

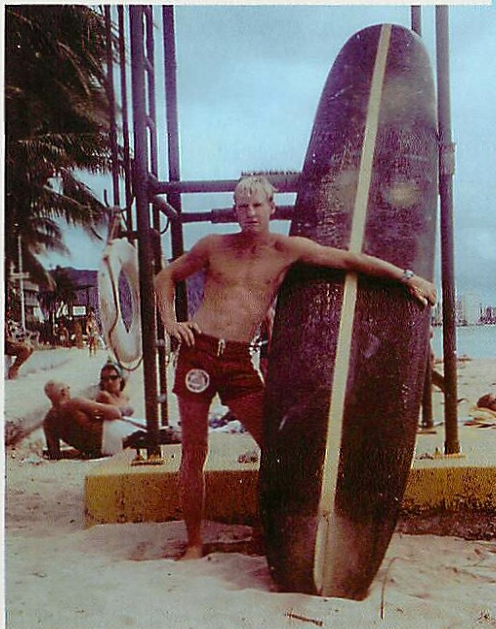
A Life Long Love Affair with the Ocean

# Three Generations of Hemmys

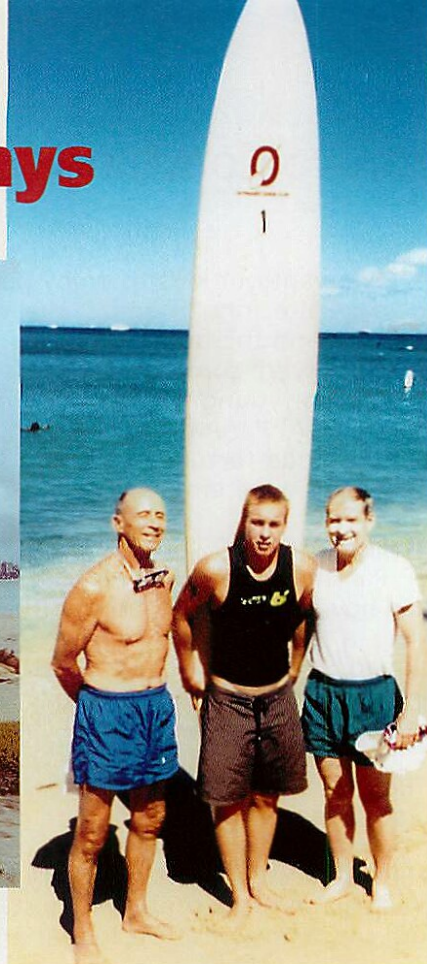
by Mina Hemmy



Victor Hemmy Sr. and wife Florence lifeguarding at Point Lookout, Long Island, New York in 1940.

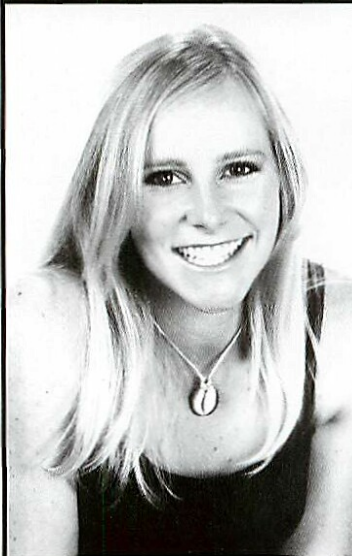


Victor Hemmy Jr. lifeguarding at Ft. DeRussy in 1966.



Vic Sr., III and Jr. enjoy the OCC beach in 1997.

**SUMMER DATES:** June 5 - 11  
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Aug 14-20



"I use the *lifeskills* tools I learned at Winners' Camp all through my Punahou and UCLA education and now as a Professional Golfer.

**FOCUS:** Follow One Course Until Successful is key. To be at the top of your game you have to FOCUS. Like today when my brother wanted to go to the North Shore to see the huge waves, I was so tempted, then I just said to myself 'FOCUS Bridget' and I headed to the golf course to work on my game; my career!"

Bridget Keala Dwyer  
Winners' Camp Graduate & Staff

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For more than 67 years, the passion for surfing has driven three generations of lifeguards in the Hemmy family to the ocean, and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Vic Hemmy Sr. started his lifeguard career back in 1938 at Point Lookout, Long Island, New York, prior to his long and distinguished service in World War II. After the War, Vic Sr. and his family settled back in Long Island, where he raised son Vic Jr. to actively participate in ocean activities. One of Vic Jr.'s earliest experiences was holding on to his dad's neck while he did the breast stroke through the surf at Point Lookout.

