1936 RACING PADDLEBOARD

DESIGNED BY BOB FRENCH FOR PRESTON "PETE" PETERSON

DONATED TO HERMOSA BEACH MUSEUM BY JIM MOLLICA SR.

31 AUGUST 2024 PRESENTATION BY

MARK SHOEMAKER

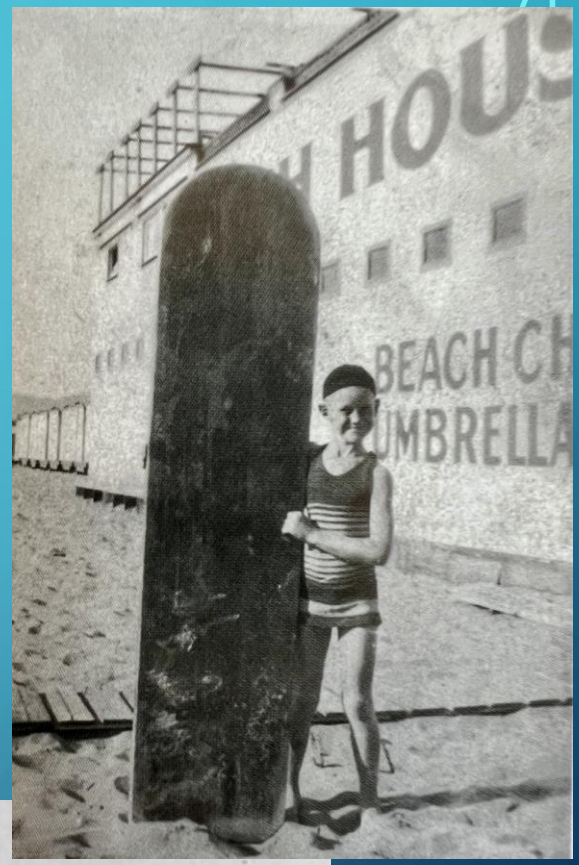
BOARD MEMBER HERMOSA BEACH MUSEUM

AGENDA

- Preston “Pete” Peterson – Legendary Waterman
- Bob French – Paddleboard Designer
- Jim Mollica Sr. – Paddleboard Racing Champion & Donor

PRESTON "PETE" PETERSON (1913-83)

- 1913 - Born in Rockport, Texas
- 1919 – Hurricane destroys family livelihood
- 1920 – Parents buy Crystal Beach Bath House
  - Near Santa Monica Pier
  - About a dozen local surfers are in California
  - Tom Blake becomes a surfing and paddleboarding influence





SANTA MONICA LIFEGUARD 1929-1955

- 1928 – Lies about his age
  - Briefly becomes a City of Santa Monica lifeguard
- 1929 - Drops out of high school
  - Became a City of Santa Monica lifeguard
    - 15-years old on the right



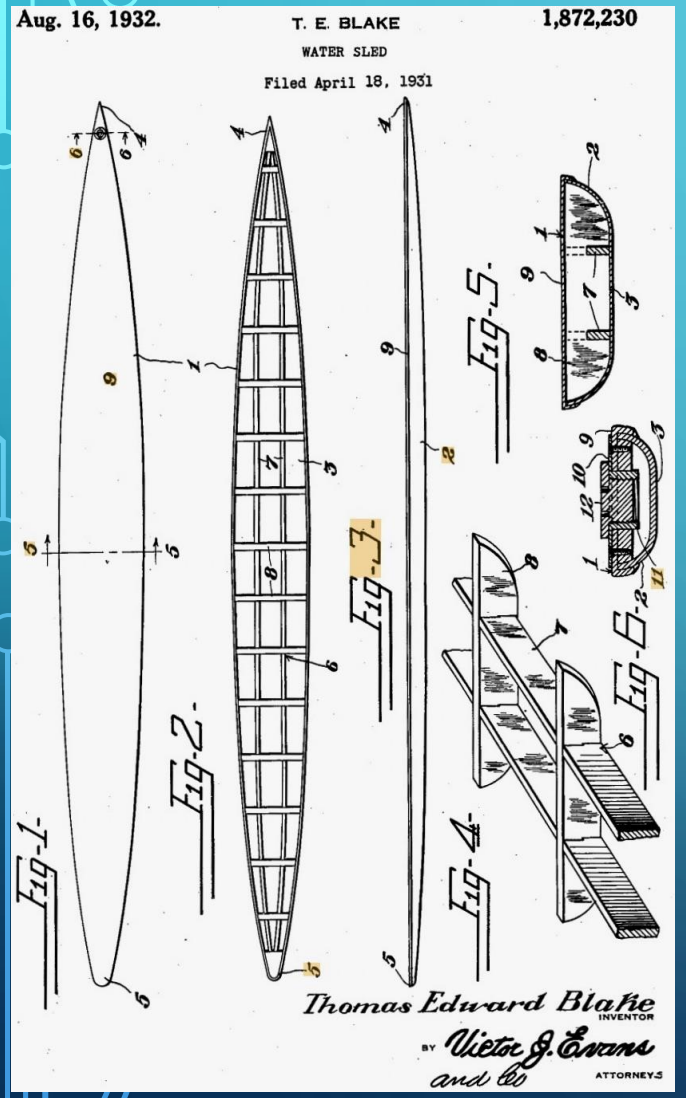
EARLY 1930'S SURFING & PADDLEBOARDING

- Pacific Coast Paddle & Surfboard Association formed
  - One of the first surfers at Malibu, and became a "regular" at San Onfore
- 1932 – Wins the first Pacific Coast Surfing Championship
- 1932 – Surfs and Paddleboards on Oahu, Hawaii



OCTOBER 1932 – "FIRST CROSSING" TO CATALINA

- Tom Blake, Pete Peterson, and Wally Burton paddle 25 miles – Pt. Vicente to Long Point
  - Demonstrate "Water Sleds" patented by Tom Blake
- Produced by Thomas Rogers from 1932-39 - 14', 75 lb.'





1930'S & EARLY 40'S – WATERMAN & SETTING RECORDS

- 1933 – 100 yard paddleboard sprint record in 28.8 seconds
- 1934 & 39 – Wins "Hermosa Beach 1-mile Paddleboard Championship"
- 1934 - Wins "Coast Dory Championship"
- 1935 & 36 – Wins "Santa Monica Lifeguard Swim"
- 1936 – Wins "Pacific Coast Surfing Championship", again



MID-1930'S – PETE WITH DUKE KAHANAMOKU AT SAN ONOFRE



BOB FRENCH (1908-77)

- 1908 – Born in Ohio
- 1924-31 - Hollywood Athletic Club
  - Swimming and winning races
- 1929-39 – Worked on various ships and yachts



MOTOR BOAT OPERATOR – COMMERCIAL LICENSE APPLICATION

STATEMENT OF SERVICE OF APPLICANT

Names of vessels upon which employed	Class of vessel: Steam, motor, sail, or barge	Gross tonnage	Kinds of waters navigated [1]	Served as—	Date of shipment	Date of discharge	Actual length of service [2] Years	Mos.	Days
Harry Luckenbach	Steam	5849	Intercstl	O.S.	7-24-29	8-23-29		1	
S.O.N.J.	"	4000	"	A.B.	8-26-29	9-5-29		1/2	
Potter	"	3851	Foreign	A.B.	9-8-29	3-10-30		7	
Yacht Babboon	Aux. Sail	18	"	Master&Navigtr.	10-35	6-36		8	
Yacht Caprice	Sail	37 ft.	Coast	Hand Amatuer	2-30	6-35 } SEE NOTE			
Yacht Marin	"	47 ft	"	" "	2-32	2-40 }		15	
Paul S.	Gas	15	"	Owner	12-42	Present		3	
Note: Time on Caprice and Marin was intermittent amounting to an actual elapsed of approximately 15 months, but difficult to estimate accurately. Also one season of racing in sail on the Great Lakes and one saeson on Long Island Sound. Also 3 seasons as L.A.Co, Lifeguard with miscellaneous small boat work.								?	
						TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE	2	18	-

[1] Ocean; coastwise; Great Lakes; lakes other than the Great Lakes, bays, and sounds; or rivers.
[2] The length of service will be stated as nearly as possible, without exceeding the actual length of service. If more space is needed for statement of service, the record may be stated on an additional sheet.

