



Double-hulled HOKULE'A under sail during training voyage. Outrigger members Kimo Hugho and Tommy Holmes will be part of the 17-man crew that will sail the canoe to Tahiti.

## Hugho and Holmes To Crew on HOKULE'A

By Tommy Holmes  
as told to Frances Pearson

On board the Polynesian Voyaging Society's HOKULE'A on her historic voyage to Tahiti this month will be Outrigger members Kimo Hugho and Tommy Holmes.

The three-year project comes to fruition after a year of research to design a replica of a Polynesian voyaging canoe, a year of construction and a year of practice under sail. The HOKULE'A, launched in March of 1975, underwent major modifications and reconstruction of the interior of the canoe as well as the sail rig after swamping near Kauai last September.

The trip to Tahiti is expected to take approximately a month. Holmes is one of the founders of the Polynesian Voyaging Society. After several weeks layover there, the HOKULE'A will make a return voyage to Hawaii with an alternate crew.

The overall purpose of the experimental voyage is to create with as much verisimilitude as possible the early voyages to Hawaii. An official Bicentennial Year project, the trip will be recorded on film and in print by National Geographic, which will come out with the second of several magazine articles this April.

Psychodynamics experiments under Holmes involve a study of the interaction of the members of the crew and their reactions to stress situations.

Crew member Kimo Hugho, one of the principals since the beginning of the project, has acted as crew chief and been responsible for building and repairs during construction and modification of the canoe. He will also be in charge of all steering.

A third Outrigger member, Kimo Austin, was instrumental in the critical paddle and sweep design. Paddles may be used through doldrums, but ninety-five per cent of the voyage will probably be made under sail.

The HOKULE'A duplicates many of the original construction materials used in building Polynesian voyaging canoes. Her sails are made out of lauhala mat and her rigging out of coconut sennit. She will be navigated strictly by star observation and study of currents, birds, swells, and flotsam and jetsam. An escort boat will follow over the horizon and monitor her exact position relative to her own computation of her location using ancient forms of navigation. Communication will be established with the escort boat only in case of emergency.

Non-instrument navigation will be in the hands of Micronesian Mau Piailug, one of the top two experts in a select group of five navigators still living who are able to navigate by ancient methods.

Recording the navigation experiments will be David Lewis, one of the foremost small boat sailors in the world and author of *We The Navigators*. Lewis recently attempt-

ed to circumnavigate Antarctica singlehandedly.

Holmes, one of 17 crew members, will oversee food, plant, animal and psychodynamics experiments on the trip over. As part of the food experiments, the crew will eat the same foods the early Polynesian settlers of the Hawaiian Islands ate, namely, a diet of coconut, poi, hard poi, dried sweet potatoes, dried taro, dried yams, dried breadfruit, dried bananas, dried fish and dried squid, plus their fresh counterparts. Fresh fish, caught by ancient fishing methods, will supplement this diet.

In addition to these food supplies, a number of cultigens that the early Polynesians brought with them, such as sugar cane, awa, pia or arrow root, coconut, wauke, kukui nut, mountain apple and ferns, as well as yams, taro and breadfruit, will be carried along on the voyage. They will be kept alive using the ancient method of wrapping the juvenile plants in banana and then lauhala plaiting.

*(Ed. note: Copy for the foregoing article was extensively revised after the first and presumably final copy had been set in type for printing. It is hoped that the many revisions have been correctly interpreted.)*

## Public Relations Committee

M. J. Berenzweig, Chairman

The primary purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to maintain among the membership, and the community, a positive and accurate image of the Outrigger Canoe Club—the Club's history, objectives, functions, activities and achievements. In this regard, the PR Committee continued to pursue as its main goal the improvement of communication within the Club by increasing the flow of information from the Board of Directors, management, and committees to the members, particularly via *THE OUTRIGGER*. This goal was pursued in the belief that an informed membership increases the participation and support of Club activities and functions by a greater and more representative number of members.

PR Committee accomplishments were highlighted by the enthusiastic response from the impressive number of Club members who volunteered their services which ranged from providing news leads and writing up sports events to providing art work and photographs for publication. In addition, *OUTRIGGER* circulation lists were updated, costs considerably reduced, and the "Membership Handbook" revised. Excellent coordination was maintained with the Board of Directors through Ron Sorrell, the Committee's Coordinating Director. Also deserving special mention are the professional services of *THE OUTRIGGER* staff comprised of Hal Yost, Fran Pearson, Dave Pierson, and Scoop Tsuzuki together with the dedicated support of the other committee members Rick Davis, Cordy Dowsett, Rudy Huber, William Kea, and Max Pilliard.