

OHIO RACE WALKER

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JANUARY, 1969

Gee, here we are, ready to go to press, a stack of Stan Getz LP's on the phonograph for inspiration, and no lead story. Never happened before. Therefore, it's pot-purri time. First, this month's Fickle Finger of Fate Award goes to the Laugh In TV program for missing a brilliant opportunity to feature race walking. They could get a lot more laughs with race walkers, rather than joggers, in the little film clips. Next, let's revive an early feature of the ORW, which many have probably forgotten and most have never seen. The monthly feature entitled:

WE PREDICT

We predict that sometime before the year 2000, race walking will get more play during actual programming than in the commercials. If you will recall, we saw a lot more walking at the Winter Olympics than at the Summer Games.

And while we are predicting, look for some excellent national publicity for our sport in the near future. This is more than a prediction; it's actual fact. And we are not referring to a special commemorative of the ORW, or like that. Hal Higdon, the erudite road runner, free-lance writer, and locker-room wit, who did an excellent story on the BAA Marathon for Sports Illustrated in 1963 and followed it up with a delightfully witty rundown of a road-racing vacation in New England a couple of years later, has been commissioned by SI to do somewhat the same job for the sport of race walking. Hal is to emphasize the "fun and sore muscles" aspects and I guarantee will do an excellent job. This coverage could give us a good boost. As Hal says, "Since my first article on Boston appeared in SI in 1963 entries have soared from 200 to around 1000. I can't take credit for all those entries, but you'd be surprised how many people have actually come and said they first started running because they read that first article. Maybe we can work the same miracle with your sport." Okay Hal, we'll buy that. And right in the middle of that last sentence, who should call from LA but old Hal Higdon himself. He's out there to do a story on the Rowan/Martin, which it seems has also crept on to this page, and wants to talk to a few walkers while he is there. Plans to be here on Feb. 9 when we have the OTC version of the Postal 20. Hal suggests that if you have any favorite walking (racing or training) anecdotes, get in touch with him by mail. Hal Higdon, 2815 Lake Shore Drive, Michigan City, Indiana 46360.

Also, we have set April 20 as the date of the Sr. 15 Km. in Worthington. After setting this date, I have found that the Jr. 20 is in LA on the 19th and Derman's Annual 50 mile madness is also on the 20th. But I don't see any serious conflict here and I've written both parties involved to inform them that my selection of that date was entirely innocent and I haven't heard any anguished cries of distress from either as yet. Anyway, it looked like the best date for us after studying the rest of the Senior schedule. Entry blanks will be out in a month or so.

Another announcement while we are potpurriing it and actually I guess we have already announced it in setting our postal races, the ORW Style Awards will be given again this year for all Senior Nationals. These were quite popular in 1967 but were dropped last year for financial reasons. One question, though, on which I would like readers opinions. It has been suggested that we not give more than one award to any one walker, that is if Hiram Walker gets the style prize at the One Mile that is the last one he gets in '69. I can see some real merit to this suggestion but I also see some drawbacks. I'm hanging on the fence and need some of you cats to pull me off.

Hope you have all participated in the Postal 20 by the time you get this (unless you get it before the 9th and then if you haven't, do) and that you are making plans to go in the 2 man 10-mile relay. Entry fee for that one is \$1.00 per team. Two men doing alternate quarters. I have had one question on that one. What are the disqualification rules? One warning to each team or one to each man? Answer. Each man can have one warning before disqualification of the team. Second call on either man and out goes the team.

Now how about a few dull results, which some people seem to expect in a walking paper (Some of these could be repeats, but I'm not going to bother looking back to see.)
New Jersey AAU 15 Mile, Long Branch, Nov. 10--1. Dave Romansky 1:55:45 2. John Knifton 1:56:00 3. George Braceland 2:21:10 4. Elliott Derman 2:30:35 (short course, violent rainstorm)

5 Miles, Long Branch, Dec. 21--1. Knifton 37:06 2. Ron Daniel 37:19 3. Ron Kulik 44:10 (ran 5 miles earlier in 27:46) 4. Don Johnson 44:11

