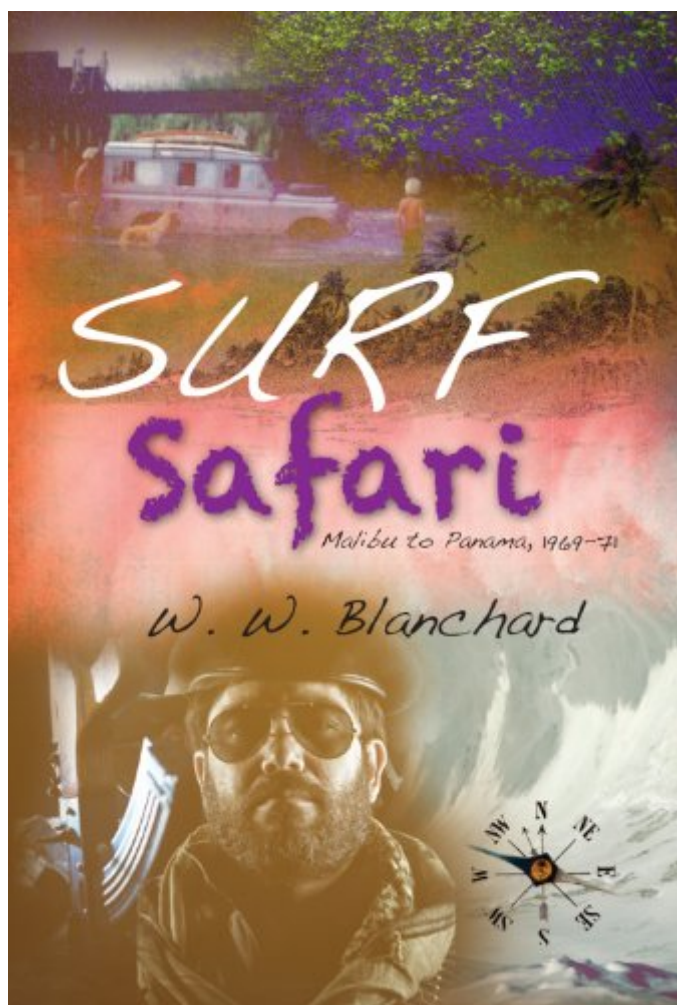


The book was found

Surf Safari: Malibu To Panama, 1969-71



Synopsis

Surf Safari is a true story that follows a family into the 1960s Latin America in search of adventure. As surfers, they clung to the Pacific Coast of Mexico and Central America, often forced to travel unmarked roads through dense jungles to lonely beaches. In addition to braving unknown waters and unexpected travel hazards always lurked as well - bandits and armed soldiers of the ruthless dictators in those third world nations. They survived a major hurricane, an earthquake and drove through the middle of an ongoing war. Several times they were stopped by armed soldiers, automatic weapons pointed into the car until proved they were Americans. There was even a brush with the law, the boys and Land Rover arrested then released. Another time they were held for several days in El Salvador's main prison. Few down there had ever seen anyone surf the terrifying waves that crashed on their shores. Entire villages came out to watch the boys surf waves they feared and expected to see them eaten by sharks. When they emerged from the ocean they were treated as local heroes, surrounded by kids who wanted to carry their boards and touch their shoulder length sun bleached hair. After two years in Latin America the Blanchard family moved to Hanalei, Kauai where Holt and Brad still live and surf, including Holt's children. Alana Blanchard, a top ten world pro surfer, helped her father and brother save Bethany Hamilton's life when attacked by a Tiger shark.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mr. Blanchard is the grandfather of top-surfer Alana Blanchard. Ms. Blanchard and her father saved the life of surfer Bethany Hamilton ('Soul Surfer') in the midst of a horrific shark-attack. This fine work is about a family road-trip of the type immensely popular in the 1960s. Its unique vantage point is that the trip revolves around surfing in the "Golden Age" of the 60's and films like "The Endless Summer". Mr. Blanchard struggled with everything from cash to car-repairs to keep a young family vibrant and motivated despite the extreme difficulty of navigating a Land Rover through Mexico and Central America long-before there were GPS systems! Filled with both amusing and often scary anecdotes of remote areas; Mr. Blachard never hesitates to try to find his children the perfect wave! A lovely and sensitive book.

A true travel pioneer in adventure and surf travel through Mexico and Central America. This all happened 55 yrs ago when the locals were still fascinated by surfers and foreigners. Well written with some great messages for parents in how to educate and guide a bunch of teenagers through good and some difficult life experiences. Drugs, prostitutes, hardship, terrorist, hunger, exotic surf spots and one hell of a travel adventure - has all the ingredients to make a good movie.

What a story, a detailed, graphic account of a father's journey with his sons and friends. This is an amazing story, beautifully written with detailed descriptions of events and locations, it really made you feel you were there and at times wished you were. I couldn't put it down, wanting to know what happened next. You really felt part of the journey. If only more of us were so trusting, brave and open.

Every teen aged boy who surfs would love to have an adventure that involved camping out in another country, and trying to find the best waves that never before were surfed. This book will hold their attention and give them a feeling of awe for the kids who experienced all this excitement and these adventures. It's a fun book with a few old photos of the kids at that time in Mexico and Central America in the days when it was a little dangerous to travel there. I know the family, and they are

still great surfers, and live on Kauai but travel now all over the world to find those perfect waves....marion sutton

Great look back in time

Wonderful adventure biography! Book was recommended through a 2012 Masters Swimming Magazine and is a page turner. It makes me wish I was home schooled with an emphasis on my favorite sport while traveling and learning a new language and eating new foods! Instead, I get to live vicariously in the trials and tributes of this story.

This is a good story and interestingly written. It's more about the adventure than the surf - so if you are looking for a "surf" book, this is not it. I recommend this book for a quick read. Enjoy the mid-haps and the problem solving which kept my interest throughout.

What a great story. I bet there are many that would love to go back to that time of uncrowded never been surfed waves to be found. What a guy to look after 6 kids like that.

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