Two More IAAF Challenge Races In The Books

The World's Racewalking caravan moved to Krakow, Poland on May 30 and La Corona, Spain on June 20. The four races (two for women and two for men) yielded four different winners. Now only the World Championships in Berlin in August and the Challenge Final in Saransk, Russia in September remain on the IAAF Challenge schedule. The Krakow races were contested over just 10 Km, a first for in Challenge history. In La Corona, it was back to the standard 20 Km.

In the 10 Km races, Russia's Valeriy Borchin, the 2008 Olympic Champion and Olympic silver medalist Kjersti Platzer emerged as winner's. For Borchin it was an easy win as he dominated the race. Platzer's fourth Challenge win of the year was much tougher, as she edged Russia's Olympic gold medalist Olga Kaniskina by only a second.

The 37-year-old Platzer, in her final season, increased her lead in the Challenge standings with her win. After just one lap of the approximate 1.35 Km lap, Platzer and Kaniskina were in complete control of the race. They battled to the finish where the much taller Platzer prevailed, perhaps having an advantage in the final yards because Kaniskina had two red cards. It was the Russian's first race at the shorter distance in five years. Platzer finished in 41:41.

Italy's Elisa Rigaudo was third, for the third time in this year's Challenge series. She was more than two minutes behind, finishing in 43:44, some 23 seconds ahead of Portugal's Vera Santos. In a three-way battle for fifth, Romania's Claudia Stef prevailed.

Borchin, who has lost only to Francisco Fernandez in his last five races, didn't have to worry about the Spaniard today, as Fernandez had withdrawn with a back injury. Borchin bided his time in the middle of a pack of nine walkers during the first 5 Km. When they hit 5, Borchin began pushing the pace and only Norway's Erik Tysse and France's Yohann Diniz responded. But even they were dropping away and Borchin had a four second lead by 6 Km and 27 seconds as they neared the final kilometer. Borchin finished in a quick 38:11, still 27 seconds ahead of Tysse. Diniz finished in 38:46, with Portugal's João Vieira a distant fourth. The walkers were aided by cool temperatures, hovering around 60 F. Pre-race publicity had reported that the retired Jefferson Perez was to compete, but he didn't and there was no post-race comment on that fact.

Three weeks later in La Corona, Platzer had her string of Challenge victories snapped by Germany's Sabine Zimmer Krantz and a 20-year-old Chinese walker, Yafei Chu, surprised Platzer's brother, Erik Tysse and Mexico's Eder Sanchez, to win the men's race. Chu who had clocked 1:18:44 when just 17 had not been at that level since, but was convincing in this race.

Walking on a 1 Km loop, Chu, Tysse, and Sanchez made it a three-man race from the start, clocking 19:46 for the first 5 Km. The trio reached 10 Km in 39:50, seven seconds
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ahead of Australia's double-Olympic-medalist Jared Tallent. Tallent dropped out in the fifteenth kilometer.

By 17 Km, Chu and Tysse had opened a four-second gap on Sanchez, the World Cup bronze medalist. Their head-to-head battle was decided only inside the last kilometer where Chu, tenth in the 2008 Olympics, broke away to win in 1:19:51, four seconds ahead of Tysse, Sanchez finished another 35 seconds back, and was credited by at least one reporter as holding the best technique in the field. It was another 45 seconds back to China's Hao Wong in fourth.

Despite his win, Chu declared, "I have won today but it doesn't guarantee me a berth for Berlin. Back in China, the team for the Worlds will still have to be discussed. Anyway, I'm delighted to have succeeded at such a prestigious race." Earlier in the year, Chu, tenth in the 2008 Olympics, broke away to win in 1:19:51, four seconds ahead of Tysse, Sanchez finished another 35 seconds back, and was credited by at least one reporter as holding the best technique in the field. It was another 45 seconds back to China's Hao Wong in fourth.

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Platzer and Krantz, 10 years her junior, quickened the pace over the second 5 Km (22:26 for a 45:23 split) and left the others in their wake. Krantz made the decisive move in 12th kilometer and sped away easily from Tysse, steadily increasing her lead all the way to the finish. She won in 1:30:20, 35 seconds ahead of Platzer. Santos came from 32 seconds behind Krantz in the final 5 Km to take third and Saltanovic also caught the fading Japanese walker to finish fourth.

An ecstatic Krantz commented, "Honestly, I didn't expect to win today, especially after having a look at the quality start list. I have walked in solitude for the 8 km and that has been really tough due to the wind." Asked if this win puts her in the Berlin medal picture, a humble Krantz replied, "At the beginning of the season, I had set myself the target of being a top-10 in Berlin and this victory doesn't change my mind at all."

