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NO ORDINARY CANOE RIDE—David and Julie Eisenhower (center) met the Waikiki surf in an outrigger canoe steered by world surfing champion Fred Hemmings. From bow to stern, Aka Hemmings, a secret serviceman; David, Julie, Ron Sorrell and Fred Hemmings.

Guarding David and Julie Eisenhower can be wet

By Ron Haworth

Julie and David Eisenhower thrilled to their first outrigger canoe ride Saturday, riding the Waikiki waves in the shadow of Diamond Head in a canoe steered by world surfing champion Fred Hemmings.

And it didn't take Julie and David more than one ride to get stoked. They loved it.

PRESIDENT Nixon's younger daughter and her husband had first visited the Arizona War Memorial following their arrival at Hickam Air Force Base aboard the Presidential jet.

They then returned to the Kahala Hilton for a quick change of dress before motoring the short distance to the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Julie wore a blue and white mini dress for her first meeting with the surf. David was attired in slacks and a knit shirt.

The Outrigger Canoe Club had been alerted beforehand of Eisenhower's visit and Fred Hemmings and Rabbit Kekai were standing by to steer the two canoes the party would use.

THREE Secret Service men with walkie-talkies and suspicious bulges beneath their shirts were along. They, too, went canoe surfing.

A few late-afternoon beach lingerers snapped pictures for the family scrapbook as the party was loaded into their respective canoes.

Julie and David's canoe was red with a white piping around the gunwale. The second canoe was blue, matching Julie's summer dress.

A Secret Service man in the second canoe pointed out that neither Julie nor David were strong swimmers.

PERHAPS he was a bit apprehensive as the canoes approached the surf at Tongs.

But he needn't have been. What more elite lifeguard service could there be than Rabbit Kekai and Fred Hemmings?

In the first canoe Hemmings instructed Julie and David in canoe seamanship.

"Grip the paddle at the top . . . that's right . . . now stroke . . . one . . . two . . ."

His pupils were quick to learn Ron Sorrell, commissioner of the International Professional Surfers Association, said who paddled in number five seat, said later on the beach:

"David really pulled his weight paddling."

ALSO in the Eisenhower canoe was a Secret Service man and Fred's brother, Aka.

After several good rides Julie asked what was on the bottom, and Aka, a fellow you just can't keep out of the water (two days previously he and a companion had paddled boards 27 miles between Molokai and Oahu) tumbled out of the canoe and swam to the bottom.

He would show Julie what "grew down there."

Seaweed. And Julie accepted what must have been the strangest bouquet ever offered.

SECRET Service men must be alert to everything around them, but canoe surfing was one situation they didn't study in any service manual.

But except that their two-way radios suffered from the spray and wouldn't work after the first wave, they pulled the unfamiliar situation off with aplomb.

And these guardians of the Presidential party were as easy to know as the next door neighbor.

But one never forgets just who they are and why they are there.

And they were full of questions:

"How many miles can one of these canoes be paddled?"

"Every year we paddle them 42 miles in the Molokai to Oahu race," Rabbit said proudly.

"How long does that take?"

"Six hours if you don't swamp." And they were impressed.

BACK at Outrigger Julie wanted to see a surfboard and Fred Hemmings took her on a quick tour in surfboard design.

He pointed out the vast difference between today's light, foam board and the type used by Duke Kahanamoku when Duke was a young man.

Nearby was the koa canoe "Kakine," holder of the Molokai Channel record.

"What is the record?" Julie asked.

"Five hours, fifty-five minutes and sixteen seconds," Hemmings answered.

And he should know. He helped put that record into the books.

"The 'Kakine' is a real koa racing canoe. Good koa canoes are rare and very valuable.

"Next week Outrigger is naming a new canoe after Duke Kahanamoku."

And then it was time to bid Julie and David aloha. Neither had escaped completely the light spray while surfing and they were anxious to change into dry clothes.

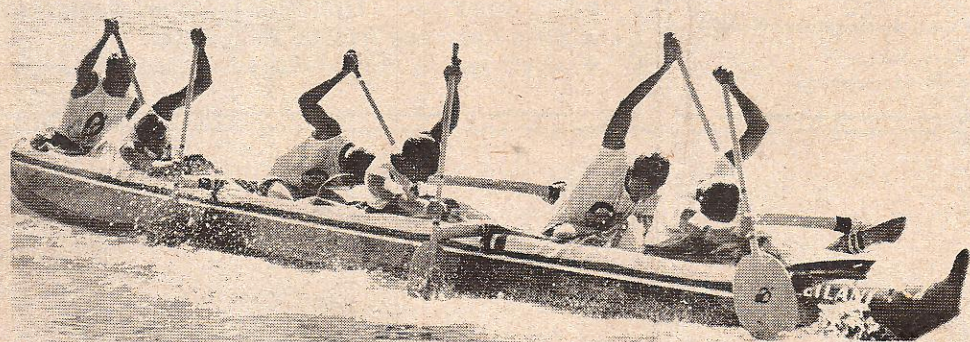
"Hey, they really enjoyed that," Hemmings said. "I'm glad."

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HAWAII TOURIST NEWS

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Outrigger Canoe Races In Kailua Bay



Paddlers put their back into it on the home stretch.

"I must go down to the seas again," poet John Masefield wrote about his love for the sea. So it is with the Hawaiians, whose love for the ocean has led to many forms of water sports, foremost among them being canoe racing.

Strongly competitive, the Hawaiians of old would race their finest canoes in an effort to become a winner. Often the races were action-packed, with muscle and wood pitted against the strong sea.

Today canoe racing is still as popular, if not more so, and visitors will have a chance to become part of the excitement when the annual Kam Day Canoe Regatta takes place at Kailua Beach Park, Sunday, June 15 at 10 a.m.

Join in this colorful, competitive canoe race by journeying to the Windward Side of Oahu with a picnic lunch. There you can sit on stretches of sandy beach with numerous spectacular vantage points.

The event is free and you'll have a chance to photograph this thrilling race, one of its kind in the nation.

The race is dedicated to King Kamehameha and is under the joint sponsorship of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association and the Kamehameha Day Celebration Commission.

Ten clubs are entered in this historic event: the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, Lanikai Canoe Club, Kaoni, Leeward Kai, Maile Sons, Waikiki Surf Club, Outrigger Canoe Club, Hui Nalu, Healani and Order of Kamehameha.

There will be thirteen events, four for women and nine for men. Newest event is the boys 12-years and under. Highlight of the day will be the three mile senior men's race, which is the last event.

Although Polynesian sailors voyaged thousands of miles across the world's mightiest ocean in their sturdy kauahis (single canoes) long before Leif Erickson discovered America, the outrigger canoe was devised by early-day Hawaiians.