10 Mile Boardwalk Race, Asbury Park, N.J., Dec. 29--1. Romansky 1:14:12 (meet and course record) 2. Ron Daniel 1:23:51 3. Greg Diebold 1:25:04 4. Dr. George Shilling 1:25:26 5. Dr. John Shilling 1:28:17 6. Todd Scully 1:31:59 (Knifton D'd at 7 miles while close to Romansky)

Middle Atlantic AAU 1 Mile--1. Romansky 6:31.0 2. Joe Stafanowicz 7:29.4 3. Bob Mimm 7:38 4. Gerry Willwerth 7:50.7

Champions 1 Mile, LA, Jan. 18--1. Larry Young 6:41.3 2. Rudy Haluza 6:45.6 3. Larry Walker 6:46.2 (Jim Hanley 6:40.7, dq'd)

1 Mile, San Francisco, Jan. 4--1. Jim Hanley 6:53 2. Bill Ranney 6:57 3. Walt Jacuith 7:03 4. Roger Duran 7:19 5. Manny Adriano 7:41

Phil. Track Classic 1 Mile, Jan. 24--1. Romansky 6:28.1 2. Ron Daniel 6:34.5 3. Greg Diebold 6:53.5 4. Bob Kitchen 6:56.5 5. Steve Hayden 7:10.0 6. Howie Jacobsen 7:21.0 7. Joe Stafanowicz 7:26.4 8. Gerry Willwerth 7:48.0

Chicagoland Open 2 Mile, Jan. 18--1. Jerry Bocci 15:13.6 2. Jim Clinton 15:46.5

3. Jim McFadden, Iowa 17:02 4. Bob Woods, Chicago 17:31 5. Jeanne Bocci 17:45

4 Mile Indoor Walk, Los Angeles, Jan. 8, 7:25¹/₂ p.m.--1. Rudy Haluza 29:19.6

2. Larry Walker 29:29.5 3. Larry Young 30:13.4 4. Jim Hanley 30:19.1 5. Don DeNoon 32:43 6. Tom Carman 37:51

Eastern Canadian 20 Km, Nov. 10 (track)--1. Max Gould 1:42:25 2. Frank Johnson 1:48:10 3. Bill Purves 1:50:00 4. Harold Hoffman 1:58:53 5. Gordon Follett 1:59:15

3200 Meter, Crystal Palace, England, Nov. 12--1. Peter Fullager 13:48.8

7 Mile, Enfield, England, Nov. 16 (abit short)--1. Paul Nihill 48:38 2. Ken Easlea 52:02

10 Km., Rome, Oct. 26 (track)--1. Abdon Pamich 44:48.8

7 Mile, Croydon, England, Nov. 30--1. Nihill 50:03

20 Km, Rome (late November)--1. Pamich 1:34:29 2. G. Nigro, Italy 95:08 3. J.

Muller, WG 96:15 4. P. Busca, Italy 97:34 5. N. Ranceau, Rum. 97:40 6. B. Nemerich, WG 98:49

7 Mile, Steyning, England, Dec. 7--1. Nihill 49:23 (accurate course)

10 Km, Road, Leigh, England, Dec. 7 (250 yds. short)--1. D. Warren 44:58 2. T. Taylor 45:07

Mile Walk, NYAC Indoor Meet, Nov. 11, 1868 (first ever indoor meet)--1. J. Russell 7:50.5 (reportedly some atrocious walking by all but the winner and one other.)

10 Km, Seattle, Jan. 25--1. Martin Rudow 48:15 2. Karl Johansen 49:17 3. Ed Glander 63:05 4. Don Jacobs 65:40 5. Dean Ingram 75:38

Women's 1 Mile, Toledo University, January 31 (must be the first-ever walk in Tolado)--Bocci (Jeanne that is) shatters 8 minute barrier--1. Jeanne Bocci 7:54.2

2. Lori Tucholski, Tol. Road Runners 8:22.9 3. Janet Lupino, Wolverine Parkettes 9:28.1 4. Mary Kefalos, W.P. 9:30 5. Connie Pelot, W.P. 9:31 6. Cheryl Gal, W.P. 9:32.0 7. Phyllis Bielski, W.P. 9:49. Jeanne's best mile to date. She says she would like to accept the challenge Jerry Willwerth has issued on behalf of Kansas City's Brenda Whitman. Jeanne figure she can train down to 10 minute miles for 35 Km and would like to have the chance to disprove the Philly Flash. Maybe we can get the two together in Columbia at next year's 30 Km in November. Excuse me, that's this year's 30 Km.

