
† William May Garland

(member of the I.O.C from 1922 to 1948)

Au nom du président et des membres du C. I. O., la chancellerie a adressé à la famille de M. Garland ainsi qu'aux comités olympiques des Etats-Unis et de Californie ses condoléances émues, que nous tenons à renouveler ici. Nous faisons paraître ci-après quelques lignes sur la vie active de notre ancien et cher membre disparu.

He was born in Westport, Me., on March 31, 1866, the son of Dr. Jonathan May, a Methodist minister, and Rebecca Jewett Garland. After graduation from the Waterville (Me.) High School, he moved to Illinois, where he resigned in 1890 from the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago, to move to Los Angeles.

From 1890 to 1894, he was auditor of the Pacific Cable Company.

On Oct. 12, 1898, he married Miss S. Blanche Hinman of New-Kirk, N. Y., who is his widow. Death came to Mr. Garland just a few days before he would have celebrated his golden wedding anniversary.

In 1923, as Pacific Coast delegate to the International Olympic Committee, he went to Rome and secured the 1932 Olympic Games for Los Angeles ; it was the first time that the international athletic meet had ever been staged outside of Europe.

Mr. Garland played a major part in the building of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and of the swimming stadium which adjoins it in Exposition Park. In 1934, he was given the James E. Sullivan award for outstanding contributions to sports, the only non-athlete ever to win the honor. His son, John Jewett Garland, last summer succeeded

him as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

RECEIVED BY POPE

While in Rome Mr. Garland, who was an Episcopalian, had an audience with Pope Pius XI and was, also, received by the King and Queen of Italy. Later he also financed himself on 10 or more trips to Europe in connection with the Olympics ; his last such trip was in 1947 when he went to Sweden to help plan the 1948 Olympics.

Four civic groups—the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Realty Board, the Los Angeles Clearing House Association and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association—each voted him « the most useful citizen of 1923 » for his feat in bringing the Olympic Games to Los Angeles.

In 1932, Mr. Garland rode at the head of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses as its grand marshal.

His foreign decorations were : Order of Leopold, Belgium ; Officer, Order of the White Lion, Czechoslovakia ; Légion d'Honneur, France ; Cross of Honor, Red Cross, First Class, Germany ; Officer, Order of the Crown, Italy ; Commander, Order of Orange-Nassau, Netherlands ; Officer, Royal Order of the Polar Star, Sweden, and Commander, Cross Order of Polonia Resitua, Poland.

FORECAST CITY GROWTH

His hobby was « population prognostication » and Mr. Garland, perhaps, was the

first to predict that Los Angeles would be America's third largest city. His billboards forecasting future population for years were a familiar sight around the city.

A staunch Republican. Mr. Garland attended the national conventions of the G. O. P. in 1900, 1924, 1928, 1936, and 1940. He never ran for public office and several times rejected proposals that he stand for mayor of Los Angeles.

Since the turn of the century he urged such civic improvements as more and wider boulevards, more houses and, of course, more and more population. He was among the first, 25 or more years ago, to sponsor plans for an adequate municipal airport and actively supportend extension of air mail service to the city.

He was a member of the Sons of the Revolution. From 1906-1910 he served as a colonel on the staff of Governor James N. Gillett. During World War I he served as a « dollar a year » man in Washington.

In World War II, Mr. Garland served on the National War Service Advisory Council of the Salvation Army.



MANY TIMES HONORED

He was honorary president of the California Real Estate Association, a member of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, of which he had been twice president ; member of the Los Angeles Realty Board, of which he was three times president.

He was president of the Tenth Olympiad Committee and the California Olympiad Commission and a member of the International Olympic Committee.

From 1929 to 1936 he was president of the California State Chamber of Commerce ; from 1934 to 1939, president, Los Angeles Art Association and, at various times, was a member of the Los Angeles Board of Education, the Public Library Board, and, in 1930, was treasurer of the Los Angeles Tuberculosis Association.

His clubs included : the Los Angeles Athletic Club, president 19 years ; California Club, president, 1908 ; Bolsa Chica Gun Club, president 6 years ; Craggs Country Club, president, 10 years ; University Club, Midwick Country Club, Bohemian Club and Union Interalliee, Paris.

Four days after being stricken at his summer home at Pebble Beach, the man who brought the 1932 Olympic Games to Los Angeles was sped to Monterey Hospital. Drs. Gordon J. Smith and Donald Frick jr. flew north to perform emergency surgery.

With the death of Mr. Garland, Los Angeles and California have lost one of the first-and, certainly, one of the most effective — so-called « boosters ».

While he was never publicly referred to as « Mr. Los Angeles » he more than earned such a title.

His biography is the story of the growth of Los Angeles from a town of 50 000 population to its present rating as the nation's third largest metropolis.

At 82, Mr. Garland could look back on an exceptional record of achievement for which he received unstinted praise at home and abroad. In addition to virtually every local civic award, he was decorated by eight European governments.

At the time of his death he was president of the W. M. Garland Company, real estate firm with offices in the W. M. Garland building, which he founded.

(The curriculum vitae sportivae of M. William May Garland has appeared in our bulletin Nr. 4 and contains all the details of his sporting activity.)