

cedar or maple, and screwed or glued together. Since 1956, however, balsa and foam boards have taken over Australia's beaches, and surfers there are now adept at all the sweeps, stalls and fancy footwork of Malibu and Honolulu.

Today the land down under is fast catching up with California as a populous surfing center. But, like Hawaii, its significance in the history of the sport involves more than local growth. Australia has been a secondary point from which surf-consciousness has spread around the world. As the idea of their surf-life-saving methods reached other British Commonwealth countries, surfing has gone with it, and the SLSA clubs have become convenient focal points for all beach activity.

NEW ZEALAND

IN New Zealand, for instance, the revival of a long-dead pastime was due to Australia's influence. As we have seen, surf sports were known to early Maoris. Canoe surfing, body-board surfing and body-surfing, known collectively as *whakarere*, were all popular pastimes. They declined and have virtually disappeared, however; and modern surfing in New Zealand dates from the 1930's when Australian Surf Lifesavers arrived with skis and cigar boxes. Unlike Hawaiians, modern Maoris seem to care little for the beach as a recreational area; they have apparently taken no part in the revival of surfing in New Zealand. Whereas surfing in Hawaii is multi-racial, in New Zealand it has remained primarily a Caucasian pastime.

The warmer North Island is the sport's center there. Until recently, Australian surf-skis were most common surfing vehicles. In 1958 two Californians, Ron Stoner and Bing Copeland, brought the first balsa boards to New Zealand, to spark a growing interest in modern equipment and new riding skills.

SOUTH AFRICA

SURFING was nothing new in New Zealand; neither is it anything

new to Africa. But there are thousands of miles and evidently hundreds of years between the native sport found in Senegal and the modern sport flourishing in South Africa today. Although the fishing people on Africa's west coast still ride waves, their sport is in no way linked historically with surfing around the Cape of Good Hope. It was an Australian example again, that spanned the Indian Ocean to introduce the sport there.

In the beginning South Africans had only a rough sketch of an early ski, brought back by a swimming coach from the 1938 Empire Games at Sydney. The Surf Life Saving movement was already established, and it was a local lifesaver named Fred Crocker who followed the design and built the country's first surf ski—twelve feet long, with a boarded deck, flat bottom, and so heavy that two men were needed to handle it in the surf. School boy Junior Lifesavers, however, learned to ride it, and the unwieldy craft was used for surfing until after World War II. Improved surf-skis appeared after the war, and in the 50's Australian hollowboards replaced some of the skis. Also in the early 50's the South Beach Surf Board Club was formed in Durban. More recently balsa and foam boards have arrived, so that today South African surfers are mastering modern riding techniques on Indian Ocean swells.

ENGLAND

IN 1953 the surf-lifesaving movement was established in England, and, with the unique safety methods came the surfboard, surf-ski and all the oceanic skills developed on Australia's beaches. With its time-honored reputation for fog, foul weather and the frigid English Channel, England seems an unlikely spot for a traditionally warm weather sport like surfing. But the southwest coasts of Devon and Cornwall boast the mildest summer climates in the British Isles, and the warm gulf stream, rushing up from the Caribbean, passes so near that water temperatures sometimes approach 60°. This southern coast, full of steep cliffs, sandy coves and long shimmering beaches, receives a regular North Atlantic swell and

has long been a favorite holiday area for beach-minded Britons.

Body-board surfing has been known there since the early years of this century. In 1953, Allan Kennedy, an Australian, established a Surf Lifesaving club in Bude, Cornwall, and thus the first surfing club in Europe. Since then, some twenty other clubs have joined, and as usual, lifesaving and surfing go hand in hand. Many British surfers use Australians surf-skis, but some imported boards are also available.

Unlike Hawaii, where there are twelve surfing months in every year, surfing is a summer sport in England—and it isn't surprising. The main surfing areas—scattered between south Devon and Land's End—are in a latitude parallel to the Sakhalin Island off the coast of Siberia and farther north than the Great Wall of China. Ride a wave off the Cornish coast, and you'll watch it break on the northernmost surfing beaches in the world.

ISRAEL

BEYOND the British Commonwealth and outside the California-Hawaii zone, several other areas of the world have been introduced to Hawaiian surfing. Among these is Israel. A former Honolulu resident, Dorian Poskowitz, moved to Israel and organized a club there to promote the sport. Their surfing is unique because, while most surfers depend on ocean storm centers, Israeli surfers depend more upon local wind waves generated in the eastern Mediterranean.

FRANCE

SURFING did not come to France via a visiting surfer, but by the successful diffusion of an idea. On the Atlantic coast near Bayonne, close to the Spanish border, swimming enthusiasts first read about the sport and heard tales of its glamor and excitement. After examining published plans of surfboards and studying technique in books, they built their own boards and proceeded to teach themselves to surf. French surfers thus set a precedent in the surfing world. Since this imaginative beginning, new stimulation has come



29 Lining up for a late afternoon take-off at Dana Point, California.
Photo by Ron Church