September 5, Chicago—Ron Laird pulled a page from the Ron Zimm book today, establishing a huge early lead to discourage all competitors and scored an easy win the IAU One Hour Walk. Laird covered 7 miles 1432 yards to finish 90 ahead of runnerup Jack Hortland.

Despite a soft, heavy track and one large puddle that forced the walkers into the fourth lane as they entered the homestretch, Laird stormed through a 7:12 first mile for about a 50 yard lead and had the race won by four miles when his 30:04 gave him a .41 second lead.

The race for second was more interesting. Hortland, his teammate Jack Blackburn and the NYAC's Ron Daniel walked in a tight group for about 31/2 miles, alternating the lead. At this point Blackburn made a move, accelerating the pace which slowed to as much as two minute laps, and Daniel was soon dropped. At five miles Hortland made his move and with a couple 1:52 laps gained 12 seconds on Blackburn and continued to widen the margin until the finish, closing slightly on Laird all the time.

Daniel, suffering from a slight pull or strain in an upper thigh muscle over the last four miles, was an easy fourth. Chicago's Jim Clinton walked perhaps his finest race ever to take fifth ahead of Alan Blakeslee. Clinton is training more than in the past and must certainly be reckoned with in the future.

Laird, who had walked a ten mile in California just yesterday, won his fourth title of the year and led the NYAC to a one point victory over the Ohio Track Club for the team championship. The OTC's Chuck Newell continued to improve finishing ninth just back of the veteran Wayne Yarcho of Dayton. Thus Ohio walkers occupied four of the first nine places. One note of interest. The first four finishers lined upv routing a football Around. Maybe this is the way to do it this time of year.


It was cold and cloudy and there was a damn dog with a leash all lined up with us to start the Mackinac Bridge Race. I knew it would get underfoot when the race started, and sure enough I had to wait until he and his owner got a good start before I could get underway. By this time Ron Laird and the two Klopfer brothers were rapidly leaving the scene. At 50 yards out two high school boys, one grade school boy and three old men had glashed by while I was deciding on which side to pass the dog.

He had a man on his five foot leash who was wearing blue trunks and red and white Adidas shoes. A formidable opponent! I gritted my teeth however and decided even in the face of six legs against my two I would give them a true Backburn battle. I knew walkers stooped to low tricks but this one I had never seen before. However, in all fairness, I must state the dog never did get off the ground.

At 100 yards out, after feinting both to the right and left in rapid succession, I put on a burst of speed and came on even terms with the beast, a wire haired terrier by the way. We were still abreast at the three mile mark, when the first of three old men came back to us. The dog made his first mistake at this point. I passed this old man first and then the dog tried to squeeze through behind us. He did not realize that the man tied to the other end of his leash was trying to pass on the opposite side. I did not wait to see the fun but took full advantage of the situation and obtained a good 10 yard lead.

By now we had reached the foot of the bridge and its incline. The Klopfer brothers and Laird were gradually growing smaller in the distance. Now I was up with a nice looking elderly gentleman clad all in a blue knit stretch-type sweat suit. He also wore red and white Adidas shoes. His style was excellent but he did not respond to the challenge of my passing.

Now at ½ miles out, in rapid succession the dog and I passed (1) and old fellow in long, roooy, black short and sneakers, with a peculiar bent kneeed pasting gait, (2) two high school boys who were talking too much to do much walking and (3) the grade school boy! He had the best form of any of these and for 200 yards acted as my rear guard against the dog.

The apex of the bridge was now in sight, and knowing how fast dogs can go downhill, I decided to go all out for the last quarter mile of the uphill pull. Arriving at the apex panting, pitiful, and pallid I was rewarded by the absence of the pitter-patter of those six competitive feet behind me. Thus encouraged, I fairly flew, all on the ground of course, down the south slope of the bridge, hoping to compound my advantage. I even imagined I was gaining a bit on Ulrich Klopfer in third place.

