The Big One that Got Away

It wasn't Outrigger's day on Sunday, October 15, when some thirty-odd racing canoes took off from Molokai's Hale o Lono for the 1978 running - or paddling - of the Annual Molokai to Oahu canoe paddling classic. It wasn't really Hawaii's day either, for California's "Blazing Paddles" took top overall honors, with Lanikai's crew second, while the Tahitians avenged last year's defeat by outpaddling Outrigger for third place overall. However, an Outrigger crew came in a good second in the Koa division.

An Observer's-Eye View of the Molokai Channel Race
by Harriette Allan

To an inexperienced watcher of long distance canoe racing, the Spectator Boat trip for OCC members was a mixed bag of emotions as well as a fantastic education in the "how and why" of canoe racing.

An eye-catching scene of an early morning sun rising over Waikiki and Diamond Head put those on board in the mood for the day.

It was well onto 10:30 am and into the Molokai Channel before the first sail came up on the horizon: an old style windjammer in all her glory. Excitement rippled through the spectators, eyes strained to see canoes, escort boats and their placement. As you read this, everyone knows the final outcome of the Big Race, but only those who were there could tell the tale of the escort boats and the enormous part they play in a race.

Through their expert handling, the movement of the paddlers in and out of the canoes was the ultimate in precision; the rapidity and smoothness with which the paddlers exchanged places was breathtaking, to say the least. At intervals, the whaler moved ahead of the canoe, and at the proper moment, fresh paddlers went into the water in the path of the oncoming canoe. At the same time, paddlers to be relieved would roll out of the canoes to be quickly picked up by the whaler. While this was happening, the canoe was racing ahead with the new paddlers in their proper places. It was done with such dispatch, ones eyes almost refused to believe what they had seen!

A "now I've seen everything" note: mattresses covering the stern of the large escort boat enabled the whaler to transfer tired paddlers with ease by running right up onto the stern of the boat. A simple maneuver, but it must have taken some pretty fancy handling of the whaler for its accomplishment.

Whaler in mid-channel. Photo Allan

As the finish line and Oahu became realities, it was established that the "Unknowns" from California had come in first. All eyes were on the battle being fought by the Tahitians and Outrigger. The two canoes had elected to go close into shore while the spectator boat had to remain outside the reef, so again it was eye-straining to keep up with the pace. It was soon apparent that Lanikai would go in second and the Tahitians were pulling away from Outrigger. If the truth were known, one had a feeling the Californians had picked up their canoe and run on the water to the finish line! A case of "now you see them - now you don't" or "the canoe is quicker than the eye!"

The finale came when an OCC member was anxious to look for the spectator boat next year. It is sure to become a tradition - the Aikane Tours Catamaran was commodious, with lots of crew to take care of the 75 OCC members who made the trip.
Outrigger Sluggers sweep Kona Softball Tourney

In keeping with the fine performance of our canoe teams during the Labor Day races, the OCC softball team swept a four game series with teams from the Kona coast during the weekend of Sept. 22.

In the opener on Friday afternoon, OCC swallowed the host team, Keahole Ohana, 13-4. Keahole jumped off to a fast 3-0 lead, but after the third inning, it was all Outrigger, our sluggers connecting for a grand total of twelve singles, five doubles and two round-trippers. Contributing to the 13 to four rout of Keahole Ohana were: Arch Kaaua; Bill Head; Guy Jennings; Colin Chock; Bill Kilcoyne; Hank Ayau; McMahon; Roger Cundall; Danny West, and Bill Breeden.

On the following day, the Red team played both its toughest and its easiest games of the season in a double-header played in 88° heat. The Kona Waves provided the competition in the opener, which came close to being OCC's first loss. Again, our sluggers were down by three runs early in the game, but by the bottom of the seventh and final inning, it was a 5-3 ballgame, with OCC on the short end. But we have a team that wants to win, and with Coach Kaaua masterminding a few lineup changes, it went on to do just that. Contributing to the glorious 6-5 win with fine fielding and timely hitting were: Guy Jennings; Arch Kaaua; Dan West; Bill Breeden; Bill Kilcoyne; Bill Head; and Hank Ayau, whose bases-loaded hit drove in the winning run.

