May the light of love, compassion, and peace from our creator and sustainer fall upon each of you in the new year and in years to come. Let each of us strive to spread the joy and peace that compassionate hearts can bring. Happy New Year.

38th Annual ORW Rankings

Since 1970, the Ohio Racewalker has ranked the world’s racewalkers based on performances during the year. At first, it was just men at 20 and 50 Km. In 1972, we added U.S. rankings at both those distances, and in 1979, as a viable program for women was finally emerging, women’s rankings, both World and U.S. Originally, the women’s rankings were at 5 and 10 km, the distances at which they usually competed. In 1985, we dropped the 5 km rankings since most international competition was by then almost exclusively at the 10 Km distance. In 1999, the Women’s Rankings shifted to 20 Km when that became the distance for international competitions. Should there be any significant increase in women’s competitions at 50 Km, we will gladly add that event to the rankings.

These rankings are based strictly on the opinion of your editor, arbitrary, but with close attention to the year’s entire set of performances for each athlete. All comments and disagreements are welcome and may be published, but the likelihood of the rankings being altered is very slight.

2007 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Olga Kaniskina, Russia
   1:29:02 (3) Adler 2/7
   1:28:13 (2) Euro Cup 5/19
   1:30:09 (1) World Champ. 8/31
   1:26:47 (1) Saransk 9/29

2. Ryta Turava, Belarus
   1:28:01 (1) Rio Maior 4/14
   1:27:10 (1) Sesto San Giovani 5/1
   1:27:52 (1) Euro Cup 5/19
   1:28:44 (1) La Coruna 6/2
   1:30:36 (1) Krakow 6/23

3. Tatyana Shemyukina, Russia
   1:31:49 (5) Ros. Champ. 6/16
   1:30:42 (1) Euro U. 23 7/13
   1:30:42 (2) World Champ. 8/31
   DNF Saransk 9/29

4. Kjersti Platzer, Norway
   1:32:30 (1) Naucalpan 3/10
   1:28:54 (2) Rio Maior 4/14
   1:27:41 (2) Sesto San Giovani 5/1
   1:30:22 (2) La Coruna 6/2
   1:31:24 (4) World Champ. 8/31
   DNF Saransk 9/29

5. Maria Vasco, Spain
   DQ Span. Champ. 3/4
   DNF Rio Maior 4/14
   1:29:17 (5) Euro Cup 5/19
   1:30:47 (3) World Champ. 8/31

6. Sabine Zinuner, Germany
   1:30:13 (4) Rio Maior 4/14
   1:30:20 (5) Sesto San Giovani 5/1
   1:32:55 (4) Krakow 6/23
   1:33:21 (8) World Champ. 8/31
   1:32:19 (7) Saransk 9/29
2007 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador
   1:19:36 (6) Shenzhen 3/24
   1:20:08 (6) Pan Am Cup 4/21
   1:22:08 (1) Pan Am Games 7/29
   1:22:20 (1) World Champ. 8/26
   1:23:26 (8) World Champ. 8/26

2. Francisco Fernandez, Spain
   1:18:52 (1) Spanish Champ. 3/4
   1:20:40 (1) World Champ. 8/26

7. Luke Adams, Australia
   1:20:28 (1) Aust. Champ. 3/11

15. Erik Tyssø, Norway
   1:20:56 (3) Rio Maior 4/14
   1:21:38 (1) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:23:26 (8) World Champ. 8/26

2007 Top 50 Performers

1. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador
   1:19:36 (6) Shenzhen 3/24
   1:20:08 (6) Pan Am Cup 4/21
   1:22:08 (1) Pan Am Games 7/29
   1:22:20 (1) World Champ. 8/26
   1:23:26 (8) World Champ. 8/26

2. Francisco Fernandez, Spain
   1:18:52 (1) Spanish Champ. 3/4
   1:20:40 (1) World Champ. 8/26

7. Luke Adams, Australia
   1:20:28 (1) Aust. Champ. 3/11

15. Erik Tyssø, Norway
   1:20:56 (3) Rio Maior 4/14
   1:21:38 (1) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:23:26 (8) World Champ. 8/26

