

SEP 5 1969

Surf Spray



By Ron Haworth

Channel Swimmer Gets Break

It's official. Dr. Harry Huffaker. The Alenuhaha Channel is 29.5 miles wide from Upolu Point on the Big Island to Maui's Pule Point.

Huffaker, who hopes to become the first person to swim the channel later this month, is probably heartened by this bit of accurate measurement from the U.S. Department of Interior.

It has nullified the common belief that the channel stretched 32 miles from island to island. It's a 2½-mile shrink.

It's a bank error in your favor, Christmas in September, and around-the-world honeymoon.

But most important—it cuts three hours off Huffaker's impossible, body-sapping swim.

Now the question remains—how will Huffaker react to this unexpected legacy?

If his past history in channel swimming is any indication, he is no doubt asking himself if he hasn't over-trained.

He's probably already tapering off with two showers a day and a glass of water before bed.

The Dean Martin of Swimming

Huffaker is the Dean Martin of swimming.

His longest training swim for this assault on the Alenuhaha was seven miles, but he did it when small craft warnings were flying, which makes it all a little more impressive.

A casual observer might think him not serious, while, actually, Huffaker simply finds long-distance swimming boring. So why bore oneself needlessly?

Necessity in 1963 directed that he cram into two months what requires 12 to 24 when he tried to swim the English Channel.

Huffaker was fresh out of college where he had been an outstanding sprinter. He was in England on a summer fling.

His introduction to the secretary of the Channel Swimming Association was a flat—"Hi, I wanna swim the channel."

Such disrespect. Both the Channel and the CSA were shocked.

But any feeling of disdain soon vanished when the impetuous American began training before the critical eyes of the CSA.

"Top rate swimmer," it was agreed.

Takes Job as Swim Instructor

Huffaker took a job as a swimming instructor in a nearby pool. He lived, ate, and dreamed of whipping the cruel English Channel.

He gave it all of two months preparation. He also got married.

"Here's mud in your eye," he thumbed at the Channel "The crazy Yanks!" cried the CSA.

Cmdr. Forsberg, who holds the record from England to France and trained over two years to do it, was unavailable for comment.

But later, after the crazy Yank had come so close to beating English tradition and the channel, the CSA wrote:

"It was a valiant swim at the drop of a hat. It was not a failure.

"This man has the potential of a top class long distance swimmer. Given the time to train sufficiently, he should be a top contender in any international distance swim he cares to enter."

From the CSA those are words of the highest honor.

Aiding Huffaker in his next attempt will be a seasoned and dedicated group of Outrigger Canoe Club members.

John Marshall has guided Huffaker's previous local swims and will again be swim coordinator.

Marshall's insight to Huffaker — the man and the swimmer — was always to define the thin line between the two.

The remainder of the team will include Bruce Ames, Peter Balding, Ron Sorrell and Zander Budge, skipper of the escorting Spooky Luci.

The hours of darkness are of particular concern. The danger of sharks is foremost in everybody's mind.

Except Huffaker's. He just wants to touch Maui 17 hours and 29.5 miles after turning his back on the Big Island.

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HAWAII TRIBUNE HERALD

SEP 2 1969

Oahu To Try Channel Swim Again

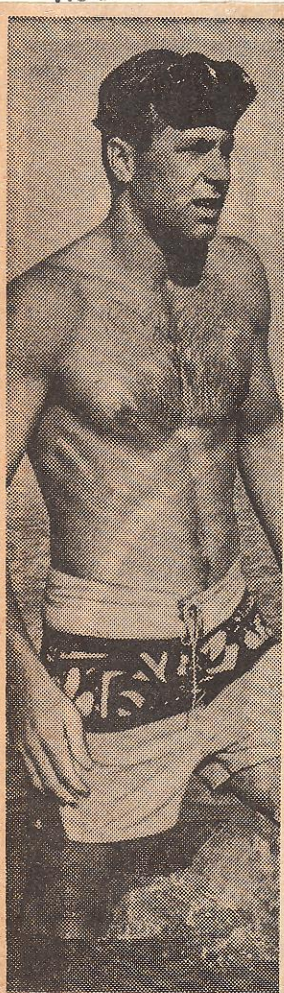
HONOLULU (AP)—A Honolulu dentist will make his second attempt to swim the Alenuhaha Channel some time next month. Dr. Harry Huffaker is attempting to become the first person to swim the channel. The 29-year-old Huffaker set out from Upolu Point on the Big Island in April and was stopped two miles short of the Maui shore after spending 17½ hours in the water. He said the water will be warmer this time and expects currents to be more favorable.

