

Sent 3/27/73

LONG-DISTANCE SWIMMING

By Joe Grossman, Executive Secretary
Marathon Swimming Foundation & Hall of Fame

Six new names have been added to the roster of electees to the Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, ~~joining~~ joining 54 previously-named swimmers and contributors to the long-distance swimming sport.

Election of Lillian Harrison of Argentina, Eva Morrison of the United States, Feng ~~Yao-hsien~~ Yao-hsien of the People's Republic of China, Imre Szenasi of Hungary, Barry Watson of England and General Ahmed ~~Zorkani~~ Zorkani of Egypt has been announced by the Marathon Swimming Foundation.

In 1923, at the age of ~~20~~ 20, Miss Harrison became the first person to swim across the 26-mile wide River Plate, from Uruguay to Argentina (in 24 hours, 19 minutes). Her outstanding racing feat was her 1925 victory in the women's division of the 26-mile professional River Seine race, finishing in 14:37.00.

Eva Morrison, now Mrs. Peter Abdou of Scituate, Mass., began her colorful career in 1918 when, at age 10, she swam five miles at her native Pictou, N.S. Until she was forced to retire after an auto accident in 1936, Eva completed more than 20 swims from Boston to the Boston Light, a 12-mile distance, in races and solo swims. I won races against all her male competitors in both Canada and the U.S., and on several occasions interrupted important swims to rescue imperiled swimmers and boatmen. Her natatorial exploits helped keep the long-distance swimming sport alive in the New England area after the retirement of such big-name stars as Henry Sullivan, Sam Richards and Charles Toth.

Feng Yao-hsien was a 37-year-old Peking policeman in 1965 when he established his country's still unbroken national endurance record with 61-hour 97-mile solo swim on the River Tzuya. He has also recorded solo swims of up to 55 miles on Chinese rivers and in the Pacific Ocean.

-- and next to Chairman Mao Tse-tung the best-known -- exponent of marathon swimming in the Far East.

Imre Szenasi, honored by the Hungarian Government with the title "Master of Sport," proved his claim to being Central Europe's outstanding endurance swimmer with an 81-mile River Tizza swim (in 30:02.00), a 136-mile solo on the same river (in 44:50.00) and a 142-mile Danube River swim (41:40.00) and Lake Balaton swims of between 30 and 60 miles, all between 1962 and 1969.

Barry Watson set the France-to-England record in the English Channel in 1964 -- a 9:35.00 mark which still stands -- in the first of four successful crossings (two in each direction) of that Strait. He has established records on British amateur courses of 5.5, 7.5, 10.5, 13 and 20 miles and ^{on} the 22-mile-long Loch Lomond ⁱⁿ races and solo swims in an eight-year career which began in 1962.

Major General ~~████~~ Zorkani was honored for his contributions to the sport throughout 20 years' service ~~████~~ the only secretary of the International Long Distance Swimming Federation, of Cairo, during which he has ~~organized~~ organized amateur and professional races in Egypt, France, Yugoslavia and the prestigious Capri-to-Naples race in Italy, which will be held for the ~~████~~ 20th consecutive year in July.

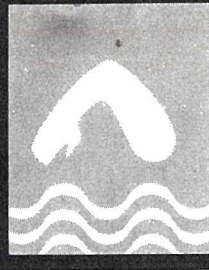
The Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame is conducted by the Marathon Swimming Foundation, organized in 1970 to compile records of long-distance swimming -- amateur and pro, solos and races -- and to promote and support the sport.

Electees to the MSHOF for 1972 were ~~████~~ chosen by a jury comprised of Commander C. Gerald Forsberg, O.B.E., of England; Buck Dawson, Executive Director of the International Swimming Hall of Fame; former world champion marathoner Cliff Lumsdon of Toronto, and Joe Grossman, Secretary of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation.

Swimming World June 73

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In 1923, at the age of 20, Miss Harrison became the first person to swim across the 26-mile wide River Platte, from Uruguay to Argentina (in 24 hours, 29 minutes). Her outstanding racing feat was her 1925 victory in the women's division of the 26-mile professional River Seine race, finishing in 14:37.00.

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