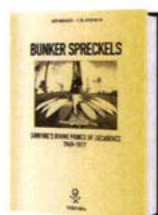


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BUNKER SPRECKELS

SURFING'S DIVINE PRINCE OF DECADENCE (TASCHEN, £24.99)

The life of Bunker Spreckels (*right*, with girlfriend Ellie) is a pause-for-thought cautionary tale. Stepson to Clark Gable and heir to a fortune, he was the archetypal LA playboy. Surfing and martial arts counted among his hobbies, but these were eclipsed by his penchant



PHOTOGRAPHER ART BREWER

Born 1949, Laguna Beach, California.

Big break Shooting his first cover for *Surfer Magazine* at 16.

On Spreckels

"His big thing was bullshitting. He once told journos his girlfriend was a porn actress."



for drugs, sex and wild road trips. He died in 1977 at the age of 27. Spreckels' close friend Art Brewer shadowed him on his travels for the last ten years of his life. The resulting images feature alongside interviews with Spreckels conducted – three months before his death – by surfer and journalist CR Stecyk, who wrote *Dogtown – The Legend Of The Z-Boys*. Spreckels' answers are grimly revealing. On his promiscuity, for example, he deadpans: "I used to fuck a lot. Still do. My record? Let's see. I nailed 64 chicks in one week. That was pretty interesting."