The second game of the double-header was a laugher, our OCC swingers collecting some 30 hits to bury Big Mac's of Kona 32 to 3. In this slugfest, Roger Cundall went 5 for 5 at the plate, creaming the ball for four singles and one homer. Bill Breeden ran Cundall a close second, with 4 for 6, including a single, a double and two round-trippers. Another standout hitter was Guy Jennings, hitting 3 for 4, including a single, a double and a home run, accounting for 4 RBI's. Bill Head and Colin Chock also lined out round-trippers.

In a return game with the host team, Keahole Ohana, on Sunday, Outrigger won 11-8, but the game was not as close as the score might indicate. In it, Bill Head notched his 14th win against no losses for the season and completed a 16 win - no loss season for Outrigger.

Our boys report that despite their rough treatment of the Big Island's home teams, they parted good friends with cordial invitations to "try it again."

Amateur Softball Association sanctions first State Tourney

An added note to the already successful softball program is the fact that several of our players participated in leagues and tournaments sanctioned by the Amateur Softball Association this year. The introduction of this Association, which is the governing body of amateur softball, a member of the AAU and the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Softball Assn., has opened the doors to the possibility of Outrigger playing in the National Championships in the near future. This year the championships were held in Sacramento, Cal.

Some of our players participating in the first ASA sanctioned State Tourney this year were Hank Ayau (Kahala Hilton), and Colin Chock, Bill Head, Archie Kaaua, Bill Kilcoyne, and Danny West (Buzz's Original Steak House). Dave Shoji played in the Army Invitational with Head and Ayau. Kaaua played with Chevron, USA in the Industrial League, Bill Breeden and Danny West played in the Financial League. All played in the prestigious Bar and Restaurant League. Hopefully, we may in the near future, see an all Outrigger team entered.

Change in transfer procedure

During the recent meeting of your Board of Directors, it was decided that all future transfers of membership involving Junior, Associate, Intermediate, and non-Resident members, will be duly posted for 30-days for review by the membership and ultimate approval or disapproval by the Board.
Volunteers wanted for Marathon aid station

For the fourth year, OCC will man an aid station for the “Big Run” in December. It will be located at 4817 Kahala Avenue. Approximately 75 persons are required at the station from 6:00 A.M. until noon. An additional 10 persons are required in the early morning at 5:30 A.M. Work at the station consists of serving ice water and Coke to runners as they pass the station both outward bound on the run and returning.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be placed at the front desk of the Club on November 15th. As always, there will be a warm welcome for volunteers who have given so freely of their time in the past, as well as for all who would like to spend a day involved in the famous “Honolulu Marathon”. P.S. - We're happy to have kids but, PLEASE, 8 years or older.

OCC Ultra-Athletes to have New Competition
by A N. Onymous

A new contest has been announced for OCC athletes, to be known as the Outrigger Canoe Club Triathlon, with a perpetual trophy to be awarded each year to a man and to a woman.

An eligible competitor is any male or female Outrigger Canoe Club member who, during the calendar year, has officially competed and finished all three of the following individual long distance events: 1) any official marathon held in Hawaii; 2) any official ocean paddleboard race, 10 kilometers or longer, using a board no more than 12 feet in length and weighing no less than 20 pounds; 3) any official ocean swimming race, 1500 meters or longer. The OCC-sponsored Waikiki Ocean Paddleboard Race in December, and the OCC Castle Swim in November are designated as official races.

The finishing time for each competitor in each sport will be awarded points depending upon the arithmetic curve similar to the equation used in the Olympic Games. Additional points will be awarded based upon the effect (favorable or otherwise) of the competitor’s age.

For events whose distances differ from the OCC official races, finishing times will be adjusted proportionately. The two annual winners will be known as the Club’s outstanding, all-around athletes of the year in individual sports.

The new competition is the brainchild of Cline Mann, who, with the concurrence of the “Winged O” recipients, made the announcement at the Annual Awards Dinner.

