

Strait Swim Arrangements Complete: D-Day Saturday

The second annual Northumberland Strait Marathon swim, a 9-mile tide-inflated jaunt from Cape Tormentine, N.B., to Borden, P.E.I., is set to go Saturday with 14 entries including the world's top three long distance competitors.

Heading the list will be Herman Willemse, 30, Mr. Marathon Swim, from Utrecht, Holland. Willemse is defending the Atlantic City 26-mile Marathon swim and has won three times at Lake St. Jean and twice at Lake Ontario.

Famous Egyptian swimmer Abdel Latif Abou-Heif, who finished second to Willemse at Atlantic City July 2, announced his intention to enter the Strait crossing Wednesday evening.

Abou-Heif, a major in the Egyptian Army, also finished second to Willemse in 1963 at Atlantic City.

LA COURSIERE DEFENDING
A great favorite with Island swim fans last summer, John LaCoursiere, Fort Aux Trembles, Que., will defend his Northumberland crossing title.

LaCoursiere was the first to enter this year's swim. He lost second place to Abou-Heif at Atlantic City by one stroke. Saturday's battle begins at 9:30 a.m. from near the Cape Tormentine wharf.

LaCoursiere's record time of seven hours, ten minutes is expected to fall and swimners may begin arriving at the Borden pier between 4:30 p.m. Although only a 9-mile crossing, the Northumberland is equal to 17 miles of calm water because of the usual high waves and tides.

Because of the Strait width tides can be pulling on competitors from both the mainland and P.E.I.

ISLAND ENTRIES
Two Islanders have entered this year's swim. Helen Carragher, Ebbsfleet, fought with the Strait for more than seven hours in last year's swim but had to give up when she was actually losing distance because of the tides.

Morgan Mitchell, Charlottetown, swam well for two hours last year across the Northumberland but was forced to quit because of cramps.

Mitchell placed second in Wednesday's 3-mile swim at Alberton; Carragher placed second and won the women's championship. Mitchell holds the course record at Alberton.

PROFESSIONALS
Among the top contending professionals is Carlos Larriera, 29, Santa Fe, Argentina. Larriera was Argentine amateur champ in 1957 and 1958 and won the national 30-mile, Santa Fe-Cordoba swim in 1962.

Earlier this year he placed fifth in the Capri-Naples Swim.

Jorge Messadra, 26, another Argentinian, placed second in the 1964 Santa Fe-Cordoba swim. He was fifth at Atlantic City in 1960 and is Argentine champ in the 400, 800 and 1,200 meters.

In 1958 Messadra was South American champ in the 1,500 meters.

George Park, Weston, Ont., turned professional last season following a successful amateur career. He was fourth at Lake Ontario and won the 38-mile Chicoutimi Marathon.

The other professional entry is Gail Clowse, Atlantic City, N. J. Clowse is being represented by Ronald Burns, Cape Tormentine, and Ralph Brooks, Hatfield, P.I. Burns has

been training since spring for the swim. He failed to make the crossing last year.

First place money Saturday will be worth \$1,200; second—\$800; third—\$500; fourth—\$300; fifth—\$100. The Islander finishing first will receive \$100.

Car Production Is Slowing Down
TORONTO (CP)—Production has all but ground to a halt at plants of Canada's seven car and truck makers, according to weekly figures released by the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association.

For the year to July 20, auto manufacturers produced 455,358 cars and trucks compared with 387,122 produced during the corresponding 1963 period.

However, for the week ending Aug. 7, manufacturers have scheduled only 340 units for production compared with 350 actually produced last week.

Each year about this time manufacturers halt production to tool up for production in the new model year for the year to the end of last week.

Scheduled production this week and total production for the year to the end of last week, with last week's actual production and production for the same period of last year in brackets:

CARS:
American Motors — (—); 21,283 (18,465); Chrysler — (198); 65,429 (46,261); Ford — (—); 101,781 (88,069); General Motors — (—); 190,751 (168,929); Studebaker 240 (240); 2,218 (4,474); Volvo 50 (50); 1,387 (131).

