

Oldtime Quartet Outlasts Canoe

It was 29 years ago that Capt. Ronald De Witt Higgins, USN, Francis A. Bowers, proprietor of Bowers Nursery, Edric D. Cook, a department manager of T. H. Davies & Co., and Joseph (Joe) Stickney, manager of Schuman Carriage Co., got together a powerful unit of Outrigger Canoe club paddlers to enter the annual regatta canoe races.

With one of the crew members acting as spokesman, namely Joe Stickney, now Illustrious Potentate of the Aloha Shrine, here's the story of how this foursome originated:

"Well, it seemed that all the members of the Outrigger Canoe club went in for canoe paddling in a big way during our younger days at the beach. With G. D. (Dad) Center as our trainer and coach, the four of us were put in a canoe and, under the watchful eye of our trainer, we developed fast.

"In September 14, 1917, we were entered in the Regatta Day canoe races held at Waikiki beach. We entered the one mile event. Our canoe was called the A'a (which means swift or fierce, raging in Hawaiian.)

"After a slow start, we pulled strongly at the finish to win. Later Ronald Higgins entered the U. S. Military academy and the rest of us went into different lines of endeavor.

"Last week Capt. Ronnie Higgins passed through Honolulu and with Dad Center rounding up the rest of the boys, we were able to meet at the club after 29 years. It certainly was a very refreshing gathering and I know that none of us will ever forget the reunion.

"The A'a, our pet canoe, has been placed in the Bishop museum. It was built in Kona, Hawaii, by the Hawaiians and was picked for exhibition because of its splendid craftsmanship, a credit to the Hawaiian race. The A'a has been ex-

hibited for the past 10 years."

Thus ends the yarn of four crack paddlers who were able to outlast their canoe

"You might add," said Stickney, "that we will challenge any one quartet over 45 years to a canoe race. Anyone interested can contact Dad Center who still is our manager."

U. S. Track Trio To Compete in Auckland, N. Z.

Members of the three man United States track and field group, named by the AAU to make a competitive tour of New Zealand, hold reservations on Pan American World Airways clipper early in January. Their destination is Auckland.

Johnny Fulton of the San Francisco Olympic club, national 800 meter champion, heads the three man group. He is scheduled to depart from San Francisco on January 1.

Don Campbell, University of Colorado sprinter, will leave San Francisco January 3. And Al Hershey, shotputter and discus thrower from the Los Angeles Athletic club, will board a clipper in Los Angeles on January 9.