TOUGH CAT OF THE MONTH

(EUROPEAN EDITION)

When talk turns to tough cats, Vladimir Golubnichiy has to come into the conversation. I have never seen a stronger, yet more fluid, walker than the Rusky veteran. Twice Olympic champion and holder of the recognized world record at 1:27:05, set in 1958, he rates second only to Ken Matthews on my all-time list of middle-distance walkers. In addition to his two Olympic golds, he was third in the Tokyo Olympics, 2nd in the 1967 Lugano Cup, 2nd in the 1966 European Championships, and 3rd in the 1962 European meet. Russia did not compete in the Lugano Cup until 1967 or he would probably have a few more laurels. The following is taken from the October, 1967 edition of Athletics Arena.

Vladimir Golubnichiy, Soviet Master of Sport, was born in the Ukrainian town of Sumy, on June 2, 1936. For his 5'10½" height he is quite a heavyweight of 172 lbs. In 1960, at the age of 24, he arrived in Rome for the Olympics as World-record holder for 20 kilos, at 27:05, a performance he achieved at Simferopol on Sept. 23, 1958, which remains unbeaten even today, nine years later. He had in fact bettered this time himself, with 26:13.2 at Odessa on Sept. 15, 1959, though this has never been put forward for ratification due to the uncertain circumstances surrounding the event. He triumphed at 20 kilos in Rome, and earned a bronze medal four years later in Tokyo.

This year (1967) he is on very good form: at the Spartakiade on July 30, he finished in third place, only 20 sec. behind Soldatenko and Solodov, who both clocked 28:34, on the track. In the Lugano eliminator on Sept. 9, he was one of the three Soviet walkers to fill the first three places--all being timed in 29:00. We can therefore look forward to a great Lugano cup final next month. Points in favor of "Golly" are that he has always proven to be a good man for the occasion and he has never been disqualified. (Ed. He is one of the most eminently fair walkers at speed I have been privileged to see. Witness the way he pulled away from the galloping Pedraza in Mexico City.)

His story is a most interesting one. He did not in fact begin his sporting career as an athlete, but played volleyball and basketball with great enthusiasm in his teens. It was not until 1953, at the age of 17, that he turned to walking, with the great Polyakov as his trainer. They are still together today, pointing to a very strong and personal partnership, and one that has proven so outstandingly successful. Since first coming together, these two have always discussed together the training schedules, technique and general physical conditioning necessary to be a top-line walker.

Golubnichiy is physically very strong indeed. Unlike most international walkers, he is an ardent student of weight training, and can handle as much as 220-lbs on the barbell. He is also a good glass runner, and has achieved times for 5 and 10 km on the track, that qualify him for grade-1 Soviet standards. Like all other Soviet sportsmen he adheres to training methods that have been formulated and well-tried by Russian coaches and scientists. This does not mean that foreign methods are ignored. The fact is, that very little new material on methods of training in walking appears in the foreign sporting press. (They must be missing the ORW). It is an interesting point to reveal that Soviet coaches maintain a very close cooperation with coaches from that other outstanding breeding ground of walkers, E. Germany

The preparatory period for Golubnichiy's training begins each year in November and continues into late April. The physical load is gradually increased week by week during this most important period of building-up for the following year's top racing events. Whereas, for example, in November he covers some 110 miles in

walking and running (running is obligatory in every training session), the distance increases to around 125 miles in December, 140 miles in January and up to 200 miles in February. All-in-all, the distance he covers during a 12-month period exceeds 2250 miles.

In March he trains five times a week, along the following lines: Monday--Special warming-up exercises for mobility, including gymnastics, general physical conditioning with light weights, medicine ball etc., light running, and several laps of the track, walking at a moderate pace, the main part of the session consisting of a 30-kilometer walk, followed by a light run. Tuesday--An indoor training session, ~~xxxx~~that includes all sorts of agility exercising, including basketball, volleyball, weight training, and some light running. Wednesday--This is generally a rest day. Thursday--Walking over repetition 1000 meter stretches aiming at polishing-up his walking technique, at the same time as increasing his development of speed-endurance; this again is followed by a light run. Friday--Warming up exercises (as Monday), followed by some faster running, general physical conditioning, and several laps of the track walking. During the day time he also puts in a session of around 35 to 40 kilometers walking. Saturday--During the day he plays either volleyball or basketball, then, in the early evening he adds a session of exercises and general conditioning, and some more running. Sunday--This is another day of rest.