2007 Top 50 Performers
2007 World 50 Km Rankings

1. Nathan Deakes, Australia
2:43:53 (1) World Champ. 9/1

2. Alex Schwazer, Italy
3:36:04 (1) Italian Champ. 2/11
3:35:33 (1) Dublin 6/17
3:44:38 (3) World Champ. 9/1

3. Yoan Diniz, France
3:44:22 (2) World Champ. 9/1

4. Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia
3:40:53 (1) Russian Champ. 6/11
3:46:57 (4) World Champ. 9/1

5. Vladimir Kanaykin, Russia
3:40:57 (1) Euro Cup 5/20

6. Erik Tynse, Norway
3:41:31 (2) Euro Cup 5/20

7. Trond Nymark, Norway
3:41:21 (1) World Champ. 9/1

8. Oleg Kuznetsov, Russia
3:41:11 (1) World Champ. 9/1

9. Vladimir Stanik, Russia
3:41:14 (1) World Champ. 9/1

10. Giorgio Rubino, Italy
3:41:17 (1) World Champ. 9/1

Deakes walked just one 50, but it won the World Championship and the No. 1 spot... Diniz edged Schwazer in the Worlds, but he had two other quality races, one the fastest of the year... Nizhegorodov was a solid fourth at the Worlds and had an excellent race in winning his national championship... Kanaykin's solid win in the Euro Cup earns him the fifth spot, despite his failure to finish the World Championship race... Tynse is an easy pick for sixth with his fifth in the Worlds, well clear of the rest of the field... Nymark was only eighth in the Worlds, but a strong second in the Euro Cup, just ahead of Kanaykin... They shuffle Odoirozola, who finished sixth in the Worlds back to ninth and Sun to tenth.

2007 Top 50 Performers

3:36:04 Alex Schwazer, Italy
3:40:53 Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia
3:40:57 Vladimir Kanaykin, Russia
3:41:31 Trond Nymark, Norway
3:41:51 Oleg Kuznetsov, Russia
3:41:52 Aleksey Voevodin, Russia
3:42:55 Yury Andronov, Russia
3:42:53 Nathan Deakes, Australia
3:42:22 Yohan Diniz, France
3:42:26 Chengliang Zhao, China
3:46:08 Jesus Angel Garcia, Spain
3:46:56 Santiago Perez, Spain

2007 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Teresa Vaill
1:34:42 (2) Chula Vista 9/1
1:35:44 (1) Pan Am Trials
1:37:29 (1) US Champs 6/22
DQ World Champ. 8/3

2. Joanne Dow
1:34:21 (1) Chula Vista 9/1
1:39:25 (2) U.S. Champs 6/24

3. Sam Cohen
1:42:45 (2) Pan Am Trials 3/17
1:43:46 (3) Pan Am Trials 3/17

4. Jolene Moore
1:41:53 (11) Pan Am Trials 4/21
1:47:26 (1) Oregon 6/10
1:48:20 (5) U.S. Champ. 6/24

5. Maria Michta
1:45:55 (5) Pan Am Trials 3/17
1:53:55 (20 Pan Pac 4/21
1:54:02 (11) Oregon 6/10

6. Amber Antonia
1:38:50 (2) Kenosha 9/1
1:45:16 (1) Salem 9/16

7. Loretta Schuellein
1:44:17 (4) Pan Am Trials 3/17
DQ Pan Am Cup 6/24
DQ U.S. Champ. 6/24

8. Stephanie Casey
1:47:26 (1) Oregon 6/10
1:45:16 (1) Salem 9/16

9. Carolyn Kealty
1:49:01 (6) Pan Am Trials 3/17
1:51:55 (1) Coconut Creek 11/18

10. Susan Randall
1:51:55 (80 Pan Am Trials 3/17
1:59:09 (1) Dayton 5/6
1:49:58 (5) U.S. Champ. 6/24

2007 Top 24 Performances

1:34:21 Joanne Dow
1:34:42 Teresa Vaill
1:35:50 Amber Antonia
1:35:56 Sam Cohen
1:39:23 Jolene Moore
1:41:26 Maria Michta
1:44:17 Loretta Schuellein
1:45:16 Stephanie Casey
1:48:20 Kristen Mullaney
1:49:01 Carolyn Kealty
2007 U.S. 20 Km Rankings–Men

