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Surf Spray

By Ron Haworth



Is it likely the International Surfing championships at Makaha might be revamped in '70 and run as a pro-am contest?

Very possible. But the eventual adoption of such a challenging move hangs on the flexibility of the sponsoring Waikiki Surf Club.

The idea of going pro-am this year was discussed but dropped because it was felt too much time would be needed in a meet already pressed for surfable hours.

And there can be no argument in this stand. But it must also be pointed out that a professional division need not take a day or more. If the field were select enough the entire pro segment could be in the record books in two or three hours.

TO ACCOMPLISH this would be merely to run a couple of semifinal heats of 30 minutes and a final of 45 minutes.

Prize money could come from the entry fee charged. And it wouldn't be a pipe dream to imagine some more coming from the growing tourist area around Makaha.

Example: The Duke Classic is now co-sponsored by the Del E. Webb Hotel Co. which plans a mammoth hotel complex at Kawila Bay.

(Anyone care to guess what next year's prize money will total?)

A little professionalism (a lot would be even better)

would go a long way toward boosting surfing as a national sport.

It would also inspire youth, who must now look at Makaha and the hardcore "Makaha Magicians" with as much glee as final exams.

Ninety per cent of those surfers who enter the men's competition have as much



Paul Strauch

chance of winning as this column does of appearing in the Wall Street Journal.

SO WHY NOT remove these "Makaha Magicians" from the amateur ranks? Or as George Downing remarked: "After one amateur win you're automatically moved into the pro bracket."

A random sampling of quarter finalists resulted in the following:

Ben Aipa: "As it is the same surfers always turn up in the finals . . . eliminate this and you attack the reasons the Australians are down on Makaha."

Corky Carroll: "The pro should certainly be separated from the amateur. I would be eager to pay my way into the pro bracket."

George Downing: "... surfing is growing . . . and while Makaha is a top contest (I enter because I like competition) a pro-am would up-grade the sport."

Fred Hemmings: "As a

professional surfer I'd pay \$25 or \$50 or whatever was necessary to compete."

Randy Rarick: "Professional? Definitely! I'd rather surf against top men like Hemmings and Strauch than a bunch of amateurs. It would be better for all concerned."

Felipe Pomar: "A great suggestion. And isn't it likely that the pros would get better surfing conditions because of the money at stake?"

Rick Steere: "As long as it didn't hurt the contest I'd be for it — trophies are hard to spend."

Brant Ackerman: "... I'm on vacation from college and couldn't afford \$50, but I suppose most surfers would be subsidized by board manufacturers. Count me in."

Paul Strauch: "Give me a day to think about it."

Okay, Paul. You had the day, and in the meantime won your first senior men's Makaha title. Would you care to defend it next December for dollars?

Strauch's triumph, coupled with his second in the Duke, has pretty well assured him a trip to the world contest — wherever and whenever it might be.

To have the president of the Hawaii Surfing Association represent Hawaii because of merit and not position will be a healthy change from past policy.

The outstanding performance turned in at Makaha this year was by Downing, battling from the preliminaries, to reach the final six.

How many of his young opponents will be able to do as much when 40 years of age?

And three whoopies for wahine's champ Martha Sunn. She's prettier than an HVB poster — and surfs!

Rick Steere stroked the 6-mile Diamond Head paddleboard race in leading a 1,2,3 Outrigger sweep. Steere's effort in six-foot seas capped a year which saw OCC claim the world, Duke and Makaha champions.

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Steere Takes Paddling Classic

Rick Steere is the 1969 Diamond Head Surfboard Paddle Race champion.

The Outrigger Canoe Club's surfing star, who paddled the 6-mile race in 1 hour, 5 minutes and 15 seconds, defeated three strong contenders—Aka Hemmings, Jody D'Enbeau and Dave Stecker who finished in that order.

The paddlers raced in the stock board division, using a heavier board than used by George Downing when he established the 46-minute record for the course in 1953.

The blue ribbon event, the feature of yesterday's four-hour surfboard paddle program, climaxed four hours of racing. The competitors paddled to the Diamond Head buoy and back to the starting line in front of the Moana Surfrider Hotel.

