A wish for a very healthy and prosperous New Year to all of you out in race-walking land. The past year has been very good for the sport in this country with good international victories by Ron Laird, a fine showing in the London-Brighton 52 plus miler by Goetz Klonfer, good international races by Tom Dooley, a brilliant American at 50 kilometers by Bob Kitchen, and a second trip abroad by a U.S. walking team. The sport has no doubt grown some more in stature and in number of competitors and has emerged in some new areas of the country. Interest is contiuing to grow, which is fine with us as the subscription list expands and comes close to getting us out of the red. Much of the success of race walking in 1969 can be attributed to the fine job done by our National Chairman, Bruce MacDonald. Bruce demonstrated a real desire to improve the lot of race walkers and race walking and worked hard in this direction. Unfortunately, it seems that everyone did not feel this way as delegates to the National AAU Convention in Miami saw fit to replace Bruce with the one-time Olympic walker from Pittsburgh, John Deni. The vote was very close, and of course, anyone who was not there and forfeited their right to vote, myself included, cannot complain about the outcome.

Certainly I have no bones to pick with John Deni. I'm sure he will have a sincere interest in furthering the sport and there is no way of telling what sort of a job he will do until he has had the opportunity to perform. My only point of contention is that Bruce had done a more than adequate job and had expressed a willingness to continue. To me, this is the kind of job that requires some continuity and in a single year a man can only really learn the ropes so that he can function really effectively the next year. By changing chairman every year, we lose any such benefits. Naturally, if a man has been a complete bust, he should be replaced. Otherwise, it seems to me a second term should be almost automatic if the man is willing. Be that as it may, the fact is that John Deni is our new Chairman and deserves complete cooperation from all Associations. There is no reason the sport can not continue to advance as it has in the past few years. The real building still has to be done in each area and the fine work that is being done by numerous individuals will, no doubt, con tinue.

The other major item to come out of the convention was, of course, the awarding of championships for next year. Before these were awarded, it was decided by vote that the 20 and 50 should be shared by the East and West, i.e. if one went to the eastern part of the country, the other would go to the western half. This is what I suggested recently, although I don't know if that had anything to do with the motion, which was presented by Mike Ribon. Anyway, the 20 Km will be in E. McKeesport, Pa. (just outside of Pittsburgh) and the 50 in Carnerosia, Calif. in 1970. Beyond that, there is a definite imbalance in the schedule, looking at it sectionally, with seven races east of the Mississippi and only four west. Whether this is a function of the bids that were made or of the biases of the delegates, I don't know. I suppose it means that all of the walkers in the East are overjoyed and the others are somewhat disgruntled. Being an unblaced impartial observer, I don't really care and bring the subject up only because I imagine someone else will if I don't. It is also interesting to note that the schedule is not spread over the calendar too well. There are four races in a 5-week period in the spring and three more within four weeks in the fall. And, as usual, there is no particular sense to the sequence of the races, but maybe there shouldn't be. Anyway, the schedule follows (including the Junior races, which are not included in the above discussion):
April 25 35 km Des Moines, Iowa
May 2 15 km Nutley, N.J.
May 23 20 km E. McKeesport, Pa.
May 30 10 km Chicago, Ill.
Aug. 16 40 km Long Branch, N.J.
Sept. 12 50 km Carpentaria, Calif.
Sept. 27 25 km Long Island, N.Y.
Oct. 4 1 Hr. Walnut, Calif.
?? 30 km Atlantic City, N.J.
March 7 1 Mile New York, N.Y. (Meet originally scheduled for Salt Lake City)
June 27 2 Mile Bakersfield, Calif.

Juniors
Mar. 14 50 km Los Angeles, Calif.
April 29 20 km Lakewood, Calif.
May 9 30 km Newburyport, (somewhere in New England, a quick look at the Atlas didn't reveal to me just where) (Whoops—Mass., checked another source)
June 7 10 km Portland, Ore.
July 12 15 km Spokane, Wash.
Aug. 22 25 km Sharon, Pa.
Nov. 28 35 km Kansas City, Mo.
?? 1 Hr. Montana
?? 40 km Long Branch, N.J. (Has always been in conjunction with the Sr. race, but a resolution was passed at the convention to the effect that Junior races be just that—no Senior Championships or open races are to be held at the same time.)