I passed Mr. Ernie Smith, judge, at this point and noticed him staring back up along the bridge, shading his eyes with his hand. This I felt was a good sign if he had to look this hard to see my six-footed competitor.
Passing from the bridge incline on to the flatter bridge approach with approximately one mile to go, I stole my first backward glance and to my amaze-
ment I could scarcely see the dog. His man with the blue trunks was more clearly
discernable and nearly 500 yards behind. However such a combination would surely
have some diabolic machination for the end of the race, therefore I kept full
pressure applied and crossed the finish line thankful that I had succeeded in
gaining the upper hand of this plot to subvert race walking.

Taking a few minutes to recover, I found that Ron Laird had failed to break
his own record by 10 seconds and that Goetz and Ulrich had walked in 35:40 and
37:35 respectively. I was thus reminded that my best time across the Bridge,
39:15 in 1961, beat both these boys but now still would have gotten me no more
than fourth place. Terrus fugat tyrannicus!

I did not wait to get the exact time of the six-footed combination. I
could not even watch the finish due to a deep sense of foreboding. However,
they had an estimated time of 45 plus minutes.

LADIES BRIDGE

by Mrs. Doc (Grandwan)

This year's race seemed to have better trained walkers than other years.
I didn't see any bent knees or frisbees. And I was in a position to see them
all!

That first mile was a killer. I don't know why everyone was in such a rush—
but we were. Jeanne Rantio of Detroit took an early lead and never lost it. Mary
Laganas of Detroit (age 14) was right behind her followed by Elaine Busc, of Warren
Michigan. Elaine is the former champ and always a threat. Kathy Busc, age
15, and an unidentified woman were next. Then Granny and behind me 8 year old
Karen Busc.

I spent the whole first mile getting warmed up and then Kathy and the U.W.
came back to me on the slope. The first three got so far out in front that they
looked like midgets. By the time I got to the top of the hill, I had decided
I had better train more and stay in shape, or stay home and knit booties.

When I started down on the South slope, Jeanne Rantio was looking very, very
small and Mary Laganas not much larger. Elaine Busc was a good quarter mile
ahead of me. I glanced back and saw that the others were losing ground steadily,
so I relaxed and enjoyed the scenery. It's really a nice jaunt if you weren't
in so much agony. Anyway, I was certainly glad to see Johnny and Ron Laird
standing there at the finish line.

Jeanne Rantio broke the women's record with a time of 45:02, Elaine Busc
finished in 47:34, and my time was 52:00. In the girl's division, Mary Laganas
finished in 46:50, Kathy Busc 54:00 and Karen Busc 62:00 minutes. The unidenti-
fied woman was somewhere between Kathy and Karen.
Long Branch, N.J., Aug. 15—Paul Schell today walked a good steady race using solid strategy from beginning to end. This race saw several very interesting situations develop. Probably the most noteworthy was the first national championship walking race for fourth place finisher John Kelley. As we understand it was his third ever walking race, the first two being two milers and the first of these resulting in a DQ.

After a short talk by the mayor the race got underway at about 10:30 a.m. Approximately 30 starters set out to cover the first part of the race which consisted of 2-4/5 mile loops around the city of Long Branch. Alan Blakeslee led out like he wanted to win and had a 300 yard lead by the first 10 kilo. At the end of two loops (9 miles) Blakeslee was still in front (I think) with Daniel closing the gap, Kulick, MacDonald, Schell and Terry Anderson in close formation. After this group came Deman, Hassensfus, Bob Long and two others who I can’t remember. Next, about 100 yards back came Blackburn, Newell and Harlick with Kelley 20 more yards back. After that came Dave Lakritz, Jim Statzmiiller and everyone else.

At approximately 20 kilo we turned around and headed back for the lake. At this point the heat started to take its toll. Blakeslee was sagging badly as Daniel took a 200 yard lead and looked strong. After Blakeslee came Schell, MacDonald, a very tired Terry Anderson, Kulick, Hassensfus, Blackburn, Newell, Deman and Harlick. (Try to remember anyone see your name left out or in the wrong place that the publisher is trying to remember the event as he walked it. During a 40 kilo the mind tends to become fuzzy about ones own position let alone the positions and condition of others.)