1. Kevin Eastler
2. Philip Dunn
3. Matt Boyles
4. John Nunn

2007 U.S. 50 Km Rankings

1. Kevin Eastler
2. Philip Dunn
3. Matt Boyles
4. John Nunn

And Now, For Some Results:

In the New Year, Your Racewalking Friends Offer:

Sun. Jan. 6  National Women's and Masters 50 Km, also 5 and 20 Km, Houston (L)
         9 Km, New Orleans (L)
         Indoor 1600 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Vir., 7:45 am (S)
Sat. Jan. 12  Indoor 3 Km, Franklin, Indiana (B)
         2.8 Miles, Seattle, Wash. ( C)
         10 Km, Los Angeles (Y)
Sun. Jan. 13  Marathon and Half-Marathon, Mobile, Ala. (K)
Sun. Jan. 20  Indoor 1600 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Vir. 7:45 am (S)
         10 Mile and 5 Km, Pasedena, Calif. (Y)
Sat. Jan. 26  Indiana Indoor 3 Km Championship, Franklin (B)
         5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
Fri. Feb. 1   National USATF Indoor 1 Mile, New York City (D)
Sun. Feb. 3   5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
         Indoor 1600 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Vir. (S)
Sat. Feb. 9   Indoor 5 Km, Franklin, Indiana (B)
         2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
Sun. Feb. 10  50 Olympic Trials, Plantation, Florida (E)
         5 Km, Los Angeles area (Y)
Sun. Feb. 17  5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
Fri. Feb. 22  National USATF Indoor 3 Km Women, 5 Km Men, Boston (D)
Sat. Feb. 23  Indiana Indoor 5 Km Championship, Franklin (B)
         10 Km, Sant Ana, Cal. (Y)
Sun. Feb. 24  2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
Sat. March  8 Metropolitan Indoor 3 Km/1 Mile, Youth 1500 m, New York City (G)
         Indoor 5 Km, Indianapolis (B)
from his job as the Chairman of the Italian Department at the Army Language School in Monterey, Cal. That was the year 1978 and from then on racewalking became part of the Monterey Peninsula vocabulary. He taught racewalking classes at Monterey Peninsula Junior College and enrolled the round, the old, the artists, the business people, anyone who wanted to be fit by doing it his way, "the racewalking way". He was the founder and president of the Monterey Club, which once had about 100 members. For 5 years, he organized the National 50 Km Championships. He started the race known as the Megawalk in 1980 and after his death in 1995, it became known as the Giulio de Petra Memorial Megawalk. Since then, his daughter, Hansi Rigney, with much help from club members, family, and friends has organized the annual race. In the last few years, the Club membership has dwindled making it very difficult to sustain a race that requires an input of resources of time, people, and money. Thus, this year's race was the finale. \[Clausen report.\]

Curt Clausen, the all-time best U.S. 50 Km walker (and near the top at 20) "retired" two years ago, but enlil managed a 4:27 and No. 6 ranking this year. With law degree in hand, he reports that he began a new job as an associate at Skadden Arps, et al, New York City's largest firm in September. He is working in the antitrust department, which also has a significant sports industry practice. His first major case is a suit by Madison Square Garden against the National Hockey League over control of the New York Rangers website, with Skadden representing the League. His work doesn't leave time for any serious training, but he lives just three blocks from Central Park where he gets in a 6 mile loop now and again. He notes that Paul Schwartzburg, who staged a comeback for the first time in the 43-year history of the poll, two men shared the top honor as world's No. 1 sportswoman and team, respectively. For the other things, recaps his endurance walking feats for the year. For those not acquainted with the Ladany legacy, Shaul is an Israeli who survived both the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during World War II and the terrorist attacks on the Israeli compound at the Berlin Olympics, where he competed in the 50 Km walk. Shaul spent several years in the U.S. as a professor of industrial engineering, and during that period won U.S. titles at 100 KM (1974) and 75 Km (1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977). His 7:04:48 for 75 in 1977 remains as a record at that no longer contested distance and his 10:12:53 for 100 in 1974 stood as the record until Dan Pierce walked 9:36:33 in 1987. He also became an U.S. Centurion (see discussion of Century races in last month's ORW) in 1973 when he finished 100 miles in 19:38:26 in Columbia, Missouri. He also was a winner in the famous London-to-Brighton walk in England. Shaul completed another 100 miler in Ashatabula, Ohio in 2006 (reported in these pages). Each summer, he enjoys a series of long walks in Europe certainly putting the energizer bunny to shame. Here is Shaul's report on his endurance feats for 2007.