Other items from the convention: The 20 km Championship will be used to select walkers for meets in Russia, Germany, and France next summer, as well as the Lugano Cup competition in October. The latter trip will include four men in each the 20 and 50 (the latter to be selected from the 50 km Championship) but is contingent on the Race Walking Committee raising sufficient money. Walks in the French and German are not definite yet, but have been requested by the RWC Committee. The German meet has regularly included a 10 km on the track, so there is no reason to feel that this should not continue. The Committee has also requested that three walkers be taken on this trip, although only two will compete in each meet. Alternates are always included to cover other events and the three meets are fairly close together, with the French and German preceding the more important USSR dual.

Ron Laird was selected as the Committee's nominee for both the Sullivan Award and the Di Benedetto award. The former is given to the outstanding amateur athlete each year, the latter for the outstanding performance in track and field. Jim Hanley, Bob Kitchen, and myself were selected as athletes' representatives. Jim and myself have served in this capacity in the past and Bob was selected for the first time. Please feel free to approach any of the three of us with suggestions, criticisms, gripes, or what have you. We will see that any matter is brought to the attention of the proper people immediately. Bill Ross was elected as the Race Walking representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee with Bruce MacDonald as alternate. Qualifying times for the National 1 and 2 Miles were set at 7:00 and 15:20 respectively.

In addition to the International competitions mentioned above, it is hoped to have a team at the Airolo-Chiasso relay again. If we get a team to Lugano, these eight will remain in Europe for the relay one week later. If two other walkers can get to Europe we will then have two teams in the competition (five men per team). I also see now in looking over my stack of miscellaneous material more closely that the other European races are more definite than I indicated above. A 20 km is set for Paris and a 10 km in Germany one week later. The 20 km with the USSR is a week after the German race, in Leningrad, I believe. All of these races are part of International dual track and field meets.

While on the subject of legislative matters, some interesting matters came out of the IAAF meeting held in Athens during the European Games. First, a new definition
of race walking was passed, i.e., the leg must be straightened as the heel makes contact with the ground. This should cause little difficulty in this country since the style of the majority of U.S. walkers already conforms to this stipulation. It does seem to put an additional burden on the judges, however, which they don’t really need. It seems difficult enough to judge contact without worrying at the same time about the exact instant at which the knee straightens. Another item is that heels on shoes are made compulsory with a minimum depth of 1 cm and a maximum of 1.5 cm (about 0.4 to 0.6 inch). I have no idea whether this will be enforced in this country, although I would assume not this year since it was not discussed at the Committee meeting. It would seem that it will definitely affect those who qualify for International competition, however. Where these shoes will come from is another question. The British have always used shoes of this sort, although many of their top walkers have broken away in recent years, so there is one source. But their shoes are generally ridiculously heavy. (Don Thompson once said that no shoe should be less than 14 ounces or the walker would be in constant danger of losing contact.) With this new rule, the leading manufacturers (Adidas, Puma, and Tiger) will undoubtedly make shoes to conform, and they should be readily available at least to our international walkers. Actually, Adidas made an excellent shoe of this type, but evidently in a very limited quantity, in 1964. I have one of these rarities, which they gave me in Tokyo (actually two, one for each foot) and like it better than any shoe I have had, except that they gave my heel callouses more trouble than any other shoe. For that reason, they still aren’t worn out five years later. So I will be bale set if the new rule goes into effect in this country. (Except that I will have to put white tape over the black stripes. More about that later.) The third item from Athens concerns International 20 km races, such as Olympics and European Championships. These will now be held on the track, with qualifying heats. This should aid in judging but will certainly make doubling in the 20 and 50 more difficult. I would assume that this will not apply to the Lugano Cup competition since that is a team race and the places of all entrants must be scored. It won’t apply to the Pan-Am Games as far as heats is concerned until the number of entries increases somewhat.

