

PETERSEN'S

# SURFING

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**COVER:** Pete Topoleski, skillfully displaying form and control, whips into a fast and beautiful bottom turn on a giant 15-footer inside Banzai Pipeline in this great color photo by Richard Graham which was taken on one of the biggest days of 1964 at Banzai.

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# OFFBEAT SURFING

*This sport of which fans rave,  
Would demand a board and wave;  
But old ingenuity must have its day- -  
When one has the will, one finds a way.*

*On belly, body or mat,  
In dory, kayak or "cat,"  
Skimming or skating, on sand or snow-  
Surfing's for doing . . . so go, man, go!*

## *You've got to have the stomach for it . . .*

Bellyboarding, the art of riding the waves on a short board, seems to be exploding as fast as regular surfing in many areas today. In the Hawaiian Islands, a whole new breed of wave riders are experimenting with various shapes of bellyboards on the big surf, while along the California coast, a growing crowd is riding the smaller surf on bellyboards.

There seems to be a number of advantages in bellyboarding over the regular surfing sport with the big boards—although it will never reach the proportions of regular surfing, in all probability.

First, with the younger pre-surfing group, there is the advantage of economy. Second, the bellyboard can be used in surf areas that may be barred to the use of regular surfboards at times. The lifeguard services in most areas permit the use of boards up to four feet in length in "swimming only" areas. A third advantage bellyboarding has is the valuable training it gives to the beginning surfer.

With the use of the bellyboard, the youngster or beginning surfer may get the feel of the different wave actions and the take-off technique on different size waves. In many cases, the bellyboarder will get a faster ride on a wave than a regular surfer on the big board, particularly on the drop down the curl.

A last, and most important, advantage the bellyboard has is this: Due to the fact that the bellyboarder always uses swim fins in order to get out through or around the surf easier, he is in much better shape safety-wise when he wipes out or loses his board in the surf far from shore. His chances of getting back to shore without difficulty are greater because of his better swimming ability with the fins.

Of course, the bellyboarder will find it harder and slower to get out through or around the surf because of the lesser buoyancy of the smaller board. However, the swim fins compensate for this somewhat. The regular surfer can paddle out just about twice as fast as the bellyboarder.

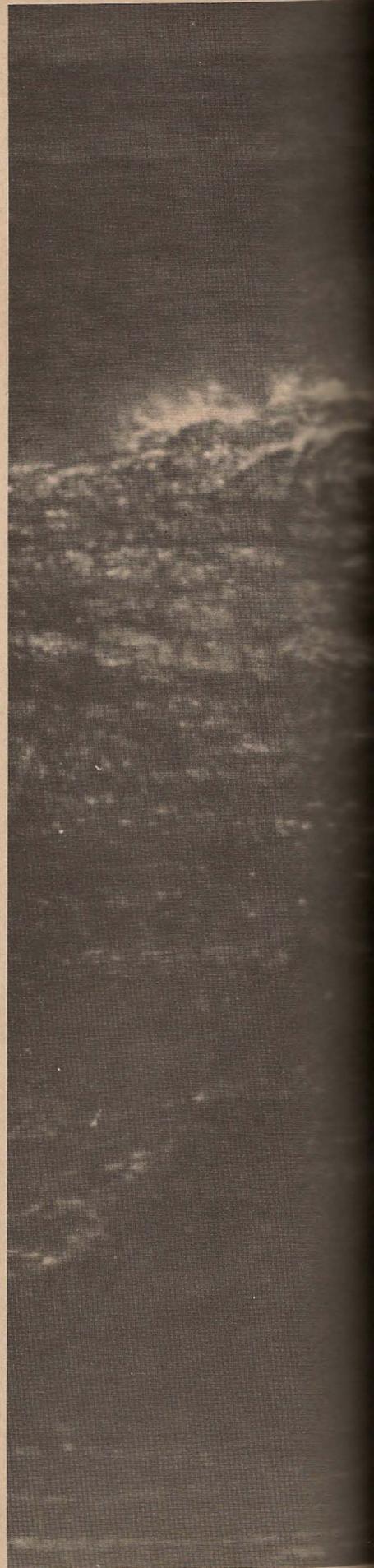
It should be said here that the sport of bellyboarding is quite new, and a lot of experimenting is going on in all types of surf. There is a whole new breed of surfers in the Islands riding bellyboards with, and without, skegs. Some of these boards are made of wood and some made of glassed polyurethane foam.

Some of the experimentation on bellyboards has revealed the point that the take-off on peak surf is better on the bellyboard than the regular board. But, the take-off on wall type surf is slower on the bellyboard than the regular board. In any event, riding the bellyboard is fun for young and older alike.