"In April, I celebrated my 71st birthday with a 75-km walk (instead of 71 as I was walking in Omer on a 5-km loop), and many friends accompanied me for various shorter distances. It was followed with the Gilbert IML two-day march (which I did back and forth), and the 65-km Lake Tiberias circuit that I organize. At the end of May, I finished for the seventh consecutive time the strenuous four-day 300 Km Paris-Tubize (Brussels) walk without unusual difficulties. The Summer routine of the sequence of the 200-Km five-day Hauke walk in Germany, the 300-Km seven-day Schleswig-Viborg (Denmark), the 162-km four-day Nijmegen (Holland) march (with more than 40,000 participants), mountain training around Zermatt (Switzerland) with climbs from 1000 meters altitude above sea level to over 3000 meters, followed by the Austrian mountain walks, consisting of the 120-Km three-day event in Knittelfeld, the 173-km four-day walk in Tauplitz, and ending with the three-day march in Moedling, were enjoyable 1400 km during a 40-day outing in Europe."

"In September, I was honored by the International Olympic Committee, being this award does not go to an individual, but to a country that can do extraordinary things in all walks of life," he added and called his fellow citizens to try to be the best in each of their tasks.

The 32-year old from Cuenca won the 1996 poll (following his Olympic gold medal), but could not travel to Cuba for the awards ceremony due to a very busy agenda. "I have never been to Cuba (where the award is presented) and hope to visit it and discover the Latin American country with the best education infrastructure," he stressed. Perez, winner of three World Cup and three Pan American titles, as well as the 1996 Olympic gold, pointed out that he's planning to attend his fifth Olympic Games in Beijing "I have been lucky to win three Pan American Games, three World Championships, and three World Cups. However after winning 10 global medals, my body is starting to give me problem," he said.

Perez is currently facing some health adversities that have prevented him from training in the past two weeks. Doctors are looking at the best method for him to endure one more season. "Nothing is certain, but if God and my body allow, I will be happy to be at the Beijing Olympics", he stated. He believes the Prensa Latina survey proves that "within the people of Ecuador, there is an individual who succeeded in becoming World Champion and being among the best in his specialty.

Perez is comfortably leading a BBC survey to select the best sportsperson in Ibero-America.

The Ongoing Ladany Odyssey

Each year, I am honored to receive Shaul Ladany's holiday letter, which, among other things, recaps his endurance walking feats for the year. For those not acquainted with the Ladany legacy, Shaul is an Israeli who survived both the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during World War II and the terrorist attack on the Israeli compound at the Berlin Olympics, where he competed in the 50 Km walk. Shaul spent several years in the U.S. as a professor of industrial engineering, and during that period won U.S. titles at 100 KM (1974) and 75 Km (1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977). His 7:04:48 for 75 in 1977 remains as a record at that no longer contested distance and his 10:12:53 for 100 in 1974 stood as the record until Dan Pierce walked 9:36:33 in 1987. He also became an U.S. Centurion (see discussion of Century races in last month's ORW) in 1973 when he finished 100 miles in 19:38:26 in Columbia, Missouri. He also was a winner in the famous London-to-Brighton walk in England. Shaul completed another 100 miler in Ashatabula, Ohio in 2006 (reported in these pages). Each summer, he enjoys a series of long walks in Europe certainly putting the energizer bunny to shame. Here is Shaul's report on his endurance feats for 2007.

