

23 women find a cold, wet way to spend a summer afternoon

Kristy King, teeth chattering, sits on the beach at Aquatic Park Cove, trying to warm up after a 76-minute swim from Alcatraz. Twenty-three women began the chilly adventure and 14 of them made it to shore. Ms. King was the first to complete the two-mile course.

—Examiner photo by
Walt Lynott



BRITTTTTT.

That was the good word yesterday as 23 women leaped into the Bay at Alcatraz to swim two miles to the Aquatic Park Cove at the foot of Hyde Street.

Fourteen shivering females staggered onto the beach and nine were picked up by pilot boats.

The first four, who made the swim in one hour and 16 minutes, were Kristy King, 27, of San Mateo, a Bank of American employe and the youngest of the group; Sally Antonchuk, 31, a San Mateo housewife; Lee Bender, 32, a University of San Francisco professor, and Sue Royston, 33, a San Francisco housewife.

"The initial shock of jumping in was a bummer," said Ms. Antonchuk, a towel wrapped around her quivering shoulders. "This is something not many people have done. I don't think we overextended ourselves."

"Look at those legs," interjected Ms. King, referring to her own. "They won't stop shaking."

Next to arrive was Zada Taft, 56, the oldest of the group and a swimming coach for the San Mateo Marlins swimming club, who made the jaunt in one hour and 25 minutes.

"I'm cold," was all she would say as she staggered off to warm up.

Arriving one hour and 36 minutes after the initial dive was Karen Jacobs, 34, a UC Berkeley education graduate.

"We were told that the swim would take 40 minutes," she said. "But it was a long time and it was cold."

Diane McEwen, 32, a San Francisco psychiatrist, staggered out of the brine two minutes later and rolled in the sand to warm up.

"My hand was paralyzed the whole way," she said, flapping her right arm in the chilly breeze.

The last group of three made the journey in two hours and eight minutes.

Because the tide was going out the women swam from Alcatraz to the Ferry Building and along the docks to the beach between the Dolphins Swimming and Boat Club and the South End Rowing Club.

Their progress was hampered by an incoming freighter which created huge waves and by tidal currents, spokespersons for the two clubs said.