His inspiration for the contest came from the performance of Jim Peterson, who was the only OCC member to participate officially in all 3 sports in 1977 and whose name will be the first to be placed on the Triathlon Perpetual Trophy. Peterson’s times were: 1) OCC Castle Swim, 1977 43M 48S; 2) Honolulu Marathon, 1977 3H, 41M, 21S; 3) OCC Paddleboard Race, 1977 2H, 07M, 46S.
RIGGERS
by Harriette Allan

This and that: Our Molokai paddlers had a special training table for meals. They learned that fish has no carbohydrates and skim milk has more carbohydrates than whole milk; caviar has 3.3%, while bouillons has 5% and frogs legs have none. . . The did you know department offers these trivia: on the sea wall in front of the Hau Terrace there is a direction-locator. Bill Capp was the moving spirit behind the locator, while Cline Mann, a qualified surveyor, specified where the points of the compass were. Very educational, in case you haven't noticed it. . . Add thisa and thata: No more office Xeroxing for members a c paper shortage that is becoming critical. Will let you know when we are back in business. . . Newly added Reciprocal Club: The Union League Club of Philadelphia. . . very elegant and very old. . . will have a writeup about it next month. . . Charles Anthony Crabb and wife Wendy are now the momma & poppa of Charles Kelaakekaione Crabb, born September 19, 1978 and weighing in at "paddlin" 8 pounds. Nickname: "Kaione". . . Cockroaches may love you for the "goodies" in the locker room, but the problem cannot be solved unless we starve the little "buggers" out. So, please, no food, candy, etc. at any time in the locker rooms. . . Remember, in 1957, when the OCC Board of Directors honored Bill Capp with a dinner, prior to his transfer to the mainland and the new Matsonia arrived in Honolulu on her maiden voyage? The Hawaiian Village also dedicated a new addition - 14 stories and 270 more rooms. It was the tallest building in Honolulu. . . And, John Beaumont came back from Australia after winning 9th place in the silhouette rapid pistol shoot - the best score any American made there. . . Also. . . In 1957 Bob Fischer was elected President of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association. . . and in the Forecast (as the Outrigger was called in those days), it was noted that "the Polo season is with us again" with free admission to the games every Sunday in Kapiolani Park. Also. . . in the April, 1957 issue, it was stated that the Hawaii Visitors Bureau estimated that there were 10,094 visitors during the month of January. . . Huh! We get almost that many every day now. . . or so it seems! . . In 1956, December 30 to be exact. Ron Sorrell won the Diamond Head Paddleboard Race in the stockboard class while on December 3rd at Makaha Cynthia Hemmings came in 3rd in the Women's Senior Surfboard. . . Bobby Crewson and Kehau Kea won the feature event - mixed tandem - in 10-15 foot surf. . . In 1952, the originator of the first Molokai to Oahu race, Toots Minville, was Chairman of the event. . . 1961 saw "Nappy" Napoleon of OCC Beach Service, winning first place in the Diamond Head open surfboard race with "Rabbit" Kekai taking second place in the stockboard class. . . And so it went, page after page of memories lying on my desk, in back issues of the old "Forecast." (But our Editor says: PLEASE don't call it the Forecast now! It's been The Outrigger for more than seven years. . . and "Forecast" never was an appropriate name.)

Honolulu's "Toonerville Trolley"

The O. R. & L's. narrow-gauge railroad from Honolulu to Haleiwa and Kahuku was Oahu's first and longest rail transportation system but not its only one. In 1894, Hawaiian Tramways Company inaugurated a horsecar service between Palama and Waikiki. Then in 1898, the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company was incorporated and granted a franchise to operate an electric street railway in Honolulu. The end of the horsecar era was near. The first HRT car line ran from the corner of Wilder Avenue and Alexander Street to downtown. Eventually branches of the system extended into Waikiki, Ft. Shafter, Manoa Valley, Nuuanu Valley, and Kaimuki - a total of 30 miles of track. The streetcars of that era, especially those used on the King Street and Punahou lines, were Honolulu's pride and joy. Open from end to end, with transverse seats, they were fun to ride in good weather, but less fun in a kona storm or heavy shower, when the window-shade type side curtains afforded only partial protection. The Manoa Valley line was the Toonerville Trolley of the system. Residents of that well-named Valley of the Rainbows often left home for town in a pleasant but damp morning shower. Raincoats and umbrellas were very much in order. By the time the little trolley had reached the junction with the Punahou line at the foot of Punahou Hill, the rain had been left behind and rain togs were no longer needed. So, quite as a matter of course, the Manoans simple left their protective gear in the car, to be picked up later in the day on their return from town. Thieves? Forget it! Those were the days of "The House Without a Key", and no keys needed. In the early 30's electric trolley buses replaced the airy, happy-go-lucky streetcars, and another era passed into near-oblivion. An era that kamaainas still recall with nostalgia if not a furtive tear. (Excerpted from a series of historical sketches written and published by Members Alex Castro and Harold Yost.)