

# Civic Club Paddlers Close Outrigger Win

By FERD BORSCH

A youthful crew headed by coach Al Lemes paddled Outrigger Canoe Club to victory in the 14th annual Aloha Week race from Molokai to Oahu yesterday.

The 38-mile outrigger canoe event, which started at 7:34 a.m. from Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai, ended in neck-and-neck fashion down the home stretch to a pennant-draped finish line just off Duke Kahanamoku Beach in front of the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Outrigger nosed out defending champion Hawaiian Civic Club of Kailua and Waikiki Surf Club for top honors, with barely three minutes separating the top three contenders.

The triumphant Outrigger oarsmen glided under the finish line at 2:23 p.m. in the official time of 6 hours, 48 minutes and 57 seconds.

Hawaiian Civic, which set the existing record of 5:56 flat last year, was one minute and 16 seconds off the pace, clinching second place

in 6:50.09. Then, two minutes later, Waikiki Surf completed the demanding Hawaiian event in 6:52.03.

All three canoes were in the koa wood class.

Lanikai won the fibreglass division with a time of 7 hours, 43 seconds. This was also good for fourth place overall.

Lemes, who took his turn at the paddles, was very tired and very pleased as the race ended. This was his first year as coach of the Outriggers and he modestly heaped credit on others for the victory.

While watching his young crew set a new record in gulping down cold milk and fruit drinks, Lemes said a lot of credit should go to George Downing, a veteran performer in Hawaiian surfing and canoe circles.

"George took time off to help with the coaching and was a great help," Lemes said.

At 31 the oldest member of his own crew, Lemes said "a lot of work and a little luck" also led to the victory.

The Outriggers, whose only other Aloha Week win was posted nine years ago, also relied on an old theorem found in all geometry books—a straight line is the short-

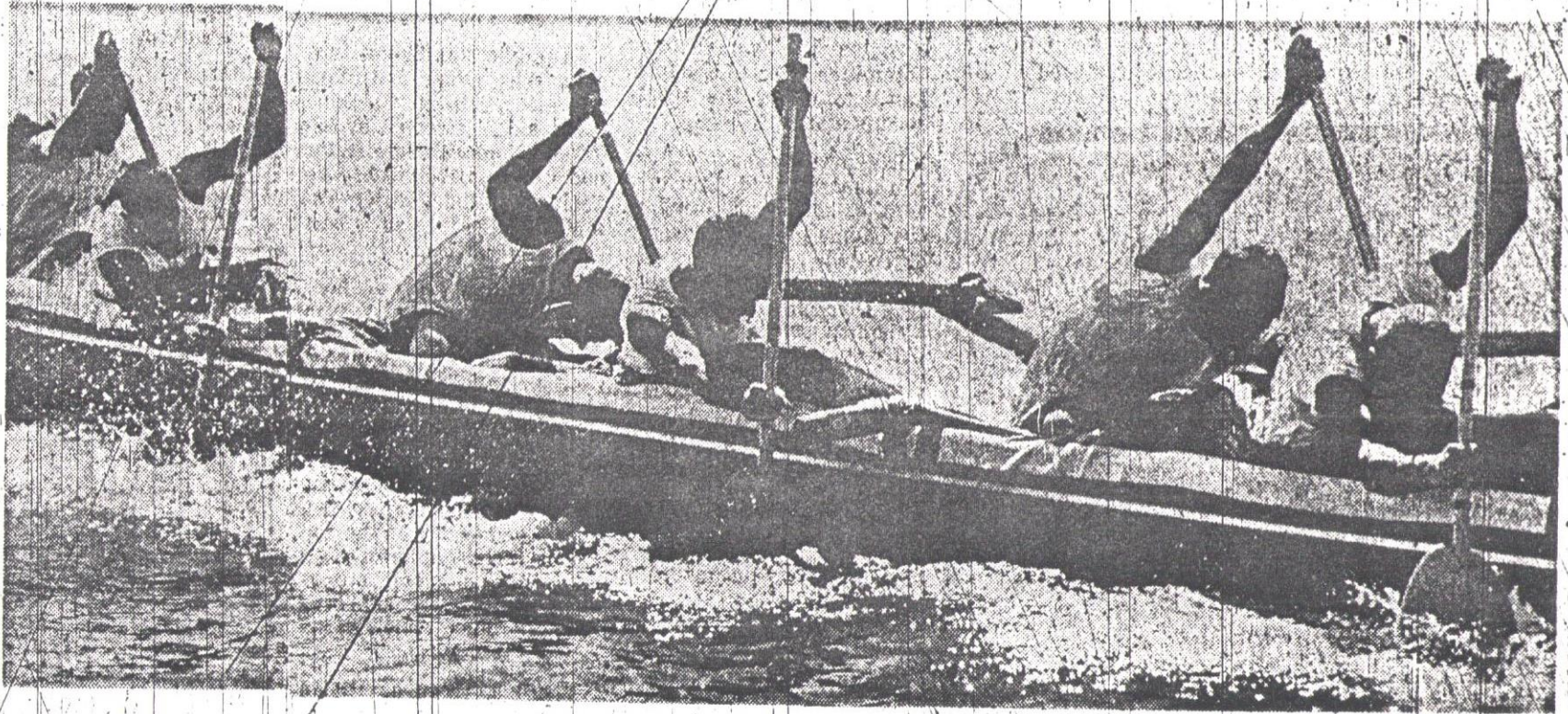
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# ns Molokai - Oahu Race