In 1955, Vic Sr. was transferred to Hawaii to begin what was planned as a two-year assignment as a Quarantine Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Upon arriving to Hawaii, Vic Sr. commissioned a local surfboard maker named Akiyama, to design his first two surfboards which were made of balsa wood with two redwood stringers for strength. Both boards were layered with two coats of fiberglass and resin.

Shaped with skill and lots of care, each of these boards had a slight rocker, a full rounded tail, and was streamlined for maneuvering around the crowds at Canoes. The surfboards were kept at Hale Auau, near the surf racks next to the current Honolulu Police Station along Kalakaua Avenue. At the time, parking was ample and cost only a dime an hour.

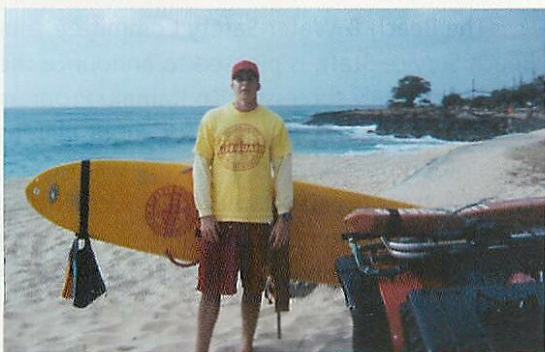
Prior to joining the OCC, Vic Sr. spent time at the Club as a guest of Charlie Martin. Charlie indoctrinated him on the fine art of canoe riding. By the time Vic Sr. joined the Club in 1977, he had perfected his canoe paddling and surfing skills.

He paddled a canoe with the late Henry Ayau on Henry's "squid diving excursions" in 65-feet of water, a mile out from the shore just to the right of the OCC. As would be expected,





Three generations of Hemmys on a wave at Canoes, 1992.



Victor Hemmy III lifeguarding at Green Lantern's, Maili Beach, 2002.

## Sunset Surfer

By Victor Hemmy Sr.

The lightly dancing turquoise ocean, alive with energy, foaming curling waves dancing under a tranquil and bright red setting sun. It hovers o'er the anxious sea like a friendly being, beckoning, and encouraging day's descent into night.

The last surfer smoothly leaps up on his surfboard, becoming one with a translucent breaking wave. Sliding down the face of the churning wall of water he executes a right slide, jumping off in the shallow water of the sandy beach, bathed in the setting sun's last rays of twilight.

Henry usually scored squid hits on these outings.

During his teen years, Vic Jr. spent his summer's life guarding at Fort DeRussy which allowed him to continue to perfect his surfing skills until leaving for college and later joining the Navy.

Vic Jr. returned to Hawaii after his Navy tour in 1974. He served his last active duty tour as Supply Officer on the USS Hassayampa, a Navy Supply Ship home ported in Hawaii. Vic Jr. later joined the Club in 1995 and like his father competes vigorously in paddleboarding, surfing, and swimming events.

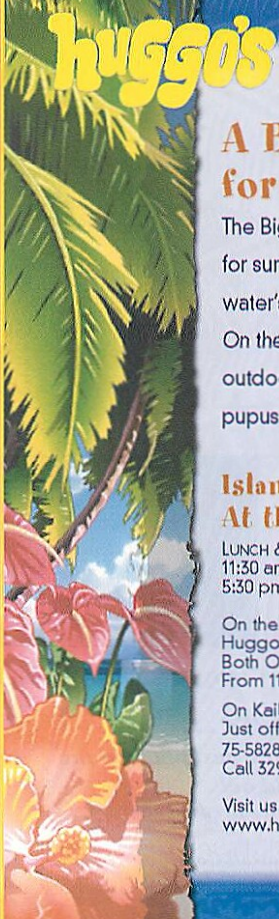
In 1975, Victor III entered the world, and not long after became involved in the water sport scene. The OCC had served as a week-end retreat for him while growing up. Victor III joined the Club in 1990.

Victor's inspiration was the late Cline Mann. He annually competes in the Cline Mann Memorial Paddleboard Race in honor of Cline who served as President and who also contributed a great deal to the Club. Last year Victor won the Iron Division.

Each year he competes in the grueling Silver Edition of the Molokai to Oahu Paddleboard Race, in which he and his partner, John Gaugini won their division last year in record time. When Victor is not on duty as a lifeguard in East Oahu, he can be found at the Club surfing, paddleboarding, and swimming.

Vic Sr. continues to serve as an inspiration to his son and grandson as the elder waterman of the Hemmy clan, competing in many swimming and paddleboarding contests. This past year, he and his lovely wife Florence, won five division swimming medals between them at the Senior Olympics at the University of Hawaii Pool.

With a motto of "use it or lose it," it is easy to see how Vic Sr.'s lifelong love affair with the ocean has been passed on to his son and grandson.



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