

Book on Outrigger Club

The Outrigger Canoe Club has just published a book on the club's founding in 1908 to the present. Club member Harold Yost authored the work.

Among the bits of information found in the book are the results of the club's first canoe race in July of 1908 which it lost to a more seasoned crew headed by Prince Kuhio, and mention of a rival club, the Healani "Blues," a boat club with headquarters in Honolulu Harbor. In those early days the boats rowed were six-oared "barges" (heavy shells) and not outriggers.

The Healani canoes are still trimmed today in blue, a throwback to their beginning. Another club in the forefront of rowing was the Myrtle Boat Club, home of the formidable "Myrtle Reds." Later, its most talented oarsman, "Dad" Center, was to join Outrigger and carry the club to many athletic achievements.

The Outrigger is credited with inovating sand court volleyball in the early 1920s.

The book is well illustrated with period photographs, many of downtown Honolulu when public transportation was on HRT&L Co. sideless streetcars.

The book would prove valuable reading for any interested in the beginning of Honolulu, but we wonder why a club so steeped in kamaaina tradition would illustrate the book's dustjacket with a photo of a fiberglass canoe and credit said photo to CBS Hawaii Five-O? Neither does a thing for that tradition.

The book's final illustration is a beautiful sunset shot of the koa canoe "Lelani" with another Hawaii landmark, Diamond Head, softly lit in the sun's reflection.