



OCC victorious crew land at Duke P. Kahanamoku Beach, weary but happy. Over 5,000 spectators watched the crews arrive.

## MOLOKAI-OAHU RACE WON BY OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

### "Toots" Dream

About 1951, our own "Toots" Minvielle, Jr. tried to promote the idea of the "greatest race by man against the sea in the World." He called a meeting of canoe experts, coaches, business men, and club members and stated his idea. A race from Molokai to Oahu by six men crews in outrigger canoes, just as the old time Hawaiians did 100 years ago.

The idea was good—"BUT"—and then the scoffers won. "It is dangerous." "It will cost too much." "The canoes will get cracked and broken." "How are you going to get canoes over to Molokai?"—and so on ad infinitum. So "Toots" lost out. But, you have to know Toots to know he'd never quit. He was a champion swimmer, surfer and canoe steersman with a trunk full of medals and trophies—won because he had the competitive spirit and heart.

Practically single handed he kept promoting the idea and in 1952 the first race was held under the auspices of Aloha Week Committee. Three canoes took part—all finished in fine shape and all men in good condition. The annual event was assured and since then, each year under the direction of the Hawaiian

Canoe Racing Association the race has grown greater and more important.

### Nine Clubs Enter

The race this year had nine entries the Outrigger Canoe Club winning, Waikiki Surf Club, second, Hale Au A third, Kai Oni, fourth, Hui Nalu, fifth, Healani, sixth, Kamehameha of Honolulu, seventh, Kai Olapa, eighth, and Holomua, withdrawing after its crew was forced to quit due to cramps after paddling up to Kahala.

The winning time of the OCC was 7 hours and 54 minutes over an estimated 37 mile course, starting at Ilio Beach Molokai, and ending at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at Kaiser's Hawaiian Village. Waikiki Surf Club made a real race of it as they landed about 6 minutes later with three more canoes arriving within about 20 minutes.

### Our Crew

Our crew was Merlyn Lyons, George Downing, coach and steersman, Max Auerbach, Bobby Daniels, Archie Kaau, Bill Baird, Dennis O'Connor and Don Carr. These boys owe their success to the expert coaching of coach George Downing, who not only is without doubt

the best coach in Hawaii but an inspiration to all his crews. The OCC has a leg up on the Perpetual Trophy, which goes to the first Club winning three Annual Molokai-Oahu events. They also received a 1956 trophy and as a crew \$1000.00 in cash.

### Celebration

The Hawaiian Village entertained all paddlers and participants at a luau on Monday evening, October 21, where awards were made. We are happy to state that A. E. "Toots" Minvielle was given the credit due him for organizing the greatest race in the world."

### PADDLERS HONORED

Sunday evening, October 28, the Club honored the paddlers who had won the Oahu-Molokai race. Present with wives and girl friends were all paddlers excepting Archie Kaaua who, however, was represented by his mother.

Others present were Club Directors and those interested in paddling including "Toots" Minvielle and his wife. George Downing, our great coach, was honored and several short speeches were made, giving due credit to the coach and the crew.

Downing showed some exciting pictures of the race and also surfing at Makua and Sunset Beach in color. We'll have more to say in the December issue as this reached us too late for full particulars and pictures.

### OCTOBER EVENTS

GAME NITE as usual was a decided success. About 200 attended and enjoyed an excellent dinner and plenty of fun.

CARD NITE brought out the regular addicts. We can accommodate more however. You are missing a fine evening of fellowship and some really fine food if you do not attend.

HALLOWEEN DINNER DANCE, October 31 was a nite of fun, frolic and real good get-together. These Club dances can be loads of fun either for couples or parties.

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This bevy of OCC wahines acted as Reception Committee for paddlers at the finish line. Who wouldn't paddle 37 miles for such smiles. These wahines made points during the 1956 season. L to R: Jeanie Anderson, Gail Dillingham, Rhea Ehlers, Bonnie Purvis, Sheila Corbett, Barbara Corbett, Pat Nation and Mary Flanders.

## SIDELIGHTS ON MOLOKAI-OAHU RACE

We interviewed several persons who participated in the race as followers in accompanying boats. Here are a few comments, many of which were made by Dave Nottage, who kindly escorted the OCC crew in his powered boat the *Aukaka*.