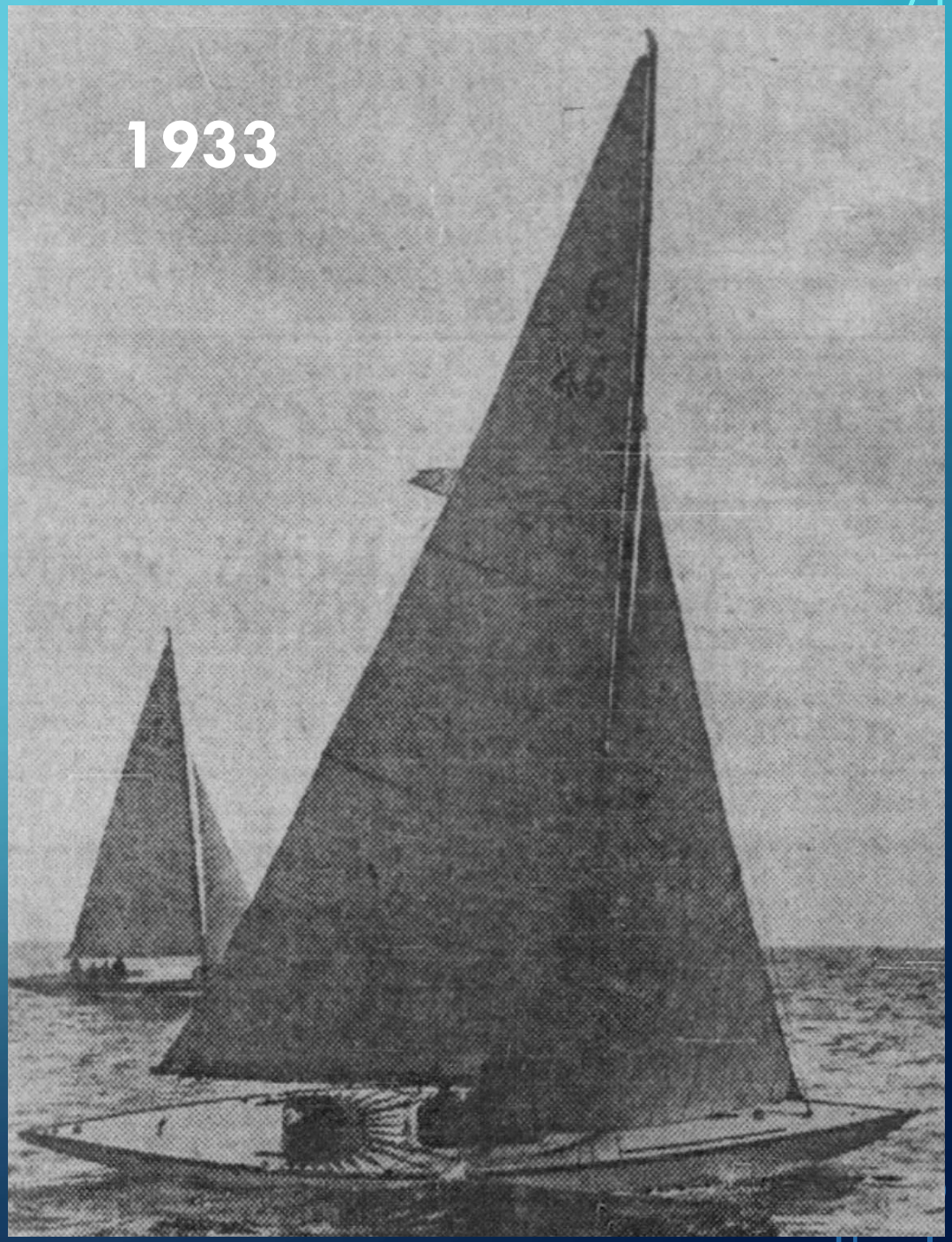
Have you ever held a United States license as master, mate, pilot, engineer, or operator of motorboats? No.
If so, state the kind of license last held, when issued, and the port where issued. ~~Able Seaman's License, Ser. # 182280 8-23-29, New Orleans, La.~~ Cert. Lifeboat, Ser.181349, 8-24-29, New Orleans, La.

- Paddleboard designs influenced by racing yachts

She's So Caprice—ious

Tommy Lee's Caprice, Los Angeles Yacht Club, winner of the midwinter six-meter championship. Sailed by Lee, Caprice was crewed by Bill Irwin, Waldo Drake and Bob French. The Caprice won three firsts in five starts to capture the Ben Meyer trophy.

[Chapin-Ruskauff Service photo]



BOB FRENCH – PADDLEBOARD DESIGNER & BUILDER

- 1934 – Paddleboard wins Pacific Coast 3-mile race
- 1935 - 16’ paddleboard for Tommy Lee
  - Owner of racing yacht Caprice
- 1935 – 13.5’, 30 lb.., V- bottom kayak
- 19XX - 26’ Paddleboard was stored under the SM Pier
  - Whereabouts unknown

