

Visitors Give Hawaii Paddlers Something to Work For

OCT 14 1985

By Cindy Luis
Star-Bulletin Writer

What does the outstanding showing by non-Hawaiian canoes in yesterday's Bankoh Molokai Hoe say about Hawaii's canoe clubs?

"Eh, I think it's super that they did that good," Kai Opua Coach Junior Kanuha said. "It means we're going to have to practice a little harder for next year. I can accept them beating us; they were in better condition and we just ran out of gas."

Kai Opua of Kona was the

fifth finisher overall and the first Neighbor Island canoe to complete the 40.8-mile Kaiwi Channel crossing yesterday. For quite awhile, the Big Island club was the only one of the 37 Hawaiian canoes challenging for the lead.

"We were running third most of the way and came in higher than the other two," Kanuha said. "For a while it worked and we got the current with us. But then we got tired and Kai-lua passed us at Diamond Head."

KAI OPUA'S COURSE strategy was to head for Koko Head then

follow the current to Diamond Head and the Fort DeRussy finish. First-place Illinois Brigade 1 and runner-up FFPP 1 of Tahiti stayed off Oahu by two miles.

"It was smoother than we were hoping for," said Kai Opua steersman Bill Roschill. "The current was moving well but our guys didn't have the experience to stay with the leaders. This was the first distance season for seven of our (nine) paddlers."

"I made a prediction before the race that we'd finish fourth but after finishing fifth, I guess

now I'm surprised we did so well."

Equally surprised about his club's finish was 16-year-old David Napoleon, the youngest of four brothers paddling for Anue-nue of Oahu. His dad, Nappy, steered the koa Ho'ola the entire distance, completing his 27th consecutive channel crossing, in 6:06:27 for 27th place.

"DURING THE RACE, when we looked back, nobody was there except us," said the youngest Napoleon of his second time across. "But when we got to Portlock, we saw plenty of boats

behind us and I felt better. It was better the second time for me."

So was staying on the beach at Hale O Lono. "It was better than a hotel; there were so many stars to look at and such a nice night," said the Maryknoll junior. "And it was better than staying home."

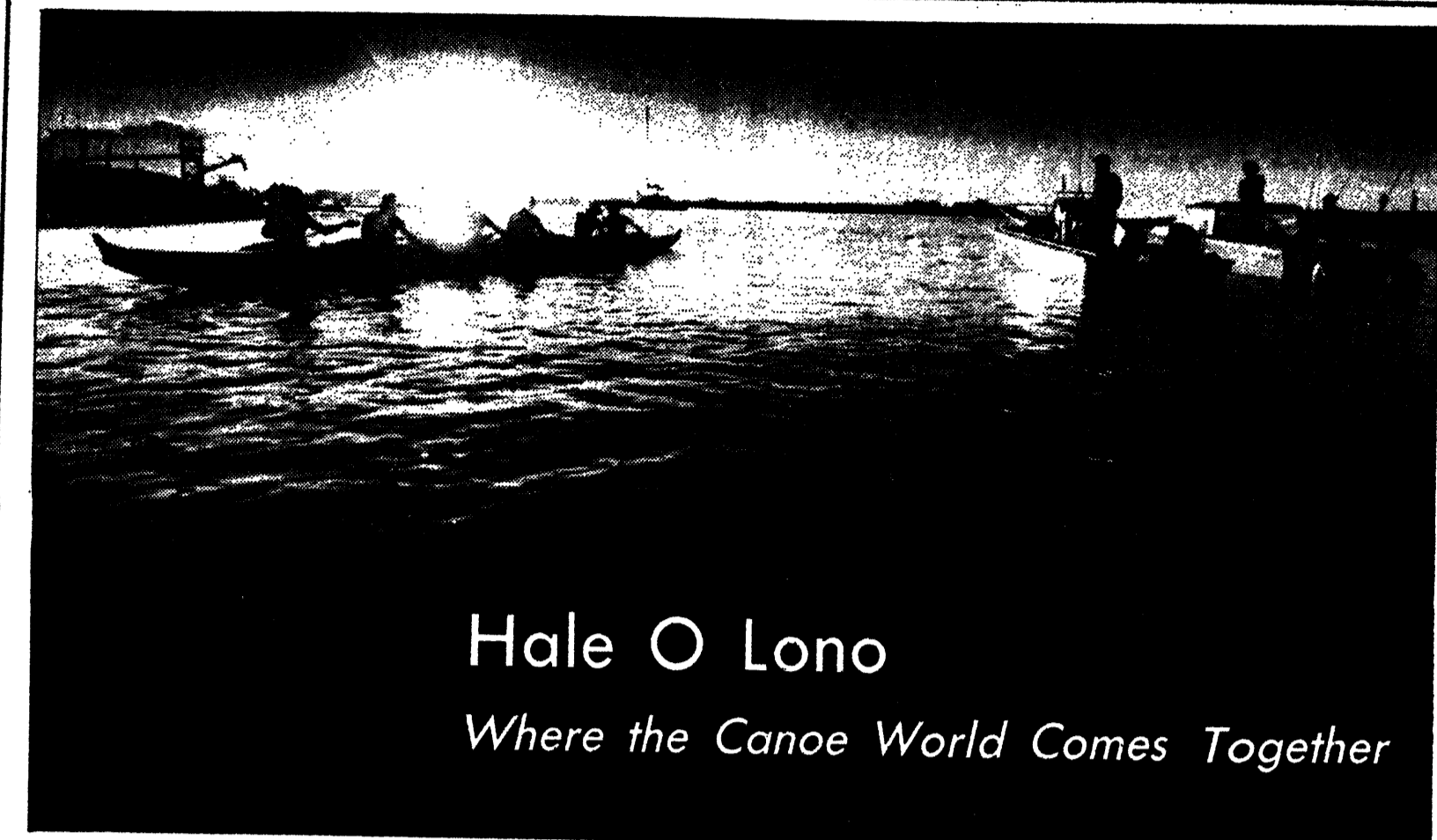
There were times during mid-channel that the Australian crew members wished they had stayed home. After several hulls (flippings) and a swamp, the Aussies finished last in 6:57:31.

