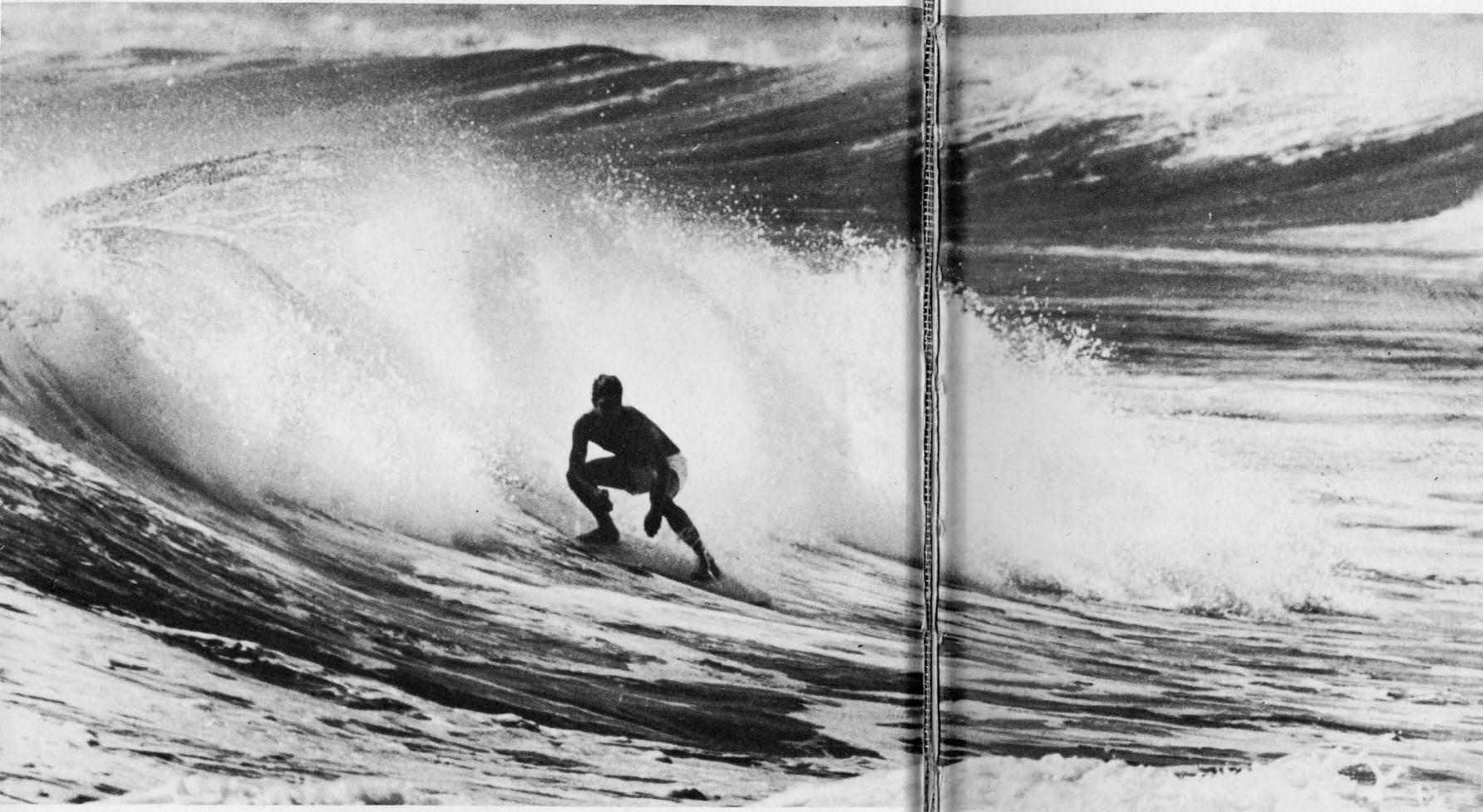


THE SURFING LIFE



MIDGET FARRELLY *as told to* CRAIG MCGREGOR

ARCO PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
New York

CV
840
S8
F3
1967

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Published by ARCO PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc.
219 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 67-16182

Arco Catalog Number 1612

Printed in the United States of America

This book is about how I see surfing. It contains most of what my years of surfing have taught me, right from learning to ride to the refinements of modern functional surfing. Some of the things said here will seem simple and basic, and maybe in a few years' time some of them will seem so elementary that they'll be laughable. But it's taken me years of practice, and traveling, and a constant search to find out what makes up surfboard riding, to learn all the things that are in this book.

It's a technical book. It doesn't depend upon its photographs to say what it wants said. I expect there'll be disagreement from knowledgeable surfers about some of the things. But that's the way surfing progresses: it depends on everyone pushing surfing a little bit further, refining it a little bit more.

When I wrote this book, American surfers such as Phil Edwards and Mickey Dora were being acclaimed for their revolutionary methods in the surf and the new techniques they were pioneering. The styles of many American surfers were based on these two; but these styles have been broken down and varied until now there are hundreds of new and original methods in use. The most outstanding of the new surfers is David Nuuhiwa who does most of his surfing from the front of the board. Leading the style-conscious cult are surfers like Mike Hynson, Skip Frye and Billy Hamilton. Another group practices a tight, fast kind of surfing; these are the surfers in the Santa Barbara area, such as John Peck and Ross Cave. On the East Coast, Gary Propper leads a group of

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high-powered surfers bent on making a reputation for the new surfing coastline of the U.S. In Hawaii every year bigger waves are ridden by Ricky Grigg, Geoff Hackman, Paul Strauch, Kimo Hollinger and George Downing, while hot-doggers like Jock Sutherland and Leroy Ah Choy specialize in the small surf of Hawaii. Surfing has become increasingly popular in Puerto Rico and Mexico (one of the most prominent board riders is Ignatio Felix Cota, of the Baja Surf Club in Mexico). There is no doubt about the fact that the United States still leads the world in the development of the board-riding method, even though a handful of Australians have done well in the world contests and the Hawaiians rule the big waves.

Before anyone reads the book and comes across any mistakes, I'd like to apologize for them; and for any names spelt wrongly. But whatever its faults, I hope this is a book that will be interesting to the nonsurfer, helpful to the learner, and will give something extra to those who already know what the surfing life is about.

Photographs are by Ron Perrott, Sydney; Peter Rae, Sydney; LeRoy Grannis, California; David Beal, Melbourne; John Pennings, Sydney; Joel de Rosney, France; and Bob Evans, Sydney. Drawings by Gary Birdsall.

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