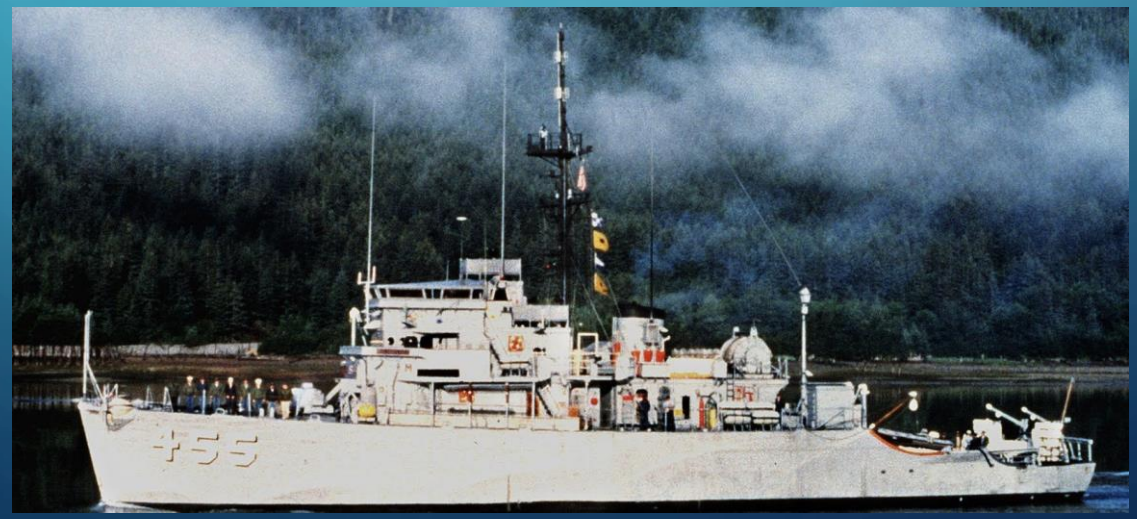
BOB FRENCH – NAUTICAL & AERONAUTICAL EXPERIENCE

- Early 1940's – Leadman at Vega (Lockheed) making Ventura & B-17 bombers





- 1950's – Director of Operations building wooden minesweeping ships



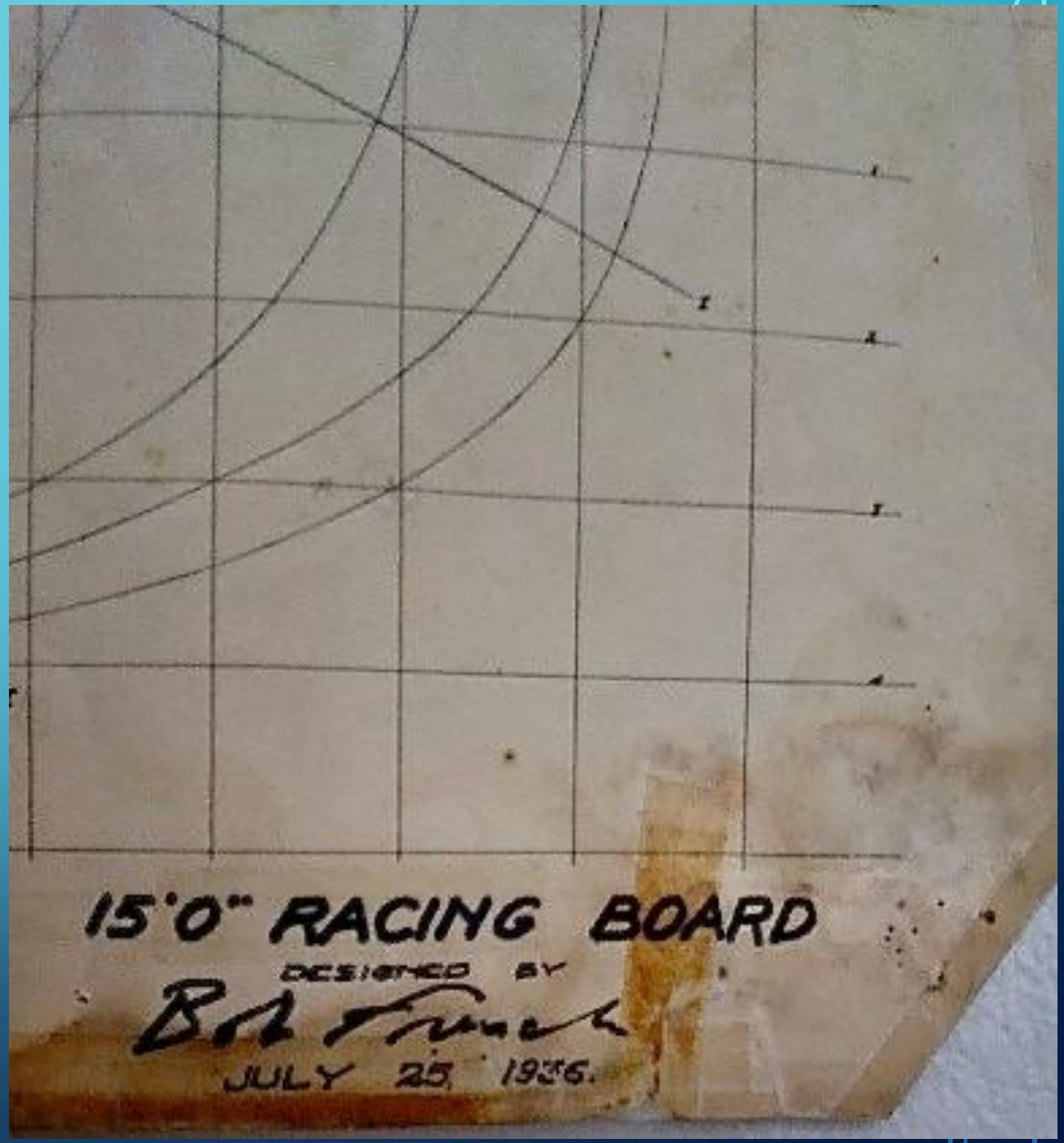
1936 – RACING BOARD

- June 1936 – Bob French returns to Los Angeles from a 6-month sailing to Hawaii on the 1888 yacht “Baboon”

- July 1936 - Ordered by Pete Peterson

- Solid Balsa & Redwood Stringer
  - 15’ & 90 lbs.

- Built by Pacific System Homes Inc.
  - Innovated the use of multi-wood laminates, and waterproof glues



