

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
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Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup
HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

JUN 19 1970



PADDLE-STRAIN—The Outrigger Canoe Club's boys 12 and under canoe-paddling team works out at the Ala Wai Canal preparing for Sunday's Pokai Bay Regatta. The youngsters were first in their division in the Regatta.—Photo by Ron Haworth.

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Surf Spray



By Ron Haworth

South Africa in Surf

Word out of South Africa indicates that the professional surfing circuit continues to expand on international levels.

The latest pro contest will be known as the Durban 500 and will offer \$3,000 in prize money, half of which will go to the winner.

The South African Surfing Association, sponsor of the Durban 500, has invited Hawaii surfers to compete July 25-26.

The South Africans contend their surf is better than that experienced during the Australian world contest and very suitable for Hawaiians who usually prefer large, hard-breaking waves.

Surfers who have already announced their intentions to travel to Durban are Aussies Midget Farrelly and Nat Young and California world champion Rolf Aurness.

Locally, Keone Downing is toying with the idea.

Anyone interested can call George Downing at 737-7908 for complete information.

South Africa would like to win the bid to host the 1974 World Surfing Championships, and no doubt it sees this pro contest as a handy vehicle to project Durban's surf around the globe.

A few years ago, when Bruce Brown's "Endless Summer" first hit the small-time school auditorium audiences, Africa's Cape St. Francis was revered by surfers.

Fanning the flame shouldn't prove difficult.

But . . . this columnist wonders if a contest as prestigious as the WSC should ever agree to focusing world attention on a country that so proudly upholds a doctrine of racial intolerance.

Hawaii Gets 1972 Meet

The '72 WSC is slated for Hawaii. All that is needed to make it all jell is money. We have the surf, the guiding know-how and the will and desire.

Downing is currently putting the spade and leg work together. Any sincere (possible) investors are asked to contact him.

"The '72 contest will be staged as a first-rate affair—or not at all. It will be the first to make a profit," Downing predicted.

Surprisingly, the WSC is not a professional event. Eduardo Arena, president and founder of the sanctioning International Surfing Federation, explained this oddity:

"The contest itself offers nothing more than a silver trophy which I had remade three times before it met my satisfaction.

But I'm sure no contest brings the victor more monetary reward than the world title.

"All three prior champions, Felipe Pomar, Nat Young and Fred Hemmings have benefited immensely from their two-year crowns."

Arena was referring to the numerous endorsements and business positions which were opened to the world champions. Obviously the world title carries commercial weight—more than the Duke or United States Surfboard Championships.

But despite Arena's position, we believe the contest would grow in stature if it went professional. Professionals carry with them a glow of excitement, they evoke a mass worship and following that only the Olympic Games can rival on the amateur level.

Where would golf be today without the \$100,000 pots?

'Tarzan' in Picture

Johnny Weissmuller, one of the greatest swimmers in history, has been named International Commissioner of marathon swimming by the Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

In accepting the new post, Weissmuller—who won five Olympic gold medals and set 52 world records for a variety of freestyle and backstroke distances between 1921 and 1927—said he is pleased at the opportunity of helping regulate the sport, in which races are conducted over courses ranging from 10 to 60 miles.

"Although my longest distance swim was three-miles, I feel this is a sport in which the participants are among the best-trained athletes in the world," he said.

* * * *

The summer canoe racing scene shifts to Pokai Bay Sunday and the Leeward Regatta. Outrigger Canoe Club will be out to make it two in a row on the heels of their Kam Day victory. Waikiki Surf Club edged OCC at last year's Pokai event by two points.