At approximately 14 miles we had 16 laps to go around a lake that was between 1/3 and 2/5 mile in circumference. After 4 laps around the lake the scene changed again as Schell, moving steadily was in third, MacDonald in second just about to over first from a sinking Ron Daniel. By this time Blakeslee was moving slower than a stroll and in 6th, while Kulick and Hassensfus were slowing a bit. Blackburn and Newell meanwhile had moved up steadily and were about to move into fifth and sixth in front of Blakeslee and Hassensfus while Kelley moved with them a safe 50 yards back. (safe from what?) The 22 mile mark saw more changes. Blakeslee was out, Daniel was back to a strolling fifth, Schell was the new leader, Kelley was moving away from Newell, Kulick gained new life and was back in it, Hassensfus came to life. Only one team remained in the event—and Deman, after a 10 minute rest, was lapping all kinds of people.

With 1/2 miles to go Paul Schell had the race in the track bag, but second through ninth places were all in doubt. Kulick was in clear second place, but MacDonald and Kelley were kicking and so hard it looked as if they might catch him. Hassensfus was in fifth, Daniel was in sixth, Newell seventh and Blackburn and Deman were moving hard in eighth and ninth. The latter two moved past Daniel and Newell in the last half mile. The last quarter mile saw Blackburn move into sixth place and finish 48 seconds behind Hassensfus. Dave Lakritz, 50 plus years old, walked a very steady race to finish tenth.
There are several important (to race walkers) observations to be made about this walk. The introduction of marathoner John Kelley (who in the way is over 40, so he has only about 15 competitive years left) points up the value of good running background. (Editors note: Don't forget that Paul Schell is also a marathoner.) Chuck Newell was in contention for third place, so he could be tough in the not too distant future. Ron Kulick will be a top distance threat if he keeps up his present training pace. Paul Schell has tasted victory and just might be tempted to stay with the leaders for years to come. Bruce MacDonald again demonstrated that guts may replace training. If Deman can find the time to train he will be once again tough to beat at any distance. Dave Lakritz once again demonstrated that he is the toughest US walker over 50. Blackburn lived through it all to see the dawn of a new day. A good percentage of the field finished, considering the heat and lack of overall conditioning.

The meet was officiated and handled in fine style. Our personal thanks go out to the Demans for their fine attention at the aid stations. Peggy Newell and her father, along with George Casper were also very helpful at all the eight times. It was good to see John Humes in an official's capacity. Refer to the last issue for complete race results.

---

**Hot Cooke 6 Mile**

August 22, Cooke Center, Columbus—Temperature 84, humid, 6 miles—Blackburn, Hortland and Newell trailed Arnold through a 1:55 first quarter mile then picked up the pace slightly to pass the first mile in 7:26. Newell passed that mark in around 8 minutes flat. Blackburn led through the two mile in 15:03. Hortland tired of this leisurely pace and shot into a quick lead at 2½ miles.

By 4 miles Blackburn had slowed to 8 minute pace and Hort opened up a 200 yard lead which increased to 250 by the finish. Newell, still feeling the effects of a hard 40 kilo, slowed to over 9 minute pace over the last three miles but still managed to hold off Arnold by a comfortable margin. Stattmiller held a steady 9:40 pace throughout the entire 6 miles. Corin walked 3½ minutes for the first three miles in preparation for the Mackinac Bridge race.


---

**Show-down at Cooke Center**

August 29, Cooke Center—Warming up for next week's National One-Hour, Jack Hortland and Jack Blackburn broke course records from 2 miles on as the started through a sensational 8 mile on the slightly short Cooke course today. The weather was perfect for such an effort after these many hot, humid weeks—temperature in the mid 60's.
Mortland, feeling he could crack a supposedly poorly conditioned Blackburn, went through the first mile in 7:15 and continued to hold this pace, with Blackburn right on his heels, through four miles in 29:06. Mortland tried to escape once during this time with a super-fast quarter, but Blackburn was not to be broken easily and finally had the audacity to move into the lead around four miles, with the pace slowing only slightly.

Finally, Mortland made another burst at 6 miles with a 1:42 lap, and this time started to draw away. A 7:09 on this mile finally decided the issue, but the rugged Blackburn slowed only slightly over the last two miles. Incidentally, one competitor, Dale Arnold, evidently lacking in courage, went home after the race and wrote a postcard to this publication suggesting that according to his count the leaders had walked only 31 and not 32 laps. Let us assure you Dale that a check of carefully recorded lap times (courtesy of Marty Mortland) showed that both walked the full course. The mile times below will indicate that this is true.