Police Officer Returns To Duty

Police patrolman Wayne Carvalho has been re-appointed a patrolman in Hilo following his return from leave with the National Guard, Police Chief Anthony Paul said Friday.

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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

AUG. 30 1969



Dr. Harry Huffaker

Dentist Plans Big Isle-Maui Swim Attempt

By Ron Haworth
Special Writer

Dr. Harry Huffaker, Hawaii's 29-year-old swimming dentist, is planning his second attempt to become the first person to swim from Hawaii to Maui.

He expects to tackle shark-infested Alenuhaha Channel sometime during September. The exact date will depend on the weather.

Last April Huffaker was stopped two miles short of his Maui goal.

If it's any consolation, he can now be assured that the distance between the Big Island and Maui isn't quite as great as the charts have shown for decades.

The old accepted distance was set at 32 miles. But recent checks by the Geological Survey of the U.S. Department of the Interior have established the true width of the channel as 29.5 miles.

This if from Upolu Point on the Big Island to Maui's Pule Point.

HUFFAKER was in the water for 17½ hours on his first assault on the channel in April. He had to quit two miles short of his goal because of adverse currents and a drop in his body temperature.

He expects not to be troubled by the cold water this time. It will be about five degrees warmer than it was in May.

Last weekend Huffaker and John Marshall, his swim coordinator, flew to Hana and borrowed a boat to check the currents.

They found an easterly current and Huffaker was encouraged.

"Any drift toward Hana is beneficial," he said.

"I knew I would get a great psychological lift during the long hours of my swim if I could tell myself that I wasn't necessarily going to meet the same westerly current sweeping away from Maui the way it did last time."

TWO YEARS AGO Huffaker swam the Molokai Channel in a record 13½ hours. Keo Nakama was the first person to conquer it.

Accompanying Huffaker on his Alenuhaha Channel try will be members of the sponsoring Outrigger Canoe Club.

Huffaker is a member and has received the club's financial aid in his previous swims.

Radio Station KGMB hopes to arrange for a special radio broadcast boat to make the trip and keep radio listeners advised of Huffaker's progress.

Huffaker became a swimming sensation when he was in high school and later when he went to the University of Michigan.

He has tackled the English Channel twice but failed both times.

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HONOLULU ADVERTISER
SEP. 10 1969

Japan volleyball champions to compete here Oct. 5-6

The Yashica women's volleyball team, reigning national champion of Japan, has slated two exhibition matches against an all-star Hawaiian team Oct. 5 and 6.

The matches, sponsored by the local YMCA, will be held at McKinley High School at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets, priced at one dollar each, are on sale at the Cen-

tral and Nuuanu YMCA's.

The Hawaii women, who finished second in the national tournament at Knoxville, Tenn., in May, have five All-Americans and two Olympic team members in their midst. The Olympians are captain Sharon Peterson, the outstanding player in the 1969 nationals, and Fanny Hopeau. Coaches are Calvin C. MacGregor and Harry Kealoha.

The Japanese squad, coached by Hiroshi Funayama, will be making its final stop in a round-the-world tour that began Aug. 11. Thirteen girls between the ages of 18 and 24 make up the squad. Toyoko Iwahara is the captain.

Matches between the Outrigger Canoe Club's men's team and the Central YMCA team will precede the women's matches both nights.

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HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

SEP 10 1969

Swimming Dentist to Try Again

Dentist Harry Huffaker will try again to swim from the Big Island to Maui tonight if weather conditions are favorable.

He plans to dive in at midnight near Upolu Point on the Big Island and begin the 29½-mile swim to Pule Point on Maui.

Dr. Huffaker, who set a record in swimming the Molokai Channel in 1967, tried in April to make the first conquest of the Hawaii-Maui channel, but was forced to quit two miles from Maui.