

THE "A" RELAUNCHED

Sunday, June 27, was the occasion for one of Hawaii's most interesting gatherings. It occurred at the home of Herbert M. Dowsett, at Lanikai.

Mr. Dowsett, who has for years been a great supporter of the old Hawaiian sports, invited a large group of old time sports followers to witness the re-launching of the famed and historic canoe the "A". This canoe is claimed to have been the most perfectly built and fastest racing canoe in Hawaii and was the property of Prince Kuhio "Cupid" Kalani-anaole. For many years it lay in the canoe shed of the Outrigger Canoe Club and was removed on Sept. 26, 1931 to the Bishop Museum where it was displayed until May 20, 1952 when it was removed for rehabilitation. "A" is an Hawaiian word meaning "the great black bird with white feathers." "A" also means "jawbone."

Prince "Cupid" Kuhio was a great sportsman and entered his canoe the "A" in many races.

Herbert Dowsett knowing canoe history felt that the canoe should be used and made a deal with the Museum through Edward Bryan to replace the "A" with a canoe in good condition. The "A" was in deplorable condition and required over \$1,500.00 in work for replacements, its wood having dry rot and termite infestation. Two months of arduous labor by Dowsett and a paid cabinet maker, Kiyoshi Tsumura, finally restored the canoe to its original beauty. Shining with varnish, coated inside with a special laminated mahogany facing glued and stapled in; the invited guests witnessed a really graceful canoe of beauty and design.

The "A" is 39 ft. 9 in. in length, 25½ ft. at the rear gunwale. In repairing it a new method was used. The entire canoe is lined inside with one inch wide strips of South American mahogany laid in diagonally, cemented and stapled with copper staples. Due to the length of the canoe and the thinness it had a tendency to strain. The inner lining has taken out all such tendency and Edric Cooke who steered it many times years ago stated that the canoe today is easier to handle and truer than in the past.

Guests assembled at 9:30 a.m., the launching was made by the young members of the Lanikai Association who have entered into canoe competition. Several races were held with oldtimers manning the "A" and Lanikai Club members, ages 15 and 17, manning another great canoe the "Manu Keo Keo."

Herbert Dowsett brought together several of the oldtimers who had raced in the "A". They were Zen Genoves, stroke, "Dad" Center, Frances Bowers, Knute Cottrell, Ernest Cooke, and Edric Cooke, steering. They in the "A" were matched against the Lanikai 17-year-old crew in a half mile race. While the 17-year youngsters won by a canoe length, youth will tell, the oldsters were beautiful in their stroke and precision. Another race was held against the 15-year-old crew of Lanikai. The "A" oldsters crew were "Toots" Minnvielle, stroke, Gay Harris, Wilbur Craw, Lex Brodie, Edric Cooke, Ernest Cooke, steering. Again age was too much of a handicap but again the oldsters demonstrated class and experience.

Those present were:

Hui Nalu Members: Honorable Victor S. K. Houstein, Lew Henderson, Harold Castle, Alexander May, John D. Kaupike, Fred Wilhelm, Leon Sterling, Sr., Knute Cottrell, Zen Genoves, Sam Kahanamoku.

Outrigger Canoe Club Members: David G. "Dad" Center, Ernest W. Stenberg, Edric Cooke, Ernest Cook, Frances Bowers, Judge Harry Steiner, A. C. "Pete" Young, Louis "Sally" Hale, Wilbur Craw, A. E. "Toots" Minnvielle, Robert D. Fischer, Alexander Brodie, Gay Harris, J. Atherton Gilman.

Lanikai Association: Herbert M. Dowsett, S. H. "Sherry" Dowsett, George Perry, Gilbert Root, Albert Hussey, Stewell Wright, Kenneth Barr, Frank Wood, E. L. Ralston.

Not affiliated: Edward H. Bryan of Bishop Museum, Dr. Nils P. Larsen, Dr. John Naesland of the University of Upsala, Sweden, Dr. Fred Hard, President of Scripps College, "Scoop" Tsuzuki of the Waikiki Beach Club and official photographer of the occasion.

(Pics on next pages)

OLD TIMERS AT



Top Left—Some of old originals who made history in the "A"—L. to R.—Frances Bowers, Pete Young, Harry Steiner, David G. "Dad" Center, Zen Genoves, Knute Cotrell, Ernie Cook, Edric Cooke.



Lower Left—Original Hui Nalu club members, Seated: L. to R.—Harold Cartee, John D. Kaupiko, Knute Cotrell, Alec May, Low Henderson. Standing: L. to R.—Judge Harry Steiner, Bill Kahanamoku, Fred Wilhelm, Sam Kahanamoku.

Pic by "Scoop" Suzuki

A RE-LAUNCHING



Upper Right—Lanikai Association junior members re-launch the historic "A" loaned after rehabilitation to the paddlers by Herbert Dowsett.

Center—Old timers man their old canoe "A." Stroke, Zen Genoves, Dad Center, Frances Bowers, Knute Cotrell, Ernest Cooke, Edvic Cooke, Captain—Total years about 375

Lower Right—Assembled for launching and luau are old timers all. L. to R.—1st Row—Bob Fischer, Victor Husten, Pete Young, H. Steiner, Knute Cotrell, Alec May, Zen Genoves, Low Henderson, Harold Castle, Gay Harris, "Dad" Center, Edvic Cooke. Rear: Atherton Gilman, Leon Sterling Sr., Fred Wilhelm, Edward Bryan, "Toots" Minvielle, Frances Bowers, "Sally" Hale, Eynie Stenberg, Wilbur Craw, Lex Brodie, George Perry.