"We flipped two, three times

but we took only about three minutes to get the boat back over," said Nick Tromp. "It was when we swamped that we spent an hour swimming in the ocean, trying to get the boat bailed out."

"We finally had to put it on the back of the escort boat and bail it from there."

Other than that, Tromp said the race was great. "It was disappointing to finish last but it was the first time for all of us," he said. "The distance didn't bother us and we enjoyed it. We'll be back next year."



Hale O Lono Where the Canoe World Comes Together

By Mike Gordon
Star-Bulletin Writer

HALE O LONO, Molokai—It is a Brigadoon-like change, a metamorphosis that happens here only once a year when the center of the Hawaiian canoe paddling world is a lonely harbor surrounded by rocks and thorns and red, red dirt.

Hale O Lono is where the world's best paddlers come to challenge each other—and the often angry Molokai Channel—in a 40.8-mile race to Oahu. The women came here in September. The men were here on Sunday.

It is a carnival of lycra, neoprene and nylon; of brightly colored fiberglass "rocket boats" (lime green, orange, yellow, blood red and blue); and of dark koa wood boats, boats with a sensual, spiritual feel to them.

ALL AROUND are paddlers scurrying with final preparations. Arms windmill about in an effort to warm stiff muscles.

The morning sun, bright and just off the horizon, sends their shadows dancing

along the shore. A paddler sands the blade of his paddle, one can only wonder why.

Relief paddlers dash to escort boats to store gear and then dash back to help put a canoe in the water.

Rigging is checked and re-checked. Nylon spray-guards that keep the water out of the boat are double sealed with duct tape and silicon gel.

HALE O LONO is alive with a sense of joy, a sense of mission, with the lure of the channel.

"If we beat you, you gotta buy the beer."

"Where's the sun screen?"

"Just relax gang . . ."

"My wrist hurts . . ."

"Don't worry, you'll do fine."

Old friends greet each other once again. Handshakes all around. Back slapping and nervous laughter.

The sure words of an old paddler settles a crew, braces it for the challenge ahead, for house-sized swells that sometimes march through the channel.

"You can do it. Don't be afraid. You got to be pushing, pushing, pushing. When it hurts you have to push more. For this club, for yourself. Concentrate and find that happy feeling."

Another crew receives its final instructions.

"Open up your mind. You are the master. Concentrate on what you're doing. Listen only to your captain. Do whatever is requested of you. Pay attention to every stroke you pull."

EVERYWHERE THERE are cameras. Click, click, click, click.

One young paddler leans forward on his paddle, thoughts perhaps straying to paddling's peculiar brand of pain.