Now back to the shoes. Another IAAF rule goes into effect this spring. This rule applies to all track and field competition, including race walking, and covers international and national competition. And the rule is that all shoes must be solid white. No distinctive markings that identify the manufacturer. This stems from all the shoe (and supposedly money) giveaways for advertising purposes. The rule will be in effect for our national races, so make plans accordingly. As indicated above I plan to come with sufficient adhesive tape to make my shoes conform until I wear out what I have. Being an amateur athlete, I can’t afford to buy new shoes because some old fuddy-duddies got upset over a few thousand dollar bills stuffed in toes. Myself, I never found so much as a penny in the toes.

PREDICTION OF THE MONTH—The IAAF ruling may hurt a few shoe manufacturers a bit, but it won’t do old Johnson & Johnson one bit of harm as athletes haul out the old adhesive to cover those multi-colored stripes.

FICKLE-PIGGER-OF-FATE AWARD (or the dreaded darting digit as it is known in the trade)—This month goes to, you guessed it, the IAAF for promoting racism by decreeing that all athletes must wear white shoes. Why not some inoffensive color like charcoal? I seriously doubt if Harry Edwards will stand still for this and I’m with him. For race walkers, black is indeed beautiful. Rumor has it that contact looks much more distinct with black shoes than with white. Children, it is not rumor. I have proof on film taken of one Chris McCarthy, the famed Olympian, wearing one white shoe and one black one. One would swear ol’ Chris was limping or something, but I assure he was not. Well, anyway, as you may assume, I think the whole thing is a bit ridiculous, but there it is. So live with it.

The Ohio Race Walker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio covering the local, national and international scene. Address all correspondence to Editor Jack Mortland, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. Contrary to ugly rumors published last month, Publisher Emeritus Jack Blackburn is not a bearded pinko but merely a Big Red Duck.
After three pages of rambling, I suppose it is time for some walking news.

Local news first, where your editor won the big sealed-handicap race at Sharon Woods over 6 miles 120 yards (three laps of 2 mile 40 yard course). For the unknowledgeable, a sealed handicap is where everyone starts together like a regular race and the time handicaps are revealed only after the race and then deducted from the elapsed time. This was a bit unusual though. Since we had only three walkers, no one else to handicap, and the knowledge that it would be unfair for any one of us to know what the handicaps were, we each wrote down in secret what the handicaps should be and then averaged them after the race. Clever people these Ohioans. So the results were (with actual times in parentheses): 1. Jack Mortland 49:24 (49:24) 2. Doc Blackburn 50:28 (60:48) 3. Barry Richardson 50:56 (58:16).

In Cincinnati on Thanksgiving Day, Paul Reback won the Annual Ft. Thomas to Cincinnati 1 mile in 40:24 (my trusty co respondent Larry James thinks). Anyway, he won, and if that time is right it breaks Jack Blackburn's course record by something like a minute, if my memory serves me. (I'm not about to go rummaging through old junk for that bit of trivia.) Larry finished second in 53:34.8 after some guy by the name of Garry got disqualified. Garry had been in one walk before and had evidently learned, if nothing else, how to take advantage of incompetent or nonexistent judging. He sort of jogged away at the start and then when Larry caught him hung on by little jogs here and there and finally ran ahead by .8 second in the stretch. After some discussion, he finally was disqualified. Apparently this was the last year for the race since interest has dropped to practically zilch. The race has been going for over 50 years with a run held simultaneously. The run is still well attended and will continue. I can't complain about the loss of the walk myself, not having gone down since 1961, finding turkey with the family much preferable. Now the Blackburns have deserted it too, which has spelled finis.