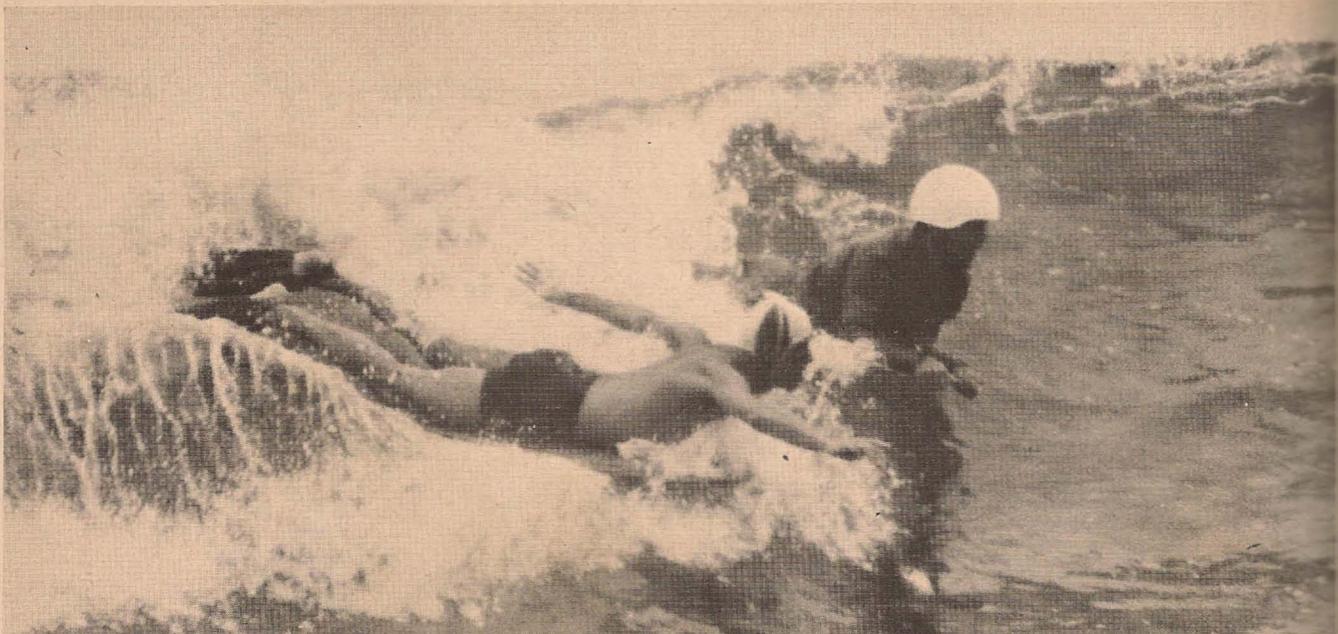
# **BELLY BOARDING**

Bellyboarding a big one in Waimea Bay/by Greg Noll