"In April, I celebrated my 71st birthday with a 75-km walk (instead of 71 as I was walking in Omer on a 5-km loop), and many friends accompanied me for various shorter distances. It was followed with the Gilbert IML two-day march (which I did back and forth), and the 65-km Lake Tiberias circuit that I organize. At the end of May, I finished for the seventh consecutive time the strenuous four-day 300 Km Paris-Tubize (Brussels) walk without unusual difficulties. The Summer routine of the sequence of the 200-Km five-day Hauke walk in Germany, the 300-Km seven-day Schleswig-Viborg (Denmark), the 162-km four-day Nijmegen (Holland) march (with more than 40,000 participants), mountain training around Zermatt (Switzerland) with climbs from 1000 meters altitude above sea level to over 3000 meters, followed by the Austrian mountain walks, consisting of the 120-Km three-day event in Knittelfeld, the 173-km four-day walk in Tauplitz, and ending with the three-day march in Moedling, were enjoyable 1400 km during a 40-day outing in Europe..."
awarded the Pierre de Coubertin Medal for my Sports Achievements. In about 20 years, I am the second Israeli athlete to be bestowed with this honor. On October 2 was the 51st participation in the Jerusalem march (the remnant of the four-day Israeli march), and four days later my 47th Lake Inneren 8-km swim (without any swimming practice since previous year’s event). Since November, there are again at least two events per month in Israel I take part in, marches or runs (in which I racewalk), and this intensity should stay until the end of next April.

“At the end of November, Shosh and I were invited (with tickets paid) to attend the opening ceremony of the new museum at Bergen-Belsen in Germany. In 1944, at age 8, I was an inmate for half a year of that infamous concentration camp. At that time, I almost starved to death, but survived. Now we were fed so much that the over-eating almost killed me. Since the original scenario 63 years ago, I have visited this place (in which 72,000 inmates perished) several times, but every time it is an emotionally sad experience.

“Finally, there is good news in regard to the publication of the English version of my autobiography. The Gefen Publishing Co. That has offices both in New York and Jerusalem, agreed to publish it. The English title: King of the Road: From Bergen-Belsen to the Olympic Games. Hopefully the book will reach the market sometime in the Spring. To convince the publisher to publish the book and reduce his risk, I had to agree to give up the royalties on the first 3000 copies of the book. I hope that more books will be sold.”

(Ed. Shaul's book was published in 1997. He sent me a copy then in which he had inscribed: “This is not only a book in a language you cannot understand, but it is also written with letters you can't read.” He didn't even mention the confusion, if I didn't know the letters, of reading from back to front and from right to left. But, as he said, the pictures alone tell a story. So, I cherish the book and look forward to the opportunity of having a copy I can read. Anyway, I am sure Shaul will let me know when the English version is released and I will pass the information on so that ORW readers can make a dent on those 3000 copies.)

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the December 1962 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- Ron Laird was given the Mike Ribban trophy as the Outstanding US Racewalker for 1962... Laird also turned in a 6:49.3 mile in Chicago, his home at that time, and recorded the fastest time in an icy 10 Mile Handicap race with a 1:19:27, followed by McCarthy's 1:20:13 and Zinn's 1:21:08. .Martin Rudow won a Portland, Oregon 10 Km in 52:11. .Fastest mile of the early season was 6:45.3 by Alan Blakeslee in New York. .Ron Kulik won a rare 880 yard walk in the Newark, N.J. Armory in 3:19, with Elliott Denman and Terry Anderson 8 seconds back.

40 Years Ago (From the December 1967 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- Chuck Newell, ignored the 15 F temperature and 10 to 15 mph winds, did not mention a dark night, to win the Annual New Year's Eve Handicap in Columbus. Taking full advantage of his 5 minute headstart, he finished 45 seconds ahead of Jack Blackburn, who had the evening's fast time of 47:59. In a lesser race, Goetz Kloper set a new American record for 50 Km with a 4:30:29 on the Sonoma State College track in California. On the way, he picked up records at 50 Km, 25 miles, and 10 Km... In the National 35 Km in Kansas City, Dan Tothoh easily bested Gerry Bocci and Bryan Overton with a 3:13:04. In a New Jersey 10 Miler, Dave Romnysky won in 1:19:12, followed by Steve Hayden, John Knifton, Ron Daniel, Ron Kulik, and Shaul Ladany—all international competitors at some time in their careers.

35 Years Ago (From the December 1972 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- The ORW published its Third Annual World Rankings with East Germany's Peter Frenkel and West Germany's Bern Kamenberg leading at 20 and 50 Km, respectively. Frenkel was followed by Vladimir Golubnichiy, USSR and Hans-Gerog Reimann, East Germany, with Larry Young, U.S., in 10th. Kamenberg was followed by Veniamin Soldatenko, USSR, and Young. Of course topped the U.S. rankings in both events, followed by Tom Dooley and Goetz Kloper at 20, and Bill Weigle and Bob Kitchen at 50.