Since all the other important publications (Time, Sports Illustrated, Track & Field News) are reviewing the past decade as it comes to a close, we feel compelled to do likewise. As we entered the 60s, race walking in this country was just getting well clear of an image as the "old man's sport", or at least that is the impression this young neophyte carries from that era. I'm sure the tag was never fully justified but it was probably more true in earlier years. At the start of this decade, however, the top men included guys like Haluza, MacDonalcl, Allen, Mimm in their late 20's to early 30's and the youngsters coming on strongly like Laird, Zinn, and Blackburn. But, to be sure, there were some very tough and grizzled old men who were quite prominent when I entered the scene in 1958, and they had been even more prominent a few years before. There are equally tough, equally grizzled old men walking today, maybe even tougher and grizzlier, but they are no longer a match for the young mavericks. Of course the youngest of the decades beginning are fast approaching the grizzly stage, and the middle-agers of that time, like MacDonalcl and Mimm, are very grizzly indeed.

Regardless of the grizzliness or age factor, there is no doubt that the depth of quality performers has improved immensely during the sizzling 60's. And we have come from a 19th place finish in the 1960 Olympics, to 6th in 1964, and finally a bronze medal and a near miss for a second one in 1968. We have seen American records at all distances improved constantly throughout the decade.

Another image of the sport, and a deserved one, was that it was an Eastern game. Thus, equally important as the improvement in quality, is the growth in numbers of participants, with the sport steadily emerging in new areas throughout the country. In 1960, the majority of walkers, and practically all the good ones, were centered on the eastern seaboard, with a few scattered in the Midwest (Pittsburgh, Columbus, Dayton, Detroit, Chicago). There were also a few walkers in the L.A. and Seattle areas, but they lagged well behind in performance. Hungarian refugee Ferenc Sipos, walking for the Santa Clara Youth Village, was the lone bright light in the West.
He won the 1 Mile in N.Y. that year and had set the American 20 km record in 1959, but at only 1:44 plus. A younger, Dick Brodie, was also starting to show promise out west and captured third in the 3000 meter in 1960. But, on the 1960 Olympic team were Bruce MacDonald, Rudy Haluza, Ron Laird, and Bob Him, all from the N.Y.-Philly area; John Allen from way out west in Buffalo; and Ron Zinn, from Chicago, but having done practically all his walking in the east while at West Point. The top clubs in the early 60's were the New York AC, the NY Pioneer Club, and (!!!) the Ohio Track Club.

Things started to pick up on the West Coast in the next few years with Charlie Silcock and John MacLechlan pushing a very active program in the Southern California area and Bob Hendrixson doing likewise in Seattle. There were good walkers coming along in these areas, like Bob Bowman and Ed Glander, but they were still not threats when a representative field was assembled. Brodie continued to improve, while splitting his time with steeplechasing, and was probably the best walker in the west in his occasional competitive efforts, mostly in short track races. However, the L.A. area really started to come alive when Ron Laird's westward migration finally reached there in the winter of 1963-64. Rudy Haluza, then in the Air Force, was also stationed in the area, and the presence of two competitors of this stature gave a tremendous impetus to the already good competitive program initiated by Silcock and carried on so well by Laird's boss, Chuck Shuler. It provided the needed incentive to make really good walkers of guys like Bowman and Don DeNoon, who were on the brink before. The sport was now becoming truly national in scope, although there was still a vast wasteland from Chicago to the other side of the Rockies.

The 1964 and 1968 Olympic teams demonstrated a westward trend in the power base of race walking. In 1964, there was one New Yorker (MacDonald), one Iowan (Mortland) two Chicagoans (Zinn and McCarthy), and two Californians (Laird and Brodie). In 1968, there was one New Jerseyite (Romansky), and five Californians (Laird, Haluza, Dooley, Young, and Klopfer). Two of the latter were of course transplanted New Yorkers from the 1960 team.

A very influential person in the 1960-64 period was Chris McCarthy. Chris spread the gospel in his yellow rag, the American Race Walker, which grew into the Race Walker, printed and complete with pictures. He also led the way in distance walking, with an example of what long serious training will do even for the nonathlete, which he readily admitted to be.