TRUCKS:
Chrysler 50 (27); 7,557 (5,243); Ford — (—); 23,442 (15,922); General Motors — (—); 31,958 (27,964); International Harvester — (185); 8,075 (8,001).

BURTON
Mrs. Alfred Howard and family of Toronto, Ont., recently visited at the home of Mrs. Annie Howard, Cape Wolfe.

Mrs. Frank Stewart of Boston, Mass., recently visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond O'Connor, Cape Wolfe.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett McKenna and daughter Nancy Ann of Borden were recent visitors at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Griffin, Burton.

DAUGHTER WEDS NETO
LISBON (Reuters)—Former Brazilian president Juscelino Kubitschek's youngest daughter, Marcia, was married to Baldemero Barbara Neto, a Brazilian, in a civil ceremony here Wednesday.



LaCoursiere gives victory wave



Helen Carragher finally gives up the effort

LaCoursiere Got Initial Triumph

John LaCoursiere, 26-year-old Point Aux Trembles, Quebec, swimmer became the first male ever to conquer the Northumberland Strait last July when he made the 9-mile distance in seven hours, ten minutes to walk off with top money in the first annual Northumberland Strait Marathon Swim.

LaCoursiere, who seemed to be like winning trophies more than money, was never headed back in his strait crossing; and for a while it appeared that he would make the distance in less than six hours. Shift in tides and troublesome waves slowed him down considerably, however, and after his more than seven hour grind he climbed ashore near the Borden pier.

The first person to ever conquer Quebec's Lake St. John, LaCoursiere entered the Northumberland Strait Marathon last year expecting a light workout for a 55.00 swim later in the month.

"Some workout," he said following the race, "they told me it would take four hours. I've never faced water that rough in my life."

HE FINISHED
The only other person to complete the nine-mile distance last year was courageous 39-year-old John Starret, Natick, Mass., and after his more than seven hour grind he climbed ashore near the Borden pier.

Chilled to a pale blue by the 65 degrees water the Natick professional said to the hundreds of persons who had cheered him on for the last, most difficult miles: "If it hadn't been for you wonderful people of Prince Edward Island, I never would have made it. I've found a home away from home."

Nine of the original 16 contestants entered the water just north of the Cape Tormentine ferry terminal at 9:10 a.m. The starting group included John LaCoursiere, Montreal; Bill Connor, Halifax; Gerald MacKenzie, HMCS Stadacona; Morgan Mitchell, Charlottetown; John Starret, Natick; Helen Carragher, Ebbsfleet; Ronald Burns, Cape Tormentine; Donnie "Turk" Arsenault, Summerside; and Davison Biggar, Charlottetown.

All nine made the half way mark and the first drop-out came only after a three-hour battle with the strait.

By 2:30 p.m. the field had been cut to six, with LaCoursiere more than half a mile in the lead followed by Connor, Biggar, Starret, MacKenzie and Carragher.

Conditions were ideal throughout the first half of the swim but with a northerly tide swinging into effect at 1:30 p.m. and the wind velocity increasing, the always rough Northumberland became turbulent.

Approximately halfway from Borden the pack of swimmers was caught by the reversing tide that pulled them south with such force that Biggar, MacKenzie and Carragher had to withdraw from the race because of poor position.

Charlottetown's Davison Biggar said he actually lost several miles until he was only two miles from the Island but still six miles from Borden. After an hour without gain he withdrew.

"I passed Helen (Carragher) when we both were in trouble with the tide," he said, "and told her she may as well give up."

The 18-year-old Ebbsfleet lass, a favourite with the crowd of more than 4,000 fought on for more than an hour without making headway. She was finally pulled from the waters, nearly exhausted.

HMCS Stadacona protegee Gerald MacKenzie, who clocked the 15 mile Halifax Natal Day swim in a record time of seven hours, 20 minutes, was the last person to give up. He left the water at 4:15 p.m., exhausted from the rough water, and "those crazy, wind-cusin' tides."