Results of the two races:


Challenge Standings After La Coruna with two events to go:


Seaman and Vaill Add To Their Collection Of National Titles

Albany, N.Y., May 30—Two-time Olympian Tim Seaman won his 36th national men's racewalking title and Teresa Vaill her 35th at the USATF National 10 Km today. Vaill...
successfully defended the title she won last year. Although two-time Olympian Allen James
challenged early in the men’s race, Seamen eventually pulled away to win in 42:56. James,
who at 45 makes only occasional forays into such races, finished in 45:36, with the Shore
AC’s Richard Luettchau third in 46:34.

Vaill, a year older than James, finished in 46:44, far ahead of second-place Maria
Mita (51:02) Solomina log in was third. The course for the race was not conducive to
speed—1-Km laps around the cobblestone surface of Empire State Plaza. Nonetheless,
Seamen easily managed to better the course record of 45:15, set by Matt Boyles last year.

The results:

Taylor 54:43.5. Katie Malinowski 56:18. 6. Olivia Lapham (18) 60:00.7. Theresa Ameerman

Isinghaus 50:17.5. John Soucheek (43) 52:05.6. Dave Talbot (49) 52:17.8. Dan O’Brien (44)

Other Results

Steve Vaitones 32:57.4. Justin Koo 33:52.5. Tom Knatt 34:03.6. Paul Schell 35:49
H.S.
Girls 1500 meters, Port Jefferson, N.Y., June 6—1. Erin Bresnahan 7:05.49.2. Ashley

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30-year-old Lopez, ninth in the 2008 Olympics, walked to a track record of 1:20:53.9 to cut 1 second from the previous best set by Perez in Cali in 2008. Lopez has a road best of 1:20:26 at the 2005 Pan American Cup.

"We came to Lima with the goal of achieving a time close to 1:20:30, so this is not an accident," said coach Fernando Roso. "We now have the responsibility of filling the vacant space left by someone as great as Jefferson Perez, who has been a great influence for racewalking in South America. He changed our approach towards training techniques and other methods of scientific support. We will try to get close to his marks, but that will be very difficult."

After crossing the 10 Km mark in 40:27, Lopez had no opposition from the rest of the field. "He went solo for almost the entire race. We expected to face Ecuadorian Rolando Scaquipay, but he didn’t come," said Roso. Chilean Yerko Araya was second with a national record of 1:23:08.2, while Ecuadorian Patricio Ortega was third in a personal best 1:23:30.9.

Set Your Own Pace; But Get In The Race

Sat. July 4  8 Km, Washington, DC (N)
            5 Km, Evergreen, Col., 8 am (H)
Sun. July 5   1500 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Va. (N)
Mon. July 6   5 Km, Long Branch, N.J. 6:47 pm (A0
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Tue. July 7   1 Mile, Ocean Twp., N.J., 6:30 pm
July 9-12 National Masters Outdoor T&F, Oshkosh, Wis. ((D)
Sat. July 11  2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
USATF National Club Championships 5 Km, New York City (D)
Mon. July 13  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J. (6:47 pm (A)
Tue. July 14  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J, 6:47 pm (A)
Tes. July 14  1 Mile, Ocean Twp., N.J., 6:30 pm (A)
Sun. July 19  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J. 9 am (G)
Mon. July 20  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:47 pm (A)
Thu. July 23  3000 meters, yellow Springs, Ohio (M)
Sat. July 25  1500 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Va. (N)
Washington Senior Games, 1500 and 5000 meters, Turnwater (C)
Sun. July 26  North Region 3000 meters, Minneapolis, Minn. (K)
Mon. July 27  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:47 pm (A)
Sun. Aug. 2   5 Km, Evergreen, Col., 8 am (H)
Mon. Aug. 3   5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:47 pm (A)
Sat. Aug. 8   1500 and 3000 meters, Arlington, Va. (N)
Sun. Aug. 9   10 Km, Indianapolis (K)
Mon. Aug. 10  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:47 pm (A)
Fri. Aug. 14  1500 meters, Palo Alto, Cal. (J)
Sat. Aug. 15  5 Km, Loveland, Col., 7 pm (H)
Sun. Aug. 16  3000 meters, Virginia Beach, Va. (T)
Mon. Aug. 17  5 Km, Boulders, Col., 8:30 am (H)
Sun. Aug. 16  USATF National 15 Km, Minneapolis, Minn. (S)
Mon. Aug. 17  5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Fri. Aug. 21  5 Km, Flint, Mich. (F)