Certainly, California has not been the only growth area. In the past couple of years excellent programs have been initiated in the Missouri Valley area, pushed by the interest of Bill Clark and Joe Duncan in Columbia and Bob and Fred Young in Kansas City. Although no threats to the Lairds' stal have yet emerged, their program is one of the best going, and participation is, after all, the primary concern. Interest in walking has also sprung up in such previously unheard of places as Montana, Iowa, Florida, and Colorado thanks to guys like Larry O'Neil, Butch Hamner, Bill Granby, and Floyd Godwin. New England, not mentioned before, has had a continuing program, thanks primarily to the distance buffs of the North Medford club. Some very good walkers like Rahmo Ahti, Olavi Yli-Tokkola, and Paul Schell have emerged. Another threat to the club supremacy of the old powers has sprung up out on Long Island under Howie Jacobsen's guidance with the help of the onrushing Steve Hayden and Gary Vesterfield. Strong programs have been continued throughout the decade in New York and New Jersey through the untiring efforts of men like Larry Rancourt, Harry Leska, Bill Omelchenco, Bruce MacDonald, and Elliott Derman. In Philadelphia, George Carper has kept the fires burning. Unfortunately, interest has waned in Baltimore and Seattle, although Bob Kitchen and Ray Somers have come out of Baltimore despite the sagging interest there. Perhaps Goetz Klopfer's presence will help to lift the Seattle program back on its feet.

Between the 1964 and 1968 Games, a strong program has emerged in the Frisco area with Bill Banney guiding it and doing some fine walking himself and the emergence of young Tom Dooley and a dormant Goetz Klopfer giving great impetus. These three form the only club to consistently challenge the NYAC and Striders in recent times. The Striders became great with veterans Haluza and Bowman receiving help from young walkers coming up through the strong L.A. program including Larry Young, Larry Walker, & Jim Han.
In our own Ohio area, we continue to hold a hard core of loyalists (Duckham, Yarcho, Arnold, and Doc Blackburn go back to the dark ages) and have kept a million others coming and going through the years. Hopefully, the present crop will prove more durable. Dale Arnold and Doc Blackburn have contributed much to the sport beyond their competitive efforts. Chuck Herman in Pittsburgh has done an outstanding job through the years. Bill Ross, Mike Riban, and Ted Aydon continue to keep things hopping in Chicago and certainly the area has contributed its share of top walkers through the decade (Zinn, McCarthy, Akos Szekely, Matt Rutyna, Rimas Vaicaitis, Jim Clinton, and, for a while, Ron Laird, to name the best). So we see the sport has spread tremendously in the past 10 years. Starting from a stronghold on the eastern seaboard augmented by a smattering of walkers in the Midwest and a handful elsewhere, the interest has spread throughout the country and hopefully the trend will continue.

**MAN OF THE DECADE**

Certainly no one individual has been anything like solely responsible for the growth and progress discussed above. I have tried to mention most of those who have played an important role, either as promoters or competitors. But the one man who has undoubtedly done more than anyone else is Charlie Silcock. He did a tremendous job in building a program in Southern California, which has certainly been very important to the overall progress. He served as National Chairman through very important times and, of most importance, has continued to work untiringly and unselfishly in the background. He probably devotes more hours to the sport than anyone in the country and has shown as much devotion and interest to race walking as anyone cut slogging through their 100 miles a week. His only rewards he has been in the performances of others and in occasional digs from people like the ORW editor. Although I have not always agreed with his methods or goals (or he with mine) and have said so, I have certainly never questioned his interest and sincerity or the overall good he has done. With this in mind, the Ohio Race Walker is preparing for Charlie a special award as America's Race Walking Man of the Decade. This is the least we and the rest of the walking fraternity can do to repay Charlie for his year's of unselfish work. The award will be presented at some future walking race.

