



From the Editorial Team

After winning four individual track and field gold medals at the Paris Games in 1900, Alvin Kraenzlein, the University of Pennsylvania standout, lugged his running shoes down to the edge of the Schuylkill River that runs through Philadelphia like a thin, black ribbon. Several members of the school's track team accompanied him as they crowded around the curly-haired speedster, Kraenzlein looked down at the shoes that had so often carried him to victory. Without saying a word, he heaved them far out into the river. They hit the surface, floated for a moment and then sank from sight. When they were gone, he said, "If I can no longer run for Mike Murphy I will run no more."

Kraenzlein's action was an obvious testament to the greatness of his coach and mentor, and the love that he held for this now-forgotten giant of track and field. Almost stone deaf and suffering from the tuberculosis that would eventually kill him, Mike Murphy brought out the best in all his athletes-whether they were from the University of Pennsylvania, Yale University, where he also coached, the New York Athletic Club or the several U.S. Olympic Teams that came under his charismatic spell, including his last, the 1912 squad made famous by Jim Thorpe. He died that following spring at age 49.

Why do I bring up Mike Murphy? Like Kraenzlein, I feel like tossing my track shoes-in my case a word processor-into Lake Champlain which is not too far from my home here in Vermont. It's not because I plan to write no more. It's because I have a tough act to follow.

Ever since I joined the ISOH, I've watched this noble organization grow, and get better with each passing year. The leadership of Ian Buchanan has led us into a new era of dazzling possibilities. There's no doubt that Bill Mallon will continue his stewardship. Under the editorial skill of Tony Bijkerk, the *Journal* has kept pace with the growth of the ISOH. Tony has become a dear friend and mentor, and although I've never been close enough to shake his hand, I feel he is my Mike Murphy I will have my own style for editing the *Journal*, of course. I only hope that I can continue to make it better, as Tony has done, with each passing issue.

Thanks Tony for a job done well.

Stephen L. Harris, Editor

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Editorial Offices

245 Terrace Heights, Weybridge, VT (Vermont)
05753 U.S.A.

Telephone: (1) 802 545-2664

Fax: (1) 802 545-2671

E-mail: slharris@sover.net