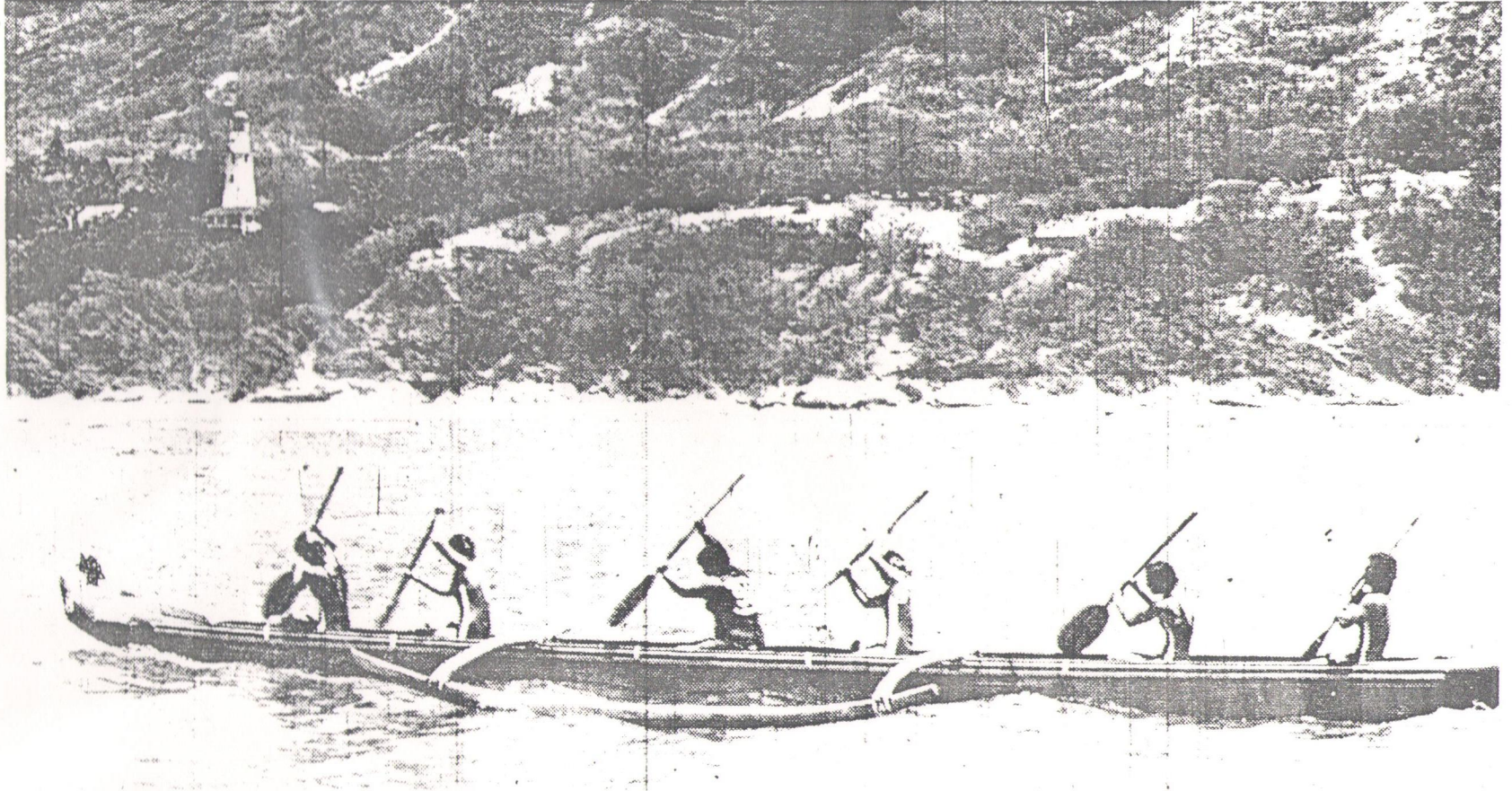


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Six Part of a Historic Race

By Ron Moyer
Star-Bulletin Writer



The women who came to compete in the first-ever, long distance race were no strangers to the inside of a koa canoe.

They had been in one many times before. But one place their competition had not carried them was the open ocean.

Until yesterday.

DEDICATED TO the memory of George "Dad" Center, a prominent local and international sports figure in the early 1900's regarded by most everyone in the Islands as the "father of local canoe racing," the Outrigger Canoe Club, together with the Hawaii Canoe Racing Association (HCRA), sponsored this historic women's event.

