

GENERAL JOSE DE J. CLARK



* Born on November 28th, 1908, in the metallurgic City of Durango, at the foot of the Sierra Madre, José de J. CLARK FLORES had, in his all too brief lifetime, two devouring passions: his country, Mexico, and sport.

After a difficult childhood, during which he learned to wrestle, he studied brilliantly at the military college and at the University of Guadalajara. Civil and military engineer, the highest graded officer in the Mexican Army, President/Director General of numerous industrial and construction companies, General José de J. CLARK fenced and played basketball very well as a young man, before devoting himself to sports administration. He was, in turn, and sometimes even simultaneously, President of the Mexican Basketball Association, of the Mexican Sports Federation, of the *Comité Olímpico Mexicano*, of the Organising Committee for the VIIIth Central American Games and of the huge Pan-American Sports Organisation.

Having been elected a member of the I.O.C. in 1952, he reached the Executive Board in 1963. He was Vice-President of the I.O.C. from 1963 to 1970.

That this powerfully built being, from whom emanates, intelligently and physically, a sensation - quickly materialising - of goodwill, intelligence, finesse, retentiveness and strength . . . That this great leader whom we saw only a few months ago so consumed with dynamism, willing to sleep no more than four hours per night, untiringly building and creating . . . That this soldier, then

becoming a promoter of world importance... should suddenly be mown down in the fullness of his activity, at the peak of his ability - he it is who leaves us struck with amazement and sadness.

We must stress that, as an apostle of Olympism, General José de J. CLARK was a noble Mexican, and that he felt a veneration, an admiration, a boundless love for his country. It is with pride, with joy repressed by the shyness which overcame him towards those creatures and things which he loved, that he attended, as a spectator, the unforgettable Games in Mexico, for which he had moved mountains, in the splendid capital of his beloved, his most beautiful Mexico.

He could keep all sentiments from his face, the oblique shaped eyelids over dark eyes, lowered, the full, well-formed mouth, somewhat browner than the mat complexion, fixed in an indiscernable smile when he was watching for the opportune moment to attack his interlocutors or to defend an idea. Then, all of a sudden, the entire body - well-rounded by age and long sessions - would come to life, his small, fine hands begin to move and General CLARK, in his warm voice, would reel off his arguments as one might fight for a world record, in wild Spanish, confusing even his relatives.

He believed in the pedagogical and moral value of sport, in youth, and in the marvellous means of promoting harmony between the many different peoples of our planet, through the contests in the Stadium. He has contributed a great deal to the development of Olympism in his country, in his Continent and in the world, but he has marked out the way for his compatriots, who will undoubtedly be able to take up the relay.

