

# How our Men's Crew Won the '79 Molokai

By Tom Conner, Coach

**"NOBODY REMEMBERS WHO CAME IN SECOND"** These thoughts were running through the minds of Outrigger's paddlers as they languished in second place for the first five hours of the 1979 Aloha Week Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race.

Once again the O.C.C. men were faced with formidable competition, this time in the form of the Balboa Bay Club, a group of Olympic Kayak racers and professional strongmen who think nothing of practicing from sunrise to sunset in preparation for a "big race." Consider the fact that the Outrigger team consists of a group of men who have been Club members for an average of ten years. And, consider the Balboa team whose paddlers are virtually all non-members on a two-week scholarship for canoe racing. Half of their team was made up of the now defunct "Blazing Paddles" who took last year's race. When you take all of this into consideration, it is remarkable that our little club can mount a serious threat against international competition. Indeed, we were fortunate that the powerhouse teams from Tahiti elected to pass up this year's race.

## **KAUNAKAKAI-FRIDAY SEPT. 28**

O.C.C.'s two men's teams are headquartered at the Hotel Molokai and are busy rigging the koa "Kakina" and testing their canoes. Much time is spent discussing the weather which appears to be remaining very calm.

## **HALE O LONO-SATURDAY SEPT. 29**

The race starts promptly at 8:00 a.m. and the "Manu'ula" gets a good jump on everybody. At Laau Point, three miles from the start, Balboa pulls even with us and holds ground. The "Kakina" appears to be holding fifth position about 100 yards back. Outrigger and Balboa start to rotate their relief paddlers, and Balboa inches ahead. As more changes are made, Balboa steadily pulls away and at the half-way mark they have built up a half-mile lead over Outrigger. Meanwhile, the "Kakina"

diverts its course to the north searching for a favorable current.

With Marshall Rosa and Mark Buck handling our crew changes and course corrections, we manage to close to within 300 yards of Balboa at Kokohead. As we approach Kahala the crew is starting to realize that we are gaining rapidly on Balboa and the spirit of the crew picks up. At Black Point the crew really comes to life and we put a charge that brings us even with Balboa at the lighthouse. By now, the Balboa crew is frantic, and as they lose their composure, we dart inside of them and get inside position for the right turn around Diamond Head. The "Manu'ula" jumps into a couple of ground swells and we surf into a 50 yard lead as we pass Diamond Head buoy. Balboa is thoroughly demoralized by our actions and as the spectator boat fleet settles around us, they create a dismal stern wake that only a second place team can truly appreciate. We stretch our lead to 300 yards in the next 15 minutes and the victory is virtually ours.

At the finish line we thank our lucky stars for our good fortune and Balboa mutters about "next year." Indeed, next year will bring an even stronger challenge from California and Tahiti. Hopefully the hometown boys will be able to pull yet another win out of the hat.

Members of the Outrigger's first place team were: Bill Bright, Tom Conner, Jimmy Dean, John Finney, Tim Guard, Murray Hixon, Dale Hope, Ed Pickering and Steve Scott.

## Outrigger Canoe Club Dinner Dance

Saturday, November 17, 1979

Music by Phil Ingalls Orchestra

No-host Cocktails: 6:30

Dinner: 7:30

**\$15.00** per person. Coat & Tie

Reservations at Club Office - limited

### The Dinner Menu

Essence of Molokai Pheasant, Xeres

Pailletes Dorees

Supreme of Channel Opakapaka, Glace Sultane

Pomme de Terre Nature

Sorbet au Menthe, Melba

Tournedos Rossini, Sauce Madere

Kula Greenbeans au Beurre

Glazed Carrots, Perrier

Tomate Farcie, Chanterelles

Pommes Dauphine

Salad of Manoa Valley Bibb Lettuce

and Hothouse Alfalfa Sprouts,

Olive Oil and Lemon Dressing, Fines Herbes

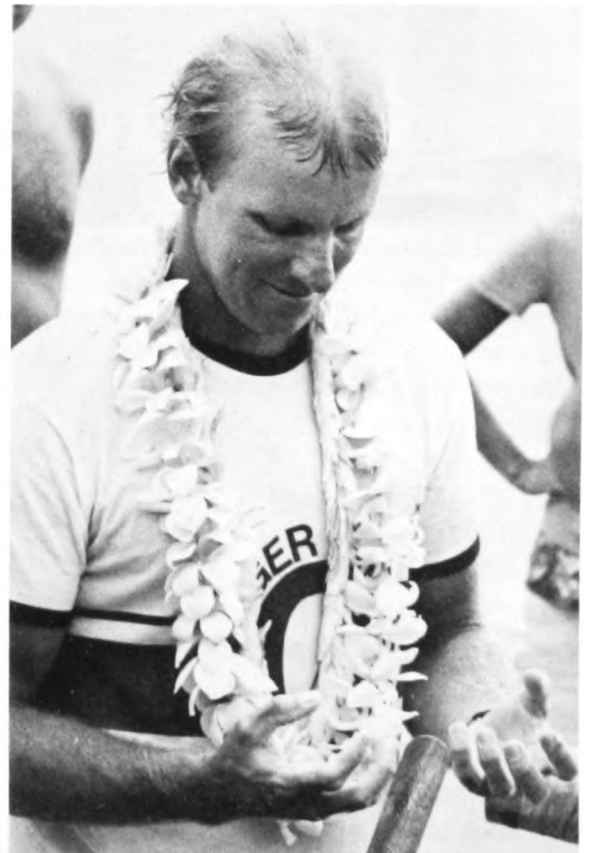
Fresh Strawberries, a la Romanoff

WILLIAM TERUYA, *Chef de Cuisine*

RAYMOND LUDWIG, *Manager*



Men's finishing Molokai crew (l/r): Steve Scott; Dale Hope; Tim Kelley; Ed Pickering; Bill Bright; Tom Conner.



Men's Steersman Steve Scott takes rueful look at his blistered hands. Auwe!