1930'S
PACIFIC SYSTEMS HOMES
LOS ANGELES









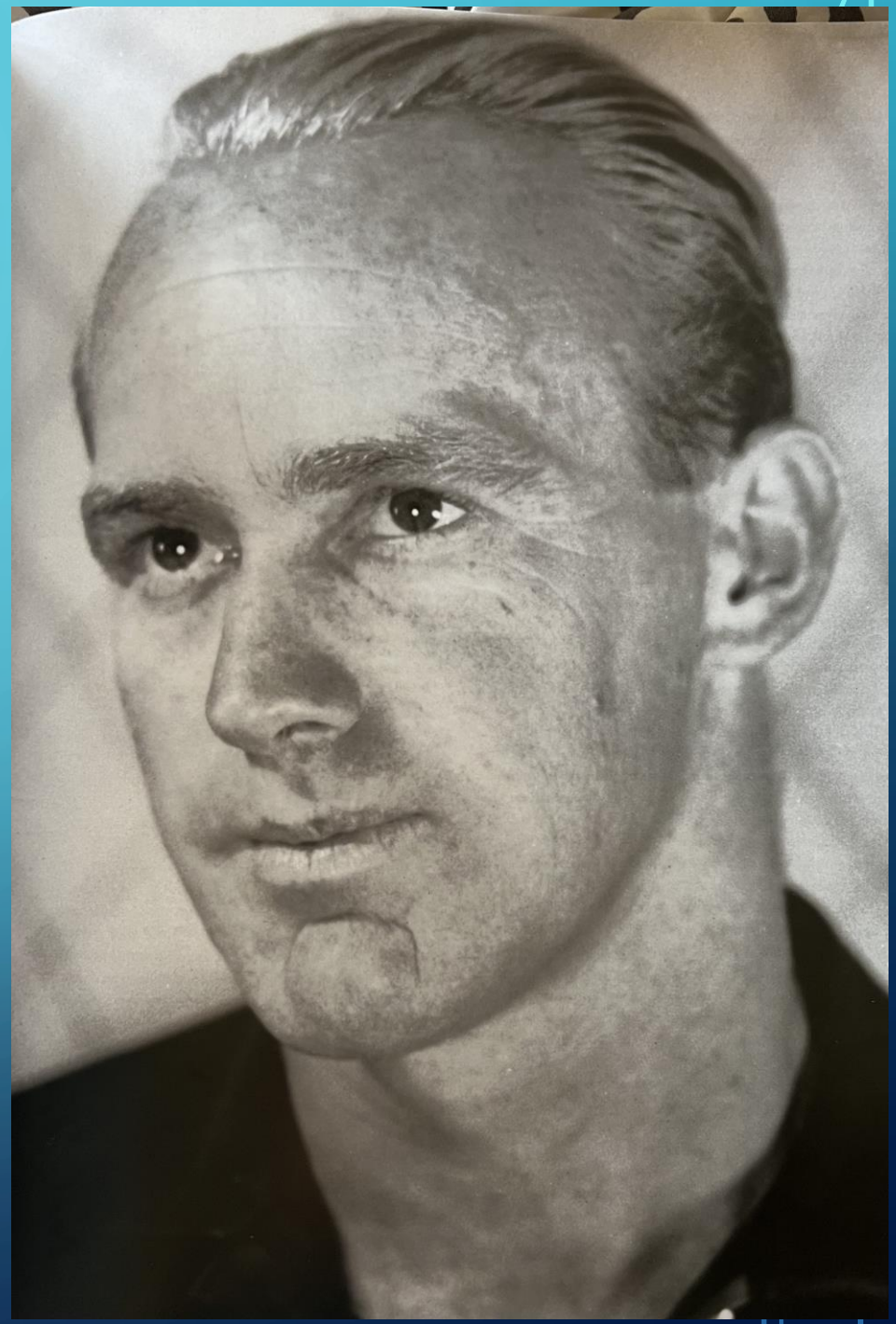


1936 - PETE (FAR LEFT) WITH PADDLEBOARD - SANTA MONICA



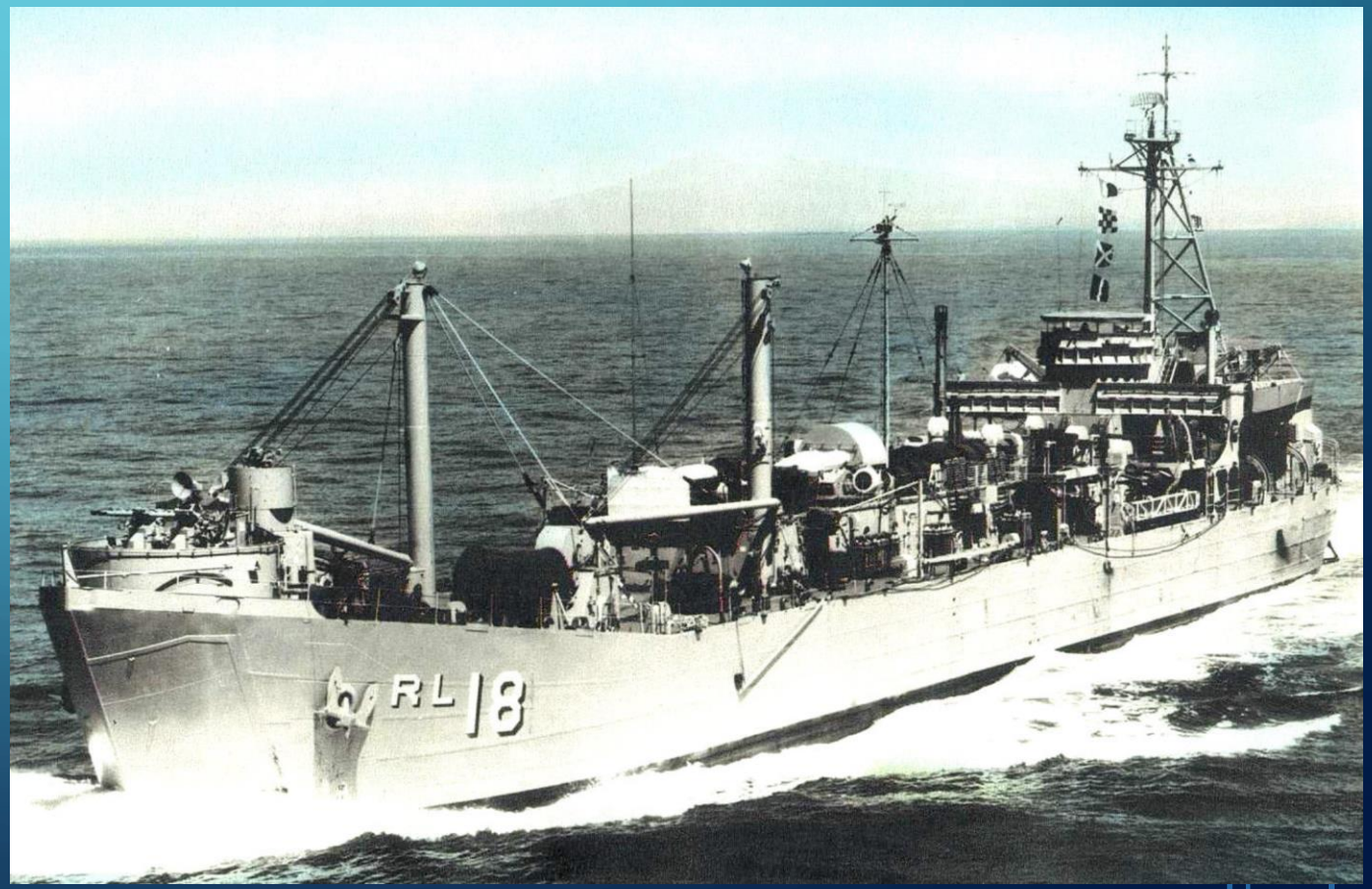
PETE PETERSON – CONSUMMATE WATERMAN

- 1936-43 – Lifeguard, surfing & paddling
- 1937-79 – Actor and stuntman in movies and television shows
  - Works with friends John Wayne and Duke Kahanamoku
- 1939 – Beats Johnny Weismuller (Olympic Gold medalist & Tarzan), and Buster Crabb (Olympic Gold medalist & Flash Gordon) in a swimming race in front of the Santa Monica Pier



