

ABOUT PAST OLYMPIC COMPETITORS

(by Avery Brundage.)

In the last forty (40) years the Olympic Committees of every country in the world have made a splendid record to promote and execute the past olympiades. It was a highly commendable task to assemble and pick the best athletes in every country and transport them to the arena and site of competition.

But one thing the Olympic Committees overlooked was the great mass of past Olympiads. The International Organisation has become a World Sport University where the graduating performers were completely forgotten, dispersed all over the seven (7) corners of the earth and never mentioned or reunited.

In 1945 a number of past Olympic competitors got together under the leadership of the writer, John B. Kelly, Lawson Robertson and decided to have a Reunion. About two hundred (200) athletes from every corner of the U. S. A. assembled in November, 1945, in Philadelphia. The gathering was so successful and so warm-hearted that the assemblage decided to form an organisation specifically for Reunions and fostering the Olympic ideals. Since 1945, the writer has kept up a continuous crusade in that direction until groups were organised in Philadelphia, New-York, Washington, New-England,, Chicago (Avery Brundage Pres.), Midwest, Paris, France and Southern California.

It is hoped that someone in every country will follow the example of the athletes of Phila. and U. S. A. and form groups of Past Olympic men and be united as one grand Olympic Fraternity. It is planned that every group will have one yearly local gathering ; one National every four years after the Olympiade, and an International gathering at the site of Olympic games of all Olympic performers who participated in past Olympiades.

A proper government be effected with all Nations represented to direct this world Olympian Movement by all men who formerly directed and participated in all past Olympiades from 1896 on.

In the United States the branch of this International Organisation is complete, having organized on May 5, 1948 with Gustavus T. Kirby as President, John B. Kelly, Sr. as Vice President, Ada T. Sacket, Sec'y. and Treasurer, Samuel N. Gerson, Historian.

The Historian has already inaugurated a movement in U. S. A. to receive information about every living Olympic man and woman in U. S. A., their whereabouts, and personal history. This may be incorporated yearly into a Reunion Book, and kept up yearly until the exact information and whereabouts of every Olympian is an accomplished fact.