**A Look Back at the First 100 Years of Inner Ear Medicine and Surgery 1919-2019: A Documentary Movie from 1975**

**I.Kaufman Arenberg MD (Interviewer)**

An Interview and movie with Professor Dr. Georges Portmann, The Father of Inner Ear Surgery and the First recipient of the PMS Gold Medal Honor Award (1980) with his most famous Student and Advocate for Inner Ear Surgery, Dr. George E. Shambaugh Jr, and Second Recipient of the Prosper Meniere Society (1984). This interview was held at Professeur Portmann’s home near Bordeaux at his estate the Abbaye de Bonlieux and at the field Station, the Marine Laboratory at Aachachon where Dr. Portmann performed his first experiments on the ELS in Rays, an Elasmobranch in the same family as sharks.

These successful studies allowed him the comfort to perform the first inner ear surgery on man with Meniere’s disease. (Surgery footage is shown in the film). He did this surgery with mallet and gouge and no antibiotics available. The man, a telephone line repairman, was able to again climb the poles and resume his work. Dr. Shambaugh considered Portmann a genius and often said he “was ahead of his times”. You decide! He opened the world of inner ear medicine and surgery to us all. Without his pioneering work documented in this historical tribute, many of the advances in inner ear medicine and surgery may not have happened yet.

This movie was made in 1975, while I was an NIH Special Teacher Investigator Fellow trainee, and also a research fellow in Otology of the Swedish Medical Research Council at the Orenkliniken, Akademiska Sjukhuis, Uppsala, Sweden, and Dr. Shambaugh set up this documentary opportunity for me to interview these two giants in Otology while I was in Sweden.