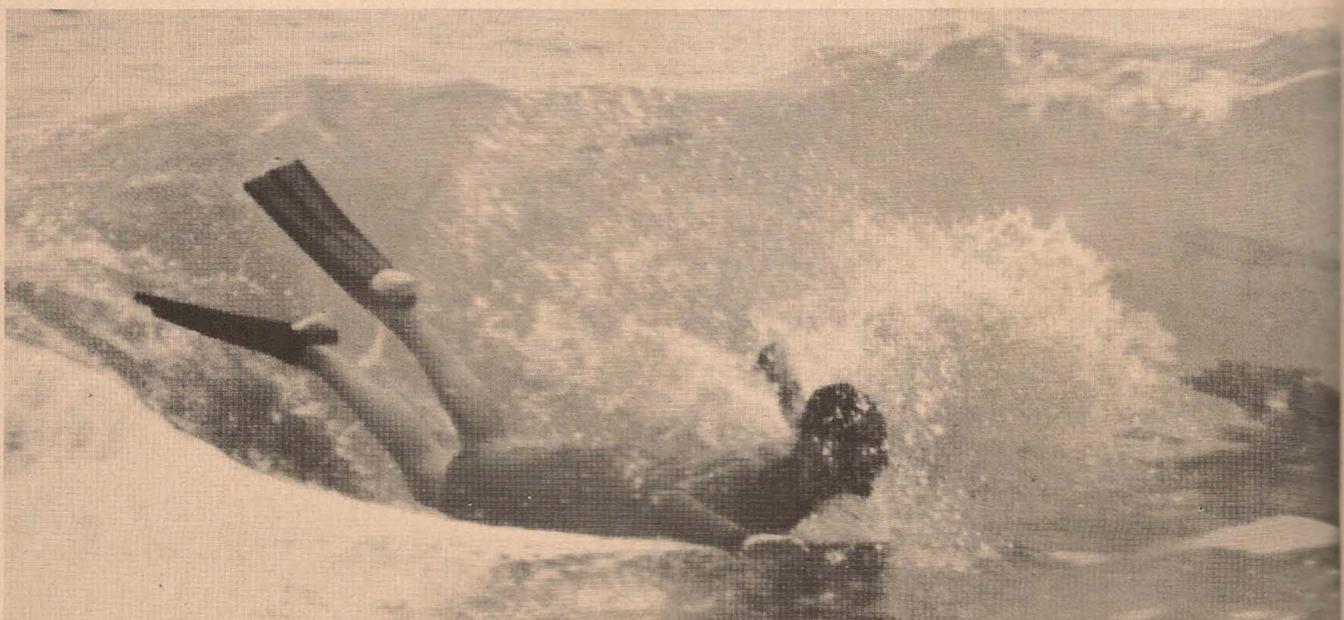
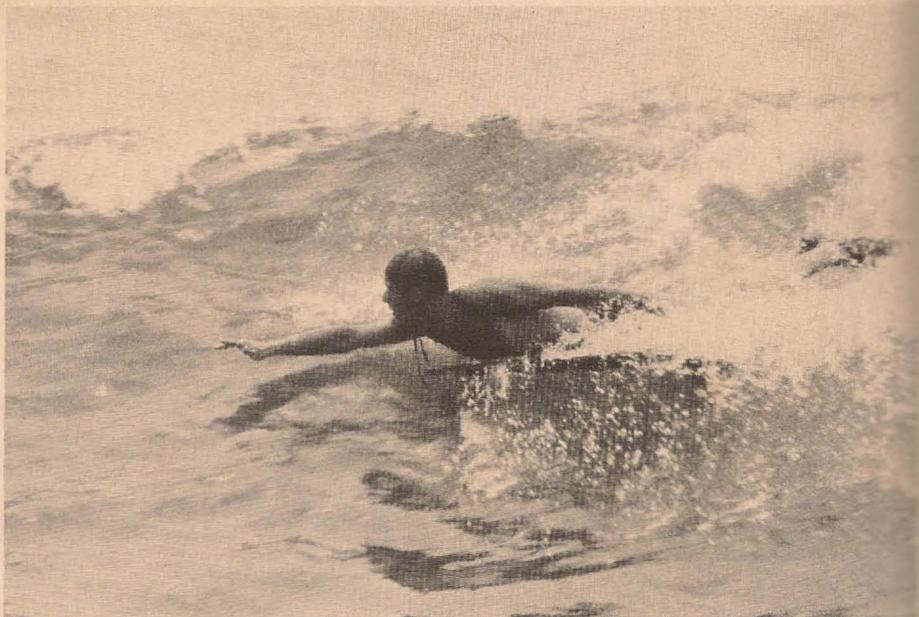