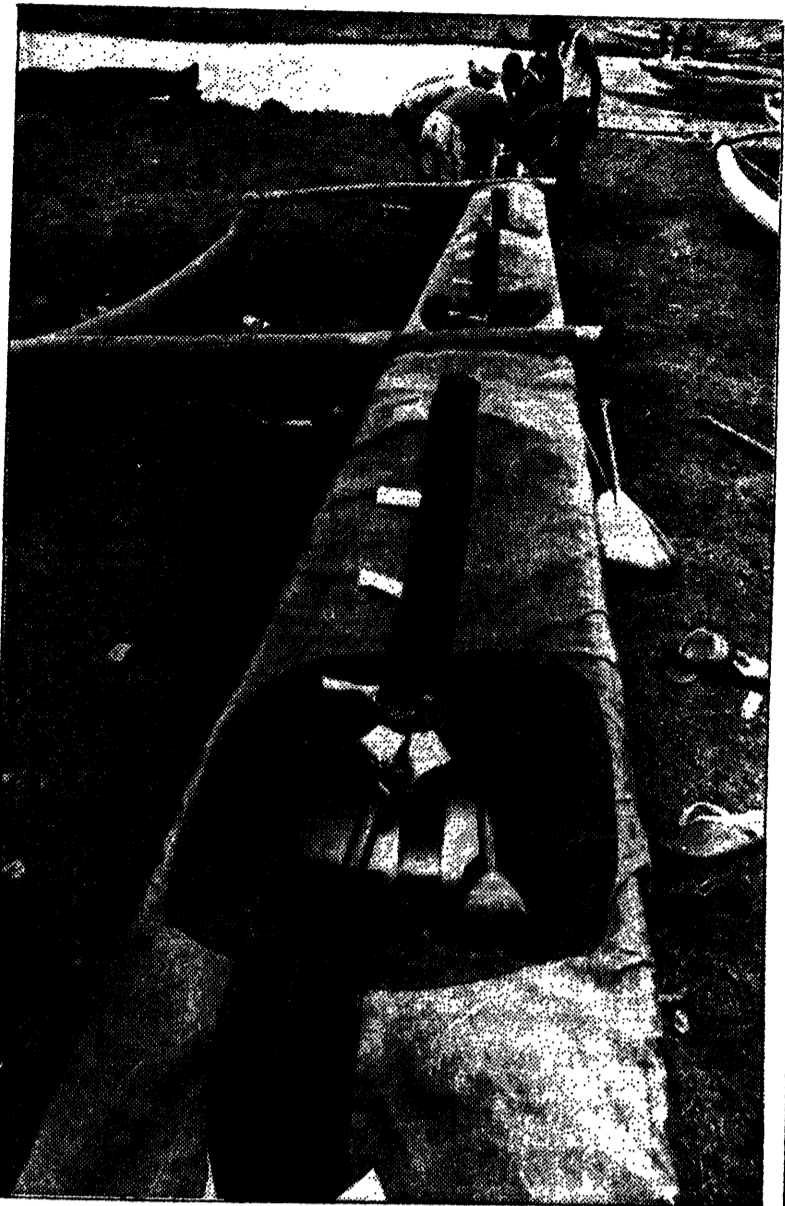
And then there are Hawaiian prayers, dotted here and there with words that refuse to translate: Australia, Canada, Illinois.

And singing. Hands are clasped all around for "Hawaii Aloha." Some of the voices fill the air with inspiration; others should only be heard in shower stalls.

THE CAMERAS keep clicking. Click, click, click, click. With the closing of the last verse, a cheer goes up and the paddlers head for their canoes.

They slip them into the water with the tenderness of a lover and head for the starting line, for lure of the channel.

As the last escort boat slips out of the harbor entrance a silence grips the coastline. The red dirt blows in the wind.



Physical and mental pre-race preparation is demanding.

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TUES. DUES: Karl Heyer IV isn't sure what to make of the telegram, but he's been showing it to friends at the Outrigger Canoe Club, including Tom Selleck. Signed "Mikhail Gorbachev," the telegram inquires about the possibility of a Russian team paddling in the Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race and apparently was prompted by Karl's quotes in the paper after OCC lost to a "foreign" team from Illinois. Karl phoned the Soviet Embassy in Washington yesterday and was told that, yes, the Russians may be coming. . . . I don't think we're in Kansas any longer, Toto, dept.: The drawing for an outrigger canoe at the Bishop Museum Festival was won by a guy from, it figures, Topeka. . . . Sen. Ben Cayetano appears to have dumped his "Prince Valiant" hairstyle for a more mature look □ □ □

