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MEDIA RELEASE

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FUND HONORING DOROTHY JOHNSON
STARTED AT UM JOURNALISM SCHOOL

MISSOULA--

Mel Ruder, retired editor-founder of the Hungry Horse News in Columbia Falls, and his wife, Ruth, a 1938 graduate of the University of Montana, have given \$6,000 to the UM School of Journalism to establish a Friends of Dorothy M. Johnson Fund.

Ruder is the only Montana newspaperman to have won a Pulitzer Prize. Miss Johnson nominated him for the prize in 1965 for his coverage of the 1964 flooding of the Flathead River in northwestern Montana.

"It's my rose to Dorothy," Ruder said. He gives much credit to Miss Johnson for helping him win. "Dorothy was 'Aunt Dorothy' to a generation of Montana publishers."

Miss Johnson was secretary-manager of the Montana Press Association from 1952 to 1967 when the association's office was located in the UM Journalism Building. She also was an assistant professor of journalism and taught magazine writing from 1953 to 1967.

She received a B.A. in English in 1928 from UM and served as a magazine editor in New York before returning to Montana.

A well-known western writer, she is the author of numerous novels and short stories, including "The Hanging Tree," "A Man called Horse," "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance," "Buffalo Woman" and "All the Buffalo Returning." Her latest book, "When You and I Were Young, Whitefish," is about her childhood.

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fund honoring Dorothy--add one

In 1973 Miss Johnson was awarded an honorary doctorate from UM, and in 1982 she received the Merriam Award given to outstanding Montana writers by the Friends of the Mansfield Library. She also is the recipient of two distinguished writing awards for western fiction, the Spur Award presented by the Western Writers of America and the Western Heritage Wrangler Award.

"We're extremely proud that Dorothy was on the journalism school faculty for so many years, and we're delighted that she is being honored in this way by the Ruders, whose contribution to Montana journalism has also been significant," said Charles E. Hood, dean of the Journalism School. "We're inviting other admirers of Dorothy Johnson to contribute to the endowment, whose interest we will use to enhance the professional training of writers and editors."

Hood said he would consult Miss Johnson each year as to how the funds ought to be spent. This year, in accordance with her wishes, the first \$500 will be spent to purchase additional magazines, newspapers and books for the Journalism Library.

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