**RACE WALKER OF THE DECADE**

The Ohio Race Walker is also presenting a special award to the walker we designate as America's Race Walker of the Decade. To keep you from suspense, I offer the following ranking of U.S. walkers for the 1960's, based solely on my own subjective judgment:

1. Ron Laird
2. Ron Zinn
3. Rudy Haluza
4. Larry Young

Ron will also be presented a handsome award at some future event. The growing list of accomplishments on his part clearly stamp him as Walker of the Decade. Ron has been a dominant figure in U.S. walking throughout this period. Although not at the very top in every year, he has certainly been there often and never far from it. For the past three years, he has been virtually unchallenged when at his best. The only real blemish on his career is an unfortunately poor record in the Olympics, but having been to the Olympics three times is a significant accomplishment in itself. His Olympic failures have certainly been atoned for in other international competition; undefeated European tours in 1967 and 1969, a third in the 1967 Lugano Cup 20 Km, and a close third in last summer's Triangular 20 km behind two of the all-time greats, Paul Nihill and Vladimir Golubnichiy. Practically all of his 50 national titles have been won during this decade, ranging over all the championships distances from 1 mile to 50 km. He has broken and rebroken innumerable U.S. records from 1000 meters to 25 miles and currently holds a few million records. There can be little
doubt that Ron Zinn was a tougher competitor when the two were going against each other and beat Laird many times on sheer guts. Nevertheless, Laird was able to win some important races from Zinn including the 1963 and 1964 20 Km titles, both rather decisively. Laird has always been one of the best stylists and has won several OLY style prizes.

Ron Zinn was as fierce a competitor as I have known in race walking and probably had a winning edge against Laird in head-to-head races. His sixth place in the Tokyo Olympics was a tremendous performance, one that he went far into himself to attain. During his five competitive seasons, he won 16 national titles, all except the 1960 35 km at distances of 20 km or less. At the time of his death in Viet Nam, he held outdoor records at 2, 3, 4, and 5 miles and 4 km, plus the indoor 1 mile record. His tenaciousness made him extremely difficult to beat in track races where he would get the lead and sprint straightaways at any challenge. As his list of titles indicates, he did not span the distances as successfully as Laird and confined most of his competition to shorter distances but was strong enough for fourth in the 1964 50 km Olympic trial. But for his unfortunate death in Viet Nam the decision for Walker of the Decade may well have been much more difficult.

Rudy Haluza started the decade as our best middle distance walker with 1960 AAU titles at 3, 10, 30, and 30 kms. For the next 5 years he had only occasional competitive efforts in this country, but did quite well in England in 1965 and 1967 while stationed there. He finished fifth in the 1964 20 km Olympic Trial. In 1966, he suddenly reappeared on the scene and in a big way. After a series of fast races from 2 miles through 10 miles, he was an easy winner in both the 10 and 20 km races within a 6-day period in extremely humid Midwest conditions. He went on to score another decisive victory in an Internation 20 km with British Commonwealth walkers. 1967 was a year of injury and the first half of 1968 a time of careful recovery but sound preparation. By the time of the final Olympic trial he was good enough for third and then in Mexico City walked the race of his life with an inspiring 4th place at age 37.

Larry Young was first heard from in 1965 with some good 1 and 2 mile races in Southern California. He came on strong nationally in 1966 with good races in the 10 and 20, a second in the 30 in ridiculous heat in Columbia, Mo., and finally a stunning victory in his first 50 km. This was the AAU title race in Chicago in which he beat always tough Canadian, Alex Oakley, in 4:39 plus. He returned to the same course in June 1967 for a 4:37:03.6 victory and was also fast enough for second to Laird in the 20 Km. That summer he won the Pan Am 50 in 4:26:20.8 and then stayed surprisingly close to Laird during several shorter races in Europe, including a 46:22:2 10 km on the track in Germany. In early 1968, he twice lowered the U.S. 50 km record. He then came second in the AAU 20 km again and won a short-course 50 km title in 4:12:12. Finally, he more than fulfilled everyone's hopes with his bronze medal in Mexico City.