During the competitive season, Vladimir also trains five times a week, and without exception does a light session on the day before a race. At ~~30~~ 31 years of age, the world of walking has by no means seen the last of this man. World and European record holder, Olympic champion and European medalist, he is, probably even more today, the man most to be feared when the big occasion comes along. (Amen)

TOUGH CAT OF THE MONTH

(U.S. TYPE)

Our U.S.-type tough cat for January is the youngest member of last fall's Olympic walking corps, Tom Dooley. Tom was 22 then, could be 23 now (should have asked for a birth date, not age, on my questionnaire) and a student at San Jose State. This protege of Chris McCarthy (via the U.S. mails) has come a long way in a couple of years of competitive walking. In 1967 he made the Pan American team and finished fourth in the 20 km. That fall he came 16th in the Lugano Cup Championships in Bad Saarow, E. Germ. and then dropped one position to 17th in Mexico City. He has been consistently near the top in National races since the 1967 20 and won the 40 that summer. In that one he beat his Athens AC teammate Goetz Klopfer by over two minutes in an excellent 3:30:10.

Tom has recorded outstanding times on the track all the way from 1 mile to 20, specifically 6:29.5 (indoor), 13:47.0, 22:03(5 Km), 1:08:50 (15 Km), 45:12 (10 Km), 2:28:47 (30 Km), 2:40:38 (20 miles), and 8 mi. 250 yds in an hour. On the road he has a 45:08 10 Km, 1:33:10 20 Km, and 4:38:30 for 50 in addition to the above 40 Km time. He had some injury problems early last summer but recovered sufficiently to finish fourth in the National 20 and again in the Olympic Trial. When Larry Young chose to go 50 he was on the Olympic team. However, he never felt his performances returned to where they should have been and he hopes to be much tougher this year.

Dooley took up walking at the age of 20 when he got hurt running. He started corresponding with McCarthy, who he considered to be the best source of training information, and followed McCarthy recommended schedules for some time, if he still doesn't. While running he had a best two mile of 10:24 but does no running at all now, even in training. As a matter of fact he feels running is detrimental to the race walker.

Tom does not give any specific training schedules. However, he trains seven days a week and puts in 10 sessions in that time. He averages about 75 miles a week over the year but does heavier mileage in the winter and more speed work starting in February. He also trains with the weights three times a week (this may be the extra three sessions above), all upper body work. Finally, he does plenty of stretching and 150 setups daily. He doesn't participate in any other sports activity, bypassing Vladimir's volleyball and basketball.

Now, reading further on my questionnaire, which of course I should do sooner, I see he is now coached by Colin Young and Frank McGuire, a couple of knowledgeable chaps. He sees a great demand for walking coaches in this country and feels that an annual training camp for walkers would be the best thing that ever happened for the sport in this country.

To the young walker he advises not to let walking consume your whole life. "If possible," he says "give your all to the sport for a period of time, then enjoy other things." Tom himself plans to keep at it until injuries or lack of interest prevent giving a good account or until personal goals are reached. "He doesn't let us in on what these goals are, but knowing Tom, I am sure they are quite high and won't be surprised if he reaches them."

If you haven't done so already, rush \$.50 to Jim Hanley, 17214 Welby Way, Van Nuys, Calif. 91406 for your copy of United States Race Walking Statistics. This is a listing of all U.S. performances in 1968 that exceed certain standards (such as 7:00, 16:00, 1:50 for 20 Km, 5:10 for 50). Includes all standard events from 1 mile to 50 kilometers. A very interesting compilation and well worth the money. It also shows the value of taking intermediate times during races and reporting them. Your editor, definitely not very tough last year and 24th on the 10 Km list, shows up 12th at 4 miles, 11th at 5, and 9th at six by virtue of reporting splits during the 10. Also, if you get the thing, it gives you the chance to scan it minutely for errors and then write nasty letters to Jim for his reporting. I've already done this, too. So get one for yourself, your wife, and all the kids on the block. Incidentally, Barry Schreiber helped Jim put it together.

