

Surf Spray

By Ron Haworth



Australia's Finest

Peter Drouyn, one of the hottest surfers on the professional horizon, paused briefly enroute from Australia to Peru last weekend, long enough to surf at No Place, fronting the Outrigger Canoe Club, where he headquartered.



The unusual February swell gave him plenty of opportunity to dry run an 8-foot-5-inch board he made especially for the waves he expects to encounter in the Peruvian International Championships this weekend.

A resident of Surfers Paradise in Queensland, Drouyn fast became that resort's most famous surfer last year when he finished fourth, second, and first in the Smirnoff, Duke and Makaha contests, respectively.

Drouyn

He also had the high honor of being named Queens-

land's Sportsman of the Year for 1970 and went on to be runner-up for the national title to Australia's international tennis star Margaret Court.

He was later honored locally as the top pro surfer of the year. Drouyn is a charter member of the International Professional Surfers Association.

Drouyn is a young man with definite opinions and could become the sport's most sensational success if he continues his winning ways.

"Even in its infancy pro surfing has afforded me the opportunity to travel and meet distinguished people," said Drouyn.

Meets VIPs

"I was guest luncheon speaker at numerous Queensland functions, and expressed my views on surfing directly to mayors, premiers and parliamentary VIPs, all of whom probably held unflattering stereotyped opinions that all surfers belonged to the shaggy cult who overrun Australian beaches.

"It's this fringe element the freedom of the sport has attracted because it offers them instant identification. So now we find ourselves with 350,000 surfers in Australia, but only 20,000 who are serious and beneficial."

Drouyn blames surf magazines for pushing the Disneyland environment.

"The great mass of today's surfers are uneducated and easy targets in a penny ante ego bazaar. But it is the merchants who reap the profits."

A staunch supporter of the IPSA and its philosophies, Drouyn believes in the association's assumption that it is the general public, and not the surfer, who holds the strings of success or failure for pro surfing.

"The IPSA is the first organization that I know of which has gone directly after the big, potential sponsor.

"I believe that pro surfing has to begin in Hawaii, rather, than say, Australia, because it is Hawaii where the combination of money, tourism and super-surf is found.

Supports IPSA, Hemmings

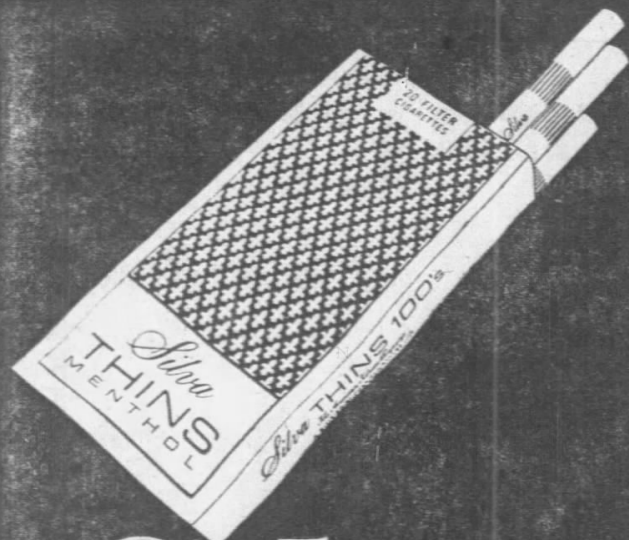
"Waves of good vibes got back to Australia after November's fantastic Smirnoff World Pro-Am. Champion Nat Young wrote in his Sydney newspaper column . . . 'the day had finally arrived when surfers, like tennis players and golfers, could make money doing something they enjoy . . .'"

The only cloud Drouyn sees on the pro horizon is the split between surfers who favor the IPSA and those who lean toward the newly formed Hawaii Professional Surfers Association.

"The undercurrent of friction existing could retard the initial progress toward absolute professionalism.

"Personally, I support the pioneer IPSA because Fred Hemmings is the contest director.

"Anything Fred is involved with I'm for because I trust him. He is reliable, one of the world's best surfers, and possesses unquestioned integrity."



Silva Thins