MacKenzie and at least five of the others who entered the water, said he was determined to return and try again next summer.

CONNOR ENDS CAREER
Halifax native Bill Connor, pulled from the water after six hours was the only swimmer who said he definitely wouldn't be back next summer.

"I was less than two miles from shore and in good position to win the whole thing," he said "and then the sea sickness hit me. It was a tugging me, and I had stroke to get my balance and I was only making progress with the other arm. My heart wasn't in it today anyway, and when you don't have a real burning desire to win in these long swims it's time to find something else to do."

Islanders Try Again

The only two Islanders entered in this year's Northumberland Strait Marathon Swim, Helen Carragher, Ebbsfleet and Morgan Mitchell, Charlottetown, both failed in attempts to conquer the nine-mile water in last year's swim.

Carragher, a great favorite with the crowd at Borden last year, waged a losing battle against tides and high waves for five and one-half hours last year before she was pulled from the water, still four miles from the finish point.

She vowed that she would enter the race again this year, and after training long hours in the waters off the Island this spring, the Ebbsfleet girl will try the rugged Strait again.

Carragher finished third in the three-mile Montague Regatta and Strawberry Festival race in July, but experts contend that she is far from her best in short races. She has said she is determined to cross the Northumberland this year.

Mitchell, who is a lifeguard on the North Shore of P.E.I., lasted only two hours in last year's race because of cramps. The Charlottetown native says he learned a lot from his two hours in the water last year, however, and hopes he can complete the distance this year.

Mitchell finished second in the Montague race. However, like Carragher, has always been interested in long swims and hasn't been too successful in the short ones.

By 2:30 p.m. the field had been cut to six, with LaCoursiere more than half a mile in the lead followed by Connor, Biggar, Starret, MacKenzie and Carragher.

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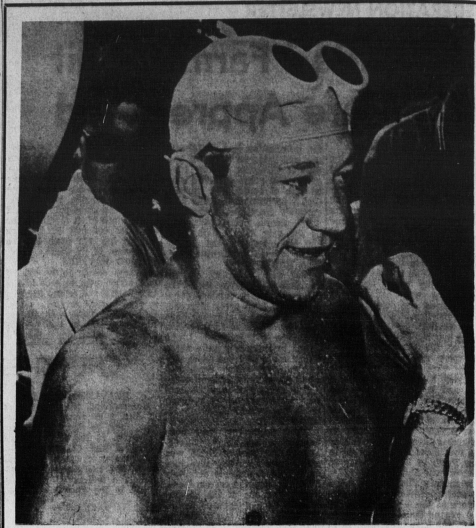
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Can he repeat?

John LaCoursiere the winner of last year's swim, faces a challenge from several world renowned swimmers. LaCoursiere is faced with the challenge of Herman Willemse of Holland and Abou - Heif of Egypt and many others expected to give the "King of the Strait" a stiff test in tomorrow's event.

LIST OF SWIMMERS

John LaCoursiere	Montreal
Abou - Heif	Egypt
Herman Willemse	Holland
Carlos Larriera	Argentina
George Park	Toronto
Wendy Birch	Atlantic City
Jorge Messadra	Argentina
Gail Clowse	Atlantic City
Ronald Burns	Cape Tormentine, N.B.
Morgan Mitchell	Charlottetown
Helen Carragher	Ebbsfleet, P.E.I.
Charles Grover	Boston
Ralph Brooks	Hatfield Pt., N.B.
Jean Anderson	Toronto

Best Wishes ---

TO THE CONTESTANTS IN THE NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT SWIM

The Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Borden wish all the best to the Committees sponsoring this event and to all contestants taking part. We appreciate their efforts and sincerely wish them the best of luck.

TOWN OF BORDEN

Mayor Gilbert Bell

Good Accommodations and Meals

Breakfast 7 to 11 a.m.
Dinners 12 to 2 p.m.
5 to 6 p.m.

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Good Luck to the 2nd Strait Swim

Borden P. E. I.