Outrigger Canoe Club's triumphant paddlers drive toward finish line.

Advertiser Photo by Bob Young



est distance between two points.

"We took what we thought was the shortest route," Lemes explained.

It proved to be the fastest route as well.

Lemes, an end on the 1953 Punahou football team, had

no definite rotation in substituting his nine-man crew in the six-man canoes.

"Whenever someone grew too tired, he was replaced," Lemes said.

Only "ironman" on the team was steerman Mike Holmes. He guided the koa boat all the way.

Sharing oar duty with Lemes were Paul McLaughlin, Fred Lowrey, Mark Buck, Tom Guard, Tom Reitow, Butch Hemmings, and Terry Ledford.

Despite choppy water in crossing the channel, the triumphant Outriggers had "smooth sailing all the way," according to Lemes.

"We knew we were among the top three or four in crossing over," he added, "but did not know we were in the lead until we reached Koko Head.

In winning, the Outrigger crew accepted the Walter F. Dillingham Memorial Trophy, the Alfred Shaheen Perpetual Trophy, the Leilani Rum Cup, and a cash award of \$386.

Following Outrigger, Hawaiian Civic of Kailua and Waikiki to the finish line in the koa class were:

Lanikai, 7 hours, 12 minutes, 42 seconds; Healani, 7:13.28; Molokai, 8:02.08; Hui Nalu, 8:04.30; Maili Sons, 8:15.23; and Balboa-Newport of California.

The Californians withdrew from the race after two mishaps. They encountered outrigger trouble at the start, delaying the race for 34 minutes and, later in mid-chan-

nel, were swamped. At this point they withdrew and were towed toward Oahu. However, they paddled down the home stretch under their own power.

Although sixth, the Molokai oarsmen were the big crowd pleasers when they

serenaded the Aloha Week court with Hawaiian songs.

Following Lanikai in the fiberglass division were: Waikiki Surf Club, 7 hours, 18 minutes, 49 seconds; Hui Malu, 7:24.05; Hawaiian Civic of Kailua, 7:26.28; and Healani, 7:45.46.



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### Coach Al Lemes of winning crew.

Several thousand people followed the home stretch of the race from vantage points on Diamond Head Road and from the beaches near the finish line.

Paul Jones was general chairman of the annual event.