



**Tom Blake on Sailing Surfboard**

## Surfboards To Sail At Waikiki Beach Sunday

By **RICHARD WEINBERG**

A sport which the ancient Hawaiians overlooked will come into its own Sunday, when the first official surfboard sailing race in yachting history will be held off Waikiki.

Propelling surfboards by sail is a comparatively new sport developed by Tom Blake. He is that husky chap who came here from Wisconsin, built streamlined, hollow surfboards and proceeded to break all surfboard paddling records.

He says the ancient Hawaiians put sails on their canoes but did not bother to rig sails on surfboards.

### 10 Entered

The first race will begin at 10 Sunday morning in front of the Outrigger Canoe club with about 10 of the Iwa class, as the sailing surfboards are called, answering the starting signal.

Iwa is the Hawaiian name for the frigate bird which glides effortlessly across the sky with wings shaped like a "w."

A race will be held each Sunday in March with the highest point winner receiving a trophy donated by John D. Kaupiko Sr. Tom is one of the entrants.

He got the idea for the streamlined surfboard back in 1930, when he noticed old Hawaiian surfboards in the Bishop museum that were streamlined to a certain extent.

The sailing surfboard dates to a day in 1935, when he picked up a lateen sail lying around the Out-

rigger Canoe club. He rigged it on a streamlined, hollow board and set sail.

The contraption ran well before the wind. When he got to sea, he turned around and tried to sail home. He couldn't sail against the wind. So he paddled back.

### Perfects Idea

Four years experimentation in California, enabled him to build a surfboard that would sail against the wind. He added a rudder that he worked with his feet and a fin keel to keep the board from side-slipping.

Last summer came the most important development of all, the "hiking boards." These are sticks extending on each side of the plank and one which the sailer rests his weight to keep the surfboard right side up.

The first sailing surfboards were used in Hawaii last year. They are also being used in Southern California and Tom expects the sport to spread to other parts of the world.