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Y--Walkers Club of Los Angeles, 233 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

From Heel To Toe

Training Center update and World Class camp news. The following from Dave McGovern updates Ian Whatley's plans for a racewalking training center, which we reported several months ago: Biochemist, renowned shoe designer, and 2009 Pan Am Cup 20 Km team member, Ian Whatley, has been building the USA Racewalking Training Center in Greenville, South Carolina. The site features a 400m track, athlete housing, a weight training facility, and a four-camera, dual-monitor video treadmill system for state-of-the-art technique analysis. The wooded 40-acre site is also bisected by dirt and paved walking trails and there are miles of great road walking courses beginning at the Training Center's front gates. I'm holding my first World Class Racealking camp at the Center in late September/early October,
culminating at the USAF National 5 Km race in Kingsport, Tenn. The camp will focus specifically on getting you race-ready for the event, and is being billed as a training/camp. This camp is in addition to my 19th Annual World Class Racewalking Training Camp to be held at the National Training Center in Clermont, Florida in late November. That camp features first-class housing, and a truly world-class training facility. The Florida camp is suitable for all levels, including marathon and ultra-distance walkers, while the Greenville camp is specifically geared for those planning to compete at the National 5 Km. More information on both at www.racewalking.org/campfire.pdf. You can also get information on upcoming World Class clinics on Long Island, and in Hamilton, Ontario, Indianapolis, Denver, Bellingham, Wash., Louisville, Dallas, and Santa Cruz, Aruba. More McGovern news. Team USA Internationalists Loreta Schuellein-McGovern and Dave McGovern have made a significant contribution to the growth of USA Racewalking with the birth of son Cavan John McGovern at 4:15 pm on May 22, 2009. Packing 9 lbs, 1 oz. of solid muscle, the milk-fed 21 incher has set his sights on the 2030 Games. Mom, a 2007 Pan Am Cup team member, is recovering from Cavan's birth and is eager to return to training. Dad, a 16-time US Internationalist, will also need to get training to take off some 15 lbs of sympathy fat he put on during the pregnancy. Cavan, eligible to compete for both the US and Ireland by dint of Dad's Irish citizenship, has a short-term goal of walking in time for the National 30 Km. Elakoon Vanhat! Gezer Power. The following from Harry Siltonen in Berkeley, my informant on Finnish affairs: Let's take a look at the prowess of Aaro Nokela, 74, a Finnish masters age group race walker. Aaro, who's a member of the Kuopion Hiihtajat (Kuopio Skiers–Aaro apparently skis, too), just set a great time of 57:58 seconds to place third in the Northern Savo Province 10 Km road walk championships at Leppävirta, Finland on May 18. If he had done this last year, he would have placed second in the world in the 70-74 year age group in that distance. Nokela turns 75 on March 14, 2010 in which the world’s best 2008 season’s best in the 75-79 age group was 62:53. So, world, keep an eye on Aaro! Looking at the stats, in the 10 Km Aaro is third all-time fastest in the world in the 50-54 age group with a 44:43.3 on the track, fourth all-time in the 55-59 age group with a 47:41 on the roads, fifth in the 65-69 group with 53:47. This dude (jatka) really speaks... Racewalker in Politics. Sari Essayah, a past women’s World and European 10 Km champion, was elected to the European Parliament in Brussels as a representative of Finland’s Christian Democrat Party. Only 13 people were elected from European in that distance. Essayah turns 75 on March 14, 2010 in which the world’s best 2008 season’s best in the 75-79 age group was 62:53. So, world, keep an eye on Aaro! Looking at the stats, in the 10 Km Aaro is third all-time fastest in the world in the 50-54 age group with a 44:43.3 on the track, fourth all-time in the 55-59 age group with a 47:41 on the roads, fifth in the 65-69 group with 53:47. This dude (jatka) really speaks... Racewalker in Politics. Sari Essayah, a past women’s World and European 10 Km champion, was elected to the European Parliament in Brussels as a representative of Finland’s Christian Democrat Party. Only 13 people were elected from Finland and Essayah ranked tenth in the polling. It’s apparently the highest elected political office in the world ever held by a race walker. She’s also a former member of the Finnish Parliament. Correction. In a typical ORW maneuver we had two issues No. 12 earlier this year—Vol. XLIV No. 12 in February and Volume XLV No. 12 in March. The latter obviously should have been No. 1. As a result, the April and May issues were also miscalculated as 1 and 2 rather than 2 and 3. Finally, I realized the error with this issue, which is correctly numbered No. 4. Sorry if I have caused any librarians grief or confused anyone’s filing system. But it goes with the territory when you subscribe to the ORW.

