

# The Lanai Race



## LANAI-KAANAPALI CANOE RACE, THE FIRST ANNUAL RUNNING

This year a new distance canoe race has been started. The race is half the distance of the Molokai-Oahu Race but nevertheless is a good test of the skill and endurance of the crew. The race was run this year in all kinds of water from smooth, glassy seas at the start to a rough, windy chop near the end of the race at Kaanapali. The Outrigger entered the Leilani and essentially the same group who will paddle in the Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race. The crew was made up of **Mark Buck, Jody D'Enbeau, Mike Clifford, Fred Hemmings, Jon Haneberg, Hal Burchard** and **Henry Ayau**. The course extends 21 miles from the beautiful, white sand Huiopoe Beach on the south coast of Lanai to the Lahaina channel entrance buoy, then four and half miles up the coast finishing at Kaanapali opposite the Hilton Hale Kaanapali Hotel. The Hilton was the hotel which hosted our crew for lunch. The race was sponsored by AmFac and run under the auspices of H.C.R.A. Every consideration was extended by the Dole Corporation who furnished barge transportation for canoes, and the Lanai Lions Club who took care of food and land transportation. Outrigger member, **Jimmy Smith**, a former Outrigger paddler and member of Outrigger's first crew to enter the Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race, was a key figure in hosting and caring for details of the crews while on Lanai. The winning crew, Waikiki Surf Club, received a \$200.00 cash award and the perpetual trophy donated by Hawaiian Airlines. Outrigger received \$150.00 cash award and second-place medals. We finished about 50 feet behind the winning boat, a remarkable distance after 21 miles of paddling. The convoy boat was the beautiful Hulakai owned and piloted by **Sherry Dowsett**, who provided escort for last year's Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race and will provide the same generous service for this year's Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race crew. President **Tom Arnott** and **Thad Ekstrand** were on hand with a Boston Whaler auxiliary boat lent for the race by **Larry Doheny**. **Tommy** did his usual superb job of handling the small boat in the operation of transferring paddlers from the Hulakai to the canoe. Helpers in this race were **Butch Ledford, Bob Moore** and **Bruce Clifford**, all of whom trained for the race. We were especially fortunate to have the services of member, **Dr. Bob Smith**, who maintained a close watch on the physical condition of the crew and who recommended special diets and conditioning procedures for the paddlers. **Bob** will also work with the crew on the Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race.

## JODY D'ENBEAU GIVES A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE LANAI-KAANAPALI RACE

The afternoon heat has forced everyone to move into the shade of the keawe trees which surround our canoe, Leilani. It's hard to become nervous over the first Lanai to Kaanapali Race because it doesn't yet have the reputation of the grueling 41-mile Molokai to Oahu Race. The tension is there, however, and each crew member handles it in his own way.

It's later in the day now; a trial run has shown that Leilani is ready, and from the number of other crews who watched us paddle, it would seem that the boat and crew are a threat.

Nights on Lanai seem to take forever. **Mike Holmes** has assured us sleep by informing everyone that Lanai has imported two bears, and the hard sand and mosquitoes take their toll in a sleepless night.

Sunday, 6:30 a.m.—The early morning chill hasn't killed off any of the butterflies in my stomach, meanwhile the 8 a.m. starting time creeps closer.

**Albert Lemes** has called us together. The joking stops as he reads off the names of the paddlers. **Mark Buck** and I will alternate stroking **Mike Clifford**, **Fred Hemmings**, **Jon Haneberg**, **Hal Burchard** and **Henry Ayau** will provide the power. **Tommy Holmes** will face a long grind in "5" seat, and **Mike Holmes** won't get out of the canoe until he has steered us over the finish line. **Bruce Clifford**, **Bob Moore** and **Butch Ledford** are designated as helpers, which is a tough break for guys who trained as hard as they did.

Leilani is in the water now, and after much jockeying and a false start, the race is under way. We have a bad start, and other boats are passing us; but that's not my problem. I've got to keep my head down and watch the paddle in "3" seat.

We're a half hour out and into our first change. Leilani has moved into third place. The sun is blazing, and the glassy water only amplifies the heat. Paddles become a blur. Changes are a welcome relief.

We're at the half-way point, and we've passed Healan. Now we have to chase Waikiki Surf, who has a good lead. Everyone is working. Leilani is gaining on Waikiki. The sun is still too hot, but I'm numb by this time. I don't see us round the buoy at Lahaina. I'm in the escort boat pouring cold water over my head. We're closing the gap. We've hit rough water, and we're only a few boat lengths behind. Back in "5" seat now—the white water from the rest of the guys' paddles is boiling past me. I've stopped thinking.

We gain a few feet every hundred yards. The finish line is around somewhere. **Mark** has picked up the pace. After 21 miles, we're sprinting—and gaining, but not soon enough. There is a boat length and a half difference as we cross the line—or at least, so they say. Everyone is tired. The people on the beach are a blur. We mutter: "Molokai is going to be different."