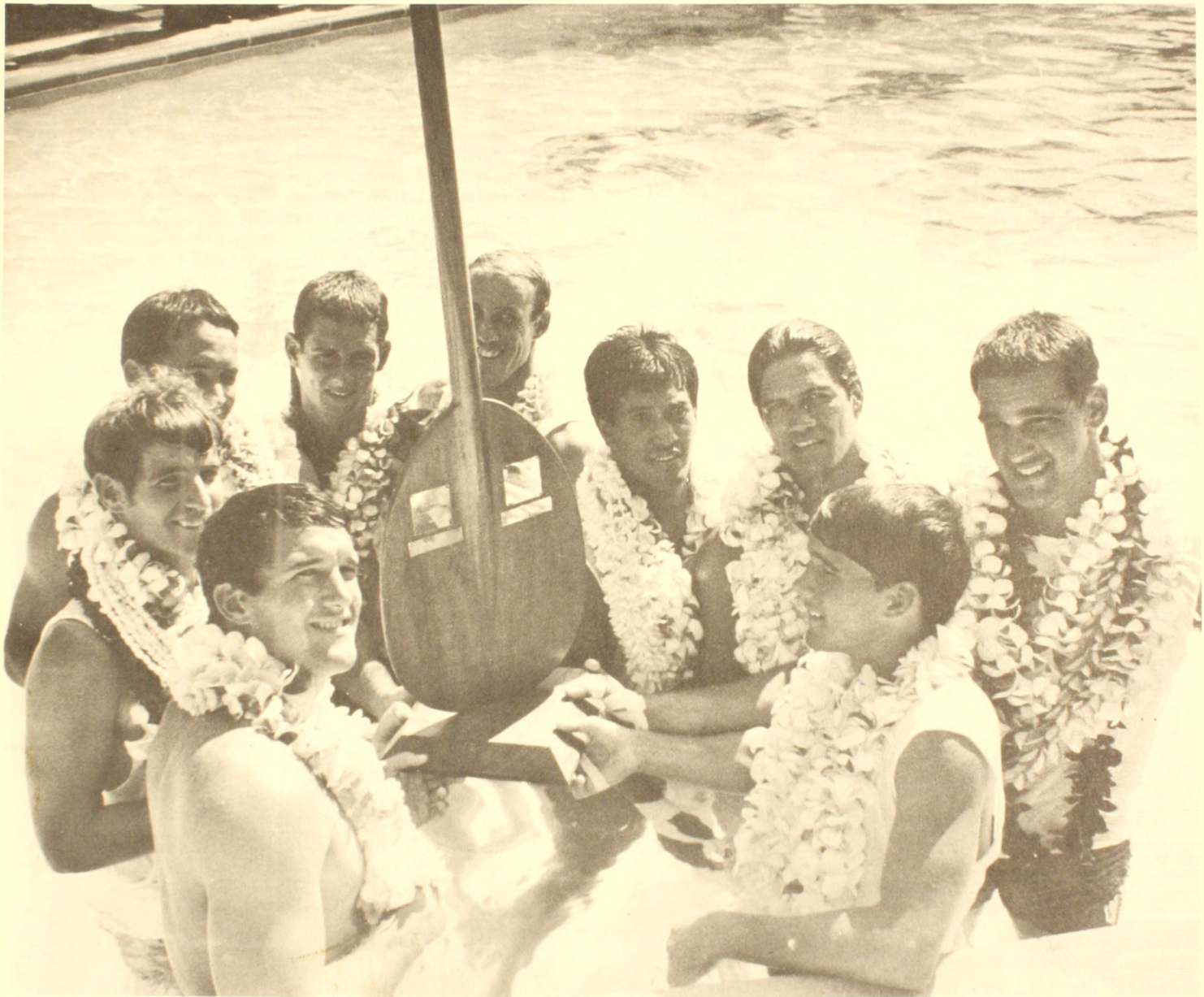
# FORECAST<sup>SM</sup>

Outrigger Canoe Club

OUTRIGGER BEACH

NOVEMBER/1968

HONOLULU, HAWAII



Advertiser photo by Ron Jett

The victorious crew cooling it in the Hawaiian Village pool are left to right Fred Hemmings Jr., Mark Buck, Tom Conner, Jon Sutherland, Mike Holmes, Billy Mitchell, Henry Ayau, Jon Haneberg and Aka Hemmings.

**OUTRIGGER SETS MOLOKAI  
RECORD : 5:55:16**

## VICTORY AT SEA

By John Mounts

Boom! The dynamite above Hale O Lono Harbor blasts and one hundred and seventeen paddlers, divided among thirteen canoes, begin their forty-one mile grueling test of both mental and physical strength.

The action all took place in the seventeenth annual Molokai-Oahu canoe race, where the Outrigger Canoe Club, displaying both courage and stamina, took a first place both in the koa division and in the overall standings.

They departed from Molokai at approximately 7:52 a.m. and landed on the shores of Oahu, in front of the Hilton Hawaiian Village at about 1:47 p.m., setting a new course record with a time of five hours, fifty-five minutes and sixteen seconds.

The most amazing part of this record breaking time is that midway between the islands, the eight to ten foot swells caused the canoe to flip over completely! Many had visions of 1966 when the Outrigger Club was caught in the same situation, and was forced to pull out of the race. Due to the fast thinking of the paddlers and those concerned, the canoe was righted in four minutes and back in operation in another four minutes! Two other clubs suffered swampings and had to withdraw. Unfortunately, Hui Nalu's boat had to be towed to Oahu, while Kauai was towed back to Hale O Lono, Molokai.