Forthcoming races of interest:

March 1--NAAU 1 Mile, Philadelphia

Feb. 23--15 Km, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 10 a.m.

April 13--Capt. Ronald Zinn Memorial 10 Mile, Asbury Park, N.J.

April 19--Jr. NAAU 20 Km, Los Angeles

April 20--Sr. NAAU 15 Km, Worthington, Ohio

April 20--Eastern Regional AAU 50 Miles, Point Pleasant Boro, N.J. 7 a.m.

May 3--Sr. NAAU One Hour, Los Angeles

May 4--Open 10 Mile, Seaside Heights, N.J. (Boardwalk)

An OFFICIAL NOTICE from Elliott Derman, N. Jer. AAU Race Walking Chairman, that may be worthy of the notice of others:

"In order to encourage the development of more race walkers, and greater club spirit, and to give men down the list a chance to help their teams, the NJAAU Race Walking Committee has voted to compute team championships in all non-national AAU races held in its territory on a basis of 5-man teams, as of Jan. 1, 1969. We think this is a step forward for the sport and we hope it encourages young men to keep going and make more races. We recommend this to other districts." Think about it. Also, why not pass the hat among all the many spectators at your races to raise money for a Lugano Cup team. Every little bit will help and it takes a continuing effort.

Here is a good little spot to say that the Ohio Race Walker is a monthly publication of ye olde ORW Publishers, Inc. For only \$2.00 you get twelve exciting, fun-packed issues. Most of our readers keep the ORW in the john for reading and/or other purposes. Address all correspondence to your editor, Jack Mortland, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. If you can't stand him, write Blackburn at 733 E. Main, Van Wert, Ohio and see what it gets you.

ALL-TIME LIST OF BEST TRACK AND FIELD PERFORMANCES BY WALKERS

Maybe a couple of years ago, we first published a list of the best performances by race walkers in the running, jumping, and throwing disciplines. Our readers have slowly responded to this and now we can publish a list several deep in many events. Further additions are welcome. These must be marks turned in by guys who have been bona fide competitive race walkers not guys like Gerry Lindgren and Mike Larrabee who have gotten into a race on occasion. They hold walking records for runners. If they ever take up walking on a full-time basis, then we really wipe out some of the records below. In running events, we accept only times made on the track, except that we are also listing marathon performances, which are road times. To save space, I am only listing the names, time or distance, and the year of performance. In most cases I have information on the place and exact date. Also the times must be in competition and I haven't said it, but this is a United States only.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 100 Yds--9.9 John Dick, 1936 | 6 Miles--30:22.5 Ray Somers, 1967 |
| 10.5 Jack Mortland, 1953 | 31:21.3 Jerry Bocci, 1961 |
| 100 M--10.9 John Dick, 1936 | 31:22.0 Jack Blackburn, 1956 |
| 220 yds--22.8 Jack Mortland, 1955 | 10,000 M.--32:18.8 Ray Somers, 1967 |
| 23.4 John Dick, 1936 | 32:24.2 Jack Blackburn, 1956 |
| 440 yds--49.5 Jack Mortland, 1956 | 1 Hour--10 m 1180 yds Dick Ortiz, 1961 |
| 51.5 Dick Ortiz, 1959 | 10 m.990 yds Ray Somers, 1966 |
| 880 yds--1:53.8 Dick Ortiz, 1959 | 10 m. 483 yds Jerry Bocci, 1961 |
| 1:59.0 Jerry Bocci, 1959 | 10 Miles--56:03 Ray Somers, 1963 |
| 1:59.2 John Dick, 1937 | 3000 M. SC--9:47.0 Ray Somers, 1966 |
| 1:59.4 Jack Blackburn, 1955 | 10:19.8 Jack Mortland, 1961 |
| 1:59.5 Jack Mortland, 1955 | 10:26.0 John Dick, 1947 |
| (indoors) 1:57.6 Ray Somers, 1964 | 120 yd HH--15.7 Bruce MacDonald |
| 1 Mile--4:14.0 Butch Hammer, 1963 | 17.8 Jack Mortland, 1955 |
| 4:16.0 Bill Ranney | 220 yd LH--24.5 Bruce MacDonald |
| 4:16.6 Ray Somers, 1963 | 25.3 Jack Mortland, 1957 |
| 4:18.8 Dick Ortiz, 1959 | 440 yd IH--56.0 Jack Mortland, 1957 |
| 4:19.4 Jack Blackburn, 1955 | Marathon--2:44:48 Dick Ortiz, 1960 |
| 4:20.2 Jerry Bocci | 2:53:08 Jerry Bocci |
| (indoors) 4:17.9 Ray Somers, 1964 | High Jump--5'10 ¹ / ₂ John Dick |
| Whoops: | 5'10 ¹ / ₂ Jack Mortland, 1955 |
| 600 yds--1:16.0 Jack Mortland, 1954 | Long Jump--21'11 ¹ / ₂ John Dick, 1941 |
| 1000 yds--Jerry Bocci, 2:19.3, 1959 | 20'1 Jack Mortland, 1955 |
| 2 Miles--9:13.0 Butch Hammer, 1963 | Triple Jump--48'3 ¹ / ₂ John Dick 1945 |
| 9:18.6 Ray Somers, 1964 | 37'5 Jack Mortland, 1958 |
| 9:21.0 Bill Ranney | Pole Vault--10'2 John Dick, 1941 |
| 9:28.0 Jerry Bocci | 9' Dr. John Blackburn, 1932 |
| 9:29.5 Jack Blackburn, 1955 | Shot Put--43'6 John Dick, 1937 |
| 9:48.8 Dick Ortiz, 1959 | 32'7 Jack Blackburn, 1956 |
| (indoors) 9:14.5 Ray Somers, 1964 | Discus--160' Bill Ranney |
| 3 Miles--14:42.6 Jerry Bocci | 144'8 John Dick, 1941 |
| 14:50.8 Jack Blackburn, 1957 | |
| 14:57.0 Ray Somers, 1964 | |
| 5000 M--14:27 Bill Ranney | |
| 15:47.0 Dick Ortiz, 1959 | |

