SURFING AT WAIKIKI

By Sam Poepoe

I shall not attempt to tell you how the waves are formed for surfing; that is for the Oceanographer, but I will endeavor to clarify points on how to surf—that is riding the surfboard—as practiced by the surfers of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

To understand this sport one must understand the theory to have greater appreciation and tolerance. Here, under your surfboard, is a tremendous catapulting natural force — called "centrifugal force" — varying in power from a placid ocean surface to towering 30-foot waves off Castle's, to Halekulani onto the harbor entrance and as far north as Waimea Bay and back to Canoe Surf. I was caught by one of these waves when Duke returned in 1931 and the waves were at there best off Halekulani hotel during the Christmas holidays. This wave broke on me, knocked me windless and churned me in a giant vortex then ignominiously thumped me down hard on what seemed and endless trip to a bottomless ocean. However, I did enjoy a long ride from Halekulani through Popular to first break and land on the beach in front of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

SURFING DEFINED

This catapulting force I shall call the "impelling force" with its maximum output of power at the crest a split second before it curls to break into foam.

The gross weight of both surfer and board plus the pull of gravity I shall call the "repelling force."

From the counter action of both—one lifting to throw the surfer and the other repelling—through deft movements on his board so he will not be thrown—you get propulsion, a naturalé.

Before you acquire this propulsion let us consider the surfboard. Let's take one eleven feet long (132 inches), with 20 inches at its greatest beam. Let us assume further that the rider catches a moderate 8 foot in height wave. The greatest lifting area would be the tangent formed by the wave at the 20 inch width, assuming again he continues to ride perpendicular to the wave's front.

Now, on an identical wave, he tacks or slides his board say, to the left. This time the lifting area is increased from 20 inches to 132 inches at the tangent, and brother, when he does that he should be traveling provided he does not override.

The last theory now presents itself and it is the lines of forces. Draw an imaginary line through the wave's crest you'll ride. This line represents the maximum power output for YOUR wave. You're ambitious and want to match this by a similar board line—a center power line through your surfboard. You've always had it! But the question now is how to match power for power. As I see it, and very crudely too, a parallel line of such power forces will be the solution. But how? I think rather simply too. The wave's power production is constant. Therefore, being imperfectly human, you're the variable factor. Being adventurously cocky you want to still match the wave's constant. And here's how it's done.

AND NOW HOW!

You've acquired the necessary strength and stamina and fortitude for this relaxing game; furthermore, you've learned the land marks well for projection to you at Canoe Surf for fast, competitive company.

Okay! Here comes a beautiful wave. A hasty survey tells you she will not break anywhere along its front. This is where fortitude has her inning. Sit tight. So tight you do not move a muscle until you hear it crackle without breaking. If she's extraordinarily steep swing the point of the board in the direction you're sliding. On the other hand if she's ordinarily curvaceous drive your calves and surfing luau feet hard; at the same moment swing and plow your arms and

BEACH ACTIVITIES

By "Bob" Fischer

Thanks to the fine cooperation of many sports-minded Club members, our activities over the past several months have shown a definite uptrend in participation and interest.

Our Canoe Committee, under the Chairmanship of Bill Capp and Assistant Chairman Bill Morris, has worked out several plans for improvement in our canoe situation, including the installation of standard blocks to set the canoes on and uniform covers for the canoes. We expect in the near future to have all of the covers painted with white fireproof paint and feel that this move will improve the general appearance of our canoe storage area in front of the Club.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Sam Fuller and his able assistant Sam Poepoe, interest in paddling increased tremendously with the result that we had at least two full crews for every scheduled event in our July 4 races. The training of these crews was under the supervision of Duke Kahanamoku, Sargent Kahanamoku, Toots Minvielle, Johnny Hollinger, Willie Whittle, with the assistance of many of our senior paddlers. Too much credit cannot be given this coaching staff for the many long hours they put in to develop our paddlers and maintain interest in this sport.

More and more interest is being developed in surfboard racing and it is encouraging to see our members beginning to win or at least place in the paddling events which in the past have been pretty much dominated by representatives from other clubs.

Under sponsorship of the Outrigger Canoe Club and the whole-hearted cooperation of Hui Nalu, Waikiki Surf Club, Healani Club and Koolaupoko Club, the Hawaiian Canoe Paddling and Surfing Association was formed. The main purpose of this association is to standardize the rules and regulations governing canoe paddling and surfboard competition and to assist in coordinating various activities sponsored by these clubs on established dates.

Wilford D. Godbold, president of the Outrigger Canoe Club, presents a courtesy guest card to charming Miss Enid Blackwood who was selected as Australia's "Miss Advertising of 1950."
—John Williams Photo

Activities participated in by your Club during the past several months were: The Club Day in May; June 11—Hookupu; July 4—Walter Macfarlane Memorial Races; Koolaupoko Labor Day races; opening program of Aloha Week, in which our canoes and members assisted in transporting the King from Waikiki to Ala Moana Park; participation in the night water pageant at Ala Moana Park, and participation in the water sports program on the final day of Aloha Week.

While we recognize room for improvement and expansion of our activities, we all realize that in order to carry on and participate in these events, a great deal of time is devoted to them by your Club leaders and participants. To each and everyone of this group, I extend my personal appreciation, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.

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Location One is the real challenge because it represents the ultimate matching position of power to power. To attain it calls for a speedy take off perfectly coordinated. To hold it requires a grating motion composed of a sharp weight thrust on the fore foot followed by an inboard body half twist, the right or hind foot maintaining balance only. This action is executed periodically when you feel you're losing altitude.

If you're able to maintain this high topside with a level riding board you've matched and mastered the power play and should experience naught but transcendency, an emotional experience words are inadequate to express.

I wish to place on record by naming the Burbank brothers as conceiving and building the 8 inch of 3" material stern which is so popular. This was in 1919 when we were students at Punahou School. It was revolutionary indeed as inches aft. Moreover, the board's bottom was as nearly round as they could make it, with the result there was absolutely no competition. Compared to today's hollow boards it would be a midget indeed, only 9 feet long, 22 inches at its greatest beam, and tapering sharply to its 8 inch stern. Both Burbanks were excellent surfers too.