

SURF RIDING THE SEVERN BORE

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Australians Refuse To Heed Warnings

PARENTS along the banks of the River Severn are anxious for their children's safety. They are worried that the youngsters may try to emulate the surf riding display given by young Australians on Monday. The Australians rode the Severn Bore against police advice. One local police constable told the Gazette on Thursday that had the Bore been followed by the usual large second wave and swirling water there might have been serious trouble.

The Australians, who had travelled to Stonebench from Newquay in Cornwall, were warned by local residents about the dangerous currents in the Severn and police who were called to the scene repeated cautions. But warnings were of no avail, the two Australians equipped with surf boards and another two in canoes said they would accept full responsibility.

Thousands lined the river banks to watch the feat as the Bore swept round the bend from Elmore. The four adventurers, all surf riders with experience of twenty foot waves in Australia, paddled furiously in order to be caught by the Bore.

Their efforts were rewarded and they swept up the river on the crest of the Bore. Spectators say that the two surf riders stood erect on their boards, once they were under way. But a little under half a mile up the river they were tossed into the water when the Bore hit a bend.

An experienced life-saving team had accompanied the five adventurers from Cornwall and it stood by in case of mishap.

All of the "Bore riders" were picked up and landed on the river bank apparently none the worse for their ordeal.

Flooding from the Bore was not serious, and although the road between Epney and Framilode was two or three feet under water no damage was caused.