



Advertiser Photo by Y. Ishi

Huffaker: He was ready to go, really ready.

'Harry was ready'

They had a hard time keeping Dr. Harry Huffaker from diving into the thrashing swells off the Big Island's Upolu Point Wednesday night.

"Harry was ready. He was really up for it," said Ron Sorrell, who, along with John Marshall, paddles on a surfboard next to Huffaker on his channel swims — guiding the swimmer, yelling words of encouragement, giving him food, watching for sharks.

Hawaii's marathon swimming dentist was eager to make his second attempt at becoming the first person to

Dr. Harry Huffaker returned to Honolulu last night, after being forced to cancel his attempt to swim from the Big Island to Maui because adverse weather conditions made the waters turbulent.

swim the 29½ miles from Hawaii to Maui, across the Alenuihaha Channel, when his team advised him to call it off and try another night.

"We were surprised that night by a strong east-north-east wind with swells 6 to 8 feet," said Sorrell in an interview yesterday at the Outrigger Canoe Club, which sponsors Huffaker's cross-channel swims.

"It was impossible to swim or paddle in the water. Boats were on were getting tossed around like on a carnival ride.

"THE SWIM was to be kicked off at midnight. Huffaker went to the starting point and to his shock found winds at 20 to 25 knots.

"This discouraged him, but somewhere along the way he started getting turned on again."

While Huffaker was gazing into the dark and endless sea before him, Sorrell and Marshall were with the rest of team aboard a charter

"We started off toward Hana as a test," said Sorrell. "We found, to our great surprise, that it was a wild ride.

"I met with John Marshall, the chairman, and the rest of the team and the skipper, and we generally felt the thing had to be aborted.

"MARSHALL and I got on surfboards and paddled in to the cliff. It was about 200 yards to paddle in.

"I told Harry, 'I've got bad news for you, it's running too rough to handle.'"

"He had a group of people with him. They thought I was kidding," said Sorrell.

"From the cliff, it looked

great, but 400 yards further —around the point—the full swell had a chance to whip in.

"I repeated the problem, stated the odds, which were next to nothing. John Marshall concurred.

"Harry was ready to go. Unfortunately, I had to sock it to him.

"Knowing we had his best interest at heart, he said he would do whatever was necessary."

SORRELL said that there is still an "outside chance" that Huffaker may attempt the crossing in the next few days.

"Harry is not ready to quit," he said. "We're still looking for a southerly wind."

Sorrell thinks the team is better prepared this time than they were in Huffaker's first Alenuihaha attempt last April, when he abandoned the swim two miles short because of adverse currents.

He noted that besides having a dedicated team and a better azimuth bearing that promises the best path to follow for helpful currents, there is something added.

"Harry's father, who lives in Mexico, came over for the swim," Sorrell said. "He was aboard the boat and became a working utility man.

"He was a big help to me, taping the flashlights on the surfboards."

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Surf Spray



By Ron Haworth

The logistics involved in support of Dr. Harry Huffaker in his attempt to swim the Alenuihaha Channel between the Big Island and Maui are complex.

They were demanding when he swam the Molokai Channel two years ago, but compared to what confronts the team for the Alenuihaha attempt, Molokai was a snap.

The greatest obstacle is the old foe—time.

IF HUFFAKER needs anything going for him besides his ability and fortitude, it is 48 hours of perfect, humid kona weather. Seventy-two hours would be ideal.

The initial 24-hour period is taken up with phone calls to spotters on the Big Island and in Hana, other helpers, and the local weatherman.

The longer Huffaker is forced to wait for ideal conditions the shorter the days. And the shorter the days the less chance he has of completing the 29.5-mile swim in daylight.

The south shore of Maui is no place to attempt a landing after nightfall. For the most part it is a lava wasteland with a few pockets of sand.

HUFFAKER HAS been adamant in his refusal to commence his swim prior to midnight. Understandably he doesn't cherish those hours of darkness which bring loneliness and the threat of sharks.

But should circumstances push Huffaker into a late Oc-

tober or early November swim, he will either have to accept the longer danger of darkness or a faster pace.

It's unlikely he could improve upon 54 strokes a minute in the marathon.

He will also be faced with a drop in the water temperature.

UNTIL THAT moment he plunges into the wet blackness off Upolu Point, Huffaker needs rest and moral support.

He must look to those members of the sponsoring Outrigger Canoe Club who unselfishly give their time to the venture.

He must place a terrible strain upon his wife, Chris, who can only wait anxiously before the adventure and during.

And finally Huffaker must ask himself whether he can live up to the deed expected of him?

I expect that he can and he will.

LAST EVENING a group of conservationists gathered to hear talks by more conservationists. Their theme was "Sane Use of Our Shorelines."

What did the meeting accomplish?

Not much other than talk.

While the Conservation Council for Hawaii meets in absolute agreement, the reef of Ala Moana could be filled, Point Panic off Kewalo could be filled, and the beach fronting Waikiki could be filled.

Japanese Volleyball Teams Play Here

The Japanese women's champion volleyball team will compete in Honolulu October 5-6. The team, from Yashica, is the reigning national champion of Nippon and has slated two exhibition matches against an all-star Hawaiian team.

The matches are sponsored locally by the YMCA and will take place at McKinley High School

at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are priced at \$1 each and may be purchased at the Central YMCA on Atkinson Drive and at the Nuuanu YMCA.

The Hawaii women have five All-Americans and two Olympic team members on their side. They finished second in the national tournament at Knoxville, Tennessee in May.

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

Japanese Volleyball Team Will Compete

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Japanese Gals Play Heads-Up Volleyball

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