

THE OLYMPIC FAMILY

We have much pleasure in announcing the recent marriage of a member of the International Olympic Committee : the Hon. Jorge B. Vargas (Philippines). As he proposed to attend the Session in Sofia last September, the newly married couple seized this opportunity to make their honeymoon trip there. We wish to offer them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for their happiness.

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Mr. Brundage celebrated his seventieth birthday when he was attending the Sofia Session. He took this opportunity of giving a cocktail party for his colleagues and friends. The function was most pleasant and reflected an atmosphere of great cordiality. We reiterate our congratulations and wish to convey our best wishes to our sprightly and dynamic President.

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Fr. Edgar Fried, General Secretary of the Austrian Olympic Committee, has just been decorated when he received the *Grande Decoration d'Honneur* by the President of the Austrian Republic in recognition for important services rendered to the Republic

in the field of sport and in the cause of Olympism. We rejoice with his friends at the flattering and well-earned distinction bestowed on him and we wish to give our sincere congratulations.

† LORD ABERDARE

Lord Aberdare had just married again and motored to Sofia with his bride in order to attend the Session. Everyone was pleased to see him younger and more alert than ever. To celebrate the event, Lord Aberdare invited his friends, the members of the International Olympic Committee, to attend a delightful cocktail party at the 'Hotel Balkan' where the newly wedded couple received the congratulations of their friends. After the Session, Lord and Lady Aberdare joined an excursion party visiting Varna, on the shores of the Black Sea where a spirit of happy relaxation and cordiality prevailed. Lord Aberdare and his bride set out on their homeward journey by car ; while motoring by the shores of the Adriatic, a cruel fate befell the man who happiness, had just experienced such blissful and a terrible tragedy took place when the car fell into the sea and Lord Aberdare was

killed instantaneously while his bride, severely injured, was transported to hospital in a town in Yugoslavia, far from her people and native land.

Lord Aberdare was a devoted member of the International Olympic Committee and was much appreciated by his colleagues. In the course of the Sessions, we were impressed by the outstanding common sense of his observations, his proposals were usually accented because they were so well thought out and the outcome of deep reflection. Lord Aberdare studied law and was called to the Bar in London. He fought in both World Wars. In his youth, he played for the University of Oxford : cricket, racquet, tennis and golf. He won numerous sporting events before he became a leader in educational religious and public circles. He became a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1929, and a member of the Executive Board in 1931, a post which he occupied and retained till a few years after the war. We deeply mourn his sudden death and deplore the loss of a sincere friend of the Olympic cause. We wish to express to his family and especially his widowed bride our heartfelt sympathy in their sad bereavement.

† ACHILLE JOINARD

A great figure in the world of cycling has passed away... It was with great sorrow that we heard the news of the death of Achille Joinard who departed this life last October. He was a great Frenchman of noble character, a kindhearted man who loved his country and his fellowmen.

He was the devoted president of the International Cycling Union which he represented along with his Secy Mr. René Chesal, at the Olympic Conferences which took place in Evian last June. We hear in mind still his urgent appeal which sounded as if he had a premonition of his approaching end when he cried : 'Gentlemen, I entreat you, do not abandon the sportive youth to her fate, watch over her, be near her, encourage and help her in her endeavours to reach the highest peaks of fame and glory.'

Achille Joinard deserves recognition for his services to the world of cycling and sport in general.

We wish to convey to the International Cycling Union as well as to the French Olympic Committee of which Mr. Joinard was vice-president, the expression of our heartfelt sympathy on the occasion of their great loss.

Items of interest:

The sixtieth Wedding Anniversary of General Guisan

A former member of the International Olympic Committee for Switzerland (1937-1939), General Guisan who carries lightly his eighty-three years, celebrated at his home in Lausanne at the end of last October, his Diamond Wedding Anniversary. On behalf of the members of the International Olympic Committee we wish to convey our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to General and Madame Guisan.

DEMETRIUS VIKELAS

First President of the International Olympic Committee (1894-1896) died fifty years ago in 1908

His life and his work

Demetrius Vikelas (1835-1905) was born on the island of Syra. His father came from Verria, a town in Macedonia.

Very early in life, he became keen on literature. In 1852 he translated in verse *Esther* from Racine.

In 1852, he settled in London where he was in the cereal trade for 24 years. In spite of his business activities, Mr. Vikelas did not neglect literature. In 1861, he published his first book of *Poems* as well as a translation in verse of the *Odyssey* and of *Faust*. Later he published a treaty on *Contemporary Greek Literature*.

In 1876, he retired from business in order to devote himself entirely to literature.

As member of the Pan Hellenic Gymnastic Club of Athens, he represented his native country : Greece at the Congress in Paris in 1894, when the resolution to revive the Olympic Games was passed.

Demetrius Vikelas settled in Athens where he became an active member of the first Hellenic Olympic Committee under the Presidency of Prince Constantin, Heir to the Throne ; when he organized the staging of the first Olympics which were held in Athens in May 1896.

Vikelas founded the 'Société pour la propagation du livre didactique' the shooting practice field for schools at Ylyssys as well as founded various others philanthropic institutions.

He became the first President of the International Olympic Committee being elected by Baron de Coubertin himself.

† LORD ABERDARE



His last photo taken during the Sofia Session September 1957.
before his tragic death on his way home.