Everyone connected with the event—together with the curious—gathered in Hawaii Kai under a hot morning sun, in an atmosphere of expected anticipation—to participate in and observe the fast approaching start of something new—and very real—to the competitors.

The women crews—proud and feeling somewhat fortunate to be a part of local canoe history—were ready and waiting. The two weeks of training, the last-minute

preparations and instructions—all pau. The time for action was near.

The teams representing the canoe clubs who accepted the challenge—Outrigger, Kailua, Healani, Waikiki Surf, Lanikai and Hui Nalu—pondered the nine-mile trek to the Waikiki finish line at the

WINNING CREW — Outrigger Canoe Club's winning crew paddles past Diamond Head lighthouse en route to victory.

Outrigger Canoe Club. They also pondered how much of a part each member of the nine-women team would play in guiding the six-women crew across the finish line—and in what order.

They would have their answers within the next two hours.

Originally scheduled to start at 10, the race got underway at 10:24 with each canoe receiving a starting—and good luck—shove.

From the very begin-

ning, was more adept than the others at changing paddlers, sometimes as many as three at a time, in a matter of seconds, without seeming to lose those ever-so-valuable strokes.

It was equally obvious that the race, nearing Black Point, would be decided by quick and quality changes. The Lanikai crew stood out as a perfect example. Challenging for the lead in the early going, they were victims of sloppy changes and fell

close contention.

The only menacing surf of the race was encountered at Diamond Head Beach Park. After the crews successfully negotiated a couple of eight-foot breakers, the Kakina re-lengthened her lead as the crews geared up for the final stretch run into Waikiki.

THE OUTRIGGER outfit continued to stroke strong and hard, giving no indication of relinquishing their hard-earned advantage. Not knowing whether his present paddlers

exhausting miles, the Kakina and her Outrigger crew swept across the finish line to victory, an hour and 21 minutes after the challenge began. Healani followed six seconds later, concluding a valiant catch-up effort. Waikiki Surf took third—and the last awards place—in one hour, 21 minutes, 45 seconds. Kailua (1:21:50) was next, followed by Lanikai (1:23:45) and Hui Nalu (1:26:15).

Members of the first-place OCC team were

Twins' Attack

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From the very beginning, the Outrigger's Kakina shot out to an early lead in the colorful and cooperative Pacific.

It was generally conceded that each crew was in equally as good a shape as the next. The race would not be decided by physical conditioning.

THE KAKINA, responding to the swift, smooth movements of her passengers, lengthened her lead near Aina Haina, gliding effortlessly across the water.

It was obvious that her crew, a small and wiry

outfit, was more adept than the others at changing paddlers, sometimes as many as three at a time, in a matter of seconds, without seeming to lose those ever-so-valuable strokes.

It was equally obvious that the race, nearing Black Point, would be decided by quick and quality changes. The Lanikai crew stood out as a perfect example. Challenging for the lead in the early going, they were victims of sloppy changes and fell slowly, then swiftly, out of contention.

Rounding Black Point, the Healani crew seemed to be making their move to close the once-lengthy gap to a not-so-comfortable four lengths.

The Waikiki Surf crew, running on a course closest to the shoreline, went unnoticed in their solitary position but remained in

close contention.

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THE OUTRIGGER outfit continued to stroke strong and hard, giving no indication of relinquishing their hard-earned advantage. Not knowing whether his present paddlers had the strength to guide the Kakina successfully across the finish line, looming invitingly ahead, Coach Tom Connors decided to take a chance. He called for a change, a three-paddler change, and hoped and prayed this last one would go as smoothly as the numerous ones before.

FINALLY. AFTER nine

exhausting miles, the Kakina and her Outrigger crew swept across the finish line to victory, an hour and 21 minutes after the challenge began. Healani followed six seconds later, concluding a valiant catch-up effort. Waikiki Surf took third—and the last awards place—in one hour, 21 minutes, 45 seconds. Kailua (1:21:50) was next, followed by Lanikai (1:23:45) and Hui Nalu (1:26:15).

Members of the first-place OCC team were Kristy Muller, Stephany Sofos, Moira Scully, Maile Morgan, Laurie Cundall, Tracy Haworth, Heidi Hemmings, Jill Maguire and Lynn Mason.

Officially, the Outrigger Canoe Club team was the winner. But they were all winners. Draped with welcoming leis, they had all started, competed and finished.