

racers seek trophy, thrill

The Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race will be held on Sunday, Oct. 17 and will start at dawn at the Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai and end at Duke Kahanamoku Beach at the Hilton Hawaiian Village around noon.

This race was first held in 1952 starting at Kawakiu, Molokai and ending at the Moana Hotel, a distance of approximately 36 nautical miles. It was won by Kukui O Lanikaula (Molokai crew) in the time of 8 hour 55 minutes.

IN 1956 THE landing point on Oahu was changed to the Hawaiian Village Hotel, a distance of approximately 37 nautical miles and was won that year by the Outrigger Canoe Club in the time of 7 hours 54 minutes.

In 1960 Mainland crews entered unofficially in non-koa canoes. Two classifications were started in 1963 and the site on Molokai was changed to Hale O Lono Harbor

but ending on Oahu at the Hawaiian Village, which is a distance of approximately 37½ miles.

Waikiki Surf Club won the koa class in 1963 in the time of 6 hr. 40 min., while Outrigger Canoe Club won the non-koa in 6 hrs. 51 min. Last year Healani Canoe Club won the koa class in 6 hr. 24 min., while Waikiki Surf Club won the non-koa class in 7 hrs. 10 min. 11 sec.

THIS IS ONE of the most demanding canoe races in the world because of the rough and treacherous waters of the Molokai Channel.

Various organizations, companies and individuals have donated trophies for this race. Each canoe club is escorted by a boat on which relief paddlers, coaches, helpers, and officials are carried. Walter Rodenhurst is chairman of this event.