

IT WAS PADDLE, PADDLE, PADDLE—Calm seas made it a slow crossing from Molokai to Oahu in the annual canoe race yesterday, and hard work for the winning Healani crew.—Photo by John Titchen.

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Molokai-Oahu Race Won by Hard-Paddling Crew

By Lyle Nelson
Star-Bulletin Writer

The palms of his hands were full of white bumps, blisters as big as dimes and some of them were broken and red and raw underneath.

"They hurt," said Coach Franklin Crozier of the winning Healani crew, but he couldn't stop laughing, smiling and pumping the hands of excited friends.

Healani had finally won the Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race, a 37-nautical mile test of endurance, brawn and seamanship.

"WE TRAINED hard, we were confident," said Crozier, whose uncle is the famous political campaigner Willie Crozier.

"It was nice and smooth and we led all the way," said the steersman, Gary Murakami, the only crewman to complete the entire ride without relief.

"Murakami, he did it," said Crozier.

"I hope we have the same group back again next year," he added.

THE HEALANI crew made the crossing from Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai, to Duke Kahanamoku Beach at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel in six hours and 24 minutes, a slow time.

Lack of waves made it a slow crossing for the eight canoes in the 19th annual Aloha Week event.

With swells the koa wood canoes have a chance to surf a little but this year it was hard work all the way—just paddle, paddle, paddle.

When the blue and white canoe, named the Papalaoa, reached the finish line close to shore, the crowd surged forward toward the happy crew.

People applauded, shouted, yelled, laughed.

Girls wearing the blue and white, Healani colors rushed into the water to put leis on their men and give them cartons of passion fruit-orange drink.

"We drank Gator Ade all the way," said Crozier.

The crew was not in an exhausted, prostrate condition as sometimes occurs in the channel crossing.

WAIKIKI SURF CLUB was gunning for its 11th victory but it wasn't to be.

W.S.C. finished in 6:38 followed by Outrigger in 6:55.33.

Once again the fiber glass boats were no match for wooden-hulled canoes.

The non-koa division was won this year by Waikiki Surf for the first time.

The Healani crew, ranging in age from 20 to 36, won the non-koa event three times and decided to shoot for the wooden-hull title this year.

Pat Silva, a veteran canoe coach and a director of the Healani club, said, "I knew they would get it this year because they were in fine condition. They had won five novice races this season and they were ready."

PRESIDENT Clement Palaina's Healani crew consisted of Richard Bell in the No. 1 position; Ed Doernberger, No. 2; Cappy Sheeley, No. 3; Lance Mann, No. 4; Harry Ho, No. 5, and Gary Murakami, steersman.

The alternates, who took turns paddling at regular intervals, were Crozier, Al Price and John Groth.

Mann, Doernberger and Price are members of the Punahou School faculty.

Crozier said his team plowed along at a 42 to 48 stroke-a-minute pace and decided to come straight across following the start at Molokai at 7:27 a.m.

IT WAS ALMOST glassy calm for the boats, the sky overcast and the escort boats had no trouble keeping track of the field which was spread out over five miles by noon.

Swells were about five to eight feet at the most.

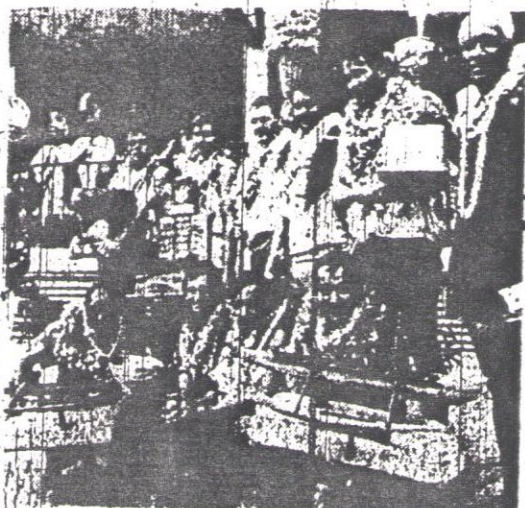
Healani's first victory in the koa class was nearly a half hour off the 1968 record crossing of Outrigger in 1968.

It was even much slower than Healani's own glass-hulled record of 6:03:28, also set in 1968.

But it was much better than the winning time in the first race. Kukui O Lanikaula of Molokai took 8:55 to make the 1952 crossing.

Waikiki Surf won the koa class last year in 6:38:26.

The California entry in the glass division, Marina del Rey of Newport Beach, was never in it. It finished third.



CHANNEL CROSSING WINNERS—Healani crew shows off its trophies. Kneeling in front, left to right, Richard Bell, Cappy Sheeley, Harry Ho and Gary Murakami. In back, Ed Doernberger, John Groth, Al Price, Franklin Crozier, Lance Mann.