

John Joseph Jaquette 1918-2010

John Jaquette was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 30, 1918 and died in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 19, 2010. He was 92; he and his wife, Margaret Jaquette, had recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 7. John was a Quaker all his life, growing up in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, as the youngest of 4 children of William Alderman Jaquette and Henrietta Gibbon Stratton Jaquette. The family, especially his mother, had long played an active part of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting – Race Street (Hicksite). Throughout his life, John was a quiet man of integrity with lively sense of humor who loved the outdoors. He was also a successful financial executive, and he served Honolulu Friends Meeting in many ways, including as Clerk and Treasurer. In fact he and his wife pledged their family home in Manoa Valley twice to support the meeting – first when the meeting house was purchased and then again when members founded Honolulu Junior Academy, which became Academy of the Pacific.

John grew up in Swarthmore but spent all his summers from age 1 to World War II at the family summer house on Eggemoggin Reach on idyllic Little Deer Isle, Maine. (In retirement, he and Margaret treasured their summers on Little Deer Isle in what had been his parents' house.) Although his siblings attended Hicksite schools (George School and Swarthmore College), John chose to attend Orthodox schools (Westtown School and Haverford College). He graduated from Haverford in 1939, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He then enrolled in graduate studies at Harvard Business School and earned his MBA in 1941. In those years, he met and married Margaret Laura Leaf on September 7, 1940, and they spent their honeymoon at the Jaquette cottage in Maine. After completing his MBA, John went to work for Armstrong Cork in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a Production Planner.

When war was declared after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he agonized about what he should do: be a conscientious objector or join the armed forces. Like most of his Quaker peers, he volunteered. John and Margaret moved to Swarthmore when he was commissioned 4/28/42 as an Ensign with duty as Assistant Paymaster at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. His initial service was in the Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, but soon after son David was born, he was sent to Pearl Harbor, Ford Island, and promoted to Lieutenant. During the rest of the war he served as Logistics Planning Officer, ComAirPac (Advanced Base Planning), on the staff of Commander Air Force Pacific Fleet and was the lead supply planner for the Navy Air Force in the Pacific theater. The part of his job that bothered him the most was having to provide replacement pilots as if they were supply parts. Once he went with his admiral to brief Admiral Nimitz, and his boss said that 'I've brought my brains' to explain the plans. He ended active duty and separated from the Navy February 3, 1946 at the end of his terminal leave. Upon his release, he and the family, now including son Stratton, moved to Hawaii, where he initially worked for the Territorial Civil Service. The family moved to Manoa Valley at the end of March 1946 and lived there until 1970. His son Peter was born in Hawaii.

John worked for Sears and then bought and operated an accounting and marketing company (Cardinal Services) before joining Hawaiian Telephone Company (then called Mutual Telephone) in 1949, where he rose rapidly from accountant through Director and Corporate Secretary, Controller, and Vice President to become Vice President - Finance and Executive Vice President. After the company was bought by GT&E in 1967, John ran in the election to be a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1968, was elected, and was appointed Chairman of the Submissions Committee. He kept the public informed of the work of the Convention, especially the Amendments, Resolutions etc. that were presented to the residents for a vote. He was interviewed by TV News reporters about once a week all summer long. The voters approved all the proposals.

In 1970, he took employment with United Telecommunications (then called United Utilities) in Kansas City, Missouri, working with a former colleague from Hawaiian Telephone. He was initially Vice-President and Treasurer and subsequently was Senior Vice-President – Finance as well as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; he was also director of many subsidiaries. He was with United Telecommunications for 5 years before returning to Honolulu. Upon leaving United Telecommunications, he joined Associated Utility Services, was appointed Chairman of the Board, and opened an office in Honolulu. In the years with AUS, he provided expert witness in many utility rate cases around the country until he really did retire to spent uninterrupted summers in Maine. There he enjoyed sailing, visiting little islands and having picnics, and exploring – especially when family or friends visited. He and Margaret spent summers in Maine until 2006, when the long trips from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Bangor, Maine, became too arduous.

John's activities included presidencies of the Financial Executives Institute, the Tax Foundation, and the Gleemen of Honolulu, and directorships of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the First Hawaiian Bank, the Child and Family Service, and other organizations.

John was an avid sailor, especially of Mercury-class sloops in Honolulu, often racing with friends out of Waikiki Yacht Club. He also had a small cruising class sailboat in Maine, the Piper III, and raced it in 'Round the Island races and also raced 12s and 17s (A-Class sloops) out of Bucks Harbor Yacht Club with family members in Penobscot Bay, acquiring shelves of trophies. He also sang in the Honolulu Gleemen as second tenor for many years. He enjoyed playing bridge, becoming a Life Master, and golf, both in Hawaii and Maine. He hiked in New Zealand on the 33 mile Milford Track and in Maine, climbing Mt. Katahdin, the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. When living in Arcadia, John always enjoyed walking through Punahou School's campus and walking around the track, especially when he was training to walk in his Westtown School's alumni 'Long' Run for Fun in May 2000; he was the oldest alumnus to complete the course. As a Rotarian, John attended meetings in 16 foreign countries to maintain a 25-year record of perfect attendance. John and Margaret traveled in their retirement to many places and attended four international Elderhostel programs.

John was active in Honolulu Friends Meeting, and after the Meeting bought the house on Oahu Avenue, he and the family walked to Meeting on Sundays. John served on many committees over the years and as Treasurer several times (1952-3, 1955, 1958-9, 1961) and as Clerk of the Meeting (1964-65) in its years of growth in the new meeting house. Also, he and Fumiye Miho co-clerked the committee which arranged for the purchase of the meeting house in 1957.

In 1995 he and Margaret moved from their condominium at 999 Wilder Avenue to Arcadia. There he was active in the men's economic and stock market discussion and breakfast talks, which fit well with a lifetime successfully managing his own investments for retirement. John also volunteered at the Arcadia resident store and enjoyed singing around the piano Fridays before dinner.

In late September, 2010, John was diagnosed with lung cancer, and this is what caused his rapid decline. All three of his sons were able to spend time with him during his last month.

John Joseph Jaquette is survived by his wife, Margaret Laura Leaf Jaquette; by his three sons, David, Stratton, and Peter; by his grandchildren Christopher, Sarah, Joseph, Daniel, Elisabeth, Jonathan, and Matthew; by two nephews and a niece; and by his great-granddaughter Hazel, born shortly before his death.