The cowardly Arnold did walk his best race of the year, but could still not match Ashland's rapidly improving Chuck Newell. The two went out in 8:07 and from there Newell gradually pulled away, continuing to average under 8:30 for a fine 67:26.

Distance runner Dave Staley chose to walk again today (saying he had a sore heel which sounds like a good reason not to walk to me) and again showed terrific form and great stamina in edging Jim Statmmiller for fifth. Let's stick with the walking Dave. Statmmiller continued to do well for a weekend walker and was gaining rapidly over the last three miles. Doc Blackburn, who was cut with flu last week, was still slightly below form today and could not hold Statmmiller over the last four miles. The seven walkers represented one of the best fields of the year. One mile splits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mortland</th>
<th>Blackburn</th>
<th>Newell</th>
<th>Arnold</th>
<th>Staley</th>
<th>Statmmiller</th>
<th>Doc Blackburn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15</td>
<td>7:15</td>
<td>8:08</td>
<td>8:07</td>
<td>9:01</td>
<td>9:26</td>
<td>9:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29:06</td>
<td>29:06</td>
<td>32:37</td>
<td>34:01</td>
<td>36:35</td>
<td>36:37</td>
<td>36:46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Old course record 60:41

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Walkers of the New Era

by Jack Blackburn

Race walking in the U.S. has changed quite a bit since the 40's and 50's. Quality of competition, number of races, new faces, retirement of old faces and national recognition are but a few of the changes. The average age of the competitive race walker has lowered considerably. Sportsmanship has improved as well as style and judging. It is very rare the shouting, cursing, spitting, and fist swinging are witnessed these days. I don't mean to downgrade walkers of the old era, but a few bad actors spoiled the show in many cases.
I would say the new era started in 1958 and was completely grooved by 1960. (Editor's note: It is coincidental of course that Blackburn entered the sport in 1958. One to think of it so did Portland. Not so coincidental I guess.) The American record books are almost up to date, it takes better than nine minutes per mile to place in the National 20 kilo, and it is rare when a jogger, lifter, or creester finishes at all such less finishes in the top six.

There have been several of the old guard top athletes who are tops in the new era as well. Deman, Oakley, Allen, Hamke, Bruce MacDonald, Kim, Halusa, and now Leska are still hard men to beat. Top performers in the old guard include old men like John Wall, John Abbate, George Casper, John Deman, Carl Kurr, Leo Sjogren, Jim Hanson, Wayne Yarcho, Bill Ishalo, Clare Duckham, Big John Rowe from Canada, Waller, from Argentina, Bob Hendrickson, and many others whose names have slipped my mind.

Men like Bruce MacDonald, Doctor John Blackburn, Bill Ross, Like Ribas, Nancy Rapaport, Charlie Silcock, Bob Hendrickson, Elliott Deman, and Chris McGarthy, to mention a few, have been responsible for educating the public, recruiting strong young athletes, improving judging, form and training methods. It has been an uphill fight for these men who receive no public recognition or money, little help from the AAU and a great deal of criticism from all sides.

Who are the performance leaders of the new era? All of the following men have been leaders in the early 60's. Sprints: Ron Laird, Ron Zinn, John Hamke, Jack Portland, Ronus Vaicaitus, Ferenc Sipos, Jack Blackburn Middle Distances: Laird, Zinn, Portland, Rudy Halusa, John Allen, Alex Oakley, Bob Ish, Bill Cheltenko, Fred Tome. (Editor's note: I would personally add a few others but certainly Acco Szelca) Distances: Laird, McGarthy, Oakley, Deman, Allen, MacDonald, and Blackburn.

Add tough fresh, soph and junior performers to that list such as Brolie, Rasmussen, Deman, Park, Szelca (Ed.: I should read through this copy before I type it. Still I would put him above.) and Denoon and you have over 20 men who are capable of winning national championships.

What about the strong Olympic Development programs in the Far West, Northwest, Northwest and East and now the introduction of the sport into the AAU Junior Olympic program? These too will add many talented new comers in the future.