25 Years Ago (From the December 1982 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- The ORW World Rankings saw Mexico’s Daniel Bautista and Raúl González on top at 20 and 50 Km respectively, with their countrymen dominating other positions. At 20, Domingo Colín was second and González fourth, sandwiching East Germany’s Karl-Heinz Stadlmüller. Maurizio Dimuzio, Italy, was fifth. At 50, Peror Aroche and Enrique Vera made it a 1-2-3 sweep for the Mexicans, with Italy’s Paolo Grecoce and USSR’s Veniamin Soldatenko taking the next two spots. The U.S. rankings saw Neal Pyke on top at 20 and Larry Young at 50. Todd Seuly, Dan O’Connor, and Tom Dooley followed at 20, and Augie Hirt, O’Connor, and Bob Rosencrantz at 50... John Knifton won the National Postal 1 Hour, covering 8 miles 181 yards, just 24 yards ahead of Tom Dooley. Wayne Glauser also surpassed 8 miles and Larry Walker finished fourth. Ron Kulik won the Master’s title with 7 miles 760 yards. (We weren’t doing women’s rankings yet–we started the following year–because there wasn’t sufficient activity in women’s walking to justify rankings.)

20 Years Ago (From the December 1987 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- In the ORW rankings, Irina Stankina, USSR led the women’s 10, followed by her compatriot Olga Kristop, and Aussie Kerry Sashbo, Maryanne Torrellas, Debbi Lawrence, and Lynn Weik were the top-ranked U.S. women. At 20 Km, Mauricio Dimuzio, Italy, Josef Pribilince, Czech, and Jose Marin, Spain led the World Rankings, with Tim Lewis, Carl Schuler, and Ray Sharp the top three in the U.S. At 50, the GDR’s Hartwig Gauler and Ron Weigel were on top, followed by Yvelasheva Ivanenko, USSR, Schuler, Marco Enomoto, and Jim Heiring were atop the U.S. rankings. Bob Mimm and Visha Sedlak were the top U.S. competitors at the World Veterans Games in Melbourne. Visha won at both 5 Km (24:51) and 10 Km (52:38) in the woman’s 35-39 group, and Bob won at both 5 Km (26:42) and 20 Km (1:49:09) in the men’s 60-64 group.

15 Years Ago (From the December 1992 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)- China’s Yueting Chen, who eventually raced for the U.S. in the 2000 Olympics, topped the women’s 10 Km in the ORW World Rankings. Her Olympic win put her ahead of Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia, and Madeleine Svensson, Sweden. Debbi Lawrence, Victoria Herazo, and Teresa Vaill were atop the U.S. rankings. The World 20 Km rankings saw Spain’s Daniel Plaza ahead of Guillaume Leblanc, Canada, and Giovanni Dibenedettticos, Italy. In the U.S., it was Allen James, Jonathan...
Matthews, and Tim Lewis. At 50, it was Andrei Perlov, Russia, Carlos Mercenario, Mexico, and Ronald Weigel, Germany in the World Rankings, and Carl Scheuler, Herm Nielson, and Marco Eroniak in the U.S.

10 Years Ago (From the December 1997 ORW)—Again we had the annual rankings.

Women's 10 Km—Anna Rita Sidoti, Italy, Erica Alfriti, Italy, and Irma Stankina, Russia; U.S.—Victoria Herazo, Debbie Lawrence, and Gretchen Eastler. Men's 20 Km—Daniel Garcia, Mexico, Jefferson Perez, Ecuador, and Mikhail Schennikov, Russia; U.S.—Curt Clausen, Andrew Hermann, and Tim Seaman. Men's 50—Jesus Garcia, Spain, Robert Korzeniowski, Poland, and Oleg Ishakulin, Russia; U.S.—Hermann, Andrez Chylinki, and Mark Green.