 A result I forgot before--Albuquerque One Mile--1. Dan Tothoroh 7:03.6 2. Bryon Overton 7:10.6 3. Some Mexican 8 min. plus.
 Gee, I started on this thing on Wednesday and here it is Monday. After going this long, I hoped to have the Millrose results but the Sunday Times didn't come in to Battelle and the Saturday Times we get out here goes to press too early for Friday night stuff. So, since I am going to finish this tonight, that will have to wait for next month.....Sure glad I'm not out in the Southern California training paradise the last few weeks. Who wants to train in mud. Been a good winter so far here for training a bit cooler than usual but little snow. I blew it on our postal race though, setting it for the 9th and yesterday it was in the mid 40's.

Some more Pot Puree: An interesting item from the Sunday Times of London, edition of 26 Jan. 69, courtesy of Farry Richardson:

"Britain is on the brink of losing the greatest walker she never had, Oliver Caviglioli, 'the future Jim Ryun of Walking' (according to Olympian Johnny Webb) is a corner-haired 16-year old schoolboy from Basildon who holds appropriate British records at one, three, and seven miles. He holds a French passport, too--on the strength of his Algerian birth and French father--and although his mother is Scots and he has lived nearly all his life here, he is discontented. 'The French', he says, 'seem to look after their athletes better than the British.' So in a fortnight, Oliver is off to Paris to train with the fine French walker Henri Delerue and thereafter to walk in a training camp in the South of France. He hopes this summer to compete against Britain and Russia. 'Then,' he says, 'I shall have to make up my mind about citizenship.'" Hail Britannia!

Ohio's Senior citizen of the race-walking world, Clair Duckham, got some nice coverage in the Sunday section of the Dayton Daily News about three weeks ago. An article on marathon running included a picture of Duck and Bill Botting (a loyal ORW reader, too) on a training outing and a few paragraphs about the sporting activities of each. Duck got some good coverage on his running, walking, and cycling activities, but no mention of his proclivities for motorcycles and beautiful women. In some of our early race-walking trips, shy young Jack Blackburn and bashful Jack Mortland used to be downright embarrassed by the amorous attempts of the suave Duck and Doc in various restaurants across the countryside. Nonetheless, Duck is an admirable old swinger, and we'll have to make him tough cat of the month one of these days.