DIS AND DOT: Former Honolulu Les Yamamoto, g.m. of the Spokane Indians minor league baseball team, was all set to cheer for the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. But then George Brett of the Kansas City Royals bought the Spokane franchise with brothers Ken, Bobby and John. "How do you not cheer for the man who signs your paychecks?" asks Les. It was a good investment for the Bretts — despite having a team with a losing record. Les ran an organization that turned a profit for the first time in the 37-year history of professional baseball in Spokane □ □ □

ISLE STYLE: Randy Rarick, surfer meet dir. and one of the more eligible bachelors on the North Shore, married Leslie Marshel, Pan Am flight attendant. . . . The good news, reported in U.S. News and World Report magazine, is that the divorce rate dropped in the U.S. last year for just the second time in 24 years. Hawaii ranks No. 32 among the 50 states with a divorce rate of 4.6 per thousand people, below the national average of 4.9 and way down from No. 1 Nevada's 13.7. . . . Then there is Modern Bride magazine, which reports that 108,000 couples chose Hawaii as their honeymoon spot last year, spending an average \$2,758 per couple. . . . It's a small world dept.: Mike Vassar of KPOI and new fiance Liane Sunn were window shopping in Zurich, Switzerland, when they saw a girl in an Outrigger Canoe Club T-shirt. She turned out to be former Isle model Karen Silva, who did a lot of work for Liberty House and is now keeping busy as a model in Europe!

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PPROMOTER Tom Moffatt is already looking forward to Nov. 14 because that's when he'll present closed-circuit TV coverage of the fight between Marvelous Marvin Hagler and John "The Beast" Mugabi. Also on the fight card is the battle between Thomas Hearns and James Shuler. You know, that Hagler beat Hearns in a terrific fight some months back, but Mugabi is a true beast, having accumulated 28 straight knockouts. Moffatt made a bundle with the Hagler-Hearns fight and should have a big money-maker with the upcoming double bill . . .



TOKYU Hotels International exec v.p. Bob Rinker, who stands about 6-8, was seen talking eyeball to eyeball with Dairei (USA) Inc. v.p.

Moritaka Adachi at the Japan Marketing for Success seminar at the Ilikaiki this week. It didn't hurt that Adachi was standing on an 18-inch high platform. . . . During the New Musical Purposes Foundation's recent preview party at the home of Dr. & Mrs. Morton Fox, the Fox's next door neighbor, Dolly Parton, was basking in the moonlight and enjoying the music. The party was to preview the gala benefit concert the NMPP is holding tomorrow night at the Blaisdell Concert Hall with Robert LaMarchina conducting the Honolulu Festival Orchestra and solo performances by Eugene Fodor, Stephen La'anui Salazar and Richard Kashanski



LOOKS like Kane and Linda Fernandez want to keep their treasurer happy. Randy Ogata, newly named v.p./treasurer of E.K. Fernandez Shows and the Fun Factory,

celebrated a birthday this week and Kane and Linda not only threw a surprise dinner party at the Outrigger Canoe Club but presented him with a new Toyota Supra. . . . The coordinating committee for the Oct. 26 Maryknoll Booster Club Luau is headed by parents whose kids not only were graduated from Maryknoll, but from college as well. . . .

IT was pointed out to Hotel Corp. of the Pacific's Mike Paulin that he could purchase a couple of Spanish sparkling wines for VIP guests at Kaaanapali Shores Resort considerably cheaper than the Korbel he'd been buying. Paulin considered it and then decided to continue with Korbel because, like many of the resort's customers, it comes from California. . . . Speaking of the Valley Isle, the first all-Maui product catalog is just out. Called Uniquely Maui, it even features Maui models such as Kathie Blackburn, who doubles as sales director for the project. . . .

NOT only is Bob Vierck v.p. at Pacific Resources and board chairman of the Honolulu Symphony, but he's a health nut as well. He

competed in the Clark Hatch Heptathlon as the local over-40 champ and came in third in worldwide competition. . . . Talented Tommy Aguilar, who did such a great job getting pro performances out of an amateur cast in HCT's "A Chorus Line," will be teaching a guest workshop in the art of musical comedy at the Dance Works Oct. 26. The two-hour workshop gets underway at 2:30 p.m. and costs \$10. . . . Greenwood Press is publishing "An International Dictionary of Theatre Language," billed as "a fundamental addition to all theatre collections." It was edited by three UH professors, Joel Trapido (general editor) with Ed Langhans and James Brandon. . . . Now that the Dodgers are out of World Series play, I'm off for a couple of weeks play of my own in San Francisco, a World Series-quality city, even if the Giants are perennially lousy. I'll be back Nov. 4. . . .



Vierck