



# OBITUARIES

## James Dillard “Jim Stevens Jr.

died March 25, 2001 at the age of 66 years in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was a proud member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Jim Stevens was raised in the Republic of Panama but moved with his family to Albuquerque in 1950.

He graduated from the University of New Mexico [UNM] with a BA in Inter-American and Foreign Affairs, Modern and Classical Languages and an MA in Foreign Affairs. He served in the US Army, where he set a US Army physical fitness record, was a member of the Rifle Marksmanship Team and a member of the 8th Army Corps Football and Boxing teams.

Following military service, he first embarked on a teaching and coaching career in Michigan, but later became a US Foreign Service Officer in the Peace Corps in Latin America.

He was a member of the United States Olympic Committee and his passion for sports and physical fitness took him all over the world. He served on President Ford’s National Commission for Olympic Sports and also on the New Mexico Governors Council on Health, Physical Fitness and Sports.

He acted as a consultant to the US Congress on the formulation of the amateur Sports Act of 1978.

Jim Stevens excelled in many sports, including wrestling, swimming and diving and served as the UNM’s diving coach and assistant swimming coach.

He took part in many, World, State and National Senior Games, where he earned numerous Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in myriad events.

His experience in sports took him to seven Pan American and Olympic Games, which he attended either as a participant (alternate wrestler in the 1960 Rome Olympics), coach, or in an administrative post. He coached both Cathy Carr (Olympic gold medal in swimming) and Janet Ely (diving) in their formative years.

He finally settled in Albuquerque, became a longtime swimming coach at the Albuquerque Academy and took up hobbies like photography, ballroom dancing and historical research.

He is sadly missed by all his friends.

(Information provided by Bob Clotworthy)

## Tony Techko

From Susan Techko we received information that **Tony Techko**, 1355 Oxford Avenue West, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 2S8, CANADA passed away recently.

## Jiří Kössl

On October 9th, 2001 the Prager sportshistorian Dr. Jiří Kössl passed away after a long period of illness. As a lecturer at the Karls University in Prague, in the Czech Republic, he was an active member of the *International Society of Olympic Historians* [ISOH]. Kössl was a wellknown scholar in the works of Pierre de Coubertin

and the Olympic Games. He wrote many books about the Olympic Movement in Bohemia, in Czecho-Slovakia and the Czech Republic. He was one of the best scholars concerning the life and work of Jiří Guth-Jarkowski, a close friend of Pierre de Coubertin and one of the founding members of the *International Olympic Committee* [IOC].

He was indefatigable in his research of Olympism, and even continued to the very last, when his illness should have in fact prevented this. In spite of his ill-health he went on with his work. In the upcoming issue of the *STADION* magazine, one of his last publications concerning the Olympic Congress in Prague from 1925 will be published.

In Volume 3 of the series on the Olympic Football Tournaments, published by the authors Jürgen Buschmann and Karl Lennartz, Kössl even this past summer supplied information about the participation of the Czecho-Slovakian team. For that reason this Volume will be dedicated to him by the two authors.

Kössl also was a member of the Executive Committee of the *International Committee Pierre de Coubertin* [ICPC]. Two years ago, he used the initiative of the ICPC for the founding of Coubertin-schools, to establish the De Coubertin-Gymnasium in Tabor in the Czech Republic. In autumn of this year, this school was very successful at the Coubertin Youth Forum in Lausanne, which took place from 22 to 29 September. A few days before his death, Norbert Müller informed Jiří Kössl about the success of this school.

Only a few months ago, the ICPC proposed Kössls name to the President of the *International Olympic Committee* for the awarding of the “Pierre de Coubertin-Medal”, one of the highest distinctions of the IOC. Unfortunately, due to his illness this came not about. We all would have granted him this distinction, because he was never spoiled with much appreciation for his comprehensive research on Olympism.

Jiří Kössl was a respected friend of the German Sport University in Cologne. Between his Sportsscientific Faculty at the Karls-University in Prague and the Sports University in Cologne existed a close treaty of friendship, and on top of that a close cooperation between the sporthistorians in Prague and the Carl- and Liselott-Diem Archives. Kössl visited the Sports University in Cologne often, while on the other hand German lecturers and students reciprocated with visits to the hospitable Kössl in Prague. He gave many guest-lectures to seminars in Cologne.

During the burial ceremony in Prague on 16 October, Karel Wendl, the former Director of the Olympic Study Centre in Lausanne, Norbert Müller on behalf of the ICPC, and Karl Lennartz on behalf of the Sports University in Cologne and as a personal friend of the family, all spoke in Jiří Kössl’s memory.

We will not forget Jiří Kössl and will remember him with honour.

Norbert Müller/Karl Lennartz