

'Be in it, girls!' says Candy



THE SURFING CALHOUNS: Twenty-two-year-old Candy, above and at right, riding a wave at Makaha Beach, Hawaii. Below, with her mother and sister — from left, Candy; Mrs. Thomas Calhoun (Marge), who won the world women's board-riding championship at Hawaii eight years ago; and 19-year-old Robin.



● A champion American girl surfer, Candy Calhoun, now working in Queensland, hopes that Australian girls will soon be making names for themselves in surfboard-riding.

"NOT so long ago most girls here, as in America, were just tagging along to be with the fellows," she said. "But now they seem to be taking a more active interest in the sport."

"I have seen here some very enthusiastic girl board-riders with good co-ordination and natural ability."

Candy comes from San Diego, California. She won the U.S. Women's Surfboard Championship in 1963 and was placed fourth in the world championships in Hawaii in 1964.

Hers is a surfing family. Her mother, Marge Calhoun, took up surfboard-riding at the age of 31, and three years later, in 1958, won the world championship in Hawaii. In 1964 she competed again and was placed second — at the age of 40.

Candy's sister, Robin, 19, has been placed in several contests, and her father, Tom, is a keen skindiver and spearfisherman.

Candy arrived in Australia last November and headed straight for the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane,

where she got a job with Hayden Kenny.

Hayden Kenny, well known as a champion life-saver, manufactures surfboards. What started as a sideline making custom-built boards for himself and friends has grown into a large business exporting to America and other countries.

"I haven't had much secretarial experience," said Candy, "but my background

By **PATRICIA McGETRICK**

in surfing has been very useful in this job.

"In addition to a small amount of secretarial work I am given scope for creative art work, advertising layout, and color design of boards. In fact, I guess you can call me a sort of Girl Friday."

Although Candy has won international acclaim as a surfboard rider, her greatest thrills in competition were when she twice took second place as the only female in U.S. body-surfing contests.

Despite these successes her first love is bellyboard riding.

"With a bellyboard you

are down in the water going with it," she said. "You can get right inside a hangover and feel like a fish. There is no trouble balancing and it is easier to catch a wave."

"Older people find them easier to handle — I sold one of my boards to a man over 40 — and they are cheaper, about \$50 compared with approximately \$95 for a surfboard."

"They are also excellent if a woman needs to lose weight, as riding a bellyboard encourages firm legs and hips."

For beginners Candy recommends inflatable surf-o-planes, as they are easy to ride, and if used in conjunction with flippers go really fast and manoeuvre well.

They are very popular with women in California.

"It is not unusual to see women 6 or 7 months pregnant using them," said Candy. "The exercise helps them to keep fit, and as the surf-o-plane is soft it conforms to their shape."

Candy hopes to get permission from the Immigration Department to stay here at least another year.

"I have seen so little of Australia, but as my father

lent me the money to come here I wanted to work to repay him," she said.

"That is what has kept me in one place. I love this part of Australia, but hope to see it all. I figure that will take me six months."

"I would then like to go to Israel and work on a kibbutz for a while. I am very curious about the Holy Land."

"I wouldn't be going for religious or inspirational purposes, but because the land is steeped in history and must be heavy with a feeling of antiquity."

Whatever she might do in the meantime, Candy is

determined to return to university in two years' time to take a course in the humanities.

"I am lucky to have financial backing from my grandparents for this, as it is terribly hard to work your way through college in the States these days," she said.

One of Candy's pet hates is being classified as a surfer.

"For years I have always been referred to as Candy Calhoun the surfer. There is nothing evil in the term, but I like to think there is more to Candy than that stereotype," she said.

"These terms are thrown

around too loosely. In many people's minds surfers are persons of limited ambitions and interests."

Candy has studied languages—Portuguese, Spanish, French — has travelled extensively in Mexico and South America, and has visited various other countries.

She is said to have a natural talent for painting, reads extensively, loves music and foreign films, and declares, "My interests are, at this point, practically unlimited."

Candy Calhoun could certainly never be described as "just another surfer."