BLACKBURN AWARD TO KITCHEN

Bob Kitchen, a student at Springfield College, has been selected as the recipient of the Third Annual Dr. John H. Blackburn Award. Bob follows in the footsteps of Larry O'Neil and Rudy Haluza who copped this handsome plaque in 1967 and 1968 respectively. The award is presented each year by the Ohio Race Walker for the outstanding single performance in U.S. race walking during the year. Bob captures the 1969 prize for his outstanding 50 km on the Point Pleasant, N.J. track last April 20. Bob's 4:19:41 broke Larry Young's official American record of 4:21:01.8 but cannot be recognized since it was set during a 50 mile race that he did not finish. Kitchen's performance, good for twelfth place on the World All-Time list, was set at the tender age of 21.
LATE RESULTS:
20 Km (Track), Dec. 28—1. Goetz Klofer 92:24 2. Bill Ranney 1:44:50 3. Steve Lund 1:56—A great walk by Goetz to cap the year. He stormed through 10 km in 45:14 and 15 in approximately 1:08:34. Tom Dooley had 45:26 at 10 km, but stopped at 7 miles (51:26) having been sick in the middle of the week. Bill Ranney was also well below par, having been in bed with the flu for four days.


Of great interest to a figure filbert (numeric as well as feminine) like me are the splits on Christoph Hohne's recent 4:05:05 50 km record. The times at each 5 km were: 24:48:0, 49:43:6, 1:14:56:6, 1:39:27:4, 2:04:17:8, 2:29:10:6, 2:54:08:6, 3:19:13:4, 3:43:43:4, and 4:08:05. This gave him 10 km splits of 49:43:6, 49:43:8, 49:43:2, 50:02:6, and 48:51:8. The last 10 is at a 7:51.8 pace, which is a pretty fair finish. On only the third and eighth 5 km was he over 25. The average for the whole race was 7:59:1. Rather good heel and toeing.

Chuck Herman in Pittsburgh has sent season's greetings to all American race walkers and officials care of the ORW. We are most happy to pass them on and wish the Hermans a happy year in return.

A special 2 Mile Walk will be held as a part of the University of Colorado Annual Invitational Indoor Track Meet on March 14. The race will be held at 8:30 p.m. during the main program with awards to the first three (possibly five) with a good crowd, press, radio, and TV coverage. Floyd Godwin is setting up free housing for walkers who want to compete, but he must know before the first of February in order to make the arrangements. Ron Laird is already lined up to compete. If you are interested, contact Floyd at 195 Laurel St., Boulder, Colorado 80020.

During two of the last three years, the Ohio Race Walker has provided Style prizes for each of the Sr. National AAA Race Walking Champions. In 1967 these were provided by Dr. Blackburn, last year they were provided by your editor. The Ohio Race Walker will be glad to continue these awards if we feel they are really worthwhile. I have received opinions both ways on this matter from various people and have never been fully convinced of their value myself. Therefore, I am seeking the opinions and reactions of readers regarding these awards before deciding whether or not to continue with them in 1970. Let me know how you feel.

On the light side, I have been doing a little research and came across the following interesting item in the May 2, 1956 New York Times.

A tradition may have been born yesterday afternoon in Washington Square. Not since little Indians chased one another around Sappokanian (later Greenwich Village) has that region seen such an affair.

In its simplest terms the event was a race, a walking race around the Square for New York University students. It came about in reply to a challenge issued by Dr. Lawrence D. Brannon, assistant professor of general literature, who considers himself quite a walker.

"I'm disqualified," he announced. "I'm too good. Almost a professional. Listen I'll walk a mile in seven minutes (thus a quarter mile in 1:45). Why I walk 24 miles on a Sunday afternoon stroll."

A crowd of young men, many of whom conceded that they had never walked farther than the nearest subway entrance, finally got set for the first annual Washington Square heel-and-toe marathon. Scattered among them were genuine athletes, including a couple of varsity walkers with national reputations.

The course was shortened to halfway around the park, 450 races or just about a quarter of a mile. Off went the field with a rush, smack into a cluster of