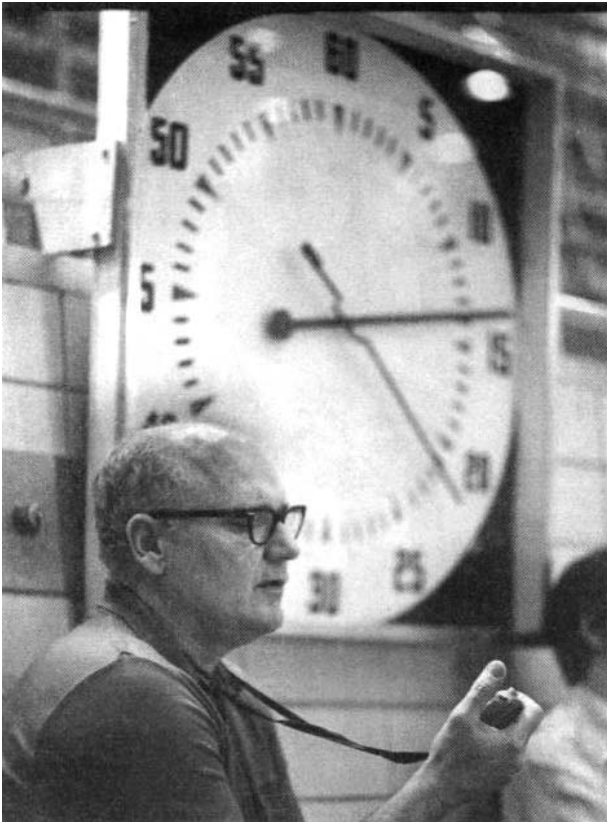


JAMES E. COUNSILMAN †

28 DECEMBER 1920 - 4 FEBRUARY 2004



Probably the world's most important swimming researcher, James Edward COUNSILMAN, Ph.D., passed away after long period of suffering from Parkinson's disease, on the early morning of Sunday, January 4th, 2004.

COUNSILMAN, born on December 28th, 1920 in Birmingham, Alabama, started his career not in swimming, which should have been typical when looking back on his career, but in football, basketball, baseball and athletics. Even during his period in the swimming team from his high school, he was not a swimmer, but a diver. When he was convinced to start training for competitive swimming, it took a bit of time, but soon COUNSILMAN learned the specialty of the breaststroke technique and participated in his first national trials over 200 metres. He had both the talent and capacity to become a swimmer at the international level, but his military service did not leave him much time to prepare for competitions. Before he left for Europe he married Marge, with whom he later had four children.

After his military service, he received his B.S. (Baccalaureatus Scientia) "cum laude" at the *Ohio State University*; one year later his master degree

at the *University of Illinois*. In 1951 he graduated for Ph.D. at the *State University of Iowa* where he stayed on as instructor, first as assistant and later as associate professor. In 1957 he was offered an appointment to the *State University of New York* in Cortland. At the same time he worked as professor in Indiana, where he taught the different techniques of swimming, the theories of training, life saving and Physical Education in general. From his great experience as an athlete and professor, COUNSILMAN wrote three essential monographs for swimming: *The Science of Swimming* (Eaglewood Cliffs, N.J. 1968); *The Complete Book of Swimming* (New York, N.Y. 1977) and *Competitive Swimming Manual for Coaches and Swimmer* (Bloomington 1977). All three books have been translated into more than 20 languages all over the world. Furthermore COUNSILMAN published an innumerable amount of scholarly articles in journals, magazines and proceedings. He explained in detail the background of and for swimming.

The list of scholars who were taught by him is countless; the swimmers who under his coaching won international and Olympic titles is long: among them Mark SPITZ, winner of nine Olympic gold medals, swimming 35 world records, "*Swimmer of the Year*" in 1967 and in 1971; and Jim MONTGOMERY, Gary HALL sr., John KINSELLA and several others, whose names belong to the *Swimming Hall of Fame*. In all he was responsible for 46 medals – 26 of these were Gold medals – during the Olympic Games from 1964 up to and including 1976; when he was the official coach of the US Swimming team, and for 52 world records, and many other national and international titles.

COUNSILMAN was the founding president of the *International Swimming Hall of Fame* from 1963 to 1970, later he was Chairman of the Board 1970-1977. In 1976 he himself became inducted as an Honor Coach.

His greatest success was in 1979, when he swam across the Channel. Until today he is the oldest man to do so.

With James E. COUNSILMAN'S death, the world of swimming has lost a researcher, a visionary, a coach, a lecturer and an idol.

Thomas Zawadzki