

coaching and captaincy of G. D. "Dad" Center.

The races of 1953 were arranged in such a way as to make them attractive to all, club members and outsiders. Two men's races were over the old Castle Swim course, a distance of 2,000 yards. These were classed as an open race and a race for Club members. The women's races for club members and non-members were over a 1,500 yard distances from a point off the reef at the Natatorium. The boys and girls races for club members and outsiders were 600 yards long beginning off Queen's Surf. All races ended on the beach in front of the club which was colorfully decorated for the occasion with flags.

The Club derived well earned publicity in such a promotion. A great deal of help from people who were not club members made the affair a greater success and this help was somehow appropriately appreciated. These races have more than mere competition for the prize medals which were awarded. They are an incentive to give the young and older people the courage and interest to know that if and when an occasion such as being out on an overturned boat presents itself, they know they can stay afloat and swim to shore regardless of how long it takes or who gets there first. One thing was quite noticeable in the women's races. Two girls who stopped swimming at a steady pace and treaded water found themselves being taken out by a current as far as first break area. This was considerably off the course but they made it. A man in his late 50's swam the open men's race and was very happy and satisfied even though he was the last to cross the finish line and took a long time to cover the distance. There must have been 35 contestants in all. The day and course were quite ideal.

In conclusion, the thought of reviving these races was a fine idea. It should be an incentive to revive Club interest in athletics particularly so in swimming. It is recommended they be held again in 1954 and in the future unless circumstances make it impractical.

ANNUAL DISTANCE SWIMS COMMITTEE

4/54

Submitted here is a report on the open water swimming races sponsored and promoted by the Outrigger Canoe Club on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1953.

These races were held as a revival of the annual distance swims which the Club started as far back as 1917 and which were kept up with the exception of some years all the time. When these races were first started the Club was