

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE  
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii  
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Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup  
HONOLULU ADVERTISER  
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## He Seemed Exhausted

# Swims 30 Miles, Then Plans Next One

By ROBERT JOHNSON  
Advertiser Maui Bureau

LA PEROUSE BAY, Maui — Three hours before, Christine Huffaker had learned that her husband, Harry, had

given up his attempt to swim the Alenuihaha Channel and was safe aboard his escort boat, and she had cried.

Now, late Saturday evening in the warm kitchen of

George R. Carter's beach house here, she and some of her friends were cooking hamburgers and Harry and some of his friends were in the living room planning how he would try again this fall.

An hour before, Harry had come ashore from the boat in the deepest dusk before dark. He looked exhausted from his 17-hour, 30-mile swim, and seemed unable to talk.

### First a Hot Bath

But a half hour later, when his wife arrived, after he had taken a hot bath, Harry Huffaker was alert and they embraced, bathed in the light of

a television camera flood lamp.

It was nearly the end of a day that had started hours before sunrise when Harry entered the water and was sturdily swimming from Hawaii toward Maui, as Christine began the long drive along Maui's almost uninhabited Kaupo coast trying to be where her husband would land.

During the day, a little group of watchers collected and moved along the coast, gathered around Christine, her friend Joan Mendenhall and the car driven by Dr. James Kahoe of Maui. They were joined by another carload of friends, a jeep carrying radio-TV people, and a couple of newsmen's cars.

### Others From Hana

The party with Christine initially drove to Kaupo from Ulupalakua, the others came around from Hana, through Kipahulu, and they all met and began working their way gradually south, back toward La Perouse Bay, over unpaved roads, through rocky gorges.

The uncertainty ended at 6:24 p.m. when word came by radio from the boat that Dr. Huffaker had agreed to stop swimming and come aboard.

Later at La Perouse, Dr. Bob Smith, the physician who accompanied the swimmer, said, "Harry didn't want to quit. He asked each member of our party for advice and didn't agree to come out until each one argued against continuing."

### More Miles

As the escort boat, Spooki Luki, made the two-hour run into La Perouse Bay, the party with Christine bounced, jounced, jolted and slid over the dusty road to Ulupalakua, a 20-mile drive

to the nearest telephone, at Pardee Erdman's house.

There Christine phoned Carter's caretaker at La Perouse asking him to light up the house as a guide to the boat groping its way into the bay, then the small caravan of cars bounced, slid and bumped over another 15 miles or so of dirt road down from Ulupalakua to La Perouse, where Christine and Harry were reunited.

What kind of a man is Harry Huffaker, 30, dentist, around whom during those long hours so many people concentrated such long and strenuous activity?

### His Challenge

What kind of a man is it who swims the Molokai channel, tries twice to swim the English Channel, and will try again to swim the Alenuihaha Channel?

There is a simple answer. He's a swimmer.

Some men are mountain climbers and climb mountains. Exceptional mountain climbers climb the highest mountains. Exceptional swimmers like Huffaker are challenged by Hawaii's open channels.

When Harry Huffaker is challenged, even a little bit, he becomes stubborn.

Like this: Saturday night here, freshened by his hot tub but still only a couple of hours from sea, surely a bit tired, he responded typically to a suggestion from a tired member of the shore party that perhaps he'd like to sit down as they talked.

Huffaker's jaw set almost imperceptibly. He didn't answer the question. But he continued to stand, for about 20 minutes more.

To Dr. Harry Huffaker the suggestion he sit had come as a challenge and he answered it, simply and wordlessly, by standing.



Advertiser Photo by Bob Johnson

Christine, Harry Huffaker after ordeal.

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## Hawaii News

### Dentist To Try Swim Again

HONOLULU (AP)—A Honolulu dentist who failed in his attempt to swim the 32-mile Alenuihaha channel Saturday said Monday he plans to try again in September or October. Dr. Harry Huffaker spent 17 hours and 7 minutes in the channel before being defeated by cold water and strong current two miles from the Maui Coast. He began the swim early Saturday morning. He later said of his venture: "It's awful lonely out there in the dark."

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MAUI NEWS

APR 30 1969

### Plans Second Attempt

## Chill, Currents Check Channel Swimming Try

Although cold water and contrary currents prevented Honolulu Dentist Harry Huffaker from making the first Hawaii-Maui swim across 32-mile Alenuihaha Channel last Saturday, he probably swam farther than the channel's width in his game try.

Lieutenant Leslie C. Medeiros, police commander at Hana, felt that the dentist might have made it if he had been able to keep a straighter course and come in around the Kaupo, Nuu, Waipoi area.

After listening in to the conversation by radio from the land party to the boat accompanying the dentist, Lieutenant

Medeiros said that there was definite confusion about the location of certain landmarks on the Maui coastline.

Dr. Huffaker left shortly after 1 a.m. Saturday from Honolulu Point, heading for "where" along the Kaupo coast on Maui. He was taken aboard the boat just two miles short of his goal.

It was at 6:42 p.m. that the swimming dentist gave up, but he is planning another attempt this coming fall.

He has successfully swum the Molokai Channel, twice failed to swim the English Channel, and promises to try again on the Alenuihaha Channel.

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## Outrigger Will Defend VB Crown

The Outrigger Canoe Club's volleyball team will defend its National AAU crown this week-end in St. Louis.

OCC is sending two teams to the competition, with the championship team competing in both the open and senior.

On the defending club are Colon Chock, Mike McMahon, Paul MacLaughlin, Dode Parker, Tony and Cris Crabb, Jim Pietsch and Cris McLachlin. The Senior club is made up of Bill Baird, Bill Heilbron, Roger Clissold, Mark Lawson, Al Lemes and Fred Noa.

"We expect our toughest competition to come from the Los Angeles YMCA, San Francisco Olympic Club and the Ciscos Club in the tourney," says player-coach Ron Sorrell.

After the AAU competition, which ends on Sunday, the teams head for Knoxville, Tenn., to play in the U.S. Volleyball Association tournament.

The OCC team has been weakened by the loss of All-American Tom Haine, who tore a thigh muscle in practice and will be out for the rest of the year. However, he'll accompany the team.

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## Isle volleyers open NAAU title defense

Hawaii will be represented in national volleyball competition by three teams — two men's units and one women's group.

The Outrigger Canoe Club will field two teams at St. Louis tomorrow in the National AAU Volleyball championships.

OCC will be defending its title in the Open Division with a team comprised of Colon Chock, Mike McMahon, Paul MacLaughlin, Dodge Parker, Tony Crabb, Cris Crabb, Jim Pietsch and Cris McLachlin.

Tom Haine, captain of the American squad at the Mexico City Olympics, is injured but will accompany the OCC team as a spectator.

BILL BAIRD, Bill Heilbron, Roger Clissold, Mark Lawson, Al Lemes and Fred

Noa will team up for competition in the Senior Division at the Nationals.

The three Hawaii teams will then play in the four-day U.S. Volleyball Association championships, which starts Wednesday at Knoxville, Tenn.

Hawaii Olympians Fanny Hopeau and Sharon Peterson will lead an Isle team of Beth Ann Hollinger, Cindy Kalama, Jenny Timbreza, Joey Akeo, Marilyn Haine and Stevie Whalen.