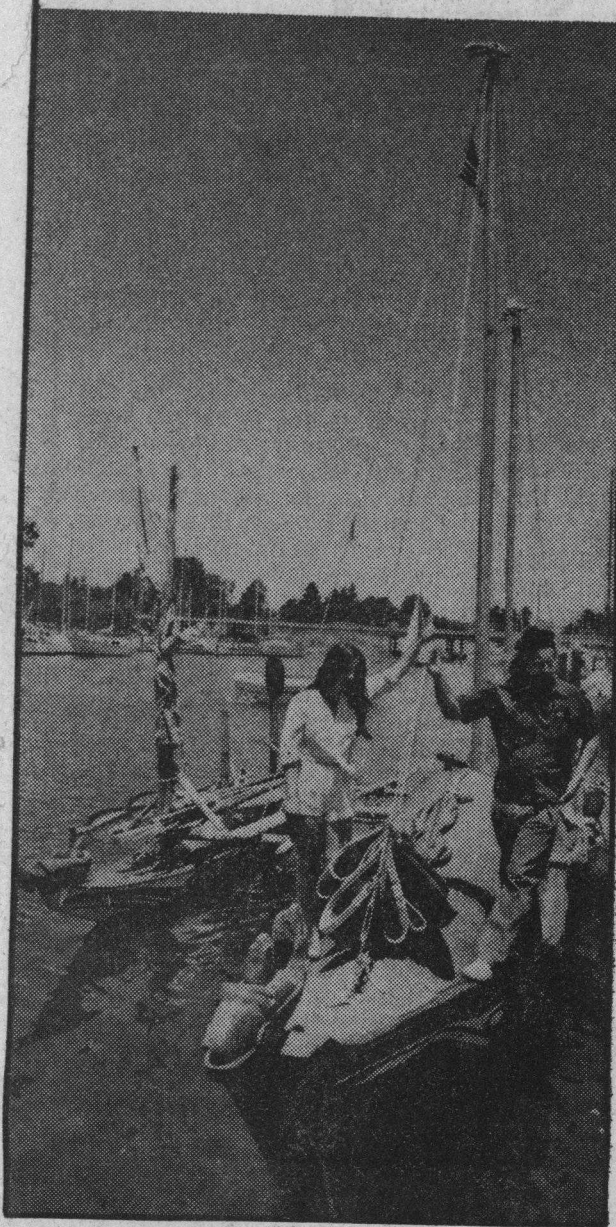


Boats & Boating

Log Voyage



By Jerry Telfer

**Karen Lind and Geordie Tocher check the
'Orenda' in Santa Cruz**

Journey to Hawaii To Prove a Theory

By Rick Carroll
Chronicle Correspondent

Santa Cruz

Geordie Tocher, a burly lumberjack and seagoing adventurer, never gives up.

He set sail seven years ago in a hollowed out log from Vancouver to the Hawaiian islands to lend evidence to an obscure theory that the first Hawaiians came from Canada.

But his log ran aground and broke up near Bodega Bay, because of fog, heavy seas and a slight navigational error.

"We were off by a quarter of a mile," he said.

Tocher, 51, was back again yesterday with a new 40-foot handcarved dugout canoe, a friendly first mate named Karin and a new navigator with 35,000 miles of blue water sailing experience.

And with a borrowed sextant and a four leaf clover in his jeans Tocher is about to embark on the second leg of a voyage he claims hasn't been made for 1400 years.

The first leg of his journey ended three weeks out of Vancouver after gale force winds and dehydration forced him to seek refuge — and a drink — at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor.

"I was too busy to remember to drink water," he said, draining a second ginger ale with lunch on Pier Q where his red-sailed outrigger, "Orenda," with its killer-whale figurehead strained at its spring line. He plans to leave Santa Cruz this week and expects a nearly 3000 mile voyage to take no more than 40 days.

What Tocher hopes to do is lend credence to the so-called "Haida-Hawaiian theory" recently advanced by explorer Thor Heyerdahl who built and sailed the raft Kontiki from Peru to islands near Tahiti in 1947 to demonstrate that the first Polynesians could have hailed from South America.

That theory claims that 1400 years ago the Haida Indians from what now is the Pacific Northwest sailed nearly 3000 miles across the Pacific in dugout canoes in the belief the ocean was a river and ended up in Hawaii.

"There are legends in Hawaii," he said, "that the natives' ancestors came from a land far to the northeast where the trees are without leaves six months out of the year and people can walk on the water."

Also, he said, more than 200 words in the Hawaiian language are identical to Haida words.

"There's hundreds of pages of evidence to support the theory," Tocher said, "but, in my mind, it's never been proven.

"If I do, it doesn't really prove anything except that it can be done.

"It's the adventure as well, I've got to admit, he said, staring out to sea.

Tocher, who sold his house to finance the voyage, figures he's invested \$40,000 in the project.

"I've been carving the log for three years on my knees in the woods with rain running down my neck," he said, and it came time to go."

There's no how-to-do-it books for building an authentic northwest Indian schooner-rigged canoe, Tocher said, so he turned to the Haida Indians themselves for instruction.

"The Indians say the voyage is like getting into a river and going until the river ends," he said. "I hope so."

Austrian Nuclear Forecast

Vienna

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, under fire for calling a national referendum to decide Austria's nuclear policy, yesterday predicted that voters will favor starting the country's first atomic power plant.

Reuters

Herb Caen is on vacation