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### **'ODUSA' SETS RACE RECORD**

"Nice winds, a crew that's worked together and a sweet boat" were the ingredients credited by crewman Russ Keller for the record-breaking finish of the yacht *Odusa* in the 2300 mile Victoria-Maui race.

Although local officials did not suspect a new record until near the end of the race, crewmen said they knew they had a record only three days after the July 1 start from Victoria, BC.

The 53 foot *Odusa* crossed the finish line at Kaanapali at 53 minutes and 12 seconds after 7 a.m. on Saturday. Her elapsed time of 14 days, one hour and 25 minutes was a healthy beat over the former record of 15 days, 16 hours and 55 minutes set in 1965 by *Long Gone*.

"We lost our spinnaker about four days out," said the *Odusa's* Ed Kennedy, who was called from Panama by owner-skipper Eric Zahn specifically for this race, "but we didn't lose any time and were able to repair it."

"Hey, we weren't even pushing," interrupted Keller. "We could have broken the record by more in that boat."

Particularly gratifying to local yachtsmen and boat lovers in the *Odusa* finish, is the fact that owner-skipper Zahn, who has competed in the L.A.-Honolulu race in previous vessels of his, had not competed before in the Victoria-Maui event. The *Odusa* is a new ship but the crew members are all old pros who had sailed together and with Zahn before.

Others aboard the *Odusa* were George Valentine, Ken Brostrom and his wife Mikki, Leonard Nevler, Jim Vogt and Bob Martin.

Mikki Brostrom was the only member who had not been part of the team previously but even she is a veteran sailor. She served as cook on the voyage.

The power boat, *Summer Star*, served as a communications liaison between the ships in the race and the accompanying Canadian naval tug, *St. Anthony*. *Summer Star* stayed at sea until Sunday morning when it came into Lahaina to berth beside the *Odusa*.

"It was nice to hear a friendly voice out there," shouted one of the *Odusa's* crew to skipper Oliver Sommers.

Sommers, who was accompanied by his wife Gladys, Frank and Marjorie Bush from Canada and Dr. Caroline Robertson from Scotland — has a 100 watt radio aboard the *Summer Star*.

"We had a roll call every day and we'd relay the roll to the *St. Anthony*," said Sommers. Except for the fact that three of the starters turned back at the very beginning of the race, the daily roll call was strictly routine.

"Except, of course, the day the *Flame* hit the whale," said Sommers. The racers passed a school of whales and the yacht *Flame* got too close and bumped one of them

"No damage," said Sommers, "but it gave the crew a little fright." The *Odusa* itself had a near miss, coming within 15 feet of one of the whales.

The *Odusa* is expected to stay in Lahaina until the end of July, when Zahn will take the ship back to Victoria.

The 37 foot sloop *Co-motion* was the second yacht to finish the ocean crossing, reaching Kaanapali about noon Sunday. The remaining 14 competitors were expected to be pulling in during the rest of the week.