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Top writer-editor Dick Johnston dies

Richard W. "Dick" Johnston, an award-winning reporter in World War II who went on to become one of the founding editors of Sports Illustrated magazine, died here of cancer yesterday. He was 66.

Johnston and magazine photographer Connie Wood in 1976 formed a public relations partnership in Honolulu. Johnston soon became a media consultant for Hawaiian Holiday Macadamia Nut Co., and is credited with creating the company's Masters Golf Tournament which is held each summer on the Big Island.

The tournament is played with a Johnston-invented "macball"—a husked but unshelled macadamia nut dipped in orange latex. The game worked surprisingly well for the game, Johnston once noted.

Johnston began his 50-year journalism career during his junior year in high school, covering sports for the Eugene Register-Guard. He became sports editor of the Register-Guard in 1933 and later went on to the Eugene Daily News and the Oregon Journal.

In 1939, Johnston went to work for United Press (now United Press International) in Portland. He worked in several Western states before he was sent to Hawaii in 1943 as a war correspondent.

Assigned to UP's bureau in Honolulu, Johnston covered many of the Pacific war's biggest battles, includ-

ing Tarawa, Kwajalein, Tinian and Saipan, Pelelu and Leyte Gulf. He was aboard the battleship Missouri for the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay and later also reported from China.

For his reporting he received the National Headliner award in 1944 and was made an honorary lifetime member of the 2nd Marine Division.

After the war, he turned down a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University in order to work for Time Inc. He was sent back to China as a correspondent for Time magazine, and in that capacity covered the communist revolution before returning to New York in 1947 to work on Time, Life and later Sports Illustrated.

Johnston was the assistant managing editor for Sports Illustrated when Time Inc. rolled the first issue off the presses in 1953. He served in that position until 1963, when he was named executive editor.

In 1970 Johnston retired from the executive editor's position and moved to Honolulu, where he maintained his connection with the magazine as a contributing editor. In recent years, he also wrote articles for Fortune, Saturday Review, Signature and the Sunday magazine of the Los Angeles Times.

He was widely known for his fondness for Hawaii and his lively sense of humor. A gourmet and amateur

chef, he wrote knowledgeably about food and restaurants.

He taught a magazine writing course in the journalism program at the University of Hawaii in 1976-77 and was planning to do so again this fall.

He was also a member of the Honolulu Press Club and Outrigger Canoe Club.

Johnston is survived by his long-time companion, Connie Wood; daughters, Dana and Elisa of Hawaii; and wife, Laura M. of New York, from whom he was separated. He donated his remains to the

University of Hawaii Medical School. There will be no services and the family requests that there be flowers or donations. Friends will be notified later of an aloha gathering.

Johnston expressed the desire that the following passage from "Macbeth" be his epitaph:

Nothing in his life
Became him like the leaving it; he died
As one that had been studied in his death
To throw away the dearest thing he owned
As 'twere a careless trifle.

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Roughwater Swims Set for Labor Day

By Jack Wyatt

Special to the Star-Bulletin

Bored by swimming laps in the pool? Then pull the plug and take a plunge in the ocean and prepare for Hawaii's two big roughwater swimming events scheduled over Labor Day weekend—the 10th annual Lanai-Maui Channel relays on Sept. 5, and the 12th annual Waikiki Roughwater swim two days later.

"We have 28 six-person teams for the Lanai-Maui swim," said race chairman Jimmy Dean, "twice the number than we've ever had before. And although the entry deadline has passed, I'll still take a few more teams."

Dean, who can be reached through the Outrigger Canoe Club, says that two teams from Australia have entered, along with California's usual complement of competitive swimmers.

"SAN FRANCISCO'S Olympic Club and the Dolphin Swim Club are always strong," said Dean, who competes for Waikiki Swim Club.

"Plus, Southern California has some fast roughwater swimmers. This could be our best channel swim ever."

The 9.6-mile relay swim begins at Lanai's Halepalaoa landing about 8 a.m. and finishes at Maui's Lahaina boat harbor in front of the Pioneer Inn. The winning team is expected to complete the course in less than four hours.

"The key to a successful crossing is understanding the swift channel currents," Dean explained. "If the swimmers play it wrong, they could end up at Kaanapali or Olowalu instead of Lahaina. I've seen it happen."

Each team member is required to swim, in turn, one half-hour leg and 10-minute bursts until reaching the shore. Each team is accompanied by its own escort boat. Race categories include divisions for men, women, and mixed teams.

MEANWHILE, OFF HONOLULU, swimmers are busy training for Labor Day's 2.4-mile Waikiki Roughwater Swim which begins at San Souci Beach and finishes at the Duke Kahanamoku Beach near the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Except for two Kaneohe swimmers—Kaili Chun, who has won the Waikiki Roughwater women's division more times than she cares to remember, and Brett Phillips, who was Roughwater's fastest man for three years until he hung up his swimming goggles and retired—the event has been dominated by California swimmers. But fortunately, with age-group divisions every five years from 10 to 70, there are more than enough trophies to go around. The regular Waikiki Roughwater



Chun

Dean

entry deadline is Aug. 28. Late entries will be accepted, with an additional fee, up to 10 a.m. on the morning of the race at San Souci Beach. Contact the City and County Department of Parks and Recreation for details.

"KAILI IS PLANNING to defend her first place roughwater swim title," said her father, Michael Chun, "and I hope to defend mine for last place. I haven't been swimming since the last roughwater meet. I'll be lucky not to drown." Kaili, a former Kamehameha Schools swimming star, returned home for the summer from her first year at Princeton University.

"It's different attending an Eastern school," said the 19-year-old Chun. "The pace is fast, the studies are hard, and it's darn cold in the winter." And if that wasn't enough, Kaili got a little homesick for Hawaii.

But nothing seemed to phase Kaili's swimming. By winning the 50- and 100-meter backstroke, Chun helped Princeton take the Ivy League women's championship. By topping the 200-meter backstroke, Chun helped her team win the Eastern Collegiate women's title.

"OUR COACH, JANE Tyler, has us swimming laps twice a day, running, and working with weights," said Chun. "It's hard training, but I find the program stimulating and challenging."

Coach Tyler needn't worry about Chun getting out of condition while on vacation this summer. "In addition to my airport job handling heavy baggage and cargo, I'm swimming at least once a day and surfing and running when I can," she said.

Mention sharks or barracuda to a roughwater swim race director and watch him shudder.

"I've never seen a shark, or for that matter, any fish during my channel swims, and I've swum from Lanai to Maui five times," said Jimmy Dean. "To avoid frightening anyone, let's not talk about it."

Okay, Jimmy, we won't talk about running into a shark, a barracuda, a whale, a sting ray, a . . .