

Reach Oahu In 8 Hours 55 Minutes

Waikiki Club Second In Gruelling Channel Crossing; Rough Seas Plague Contestants

By **BOB KRAUSS**

Six husky Hawaiians from Molokai who had never paddled a canoe until a week ago walked off with the \$500 cash prize and trophy for winning the Aloha Week 36 miles outrigger canoe race yesterday. Winning time for the Molokai to Oahu crossing was 8 hours and 55 minutes.

Completely wet, exhausted but with smiles from ear to ear, they drove their outrigger onto the sand of Waikiki beach in front of the Moana hotel at 3:30 p.m.

Their women came out to meet them, wading straight into the water. Mary Ahyee, wife of stroker William Ahyee, dragged her husband out of the canoe, hugging him, kissing him, sobbing, laughing all at the same time.

SEVERAL OF THE crew had to be helped up the beach and for a good half hour after steersman Charles Titcomb sat down under the big banyan at the Moana he wasn't able to answer questions.

About 25 folks from Molokai came up to watch the end of the race. They gathered around the heroes under the banyan and sang "Molokai Nui Ahina." Most of the tourists appeared surprised to see several members of the crew openly weeping and the others sitting with their heads solemnly bowed.

A little more than nine hours before, the same crew with two others prayed on a windy beach at Ilio Point on Molokai that none would come to harm over the dangerous, choppy course. Then they heard the 23rd Psalm and sang the Doxology.

TOOTS MINVIELLE, Outrigger Canoe club official who started the race, said the breakers were so high at Ilio Point the canoes had to be started separately. Starting time was 6:35 a.m. but the canoes spent another 15 minutes lining up in quiet water before the race actually began, he added.

For over half of the way, the Waikiki Surf club canoe led the others in spite of stopping twice

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 4)