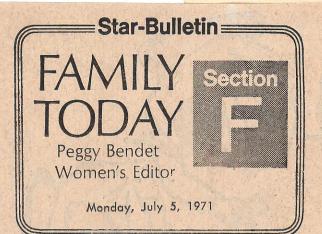
HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii PHONE: 734-8124 Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

JUL 5 1971



Always the Tearful Finish

By Lois Taylor Star-Bulletin Columnist



Henry Van Gieson, coach of the Leeward Kai Canoe Club, provides his own shade and refreshments.



Canoe racing is one sport where the contestants stay dry and the spectators get wet.

OK. So you're a 13-year- one way or the other by win- race begins, the contestants old girl and you've been ning or not winning a slate had to paddle their heavy Vernon Correa of Kai Oni's crew placed third in their ior crew paddled the extraining for three months, of 16 races in front of the koa canoes all the way out to paddling a water-logged cannot tied to a pier, and in your and a wall-to-wall gallery of roughly the equivalent of expectation. This is boys 13 and under, as he fin-roughly the equivalent of expectation and a wall-to-wall gallery of roughly the equivalent of expectation. first race you're beaten by race fans. 20 seconds by your arch rivals. You cry. Anybody to begin at 10 a.m., started

logged canoe tied to a pier, and in your first race you beat your arch rivals by 20 seconds. What do you do? Certainly. You cry.

sport, and a highly emotion- passersby al one. Paddling teams seem to enter the races with the into tears and sobbing, "Oh,

ward surprised themselves This means that before the dlers.

The first race, scheduled on Hawaiian time, about 20 But consider this. You're a minutes late. By noon, the 13-year-old girl and you've beach was so crowded that been training for three the Hawaii Visitors Bureau on the beach between the months, paddling a water- should buy and burn all snapshots of the mob.

The few people who found enough space to lie prone on beach mats frequently found themselves stood or sat on Canoe paddling, on the 13- and had mouthsful of sand year-old level, is a very wet kicked into their faces by

THE PARTICIPATING same peculiarly defeatist canoe clubs in yesterday's philosophy as do candidates Walter MacFarlane Memorito the Miss America contest. al Regatta were the host Has anybody ever won the club, the Outrigger, and Hui title of Miss America with- Nalu, Healani, Kailua, Kai out immediately bursting Oni, Lanikai, Leeward Kai

the Kentucky Derby. Each of the eight clubs staked out an area of its own Royal Hawaiian and the Moana Hotels, and flew its own pennant from a tall bamboo

quarters at the Bikini Bar of the Moana, but the younger club members, in a frenzy of competition, huddled together in their own enclaves and told each other how much they wanted to win. And how they probably wouldn't.

Canoe racing is like a and Waikiki Surf. Not each track meet in that for five rope that holds it there. there were so many prettier of them fielded a team in ev- minutes of competition, the ery event. The races began contestants sit around all anywhere from a quarter of day, and that seems to be a YESTERDAY, canoe pad- a mile to a full mile out at large part of the appeal dlers from 11-year-old on up- sea and ended at the beach. among the younger pad-

record-breaking crew of race. won and caught the sun's repecting Cananero II to gallop 10 miles from his stables flection in it. to the starting gate before

"Oh, we talk about the Novice A crew, "and we

the club picnics held last for the paddlers. THE SENIOR paddlers night after the races. Some Some of them had torn al- "LISTEN, you wahines,"

"Canoe paddling is a lot of work," explained DeeDee Watanabe, "and that's why we have to train so hard. Do you know what the coach heavy practice canoe up to hard as we can against the

"Sometimes we drag old tires off the bow and stern as we paddle. Wow, when we finally get into the racing

"We talk stories," said DeeDee's Hui Nalu Novice A to of Healani's women's sen-

sports is canoe racing cursed with the pressuring mama. The hollering moms who dominate the Little same kind of stuff we talk League scene and the age about at school," said Cecily group swim meets don't Quinn of the Outrigger's raise their kids to be canoe paddlers. The parents who watched the MacFarlane races yesterday stayed well WHEN NOT WORRYING, in the background except to other times delivered a kind the paddlers made plans for provide food and cold drinks

tended to make their head- worried they'd be too tired. legiances. Cynnie-Belle began the steersman for a Ayau who 15 years ago was a star paddler for the Outrigger senior women's crew. cheered for Hui Nalu and far ahead that the rest of the makes us do? He ties the her 11-year-old son. "I see a boats won't even see us comlot of my old crew whose the pier, and we paddle as kids are paddling for different clubs. It's still pretty hard to win a seat paddling for the Outrigger," she said.

> AND ONCE having won a seat in any racing canoe, most paddlers aren't willing canoe, it's like glass." to give it up. Punky Teramo- began.

hausting mile-long course with her team, although a LESS THAN MOST junior teammate said that Punky is five months pregnant.

The younger paddlers were allowed to use adult steersman because extra strength was needed to pilot the canoes through yesterday's surf. Before leaving the beach, the steersman sometimes led his crew in a brief Hawaiian prayer and of locker room harangue to

freshman girls' team, "we're going out there, and we're gonna win. We're gonna paddle so hard and be so ing down that last wave. Are you ready?"

"No," wailed a freshman, "the strap on the top of my suit snapped." And what followed was the only case of tears before the race even