YESTERDAY'S PROGRAM was the next to the last day for the week-long water sports carnival sponsored by the Waikiki Surf Club. The final event—the mixed tandem of the International Surfing Meet at Makaha — has been scheduled for 8 a.m. tomorrow. Twelve mix-

ed surfing teams have signed up for the 19th annual competition.

Bill Mount and Luana Froiseth won the men's and women's open half-mile events respectively.

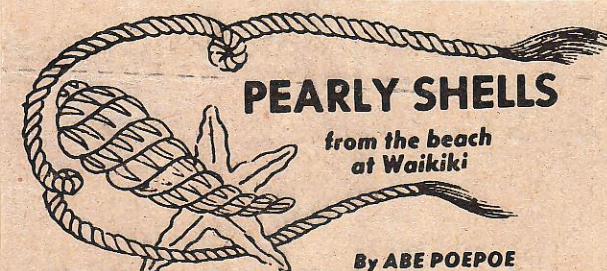
Ken Morrow took the boys 11-under 100-yard contest; Brenda Scott the girls 14-

under 200-yard race; Shawn Thompson of South Africa the boys 15-under 200-yard paddle and the quarter-mile competition.

Miss Froiseth and Keone Downing won the half-mile mixed tandem event; Nancy Emerson the girls 17-under quarter-mile; and Leigh

Josephson the men's 35-under half-mile.

In the run-swim-paddle event, the foursome of Emerson, D'Enbeau, Tony Guerrero and Jeff Young triumphed after a tough race against the foursome of Miss Froiseth, Hemmings, Keone Downing and Kainoa Downing.



GOWMAN

There's an eight-foot elephant (trumpeting, too) on the lanai of Cinerama Hotels' veep and gen mgr TOM GOWMAN's home, and the collector of elephantism doesn't quite know what to do with the all-wicker accoutrement painted in the hotels' colors. It was left there by Cinerama's executive staff when it toted food and bev to Gowman's home for a feed-in. Nice bunch, that staff. They also cleaned up.

Canlis' has been hanging its Christmas trees upside down for 10 years. And now new piano player, Irishman LEX HANNA is there to go with it, but he's no topsy-turvy performer.

Kalani High fund drivers, among other projects, collected some \$6,000 worth of Primo empties to finance their World Airways charter to Sugar and Sun bowl parades. That figure represents a lot of suck 'em up and pick 'em up.

Greatest Christmas present I've ever received... news that my photographer son trained by the Army for prison guard duties at Ft. Leavenworth has been made a photo-journalist at the Kansas post.

We toured the brig at Pearl Harbor at the request of the Navy League and as guest of COM 14 commandant, Admiral DONALD DAVIS, and were struck by the youthfulness of the incarcerated--ages 18-22. And we were sincerely impressed by the compassion shown by the Marine and Navy men in charge.

CHUCK RODGERS, night bartender at Fisherman's Wharf, and wife have purchased a boat for pleasure and as domicile.

Hopefully the Hula Records-Queen Kapiolani Hotel Christmas benefit for Hawaii's needy becomes an annual affair. Seven hundred locals and visitors paid \$5 a head for a thrilling and filling evening of superb Hawaiian entertainment, and every bit of the money went to the Honolulu Advertiser's Christmas fund. More tickets could have been sold by the Waikiki Jaycees, but the room couldn't hold the bodies. Consider this bill of fare: sumptuous buffet donated by KANAE KOBAYASHI and his Hawaiian Pacific Resorts staff and entertainment by OHTA-SAN and LINDA GREEN, regulars in the Peacock Room of the Queen Kapiolani; DANNY KALEIKINI, KAI-PUALA HUTCHINSON and JIMMY KAO-PUKI (forgive last week's boo-boo, Jimmy) and his group of the Kahala Hilton; GENOA KEAWE and son GARY AIKO. Also, KAHAUANU LAKE trio and Na Opio Dancers of the Kaimana Beach Hotel; NINA KEALIIWAHAMANA; PALANI VAUGHAN and his Sunday Manoa group of the Outrigger Canoe Club; EDDIE KANAE and his Kaimana Serenaders; LEINAALA HAILI and trumpeter DAVE CHAMBERLAIN. Last but not least, emcee KENT BOWMAN. And every bit contributed.



KOBAYASHI