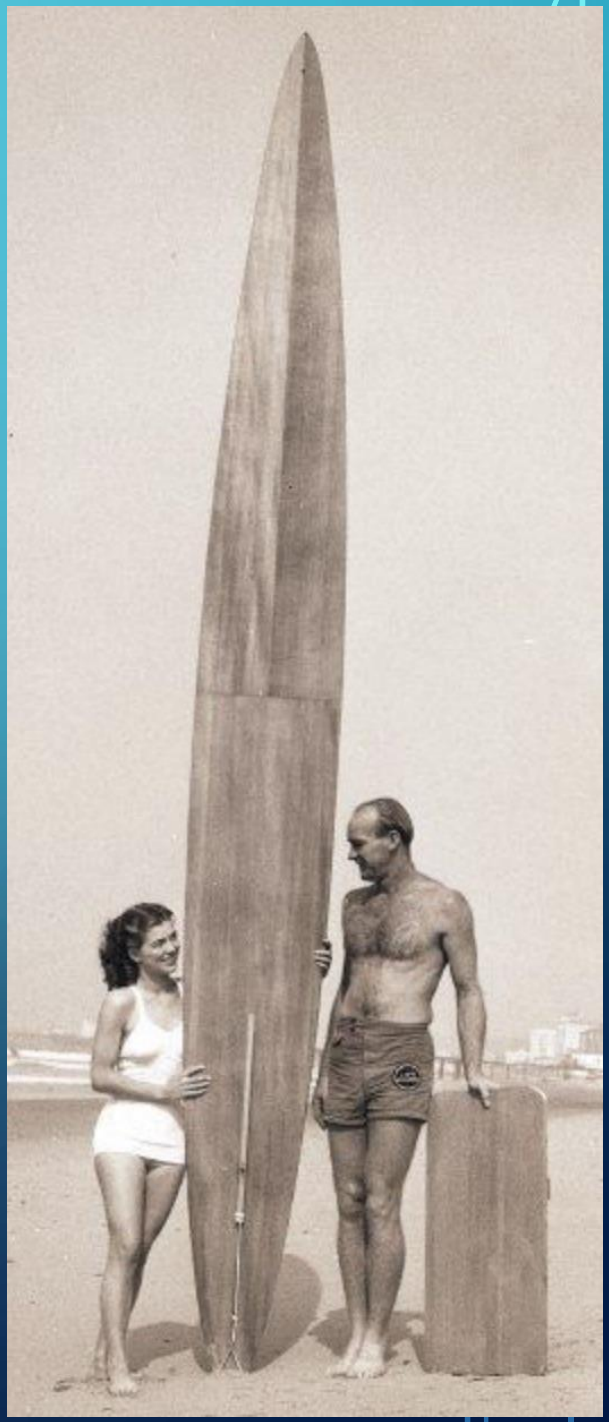
1943-46 – SERVES IN WWII

- Earned his Petty Officer First and Chief ranks
- Completed United States Navy's demanding schools
  - Diving , Firefighter & Velocity Power Tool
- Qualified as a Diver Second Class
- Serves on the USS Pandemus
  - Repairs damaged ships in the Pacific
  - Retrieves bodies from sunken ships



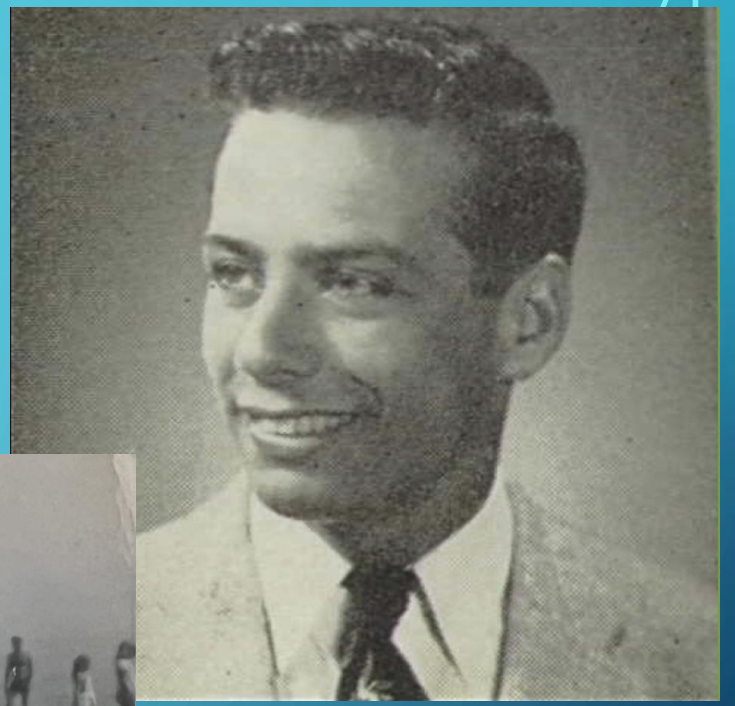
PADDLEBOARD MODIFICATIONS & REPAIRS

- 1946 – Pete “hollows” the paddleboard
  - Reduces weight from 90 to 32 lbs.
  - Adds a “crown” with linen fabric in front
  - Adds plywood and a tiller in back
- With Manoa Paddleboard Club member Monica Roche-Polkinghorn.
  - Manoa was an all women's paddleboard club
  - Clubhouse on the Santa Monica Pier in the 1940s and 50s.
- 1948 - Tom Blake borrows the board to paddle across the San Francisco Bay



JIM MOLLICA SR. (1940-PRESENT)

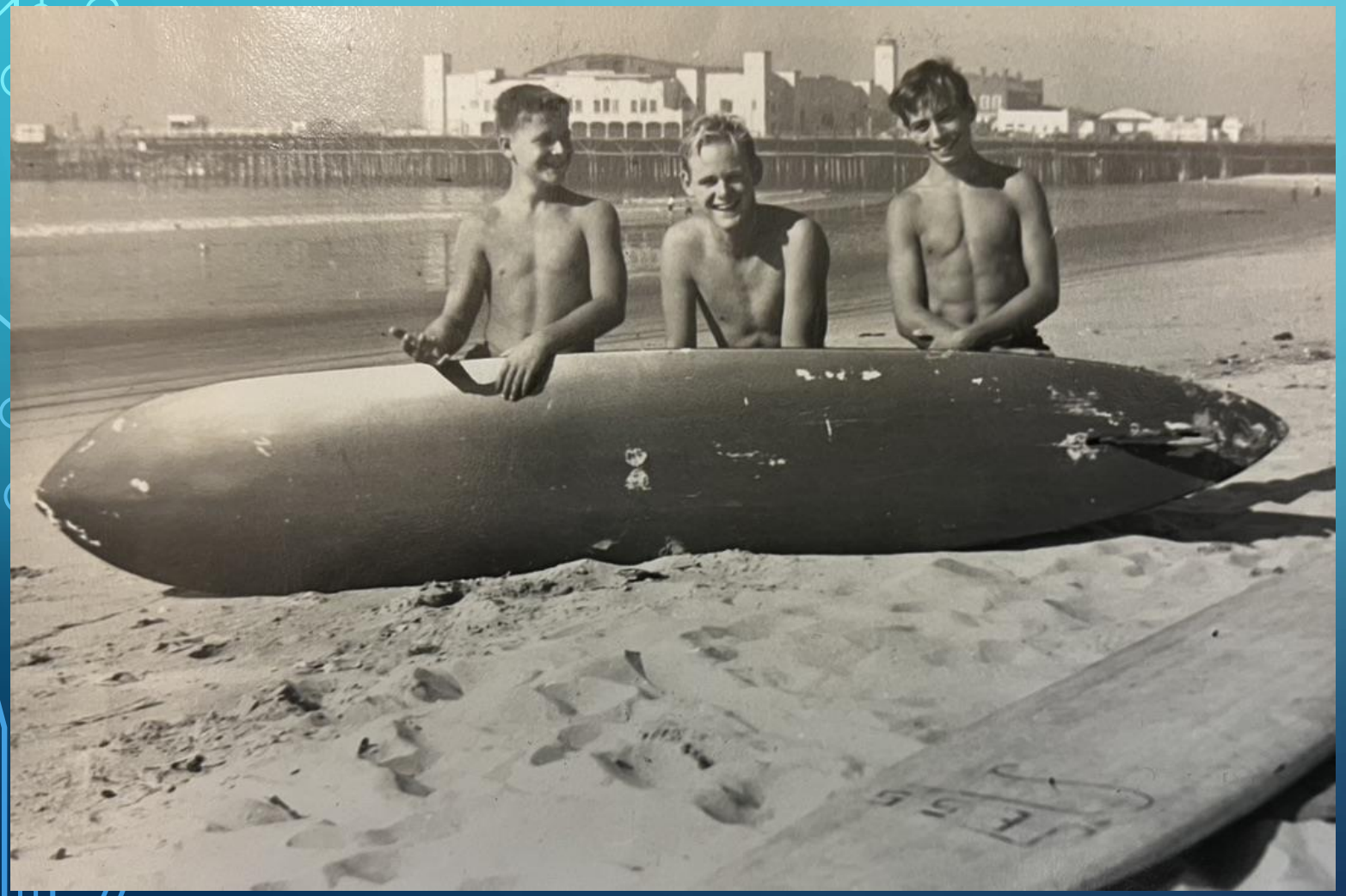
- Grew up in Santa Monica - became a Lifeguard
  - Dad was a Barber, Mom raised three children
- 1955 – Cabrillo Beach 1-mile
  - First paddleboard race – 1st Place







