

SWIMMING FOR FAME

The Story of
Baltimore's Water Stars
PAULINE JACKSON
WALTER JOHNSON

What is it that spurs this man and woman to brave the waters?

How did they get their start?

How do they train?

What obstacles must they overcome?

What are their hobbies?

What keeps them in the game?

This series of articles will answer these questions.

Miss Jackson continued:
"In August of the same year the second of the Wrigley meets was to be held at Toronto, Canada. The musicians of the 'Rang Tang' company knew that I had been disappointed in the first meet. They knew that I had practiced and that I was determined to make this second meet. They got up a collection for me. Mr. Miller did not want me to leave the show, but when he found out what the musicians had done, he and Mr. Lyles helped me still further.

"I was really excited. I enjoyed the trip all the way up.

"As soon as I arrived I knew that I had to see about my boat. You see, every swimmer had his boat, someone to pace him, and a number. When the time came for me to get mine, I got nervous and scared. All those thousands of people, I suppose, just unnerved me. I asked my manager, Curtis, to see about the boat for me. He told me he would do nothing of the kind, that I was to walk out when my name was called as if I were a queen.

"I waited and finally when they called my name I walked gingerly down the aisles of the great grandstand. Imagine my complete surprise when I got lots and lots of applause.

I was nearly overcome with shock. This did a lot to give me courage.

"I was in perfect physical condition. I had a little money, and mentally I was alert. I had on thirteen pounds of white vaselline mixed with graphite. At 8:30 a.m. we hit the water before a crowd of 250,000 people who had come from everywhere to see the meet. At 3:30 p.m., after I had gone 11 miles of the 21-mile course, I was pulled out of the water. I did not want to give up, but the trainer knew better than I did what the conditions were.

"The water was 48 degrees. I had been in the water for nearly seven hours, three and one-half hours longer than George Young, the first Wrigley marathon swimmer. I went to the hospital for a bit of treatment, and left the next day for New York. I had lost ten pounds. I went back with the show.

"All the girls and fellows were proud of me and I felt happy. The papers were kind to me. I went back to work with the determination that I would not give up. The excitement of the whole thing had now become a part of me.

"Shortly after Christmas 'Rang Tang' closed and I went to work as examiner in a high class dress shop on Fifth Avenue. I had begun studying life saving at the Y.W.C.A. under Miss Leola Nelson, and Captain Scully of the Red Cross Life Saving Bureau, who came every four months to give the tests. My mind was made up to teach swimming. After seven months of working at the dress shop during the day and taking my lessons at the 'Y' at night, I came up for my final examination.

"The class was composed of ten pupils. The examination was scheduled to come off at 8:30 and I was more than a little nervous, as I had heard wild tales of how strict Captain

Scully was in his final examinations. I had put lots of time on my workouts and had gained the reputation of model pupil, but that did not stop my fear of the examination and of not making a good showing. Captain Scully came and supervised his examination. I came out with an average of ninety-six. I surely felt fine over my grade too.

"Ever since my first try at the first Wrigley Marathon swim back in 1927, I received entry blanks for the swim which had become an annual affair. So, along about February, I received my papers and got excited all over again about the meet. I was determined to go back and win a prize, although I didn't have a cent toward my expenses. You see, in this sort of thing the excitement of the game gets in your blood and you are lured on by the new hope of doing better each time.

"It is a great feeling. Hardships don't matter at all. You get to feel that somehow, some way, a break will come and you will be off again after the prize.

"It was June and business at the dress shop was getting so slack that they had to lay off some of the girls. I was laid off. I had been making twenty-five dollars a week and supporting my parents. It was pretty tough on me. I began to do sewing by the day to keep things together. I made frequent trips to Center Bathing Beach to keep in trim. The fellows out there were very kind to me. They helped me out in many ways, giving me the use of their boats and helping me to train.

"It's funny how it works out. All nationalities are the best of sports in the water and show fine feeling. I guess it must be that the water has an exhilarating effect on people. I have often noticed people in the water and how their good spirits revive and seem to become infectious. Try it sometime. When you feel pretty sore at the world in general, take a good swim and see how you change immediately.

"When July rolled around it found me still without funds for the meet. Professor Daniel Washington, my masseur, was a good friend. He gave me regular massages for little or nothing because he was interested in

How Much Have the Styles Changed?



These young women are displaying models of bathing suits worn in the 'Miss America' Bathing Beauty Contest held in Atlantic City in 1928. What will the models be like in the 1931 beauty pageant to be held at the Savoy Ballroom on August 29th.

seeing me go ahead with this, and knew I could not afford to pay for the conditioning that every marathon swimmer needs if he hopes to keep fit and in good physical trim. He was stationed at White Sulphur Springs, near Saratoga, New York. He had told me before he left that if I could get as far as Saratoga he

would see me through to Canada. "I decided to hitch hike to Saratoga. I started out in the early morning on my trip."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Next week Miss Jackson will tell of her participation in the third Wrigley swim and how generous well-wishers collected a \$300 purse for her.



Builds
Healthy Blood



Mrs. Herman E. Moore has gained an enviable reputation as a journalist. She is the wife of Attorney Moore, who is president of the Cook County Bar Association.



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