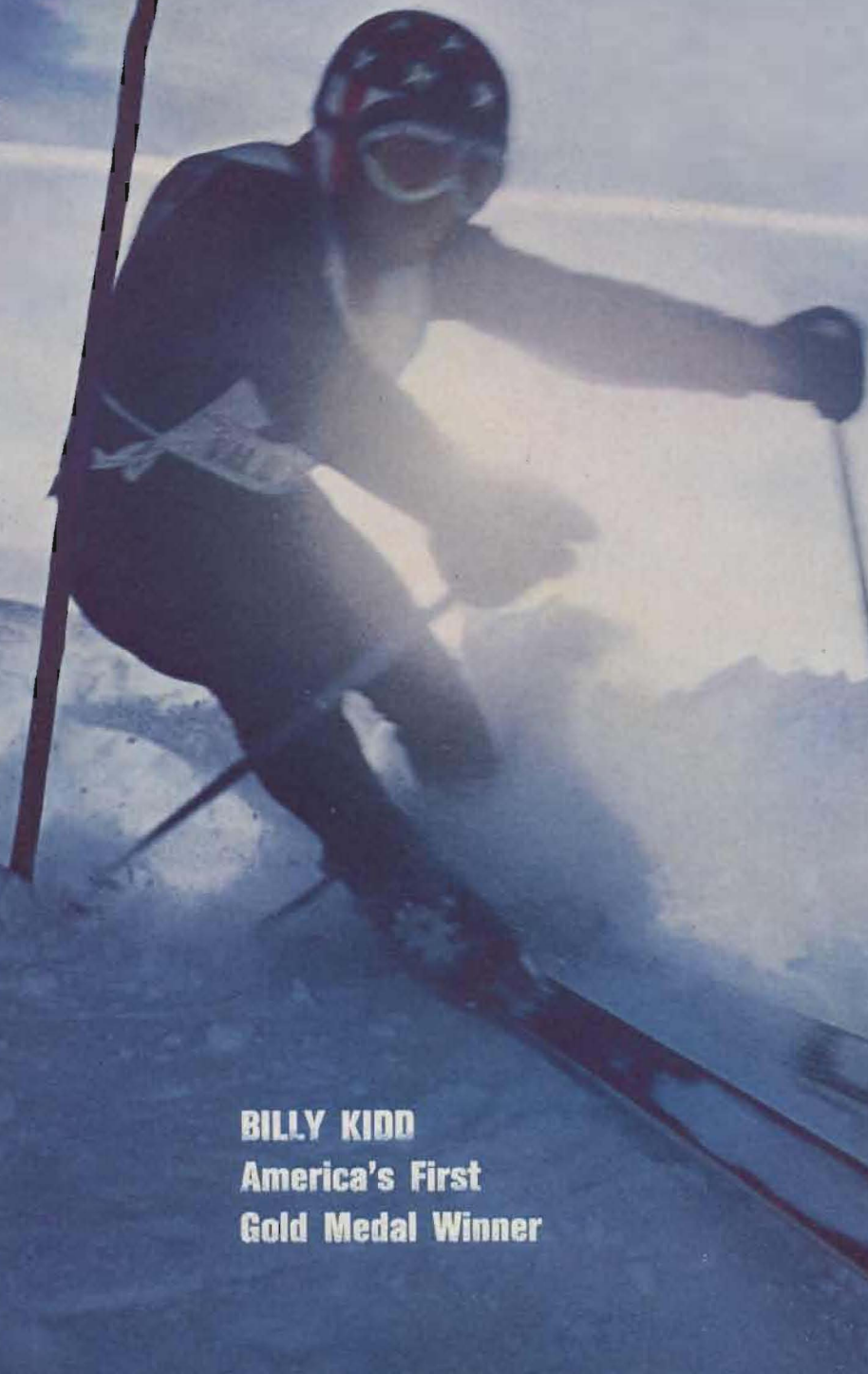


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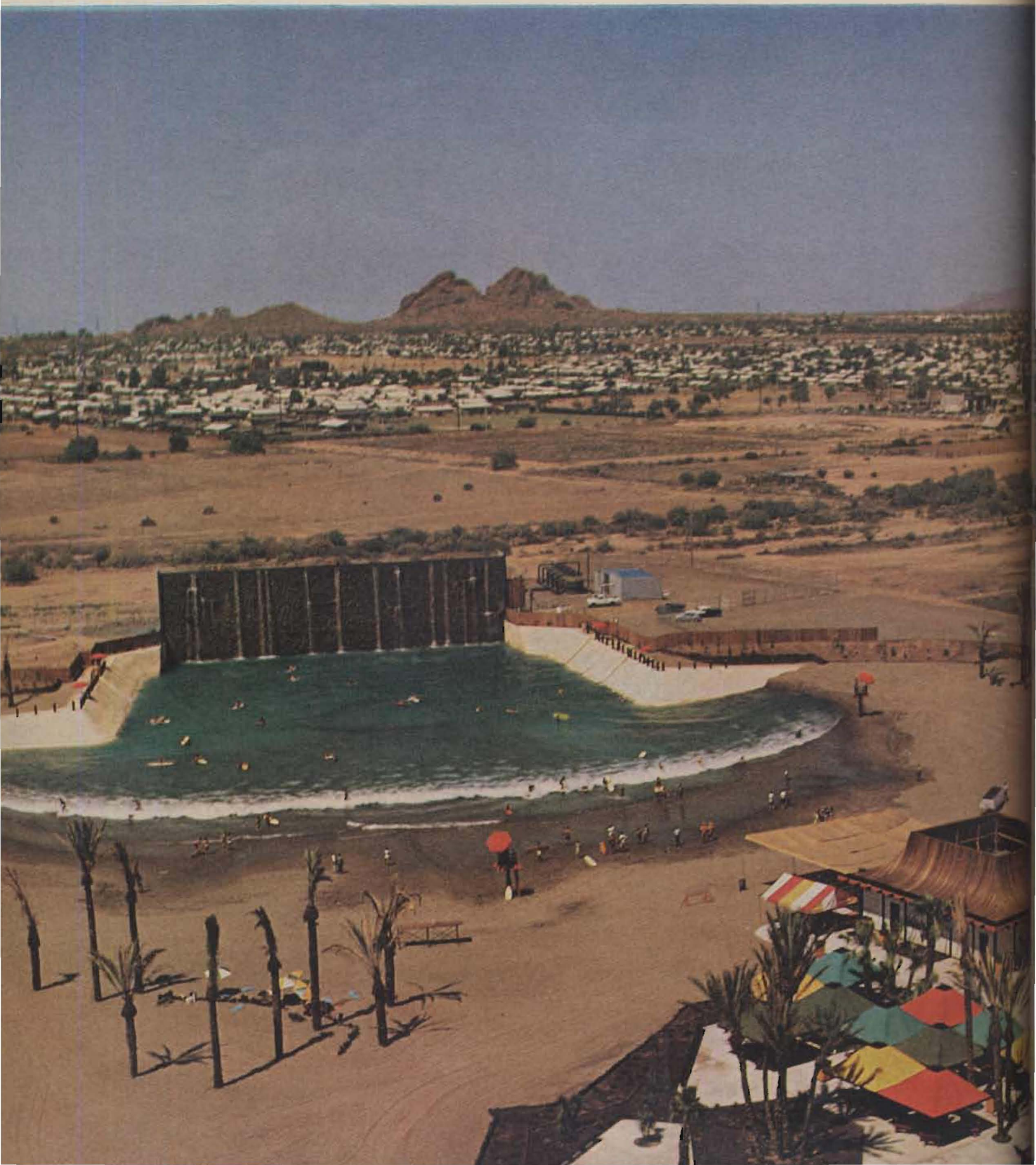
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BILLY KIDD
America's First
Gold Medal Winner

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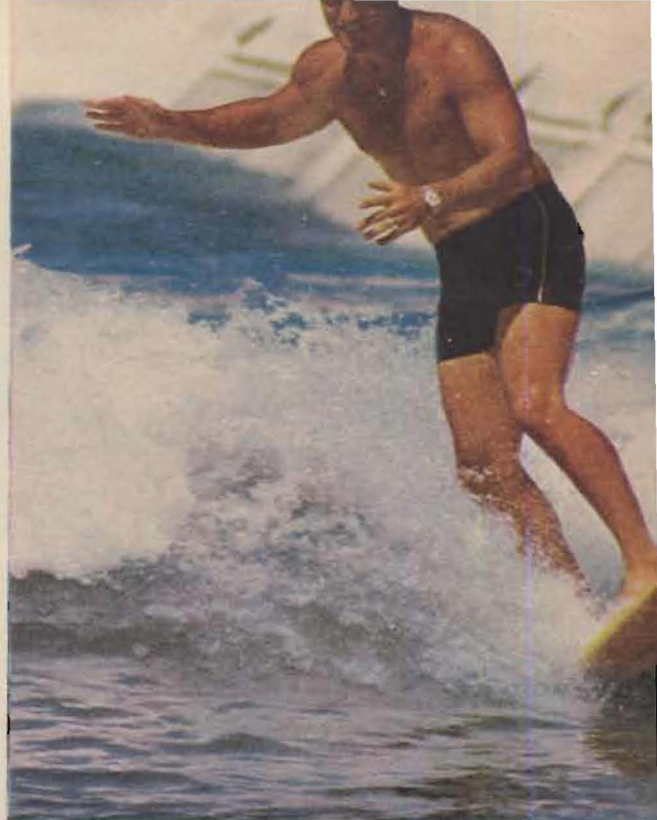
THE DESERT BLOOMS



WITH SURF

Only a visionary who had never surfed would have thought that Arizona looked like a good spot to bring a surfboard. But when a construction engineer named Phillip Dexter turned up at 1500 North Hayden Road in suburban Tempe, an address at least 350 miles from the nearest ocean, he could see surf breaking where others saw only 20 acres of sage-grown desert. He bought the tract, brought in 185 surfboards and four million gallons of water, then invented a mechanical wave-maker that turns out a five-foot breaker every 40 seconds.

When Dexter's new resort, known as Big Surf, reopens in April, time and tide will wait for anyone willing to pay the admission fee. All the surfer has to do is catch the crest of a wave, then ride it down the 400-foot lagoon. When the wave is spent, it is pumped back into a reservoir, to gush forth again through gates that create any wave surfers wish—curling right or left, or straight to the "beach."



World champion surfer Fred Hemmings Jr. leans into a man-made



A surfer's oasis in sight of the humped peaks of Arizona's Camelback, Big Surf (left) is set among palms and Polynesian beach houses. In its lagoon (above) the towering concrete reservoir provides a backdrop for surfers—and supplies 1.5 waves every minute.