

Dana Point's Joyce Hoffman Blazed Trail for Women Surfers
by Bruce Beal

Dana Point can be proud of what it has contributed to the world of surfing, and Joyce Hoffman is a major contributor. Described by many as the first internationally recognized female surfer, Joyce was once unbeatable, winning the U. S. Surfing Championships (1965, 1966, and 1967), the Makaha International (1964, 1966), and the Laguna Masters (1965, 1967), among other distinctions.

Joyce Hoffman was a member of the Hobie Surf Team and the subject of a Hobie Signature surfboard carrying her name. According to Matt Warshaw, surfing historian and author of *The Encyclopedia of Surfing*, she was the first female surfer to surf the treacherous Banzai Pipeline in Hawaii in 1968, was featured on the cover of *Life* magazine, featured in *Seventeen*, *Look*, *Teen* and *Vogue* and appeared in several surf movies, *Free and Easy* (1967), *Five Summer Stories* (1972), and featured in *Surfer Girl: A Century of Women in Surfing* (2000).

She was twice the top female vote-getter in the *International Surfing Magazine* Hall of Fame Awards (1966, 1967). She was one of the original eight inductees into the International Surfing Hall of Fame (1994).

Joyce Hoffman has been a role model for young women. She championed surfing competition among women, and in one of her *Surfing/Illustrated* articles stated, "I hope to help give surfing the image it deserves. Exactly how I can accomplish this I don't know, but being named a Woman of the Year (*Los Angeles Times*, 1965) and getting good grades in school – all of these things help. After all surfing has given to me, the least I can do is help clean up the public image it has unjustly received."