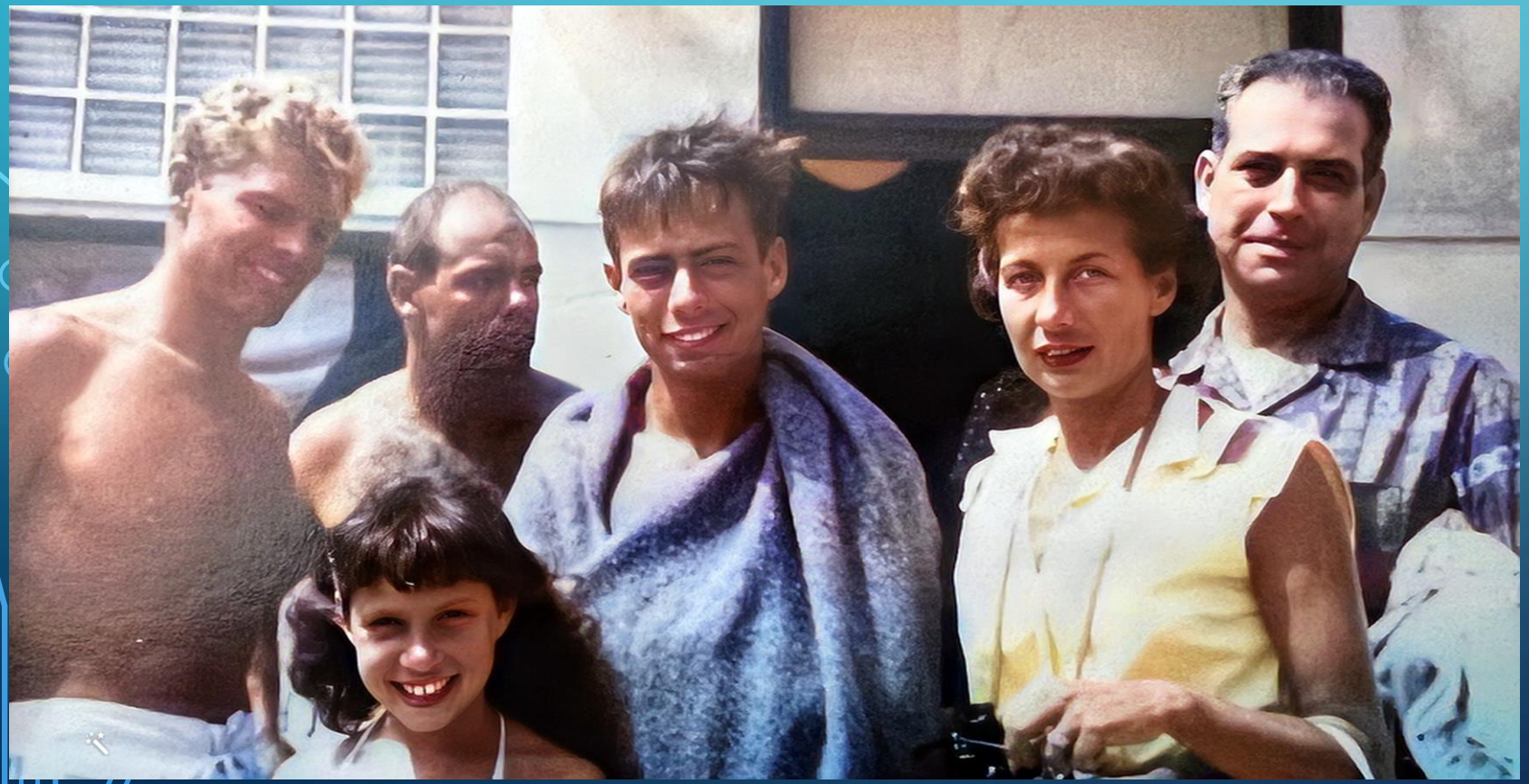
1956 – SANTA MONICA BEACH





1958 MANHATTAN BEACH INTERNATIONAL PADDLEBOARD RACE

- Jim Mollica 5th Place
- Founded by Bob Hogan (1955-61)
- Tom Zahn Winner





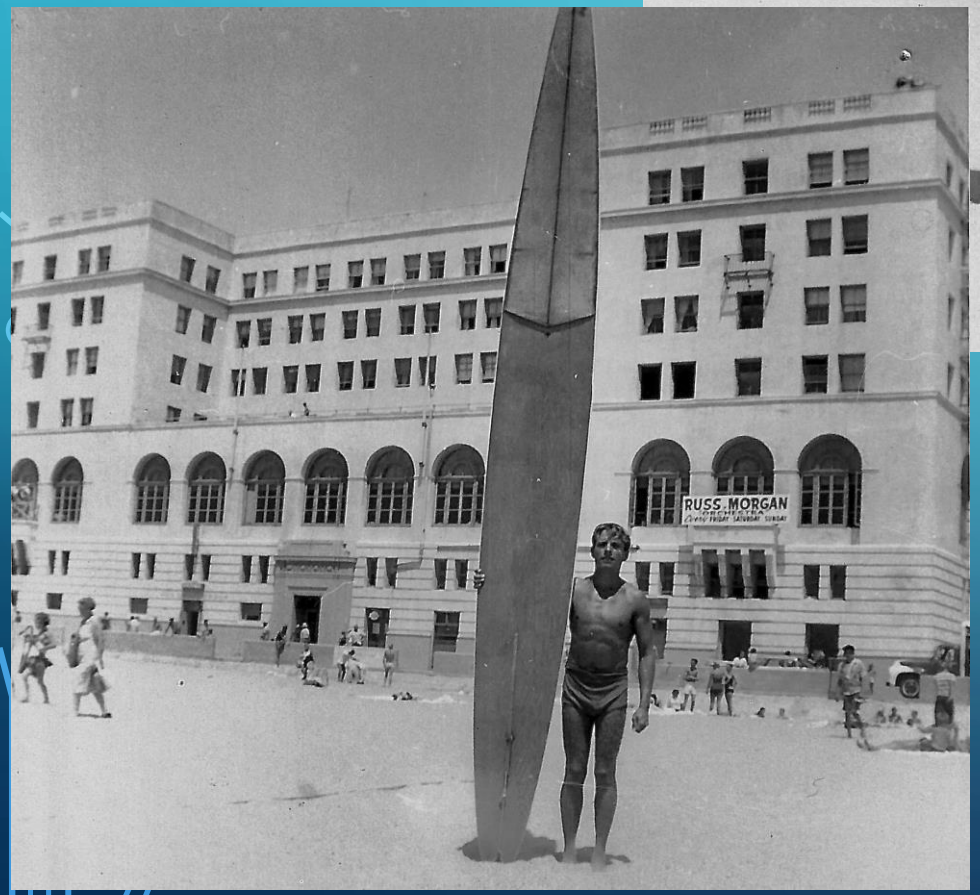


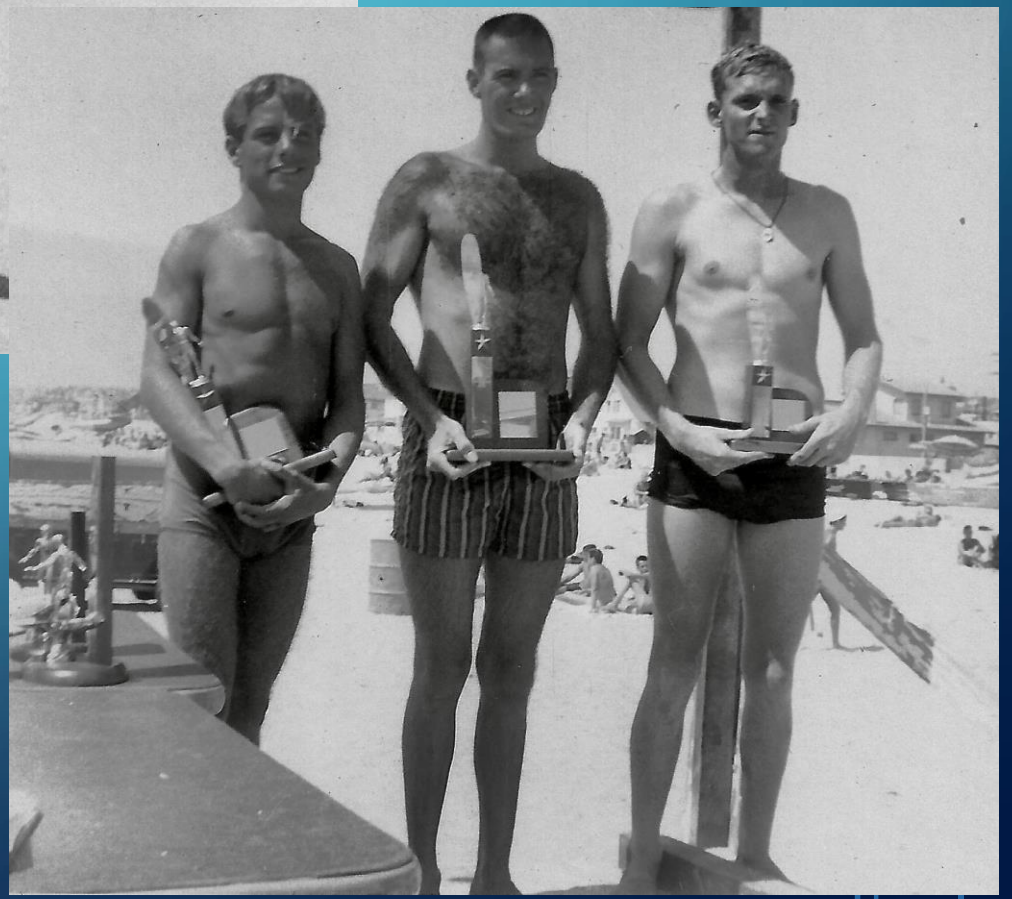
1959 – JIM ACQUIRES PETE PETERSON'S PADDLEBOARD

- Worked in Pete's shop on the Santa Monica Pier
  - Glue Boy
  - Built paddleboards and dories
- Acquired paddleboard from Pete for a $300 debt

1959 - HERMOSA BEACH "ALOHA DAYS" 2-MILE PADDLEBOARD RACE – 2ND PLACE



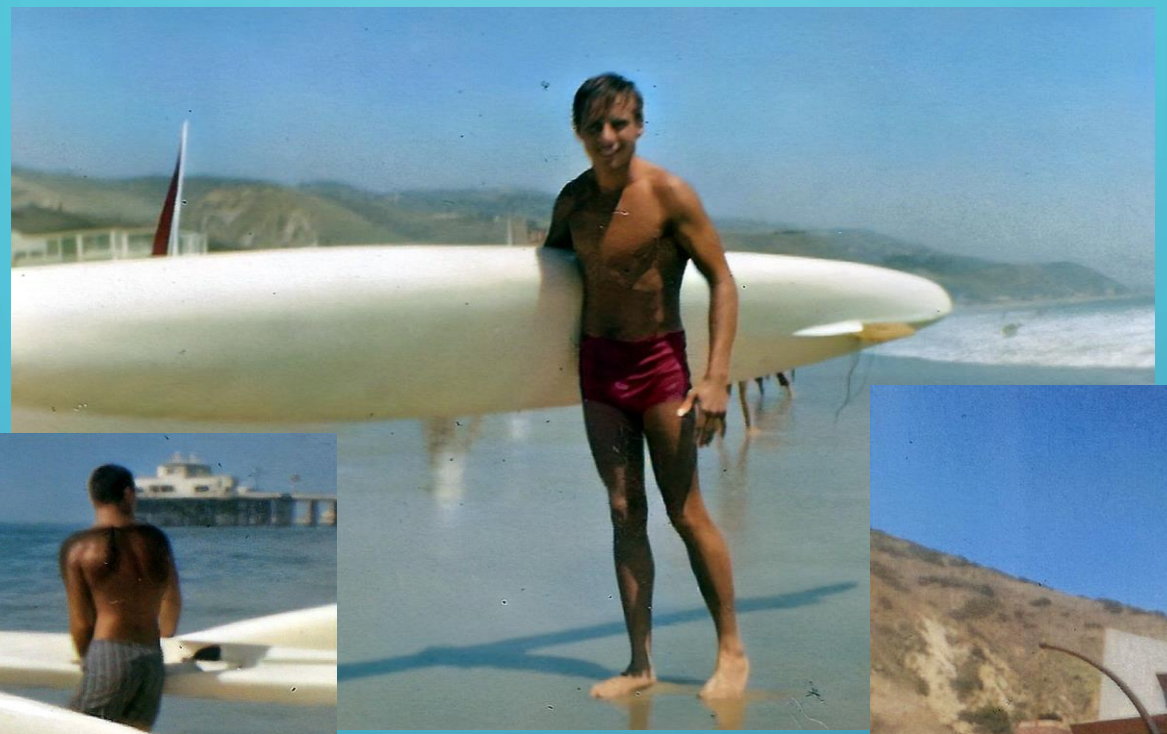




1959 – PADDLEBOARD MODIFICATIONS

- Pete & Jim replaced linen crown with fiberglass
- Removed blue deck paint & hot coated with fiberglass
- Removed the Tiller

•1959 - 16-MILE MALIBU TO PARADISE COVE ROUNDTRIP
1ST PLACE ON PETE PETERSON PADDLEBOARD







1960 MB INTERNATIONAL PADDLEBOARD RACE
18’ HOBIE BOARD









Palisades, SM Paddlers Win Honors

MANHATTAN BEACH (AP)—Tom Zahn of Newport Beach and Kemp Aaberg of Pacific Palisades took top honors in the international paddleboard race from Santa Catalina Island to the mainland yesterday.

Zahn stroked a 38-mile course in the open board division in 6 hours, 14 minutes, 45 3-5 seconds. Aaberg won in the smaller stock board division in 6 hours, 58 minutes, 39 3-5 seconds.

James Mollica of Santa Monica and William Jewell of Newport Beach finished second and third behind Zahn. Trailing Aaberg were Michael Doyle of Santa Monica and Richard W. Clark of San Diego.