All is not pink and soft however. The public still regards us as more than strange. We still do not know the answers to many injury problems. There are still no meets in the Southern states or the Minnesota, Montana, Dakotas area. We still don't have a fraction of the "good" judges we need and we have barely scratched the surface on age group walking. We still have performance classification and grading system. I imagine our new and enthusiastic walking chairman will come up with many of these answers before the new era is the old era.

If your name isn't mentioned above it's probably because I don't think you're any good so you can write me all the nasty letters you want.
LETTRES TO THE EDITOR:
From the great Bill Holzer: The Eagle Pass contingent of the Society of Rolling Chair Race Walkers, Ltd, would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we have greatly enjoyed your Olymic anecdotes. However, may we humbly suggest that if your learned Journal is to keep up with the competition of Mayboy and Stag, et al., you spic up the stories (give them a spiritual gloss as it were) by giving us the Hornton account of the Mayboyer (his spelling) of SIX at the Olympics. (Editor: Being of a very chaste and celibate nature I know nothing of such incidents. Besides which my wife accompanies me to Tokyo. Further besides which she reads this publication. And most important besides which, I was never fortunate enough to meet Mike Fraser.)

And from a letter from Canadian walker G.A. Life: Both of you fellows were at Pittsburgh where I made my first effort in your fair land since I participated in the New York City Hall to Coney Island about 1930. I remember that on that occasion I got 30 seconds handicap on Harry Hinkal and he caught me the first half mile. In 1936 I made angot sortie to a race just across the border to Buffalo where I won a mile walk in 6:54. That time surprised me at the time because I was trying for around 7:10. Back in 1928 to 1930 my miles were always under seven minutes because one and two mile races were the vogue then. Ten miles was a real distance event and was held once yearly at Guelph, Ontario—it is still held as a handicap the second Monday in October, which is the Canadian Thanksgiving Day.

I started to walk again last October when I discovered that it is the ideal exercise for the people who have had heart attacks and are sent to me for rehabilitation. Walking, especially in the racing style, is the finest exercise for keeping the weight under control while it is not as demanding on the cardiovascular system as running. I feel that its value is just beginning to be recognised. (Irv. Life at the age of 56 finished 13th at the Keeseport 20 kilo in 2:05.)

This and that—British National 20 kilo—1. Paul Helliwell 2:44:03 2. Roy Middleton 2:44:46 3. John Faddick 2:45:20, 13 under 3 hours, 35 under 3:10, 50 under 3:20, 110 started and 93 finished. Middleton was 3 minutes down at 10 miles and 2½ at 15 miles, but walked the second two seconds faster than the first and was catching Helliwell. London to Brighton (51 miles 752 yds) 1. K. Mason 8:21:22 2. R. Hall 8:35:49 3. R. Green 8:36:41, 64 started and 42 finished.—British National 20 kilo, 1. Paul Helliwell 1:33:33 2. J. Pullager 1:35:15 3. John Edginton 1:35:24 4. Ron Wanniskie 1:35:33, 13 under 1:40, 74 under two hours, 93 finishes.—More stuff from a 1913 AAU Almanac—at this time there were 17 walking records recognized at distances under one mile and 13 more under two miles—including 75 yards, 5/6 of a mile, one and 4/5 miles—at the All-Russian Olymic at Kiev in 1913 the 10 Kilo walk was won in 57:42, a seven improvement in that country since—Records were recognized for such events as the 100 yard sack race over ten 10 inch hurdles (21.5 seconds), the 100 yard hop (13 3/5), the 100 yard backward race (14 sec), pulling the body up by the little finger of one hand (6 times by J. Cutler in Louisville, Sept. 15, 1916); Stone Gathering (an example of many distances—10 stones, 5 ft. interval, total distance 193 1/3 yards with 19 right-hand turns—42 seconds), and finally the Hose Carriage—run 200 yards from standing start, lay 100 foot hose, break coupling, affix nozzle and show water. 44 seconds by Uniontown Hose Co. #2, at Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., Aug. 27, 1913.—Next month a European Diary—many exciting features in future issues—more news in this one—This rag is published by Jack Blackburn, edited by...and costs $1.20 a year, comes out once a month and the address is 112 Gladstone Road, Columbus 21, Ohio—drop us a line.