



William Wrigley Jr., Honor Administrator, United States of America, 1964



On left presenting winner's check to IMSHOF Honoree George Young

Videos: [Documentary 1](#) [Show 1](#) [Show 2 at 2:00](#)

William Wrigley, Jr. the American chewing gum magnate, was the founder and sponsor of the first Wrigley Ocean Marathon across the Catalina Channel from Catalina Island to the San Pedro peninsula in January 1927 where he offered a US\$25,000 winner-take-all prize. 102 swimmers started the race, but only Canadian Honoree George Young finished and claimed the winner's purse. Wrigley sponsored the 1927 Canadian National Exhibition race in Toronto with a \$30,000 purse and 1928 and 1929. He was the Honorary President of the International Professional Swimmers Association founded in 1927. The International Professional Swimmers Association was an international association organized on 21 September 1927 at the Hotel McAlpin in Manhattan, New York with its headquarters in New York City. The Association issued publications to authenticate and keep records of professional swimming events and to foster swimming throughout the world as an international sport.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)