

2/78

## EXCERPTS FROM LOG OF YACHT KANALOA JANUARY 13 & 14, 1978 - Escort Vessel Molokai-Oahu Swim Attempt

Jan. 13, 1978 - 1300 hours - Dept. Ala Wai Yacht Harbor for Molokai. Passengers include escorts for swimmers - Dr. Sterling Lewis, Pat Caldwell, Peter Wilson, Susan Takahashi & Allen Emberson, brother of Swimmer, Ian Emberson. Navigator RED BERGLUND.

1800 - Arv. Sheraton Molokai, drop anchor. Escort Vessel WAILAU (Capt. Gordon Wilkonson) elects to drift offshore for the nite rather than anchor due to surge conditions.

Jan. 14, 1978 - 0300 hours - Swimmers IAN EMBERSON, BLAKE MARR & ARCHIE HAPAI leave the beach at Sheraton Molokai and start their swim. Within 10 minutes, they reach our position and Pat Caldwell, Peter Wilson & Dr. Lewis hit the water as escort paddlers. Sea running around 1 ft., winds 5-10 kts. Surfboards have waterproof lites attached.

0345 - Swimmer BLAKE MARR forced out of swim. He had hurt his back the previous day carrying gas cans to his father's outboard. Later, Dr. Lewis determined Marr probably had a disk problem. **JIM DEAN arrives from Wailau.**

0350 - Escort paddler Pat Caldwell out due to cold. States he is so cold his okole is shaking. With only two swimmers in the water we elect not to replace him. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**

0430 - Swimmers stop for coffee break. Looking good, attitude good, no change in sea or wind conditions. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**



Channel swimmer (feet showing) and paddleboard escort. Photo Rick Davis

0630 - Kanaloa picks up coffee from Wailau, returns to Wailau, paddlers are changed. This transaction can best be described as a Chinese Fire with gear falling in the water, paddlers getting separated from the swimmers, etc. Sea increasing slightly as wind conditions. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**

1500 - Kanaloa advise Wailau that we feel we stopped making forward motion, are drifting north, so craft warnings are up. We feel obtaining Oahu under the conditions is impossible. We are approximately 12 miles off Sandy Beach but we feel we have lost perhaps one mile in the past hour. Swimmers are not advised. We sez they will be allowed to continue until dark. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**

1535 - Wailau has had a change of heart. Swimmers advised of our feelings. Hapai wishes to continue until 1700, Ian agrees and we start off again but winds have increased to 20-25 kts., seas are now 3-5 ft. In our opinion forward motion is impossible, Emberson leaves the water. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**

1600 - Hapai throws in the towel - Pau! We raise sail and return to Ala Wai arriving at 2015 hours. **JIM DEAN seasick!!!**

P.S. I have no doubt these two swimmers are capable of this swim given the proper conditions. Both appear strong and in good condition at the termination of the effort. Someday-----

Rick Davis, Skipper

Escort vessel and swimmers, mid-channel. Photo Rick Davis

