



Fred Hemmings, Jr. and Coach Joan Ka au'a explaining race rules.



First Place Team with perpetual trophies of bottled Ala Wai water.

Photos by Gerri & Jack Pedesky



Masters Women pause to pose for picture at picnic after races.



First and second place winners crossing the finish line in the championship heat.



OCC Masters Women Coach Joan Ka au'a (center) lining up teams after the draw for seats.

noon.

Patty Mowat of OCC Masters Women received the "It's the Pits" award. You'll have to ask Patty what that was for. Bernie Gay of Lanikai was selected "Mrs. Na Wahine O Ala Wai '82." The crew from Kailua received large juicy lemons, for it took them two hours to try to find the library end of the Ala Wai. Ellen Tabilona of Healani won a trophy for being the winning steerswoman.

Fred Hemmings, Jr. was our Racing Chairman for the afternoon. He once described the Women's Masters division with OHCRA as being "a bunch of ladies who really know what paddling is all about."

This is quite true, for although we are very competitive, we have formed tight bonds of friendship with each other and if you have attended wave races at Waikiki, you have heard us loud in song at the Moana Hotel, where we gather to share pupus, laughter and song.

Since the Masters event started in 1978, the OCC women have won three of the five State Championships, with Kailua and Healani taking the other two. This event was meant to bring back some wahine paddlers from the past and also give women a little older a chance to compete in a wonderful sport. This year's ages were from 35 to 57. . . and that's pretty wonderful.

One wahine from Healani, having paddled in the winning crew at the regatta that Sunday, was overheard saying, "The best thing about this was paddling with Outrigger and beating my own crew."

Suprisingly enough, no one flipped, probably terror followed them throughout the race that they might. The timing with different paddlers together for the first time was perfect and each heat saw women determined to win.

Next year, the regatta will have at least 48 paddlers from different clubs ready to paddle, have some fun and share their aloha for this honored Hawaiian sport.

Our thanks to Donny Mailer and his committee for their assistance and to Bob and Mahi Riley, Heidi Schumann, Di Guild, Jeanie Jenkins. To Aunty Eva Pomroy for her love for us all. To Fred Hemmings, Jr., the best race starter we've seen. OHCRA officials should come see how you do it.

# Na Wahine O Ala Wai

By Joan Ka au'a

"I can't believe this . . . you mean wahines from different clubs paddling together?" Yes, that is what happened Sunday, August 15th on the fragrant Ala Wai. OCC Master Women's crew held their 1st annual "Na Wahine O Ala Wai" regatta for all Master Women's crews from seven OHCRA clubs. With the first Sunday free after the State Championship in Hilo, your Masters Women thought it would be fun to get crews together to paddle together for some laughs and, as we found out that afternoon, some serious competition.

Crews were selected and a double elimination regatta began. The winning crew was comprised of: Stroke—Mary E. Ciacci-Hui Nalu; 2 seat—Gerri

Pedesky-OCC; 3 seat—Betty June Yap-Lanikai; 4 seat—Evelyn Arakaki-Healani; 5 seat—Norma Landberg-Lanikai; and Steerswoman—Ellen Tabilona-Healani.

Placing second: Stroke—J. J. Miller-Healani; 2 seat—Carroll Robinson-Lanikai; 3 seat—Nancy Mednick-Hui Nalu; 4 seat—Marilyn Haine-OCC; 5 seat—Gerry DeBenedetti-OCC; and Steerswoman—Kehau Kea-Hui Nalu.

After the regatta, the wahines met in Kapiolani Park, across from the Outrigger, for a picnic and the awards ceremony. The food brought to the picnic was superb and singing and laughter could be heard throughout the after-