

# The Outrigger

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

OUTRIGGER BEACH AT DIAMOND HEAD, HONOLULU, HAWAII

NOVEMBER, 1978

## The Big One that Got Away

It wasn't Outrigger's day on Sunday, October 15, when some thirty-odd racing canoes took off from Molokai's Hale o Lono for the 1978 running - or paddling - of the Annual Molokai to Oahu canoe paddling classic. It wasn't really Hawaii's day either, for California's "Blazing Paddles" took top overall honors, with Lanikai's crew second, while the Tahitians avenged last year's defeat by outpaddling Outrigger for third place overall. However, an Outrigger crew came in a good second in the Koa division,

and an OCC crew came in third in the non-koa (fiberglass) division. Coach Tom Conner and his hard-paddling crews deserved better. But wait till next year!

Paddling for Outrigger in the Koa Division were: Tom Conner; Marshall Rosa; Tim Guard; Mike Buck; Brant Ackerman; John Finney; Keone Farden; Aaron Young, and Alan Rosehill.

In the fiberglass or non-koa division it was: Steven Scott; Bill Bright; Mike Mason; Dale Hope; Jay West; Jay Pynchon; Mike Fox; Willie Hawthorne; Ed Pickering; Murray Hixson.

(Crews as listed in the Honolulu Advertiser; we had no reporter coverage).

### An Observer's-Eye View of the Molokai Channel Race

by Harriette Allan

To an inexperienced watcher of long distance canoe racing, the Spectator Boat trip for OCC members was a mixed bag of emotions as well as a fantastic education in the "how and why" of canoe racing.

An eye-catching scene of an early morning sun rising over Waikiki and Diamond Head put those on board in the mood for the day.

It was well onto 10:30 am and into the Molokai Channel before the first sail came up on the horizon; an old style windjammer in all her glory. Excitement rippled through the spectators, eyes strained to see canoes, escort boats and their placement. As you read this, everyone knows the final outcome of the Big Race, but only those who were there could tell the tale of the escort boats and the enormous part they play in a race.

Through their expert handling, the movement of the paddlers in and out of the canoes was the ultimate in precision; the rapidity and smoothness with which the paddlers exchanged places was breathtaking, to say the least. At intervals, the whaler moved

ahead of the canoe, and at the proper moment, fresh paddlers went into the water in the path of the oncoming canoe. At the same time, paddlers to be relieved would roll out of the canoes to be quickly picked up by the whaler. While this was happening, the canoe was racing ahead with the new paddlers in their

proper places. It was done with such dispatch, ones eyes almost refused to believe what they had seen!

A "now I've seen everythin" note: mattresses covering the stern of the large escort boat enabled the whaler to transfer tired paddlers with ease by running right up onto the stern of the boat... a simple maneuver, but it must have taken some pretty fancy handling of the whaler for its accomplishment.



Whaler in mid-channel. Photo Allan

As the finish line and Oahu became realities, it was established that the "Unknowns" from California had come in first. All eyes were on the battle being fought by the Tahitians and Outrigger. The two canoes had elected to go close into shore while the spectator boat had to remain outside the reef... so again it was eye-straining to keep up with the pace. It was soon apparent that Lanikai would go in second and the Tahitians were pulling away from Outrigger. If the truth were known, one had a feeling the Californians had picked up their canoe and run on the water to the finish line! A case of "now you see them - now you don't" or "the canoe is quicker than the eye"!

The finale came when an OCC member was anxious to book for the spectator boat next year. It is sure to become a tradition - the Aikane Tours Catamaran was commodious, with lots of crew to take care of the 75 OCC members who made the trip.



Windjammer sighted. Photo Allan



Whaler takes on fresh paddlers during the crossing. Photo Allan



Top photo. Whaler comes up for a crew change. Below, paddlers on their way again  
Photos Allan





Tired paddler transferred from Whaler to escort boat Photo Allan