The OCC crew won due to the fine training by George Downing. His crew paddled more than 300 miles while training, actually making several trips as far as Makapuu Lighthouse, thus training in the waters in which the contest would be held.

Downing and Nottage took current drifts off the coast and plotted a current chart which Downing followed while steering in the actual race.

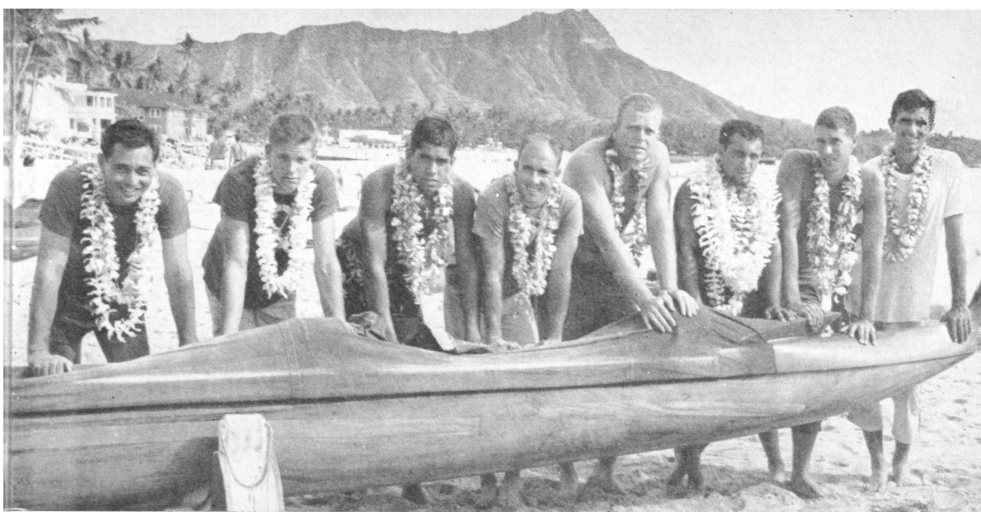
The contact between the *Aukaka* and the OCC canoe the *Leilani* was excellent. The powered boat kept about 100 feet from the canoe and had an electric megaphone with which to keep contact. It was a smooth passage, especially

through Molokai Channel with Kon winds of about 15 miles per hour. The canoe hull speed was about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  knot per hour.

A humorous note was that late Saturday afternoon, Nottage's boat spied canoe in Molokai Channel off Illio Point. Someone laughingly remarked "must be the Hilo crew paddling in from Hilo. It wasn't, it was the OCC crew out for a last training spin. Another indication of the meticulous methods of Downing

Practically all crews in all canoes were bothered by stomach cramps. It is believed that was due to the fact that breakfast was served at 4:00 a.m. and the starting time was at 6:00 a.m. Food in part was venison and other heavy foods and it is suggested that heavy food be eaten earlier and hot soups and tea be given before the race. Of the OCC crew, only two men did not suffer cramps.

Each canoe had an escort boat, but all did not have adequate equipment



Here is our iron men winning OCC crew. L to R are: Merlyn Lyons, Douglas Carr, Bobby Daniels, Bill Baird, Dennis O'Connor, Archie Kaaua, Mark Auerbach and George Downing, coach.

for transferring men from canoes to powered boats and vice versa. The *Au-ka's* method was to send out a rubber raft attached to a line. The powered vessel went forward of the canoe and then let the raft drift to the canoe. The crewman would step into the raft and be drawn hand over hand to the powered boat. Men were then sent back using the same method. A life preserver could also be used in the same way. It is strongly recommended that this be standard procedure in all future races.

This method would absolutely elimi-

nate all risks to paddlers in a transfer operation, especially in the case of helpless paddlers suffering from cramps. Mr. Nottage suggested that each escort boat should have a physician aboard. The main control boat did have a doctor and fortunately, he was not called—but such a rule would add still more to safety, should an emergency ever occur.

This race—the greatest anywhere—is a real sporting event and everything should be done to perpetuate it—but means should be taken to avoid any chance of an avoidable accident.

Fred Steere gives Bobby Daniels a real Hawaiian Lomi-lomi. Hot drinks and refreshments were served all paddlers on arrival at the finish line at Kaiser's Hawaiian Village.