And looking way back—a bit of history from the Feb. 23, 1917 N.Y. Times, as dredged up from somewhere by Dave McGovern:

**Record For Rolker In Walk To Coney**

Covers 10 ½ Miles Over Slushy Roads in 1:26:50 In Annual Hike TO Shore

Win Rolker of the Irish-American AC covered the distance of 10 ½ miles in the record-smashing time of 1:26:50 yesterday in the sixth annual hike of the Walker's Club of America. The former record, made by Dick Remer, was 1:28. Remer started from scratch in yesterday's race and, in actual time, he was second with 1:27:01. Remer, however, starting from scratch, had no chance to finish anywhere, and trailed home in thirteenth place.

The walk was won by Louis Labowitz of the Walker's Club, who had a handicap of 14 minutes. Labowitz did not go into first place until the last quarter of a mile, for I. Greengold of the Harlem YMCA held the lead until he neared the finish on Coney Island Boulevard. Greengold was rather fatigued and when Labowitz pulled up alongside of him, the pace was too much for Greengold and he fell back into second place. Rolker came along in third place and finished strong, his handicap being six minutes. Labowitz's time was 1:34:23 and Greengold finished in 1:30:28.

There was a large field of starters, 117 walkers lining up in front of the City Hall, where a crowd of more than 3000 watched the hikers get away. Thousands lined the course at different places along the route. It was especially bad going along Flatbush Avenue and along the Boulevard, where the walkers not only had a difficult time keeping out of the slush, but also in dodging the string of automobiles that were constantly frightening the athletes with their horns.

It was difficult going which spurred the walkers on to a greater speed, and the effort Rolker made in battling his way through the slush brought him to the record-breaking pace. He started off at a fast clip, and walked the most consistent match of the large field. He kept up a steady gait throughout, never varying his speed even over the worst places along the route.

It was a cosmopolitan lot of walkers that made the long tramp. They were of all nationalities and ages; they were of all sizes, and showed a wonderful variation of styles. The walking form of many of the contestants was so closely akin to the old-time go-as-you-please pace that 41 were disqualified. Many of those who were looked upon as favorites finished pretty well back. John Anthony of Stuyvesant Evening Training School was seventh, while W.J. McFadden of the Newark AC was tenth. Frank Kaiser of the Morning Style AC was eleventh.

Rolker, Remer, and Kaiser all bettered the former record. There was a large representation of the "old boys" as they call the veteran pedestrians and many of them finished in better shape than the younger contestants. The veteran, James H. Hosking, landed twenty-third place. When the walk was finished, all the contestants sat down to a meal in a Coney Island restaurant, and all known eating records were broken. The restaurant man said he had never served such a festal lot of people in his career.


(Ed. note: Frank Kaiser competed in the 1912 Olympics finishing fifth in his heat of the 10 Km in 51:31.8, but he did not finish in the final. Rolker or at least William Rolker, which I am assuming was the same guy) and Remer competed in the 1920 Games in Antwerp. Remer finished third in the 3000 meters in 13:25.6 with Roelker eighth. They had finished third and fourth in a qualifying heat. Roelker also competed in the 10 Km, finishing seventh in his heat. In the 10, Joe Pearman finished second, the highest finish ever by an American in an Olympic race, not counting George Bush's gold medal at 1500 meters in the "unofficial" 1906 Games in Athens. Elliott Denman contends that those Games held between two official Games should be considered as much as any of the recognized Olympic Games. In another note, a veteran of the Coney Island race in later years, Ron Daniel recalls, "I remember racing on the road course for several years. Try walking across the Brooklyn Bridge and then along Flatbush Avenue on Thanksgiving Thursday with no traffic control!! And there was one year where we topped 100 starters as well.)

Commercial

The ORW doesn't accept advertising—it would make life too complex. But, a free commercial for the editor's son—that we can do.

Derek, whose story most of you know through these pages, has released his second CD a duo recording with his friend Michael Joseph, who plays native American flute. They call their duo SOTIW (pronounced so-too)—Sketches of the New World. The album is called Sketches of Time. Among many accolades Flyingman at WAWL, 91.5 in Chattanooga, describes it thus: "A very clean, clear and well recorded acoustic release... fresh smooth original compositions. Derek (12-string guitar) is sensual and Michael's flute is as good as anything I have in my library. The selections are very diverse and the entire song list flows well, easy listening with twists that entertain thought and emotions." Visit Derek's website at www.derekmortland.com for a link to SOTIW to learn more. Or you can order the CD ($15.00) through the ORW. End of commercial.