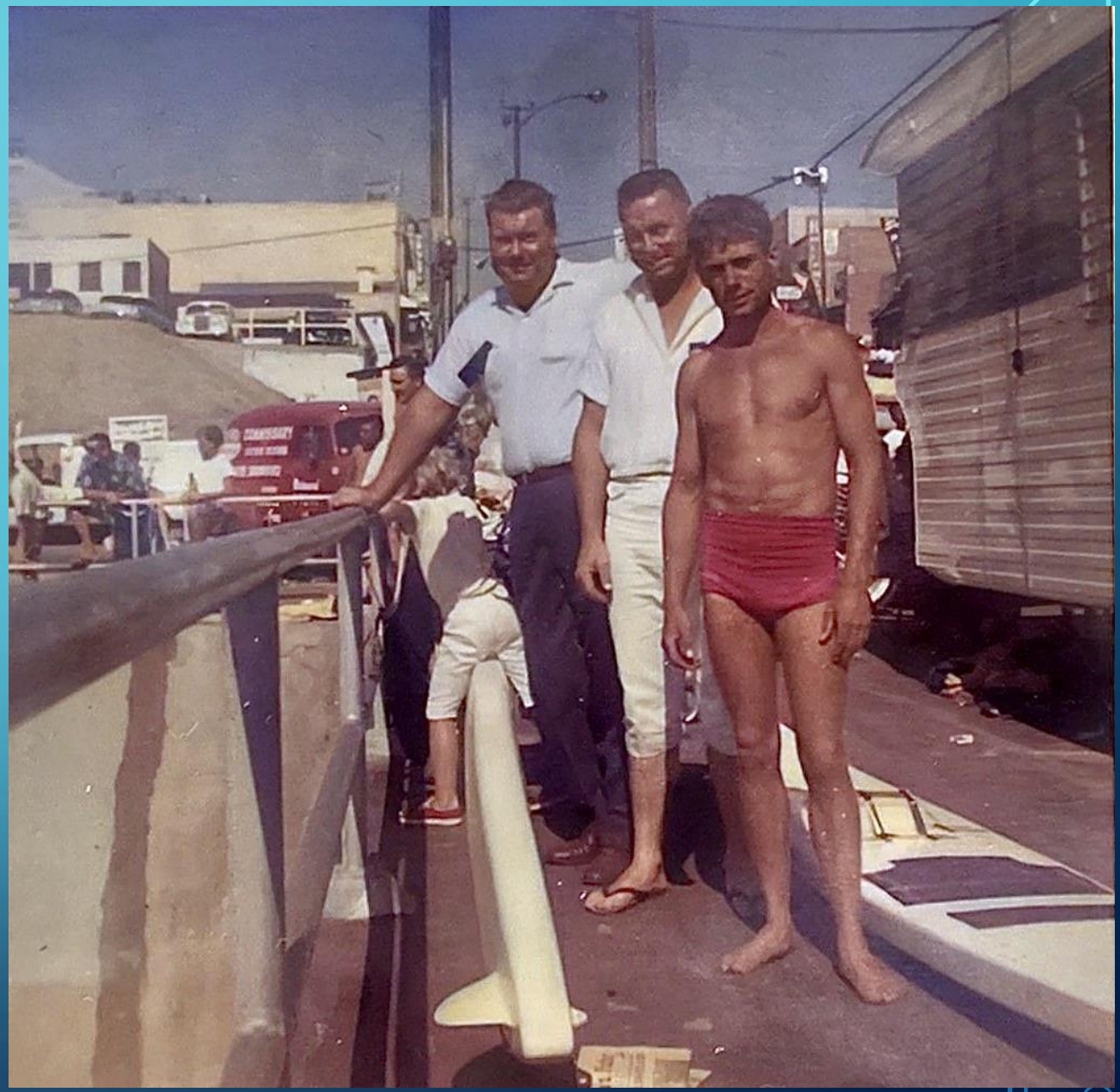
AWARD-WINNING FORM that won for him second-place trophy in Catalina to Manhattan Beach paddleboard race is shown by Jimmy Mollica, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Mollica of Malibu. His time for long race was 6 hours, 29 minutes, 2 seconds. (Evening Outlook Photo.)

- Guide boat got lost in the fog
  - Paddled 38 instead of 32 miles
  - 2nd Place Overall & Unlimited (6:29:20)
  - Tom Zahn 1st Place

1961

- Last MB International Paddleboard Race
  - Race canceled after 5 miles
    - Windy conditions – choppy seas
    - Flew back in Speedos, bus to MB Pier
- Race restarted in 1982 as the ”Catalina Classic”





1961

- Cabrillo Beach 1-mile – 3rd place
  - Mike Doyle 1st, Gowen 2nd
  - Pete Peterson Board



1962 HERMOSA BEACH PETE PETERSON BOARD





1963 – CABRILLO BEACH – 4-MILE

- 1st Place on Pete Peterson Board





1965
16-MILE RACE
1ST PLACE
MALIBU PIER TO PT. DUME
ROUNDTRIP

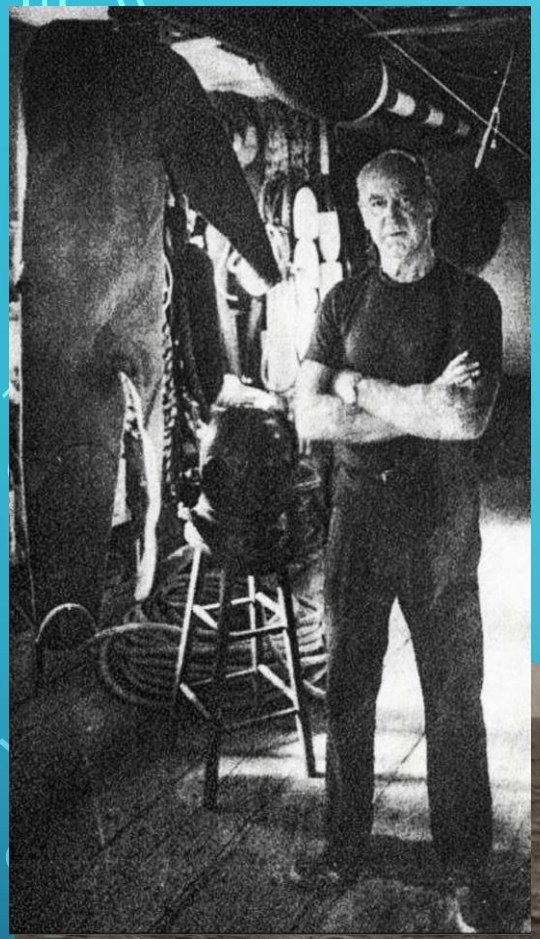


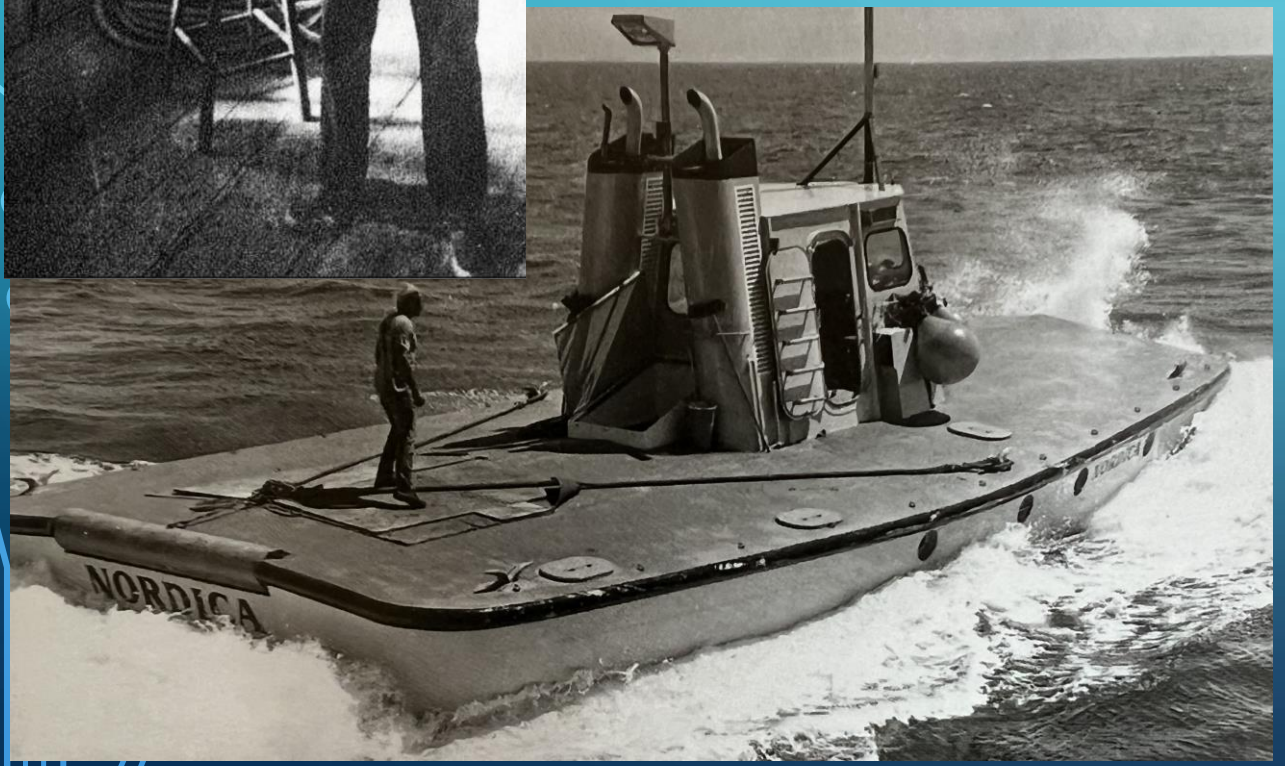
MID-1960’S
BALSA W/REDWOOD STRINGER
BEFORE “EARL SCHEIB” PAINT JOB





MARCH 1983
EL NINO







- 400’ of the Santa Monica Pier is destroyed
- Pete’s salvage business & collections are lost to the sea
- May 1983 - Pete Peterson passes away

1983 CAPISTRANO BAY 10-MILE - 1ST PLACE
JIM HAD REMOVED THE TILLER



Line-up for the '83 Capistrano Bay 10 mile race. Jim Mollica, fourth from left, won on his 46 year old Pete Peterson racing board. Photo: Craig Lockwood.

