

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phones: 743-360, 78-124, 78-313  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

HAWAII TOURIST NEWS  
JUL 2 1969

# Waikiki Canoe Races Slated

Outrigger canoe racing, Hawaii's oldest and most exciting championship water sport, will be a Fourth of July feature in Waikiki during the Walter F. MacFarlane regatta.

The annual event begins at 10 a.m. Friday at the beach fronting the Moana Hotel. The course extends seaward through the surf for one-half mile and returns to the finish at the beach. The program will last three to five hours.

Named for the late MacFarlane, a well-known island sportsman who served as president of the Outrigger Canoe Club for more than a decade, the Fourth of July races are conducted by the

club under the auspices of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

It's one of five major races slated during the 1969 season.

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

The outrigger section, usually made of some lightweight wood, is a protective device which keeps the boat from upsetting.

In the old days, canoe builders were maintained at the court

(Continued on Page 19)

of the chiefs and if a commoner wanted a canoe, he had to hire the chief's builders.

The canoe was so important in the life of the early Hawaiians that each had a name and the actual construction of a canoe was attended by special religious ceremonies.

It was also difficult to qualify as a paddler in old Hawaii and those that underwent the strict program of rigid training were considered perfect examples of island manhood.

Today's oarsmen

(usually members of the 10 clubs in the Association) undergo equally Spartan training during the May-to-October racing season which this year includes five major events and 12 racing divisions for all age groups. Visitors can often see paddlers practicing on the Ala Wai canal in the late afternoon.

The featured race this Friday is the Senior Men, over a distance of two-and-one half grueling miles. A beautiful sterling perpetual trophy donated by Matson

Navigation Company after the death of Walter Mac contains the names of winning crews beginning with the first race in 1943.

Defending champion in the senior event is the Outrigger Canoe Club. Defending champion for the regatta is Waikiki Surf Club which won over Outrigger last year.

Last year "First Break" waves prevailed throughout the day thereby providing for many thrilling races, the type which any crew is capable of winning.

Donnelly col.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
PHONE: 734-8124

Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup  
HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

JUL 2 1969

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** Developer Ed Jensen, skipping the Outrigger Canoe Club team in the August Kona Billfish tourney, was disturbed that teammate Larry Bortles had never caught a large marlin or ahi. Thinking it would be good practice for his teammate (as well as a good joke) he attached a plastic bucket on Bortles' line and the effect was that of a large fish pulling on it. Bortles fought the "fish" for several hours and just as it was about to be boated, the line was secretly cut. Bortles still thinks he nearly landed a monster — or rather, he will think so until he reads here about his buddies' chicanery . . .



Jensen

PAN AM given FAA go-ahead on their new navigational system. Carousell IV, which will guide the 362 passenger Boeing 747 jets . . . Tommy James & the Shondells perform at the Waikiki Shell tomorrow night. Little known fact: James is National Youth Chairman for Cystic Fibrosis . . . Hawaii Hotel Association gave Lanakila Crafts hundreds of feet of blackout paper which they had used to darken Makaha Terrace for a film presentation during their quarterly meeting. Lanakila Crafts will use the material for art paper and props . . .

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
PHONE: 734-8124

Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup  
HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

JUL 3 1969

# Canoes, from koa to fiberglass

By Russell and Peg Apple

**SO YOUR** paddling club needs a canoe.

A canoe to race in competition with other paddling clubs. A canoe with paddlers to perpetuate in this century an ancient Hawaiian skill. A part of Hawaii's heritage to be kept alive. Your club sponsors youths and trains them how to pull Hawaiian paddles to be the fastest paddlers afloat. This is a Hawaiian sport which grips not only you, but large segments of the present-day public. Outrigger canoe racing is a popular sport.

But your club needs a canoe.

**BETWEEN** three and eight thousand dollars—in cash—are needed today to secure that canoe, a canoe which meets the specifications. For three, you can get a canoe made of fiberglass and glue; one to take the bumps and booboos of apprentice paddlers. How much for a racing canoe of koa? One cut from a log on the upper forested slopes of the islands? A canoe fit for status racing, a canoe which echoes the swift canoes of the era before 1778 and Englishman Cook? That one—if you can find one—will cost seven to eight thousand dollars.

How did the ancient Hawaiians get their canoes?

