



By **RON HAWORTH**

A complaint answered

Two columns back we invited readers to jot down any phase of the sport which they felt had been overlooked. Truly, this opened a wide realm of possibilities.

One interesting reply was without a signature.

Ordinarily, unsigned letters are assured of a quick trip over the falls into the wastebasket. Having put our name to many opinions and principles not always popular, we can find no merit in unsigned gripes.

But we consider this an exception. The writer objected rather strongly to the number of occasions the Outrigger Canoe Club had appeared under our byline.

Specifics were dealt with only twice in the letter of complaint, and then one reference was erroneous, so this will have to be in generalities.

The biggest spread given Outrigger was its winning effort in the Molokai-Oahu canoe race. This writer made the trip to Molokai the night before the race and talked to many people from many clubs.

But as Outrigger won that race, it seemed rather pointless to write up another crew.

Then there was the Makaha victory of Joey Cabell, who surfed for Outrigger. Maybe we should have bent over backwards and not mentioned that point.

Surfers' soapbox

Acknowledgement was also given to Outrigger and Duke Kahanamoku when the Duke received the Winged O. Again, here was news worthy of a mention.

When Brant Ackerman and Aka Hemmings were sent by Outrigger to the United States Surfing Championships in Huntington Beach it was a member of the surfing committee who called us with this information.

Which brings us to the beginning. To quote from the first paragraphs in our first column:

"Surfers, whether you perform on a board, paipo, or prefer the togetherness of your own body, this weekly column is your soapbox.

". . . above all else, this column . . . stands ready to air all legitimate gripes. Use it."

Surf Spray was never intended to be a report of who-was-where-when-and-how-he-looked.

We don't claim there isn't room for that sort of back-patting, but it doesn't belong here. What it boils down to is a case of reader interest.

If this column had a specialized audience, it would be different. But it's read by as many, or more, non-surfers as it is surfers. So do these people care whether Hot Curl Surf Club held a meeting?

Of course not. But they do take an interest in the sport on a non-critical basis. And it's these very readers who might help carry surfing where we all want it to go.

What sport can feed upon its own participants? They all need spectator support to keep the turnstiles healthy.

Surf Spray is your voice to these people.