1985 – OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB – 10K RACE

- 2nd Place



OUTRIGGER DUKE KAHANAMOKU 10K PADDLE BOARD RACE
At Outrigger Canoe Club

Overall: 1, Brian Renner 1:12:55; 2, Edmund Pestana 1:13:18; 3, Rick Williams 1:13:53. **Boys Paddleboard:** 1, Wyatt Jones 1:21:50; 2, David Gonsalves 1:29:22; 3, Sage Spalding 1:35:36. **Mens Paddleboard:** 1, Renner; 2, Pestano; 3, Williams. **Womens Paddleboard:** 1, Debbie Wayman 1:17:29 (new course record); 2, Helene Phillips 1:29:41. **Masters Men:** 1, Michael Gaughan 1:16:07 (new course record); 2, Jim Mollica 1:18:12. **Boys Surfboard:** 1, Pete Johnson 1:28:48; 2, Brad Bowman 2:09:44. **Mens Surfboard:** 1, Fred Fong 1:24:47; 2, Randy Grune 1:26:20; 3, John Baldwin 1:31:36. **Womens Surfboard:** 1, Karen Pang 1:46:18; 2, Kuumomi Ho 1:55:49.

1986 – DALE VELZY DONUT RACE DANA POINT - 1ST PLACE





JIM MOLLICA SR. - CATALINA CLASSICS

- On the Peterson Paddleboard
  - 1984 – 3rd Place Overall & Unlimited (5:59:50)
  - 1985 – 6th Place Overall; 4th Place Unlimited (6:43:13)
    - Last race with Peterson paddleboard



1988 CATALINA CLASSIC

- 1st Place Stock (7:02:34) - 6th Place Overall





OLDEST PERSON TO WIN ANY CATALINA CLASSIC CATEGORY

- Winners Jim Mollica Sr. & Joe Bark

SM lifeguard awarded title

Veteran Santa Monica lifeguard Jim Mollica, 48, Sunday won the stock class division of the seventh annual Modern Catalina Island-Manhattan Beach Paddleboard Marathon, finishing the grueling race in 7 hours, 2 minutes, 34 seconds.

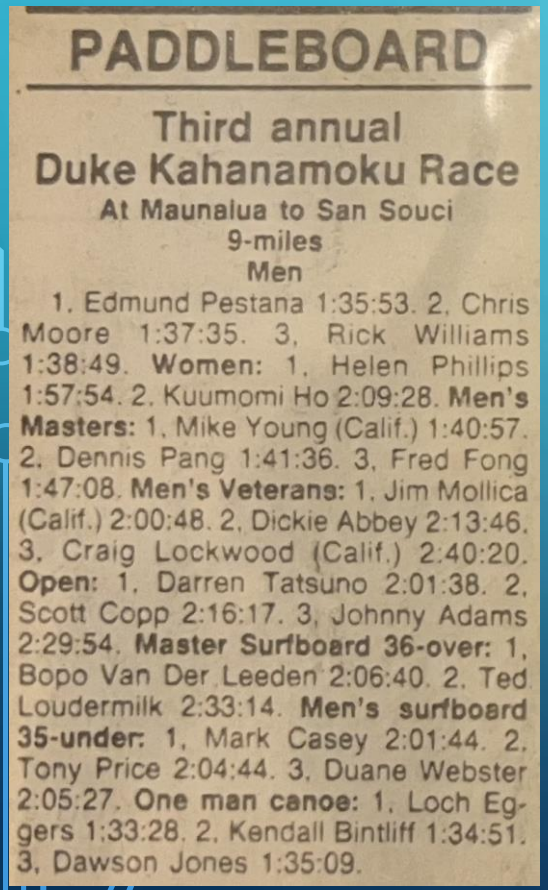
Redondo Beach fireman Joe Bark, 28, won the marathon's open division in a time of 6 hours, 11 minutes, 51 seconds.

The race is sponsored by the city of Manhattan Beach.



1989 – 3RD ANNUAL DUKE KAHANAMOKU

- 10-mile race on Oahu
- 1st Place trophy bowl
  - Presented to Jim from Duke's wife



PADDLEBOARD

Third annual Duke Kahanamoku Race

At Maunalua to San Souci
9-miles
Men

1. Edmund Pestana 1:35:53. 2. Chris Moore 1:37:35. 3. Rick Williams 1:38:49. **Women:** 1. Helen Phillips 1:57:54. 2. Kuumomi Ho 2:09:28. **Men's Masters:** 1. Mike Young (Calif.) 1:40:57. 2. Dennis Pang 1:41:36. 3. Fred Fong 1:47:08. **Men's Veterans:** 1. Jim Mollica (Calif.) 2:00:48. 2. Dickie Abbey 2:13:46. 3. Craig Lockwood (Calif.) 2:40:20. **Open:** 1. Darren Tatsuno 2:01:38. 2. Scott Copp 2:16:17. 3. Johnny Adams 2:29:54. **Master Surfboard 36-over:** 1. Bopo Van Der Leeden 2:06:40. 2. Ted Loudermilk 2:33:14. **Men's surfboard 35-under:** 1. Mark Casey 2:01:44. 2. Tony Price 2:04:44. 3. Duane Webster 2:05:27. **One man canoe:** 1. Loch Eggers 1:33:28. 2. Kendall Bintliff 1:34:51. 3. Dawson Jones 1:35:09.

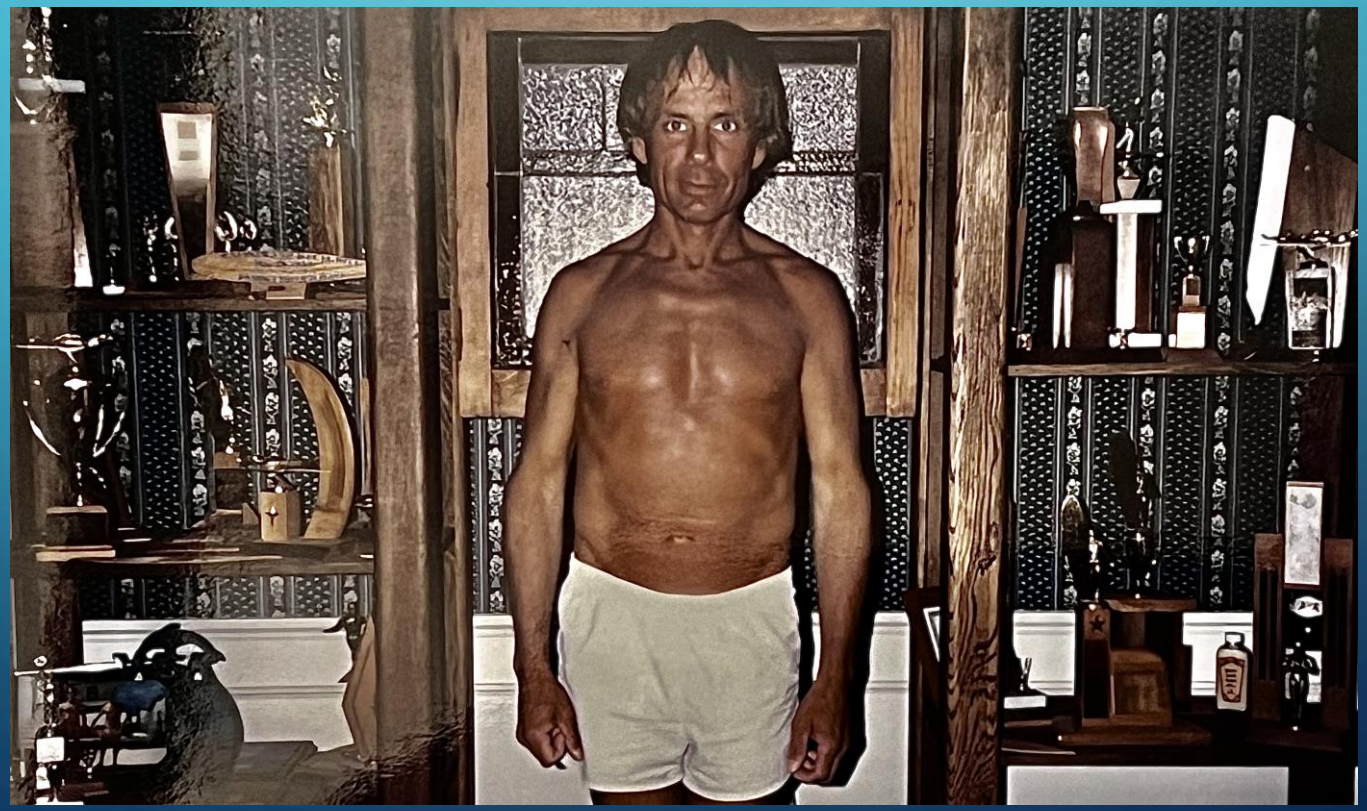






JIM MOLLICA SR.

- 2006 - Hennessey's U.S. Paddleboard Championships
  - 1st Place – 60 & Older
- 2015 – Waikiki Winter Open
  - 11th Place – All ages
  - 75 years old and still paddling strong!!



THANKS TO PADDLEBOARD DONOR JIM MOLLICA SR. LIFEGUARD, WATERMAN & RACING CHAMPION





Special research assistance thanks to:

Craig Lockwood, Buddy Bohn, Francziska Steagall & Bob Willis