A letter from Frank Johnson in Toronto: "The other day I was down to the office of Joe Mahon, our national walking chairman and looking over some old photographs that Mr. Mahon has of old speed walkers in action. There was one picture of the 1920 Olympics 10 Kilo walk at Antwerp that fascinated me very much, for in about 6th spot was a very large lad in the colors of the U.S.A. giving it all he had. I asked Mr. Mahon about him and he says that he was a walker by the name of Pearman, and until Ron Laird came along, the best walker the United States had ever produced. What I would like to know is 1) Is he still alive? 2) Did he ever write down an account of the race from his point of view, and if he did, have you ever printed it?

"I'm writing and asking you about him because I was quite disturbed over the death of Ugo Frigerio recently. I don't know about you, but when a man wins two gold medals and a silver at the Olympics and gets only six lines at the bottom corner of the English Race Walking Record, well then something has gone wrong in our society somewhere.

"I hope I don't sound too melodramatic, but Pearman was a top athlete and yet when I'm in the States I never hear him mentioned, and (if you'll pardon the expression) in a country that brags loud and long over every athlete above sandlot from 1776 on, it seems somehow inexcusable and sad."

You have brought up some interesting matters, Frank. Actually, 1920 was a great year for the U.S. in Olympic walking. Joseph Pearman was second to Frigerio in the 10 Km and T.A. Maroney was sixth. Frigerio's time was 48:6.2. There was also a 3000 meter walk, which Frigerio won in 13:14.2. In this one R.F. Remer was third for the U.S. and Maroney was fifth. So you see, Young and Haluza were rather small potatoes compared to our performance then. Frigerio repeated four years later in Paris with a 47:49 for 10, the only walk held. No U.S. walkers in the first six in that one, nor until Ron Zinn's 6th in Tokyo, although Adolph Weinacker came close with a 7th in the Melbourne 50. Walking was not contested in the 1928 Games because judging had become too controversial. When reinstated in 1932, it was with a 50 Km only, which it was thought was safe because of the reduced speed. Frigerio did come back to take third in this one behind Thomas Green of Great Britain (4:50:10) and Janis Dalinsh of Latvia.

As to Pearman, I cannot agree that he was the best U.S. walker prior to Laird. He won only three national titles, the 1 mile (6:39.5) in 1920, the 7 mile 55:00.2

also in 1920, and the 3 mile (22:59.2) in 1923. The first great U.S. speed walker was F.P. Murray, who set records of 6:29.6, 13:48.6, and 21:9.2 in 1883 and 1884. Then there was Sam Liebgold who nine times between 1892 and 1910; the only nine times it was held, and also won seven indoor titles at 1 and 3 miles. Remer won seven titles from 1 to 7 miles in addition to his Olympic medal. William Plant was walking in this same era and won 13 Senior titles. In the late 20's Harry Hinkle came along and eventually annexed 18 titles. And then came Henry Laskau who won something over 40 titles (I'll let some of my more astute readers supply the exact number; I forget it and don't want to count) at distances up to 25 km. Henry can still give most of our walkers a way to go in training spins and was certainly the greatest before the modern era. That's a real capsule history, maybe we will go into more detail in a future issue.

Incidentally, speaking of Henry, he is one of three U.S. judges added to the International Panel of Judges during meetings at the Olympics. The other two are Bill Ross and Bill Chisholm. Phil Jachelski, Harry Rappaport, and Joe Tigerman were already on the panel.

Among many interesting things in a letter from Larry Larson is: "The next thing I expect to read in the headlines in the paper is that Jack Mortland and Jack Blackburn are the first to be signed for the new professional track circuit--at \$10,000 per year plus incentive money, of course. Any comments on the pro track proposals? (without TV yet). The race walkers of the world have to form ranks and demand equal rights (It's in the Constitution") for all that dough--split with the sprinters and vaulters and milers. Better idea, base it on mileage." Yeh, I'll buy that. But will they buy me.

See you next month with results of the Postal 20.

Ohio Race Walker
3184 Summit Street
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FIRST CLASS