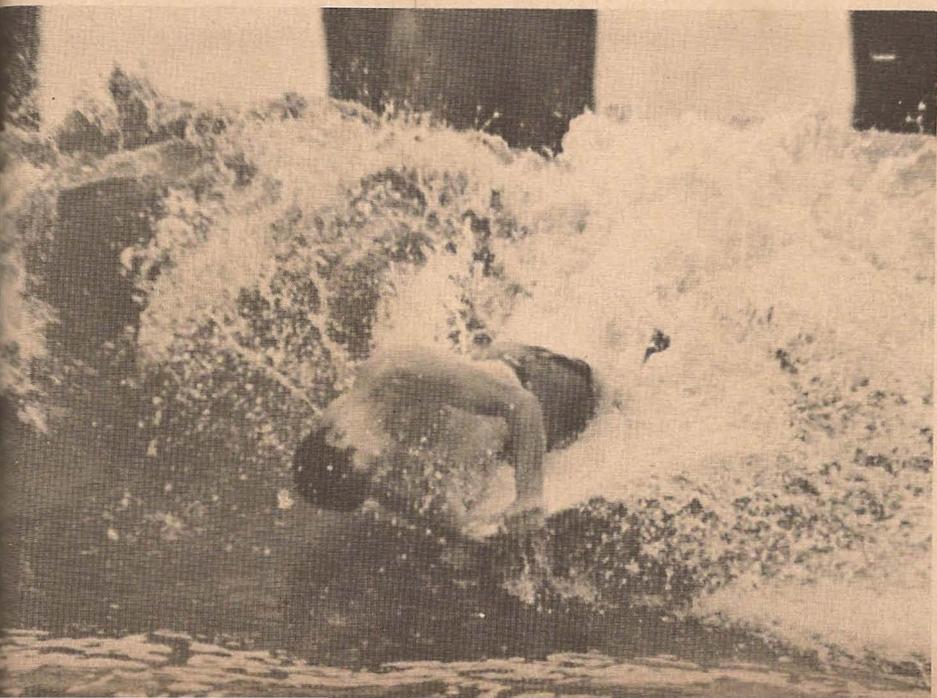
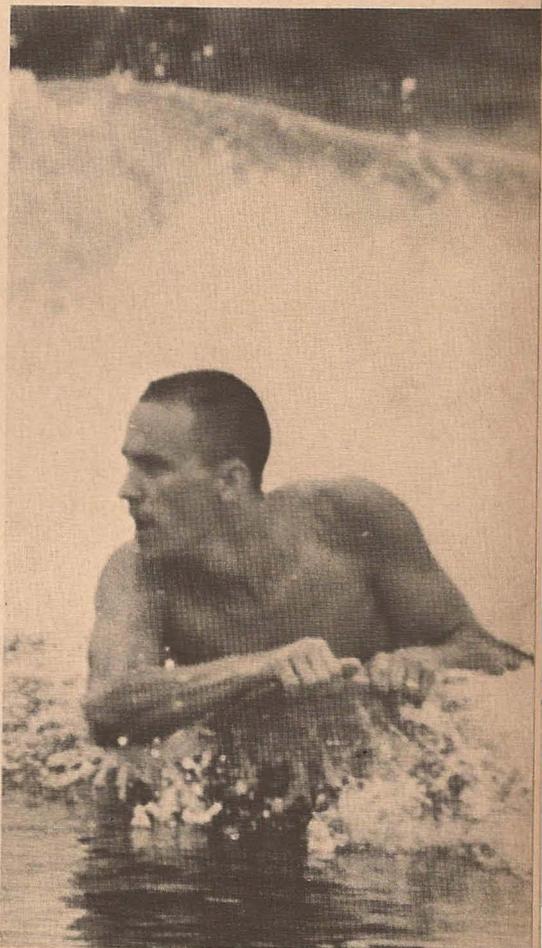
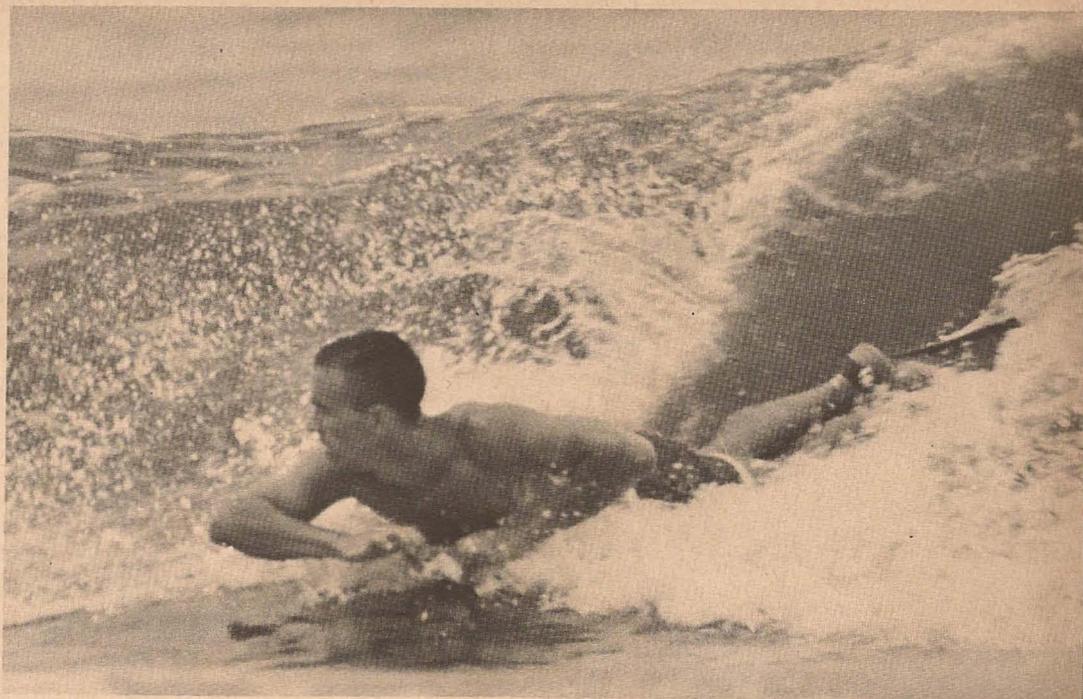




Salt Creek usually affords good belly boarding surf. (Above) Dick Wandrocke and George Farquar display two different safety helmet styles and two board positions. (Right) Dick shows arms-out style for balance and aid in turning. (Below) Pete Howorth lifts his swim fins clear of water in order to gain more speed.



(Right) Bellyboarder slides right as he tilts board with left hand and surveys wall ahead. (Below) Rider is about to hit bottom as falling section threatens. (Bottom) Ducking head and dipping right shoulder, belly surfer will shoot back through wave and come out behind it. (Lower right) Ride ending in soup.



PHOTOS: LEROY GRANNIS,  
DOUG KILGOUR, GREG NOLL