



*Fiber-glass Canoe is launched. L. to R. Bow: Jack Craig, builder; "Toots" Minvielle, Jr., designer; G. Minn. L. to R. Stern: Geo. Downing, Wm. McCracken, Phil Carr, Fred Steere, Jr., Club Captain.*  
*Pic by "Scooby" Tsuzuki*

## THE FIBER-GLASS CANOE

By A. E. "TOOTS" MINVIELLE, JR.

Well finally after quite a time of talk and discussion amongst the powers concerned and interested as to the practicality and feasibility of constructing a fiber-glass canoe, one was successfully and satisfactorily made. So many things on the beach have come in for a coat of fiber-glass of late, such as surfboards, paddles, catamarans, skiffs, that the question arose as to the making of a canoe. Accordingly, Mr. Phil "Caboose" Carr of Craig and Co., local distributors of such materials, engaged the writer to prepare plans and drawings for a 28 ft. 6-paddle canoe.

### WON'T SINK

The hull of the canoe was designed for surfing purposes. Several other features were incorporated. It was shaped so as to be picked up by the wave better than most canoes. It was made to hold a more steady course and to be a much easier steering canoe. The plastic and fiber-glass materials seem to have a density greater than that of water taken as 1.0. Such being the case, these materials then will not float, neither will a swamped fiber-glass canoe. To give floatation, a double or false bottom, 3 inches or so thick, was provided for the full length of the canoe and water-tight compartments were put in at the bow and stern.

Whereas the outrigger arms or iako are usually of the "hau" tree which must

be found with a suitable curve, the iako for this canoe were made from three pieces of 1 x 3 spruce which were bent to the required curve and uniformity and glued together. The awa or floating outrigger was made from redwood, hollow inside for lightness and fiber-glassed on the outside for surface protection. Other parts of the canoe such as the gunwale, seats, mauu or end coverings and wai or cross braces were made of wood and shaped in the usual manner.

### COMPLETE SUCCESS

The launching and try-out of the canoe took place recently. It was kept on the beach at the Outrigger Club for several days during which time most of the celebrated authorities on surfing and canoe steering had their chance to try it out. Even Duke P. who doesn't get out very often of late was eager to give it a test run and steered it on a wave from "blow hole" right in to the beach at the Outrigger's dining room. Others were just as enthusiastic in their comments on the qualities of the new canoe. "Sally" Hale, who is in charge of the Beach Services office, would like to have at least two similar 34-foot canoes, each to hold 10 people in all, for his use and for use as a double canoe in pageants.

### THE FUTURE CANOE

In the construction of this canoe, a

"female" mold was first made to the required dimensions and supervised control. It resembled a water trough or elongated bath tub. The fiber-glass materials were applied to this mold and upon hardening the shell was simply lifted out of the mold. The finished product, being painted black, cannot be distinguished at a distance from an ordinary koa or wood canoe. Unless a lot of interest is developed and men with strong backs secured to go up into the mountains of Kona for the large koa trees, this method of making Hawaiian outrigger canoes may be the thing of the future.