Not with money, but with ceremony, sacrifice and religion. The canoe building expert was a priest. The major steps were three: Hewing, hauling and building. This was no one-man job, but a community project. No exceptions. All participated, from babies (who were kept quiet) to grandparents (who kept the babies quiet). The rest went to work.

**THE PRIEST** had stone adzes, a craft god, and saw to the offerings. A feast began the work, held adjacent to the selected tree. After eating, accompanied by much prayer, the work began.

A bird helped the canoe-building priest. The Hawaiian 'ele-paio inspected the trunk. If the bird found rotten

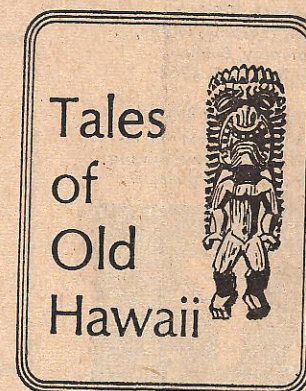
*Nine clubs will participate in the annual Walter Macfarlane canoe regatta Friday starting at 10 a.m. The holiday program will be presented in front of the Moana Hotel on a seaward course.*

*Participating clubs in the 14-race program are Healani, Hui Nalu, Kailua, Lanikai, Leeward Kai, Maile Sons, Order of Kamehameha, Outrigger Canoe Club and Waikiki Surfing Club.*

spots, undetected by surface inspection, he rejected the log by pecking where the koa log was rotten. If he checked over the tree without pause, and then flew off, all was well. The 'ele-paio represented the craft god of the priest.

A koa tree which had a prominent branch that touched another koa tree was considered a good tree.

**BRANCHES** OF the felled tree were trimmed. Bark was peeled. Then the priest saw to the rough shaping of the bow and stern, using his stone adzes. The inside was hollowed, to reduce weight. Cleats were left inside to which the future outrigger assembly



Tales  
of  
Old  
Hawaii

would be fastened with vegetable fiber rope, sennit. During the roughing out process, the priest saw that hewn knobs were left at bow and stern to which ropes could be attached to haul the roughly-shaped hull from forest to beach.

Men, women and children joined in the sport of hauling the canoe. The craft-god of the priest saw that no harm came to the hull as it was glided through vegetation, abraded over lava fields, and lowered over cliffs on its way to the sea. Specialists selected the route downslope, while half the community pulled at the rope attached to the bow knob. The other half of the community held on to the rope attached to the stern knob to hold back the hull on down slopes or ease it down a cliff. Fun, singing and chanting, with much kidding and shouting, accompanied the journey.

**ONCE ON** the beach, finishing was a job for experts. First they built a canoe shed, more to protect the canoe from sun and rain than to provide a comfortable place to work. The hull was thinned with stone adzes. There was a period when everybody went away while the hull dried properly. Then lava and pumice rubbers smoothed the sides, with soaks as needed to make the wood workable. Holes were drilled to conceal the coconut fiber ropes which would hold the gunwales, bow and stern covers in place and reduce friction.

A blackening of selected bark and wood, properly prepared like charcoal, was massaged into the hull to make it black. Then the outrigger assembly—booms and float—were tied on. Other experts made the paddles in shapes designed for Hawaiian waters. If designed for sailing, the mast was stepped, the sheet pulled taut, and a steering paddle added.

A new canoe went first on a fishing trip, with the fish caught offered to the god of the canoe-maker priest.

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phones: 743-360, 78-124, 78-313  
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup

HONOLULU ADVERTISER  
JUL 3 1969

# Canoe Crews To Compete Tomorrow

The annual Walter MacFarlane Canoe Regatta will be held tomorrow in the ocean area fronting the Moana-Surfrider Hotel.

The regatta is sanctioned by the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Assn. and the first event is scheduled for 10 a.m.

Clubs entered include Healani, Hui Nalu, Kailua, Lanikai, Leeward Kai, Maile Sons, Kamehameha, Outrigger and Waikiki Surf Club.

Quarter-mile events include boys' 12, 13 and 14 and women's novice.

At a half-mile will be men's novice, boys' 16, women's freshman and women's junior.

Senior women will compete over a one-mile course. Men's crews will go two miles, while the blue ribbon event will be the senior men at two and a half miles.