Fisherman catches crowd, turtle swims free

by Bill Sollner

A green sea turtle on the long end of a 30-pound-test fishing line was responsible for a massive traffic jam and packing of the beach opposite Coco Palms from about 10 a.m. until 11:35 a.m. Friday



YASUO MORIBE hooked into another big one at Wailua Bay, Friday drawing a huge crowd. This time it was a green sea turtle.

morning.

On the other end of the line, clutching a bamboo pole for dear life and reeling in the monofilament whenever the "catch" gave him a chance, was Yasuo Moribe of Wailua Homesteads.

The diminutive angler is a regular at Wailua Beach, and about a year ago be caught a record-setting ulua at the same location.

Crowds of local residents and visitors were attracted as the battle of man vs. sea monster dragged on. At one time there appeared to be 300 or 400 people standing by expectantly, hopefully, as Moribe pulled and hauled at his cane pole.

The pole was frequently bent 90 degrees, and from time to time Moribe welcomed the aid of Tony Basuel and Albert Kano, also regular fishermen at Wailua Beach.

The 30-pound-test line was spliced at several points where other ones that got away had broken it, but the line held for over an hour-and-a-half. By that time the "catch" was close enough in t shore that bystanders and kibit zers could identify it when it rose from time to time, to the surface.

Finally, perhaps sensing the lin was weak and using the ocean floo for traction, the creature brok loose.

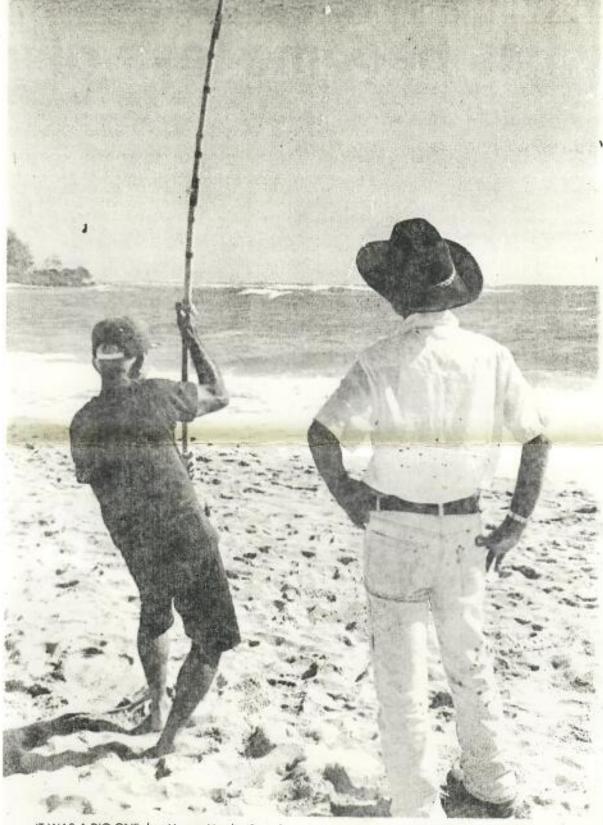
There was a sigh of disappointment from the crowd, and people started hopping across the hot sand for their cars which has been left parked on both sides of the highway fronting Coco Palms.

The show was over.

Anxious police officer, superintended the startup of traffic.

Yasuo Moribe reeled in the slacline remaining, but there was n

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IT WAS A BIG ONE, but Yasuo Moribe found out it was a turtle, which broke free yesterday at Wailua. (Photo by Bill Sollner)

* Crowd *

(Continued from Page 1) sign of despair. Everyone figures he'll be back on the beach soon, trying to beat his own world record: a 118-pound ulua caught at the same beach last year. Yasuo weighed 119 at the time, but he says he's put on weight since then.