From the very start of the race Outrigger Canoe ground into first place and never relinquished her lead. Although at one time, when the canoe was under water, Healani and Lanikai started to creep up within one boat length, but after our crew started paddling again they took off never to be seen by another club.



Howard Pennington

This year's crew consisted of the following paddlers: **Henry Ayau, Mark Buck** (coach), **Tom Conner, Jon Haneberg, Aka Hemmings, Fred Hemmings, Mike Holmes, Billy Mitchell,** and **Jon Sutherland**. These nine men should be highly praised and admired for the tremendous effort they put forth on this Sunday, October 20th, 1968.

On many occasions these men were plagued by sea sickness and fatigue, but they never gave up. They just gritted their teeth, "sucked up their guts," and kept going stroke for stroke, giving it every ounce they had until the very end. Many people do not realize that the Molokai channel is probably the roughest channel in the world, and paddling forty-one miles across it is no easy picnic! As the saying goes, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," and our paddlers surely radiated the truth behind this today!



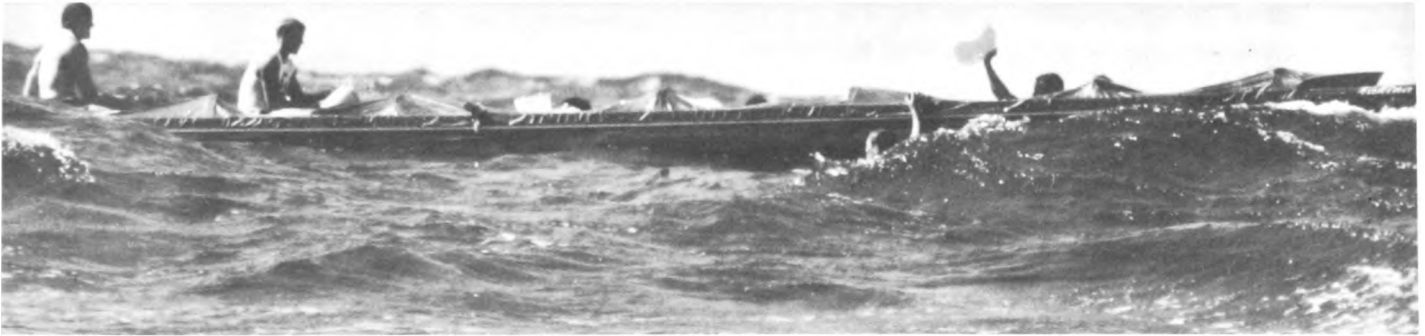
The Outrigger fleet.

Ron Haworth

The training and practice for this race was begun about six weeks ago, just following the Lanikai-Waikiki race. The curriculum consisted of, an hour of paddling each evening from the club to Honolulu Harbor or Kewalo Basin, and return. Each Sunday morning at approximately 6:00 o'clock, they made their "long paddling run." Sometimes they would paddle to Pearl Harbor and back, practicing changes, which were administered over a twenty-four mile span. Other days they would do the same by journeying out into the channel by Hanauma Bay and back. One of the paddlers commented that one of the hardest practices which they encountered was a race with the two practice canoes from the club to Portlock and return! As you can see many long laborious hours of time and effort both in the canoe and out, were spent in preparation for this race.



Jerry Ober



Mid-channel swamp.

Howard Pennington

In addition the "younger paddlers" of the club, especially the younger crew in the Lanikai-Waikiki race would like to personally congratulate Aka Hemmings for the exceptional job he accomplished. At just sixteen years old he went into this race and paddled as well or maybe even better than any of the veterans. So keep your eye on this guy as one of the next generation's greatest paddlers!

Why do these nine men and others like them choose to battle the relentless sea, in an environment where man versus nature for survival, and never triumphs totally, but just conquers temporarily? When a race means blisters upon blisters, muscle aches upon muscle aches, and cramps upon cramps? Many do it for the challenge and for the thrill of victory, knowing that all the time and work you have spent has all been worth it. Most important of all is the sense of pride you feel after it's all over—not only in your equipment, and in your fellow paddlers, but in you, yourself, knowing that you personally have fought against the elements of the sea, and for the time being have won!!

While the heroes of the day are always the paddlers, credit must be given to all those who participate in the organization and provide the logistical support needed to get them there on time. This year as in the past three years, the club was indeed fortunate to have for escort, the HULA KAI, owned and skippered by the master of the Molokai Channel, **Sherry Dowsett** and his crew **Darrell Heine**. Once again the skipper of the auxiliary boat, a Boston Whaler, was **Tommy Arnott**. Again this year we had the devoted services of **Dr. Bob Smith**. Bob performed what may have been the longest single operation of his career. He was in constant attendance to the various members of the crew as well as photographers and anyone else aboard suffering from mal de mer. The elite helpers' corps this year headed by over all coordinator **Cline Mann** were **Jerry Ober**, **Paul MacLaughlin**, **Glenn Perry**, **Fred Lowrey**, **Kimo Austin** and **Albert Lemes**. Those who trained throughout the season but did not paddle provided invaluable help for the race. They were **Johnny Mounts**, **Dave Alexander**, **Steve Scott** and **Bill Eggers**.



Power at the finish, a new record, 41.9 miles, 5:55:16.

Howard Pennington