McCarthy (continued)

(continued)
Columbus. He has faithfully kept it going all these many years. Yes, Jack Mortland, 1964 Olympic teammate (20 Km) of Chris McCarthy and Ron Laird, has retired the trophy for racewalking journalistic loyalty. (Ed. We humbly accepted Ron’s accolades then and do so again now, having extended the effort another 18 years.)

Reading about Chicago’s active program each month in McCarthy’s little magazine helped me decide to move out there. I felt the change in training courses and new friends I’d make would inspire me to do the work needed for improving my speed, technique, and endurance. Once I got there, I had the opportunity to help him assemble and address the publication once in a while.

The Rewards of Racing

The summer before Chris won the National 50 Km Championship and Olympic Trial he won the National 40 Km title. To get back East, he drove his old junk Volkswagen to Long Branch, New Jersey. The race turned out to be a real death march due to the unseasonable heat and humidity. At the time it was held, I was on a national team touring Russia, Poland, Germany, and England and so was unable to take part in the ordeal. Even though the obligation of competing for my country was a much higher calling, I always hated to lose a chance at a national title because of having to be somewhere else. The fruits of his labor for winning that 40 Km walk were a huge, handsome trophy and the American championship gold medal.

The medal is the size of a silver dollar and is fixed to a red, white, and blue ribbon. At the other end of the 2- to 3-inch ribbon is a gold, silver, or bronze bar with the word “CHAMPIONSHIP” across it. The meet director of this annual race, Elliott Denman (1956 50 Km Olympian), has always done a grand job in putting the event on, especially when it comes to providing quality awards. He won some beauties during his best racing days, so likes to keep this gracious custom going. I know the athletes sure appreciate having something to show for their long hours out on the roads of New Jersey. Everyone who finished gets a nice souvenir they can be proud to display.

McCarthy didn’t like trophies. Since I did, I felt it my duty to lecture him on why he should have more respect for, and take better care of his awards. I often tried to tell him how much they symbolized his hard work and superior athletic achievements. He reasoned them to be useless trash, and felt my priorities needed serious reevaluation. Sometimes, we’d really get going at one another. These arguments helped ease the competitive tensions that training together sometimes created. At least he kept all his national medals, even though the last time I saw them (1976), they were in disgraceful condition.

The same night he returned with that big New Jersey 40 Km trophy, he carefully placed it in a vacant lot directly behind his apartment. The next morning, it was attacked by neighborhood kids, who quickly destroyed it with clubs and rocks. McCarthy, of course, got a big laugh out of this. When I found out what he’d done, I was sick with disappointment, but not surprised. I wished I’d gotten over to his place quicker so that I may have had a chance to rescue it from its terrible fate. Had I not taken an early morning workout, I may have arrived in time. He tried to feed me a bunch of swill about it being some sort of sociological experiment, but I think he did just to freak me out. I got him thinking twice about the foolish thing he’d done when I told him I would have bought it, if I knew he could have used the money. If it had been mine, I would have had a new name plate engraved and awarded it to myself for an important race where I’d won a cheap prize, or no prize at all. One can always recycle one’s awards to good cause if they have no further use for them.

My all-time favorite award was a large crystal vase from winning a race near

Gdansk, Poland in the summer of 1965. The time of 1:29:39 was the first time an American had broken the 1:30 barrier for 20. The organizers made the mistake of showing me that lovely vase before we started. It was exactly the kind of prize I’d dreamed about winning for many years. Once we got started, the thought of owning that beauty helped to keep me strong and fast all the way. (Ed. The beauty can be seen in the accompanying picture, along side another showing the beauty I won in the same race—a beauty shattered into a thousands pieces about five years later when an angry 2-year-old son yanked on the dining room table scarf!

As to the course, we were given splits along the way, and I was a little over 1:12 at 15 Km, as I recall, and wound up with a 1:34:39, without any particular acceleration I was aware of, so I always felt it a short 20. Ron had other excursions under 1:30, so he needs’t cry.)

Laird, left, Mortland, right, receive their crystal following Polish race, 1965.

Epilogue

If I were to go training with McCarthy today, I wonder if he’d try to tell me some theory about how important racewalking was in ancient times and how it affected those who lived back then. Would I have to listen to stories of how brave men were considered gods once they correctly mastered the classical knee locking, hip rolling, and arm pumping technique? Would he tell me how their individual feats of speed and endurance affected wars, governments, and the destinies of men? I’d have to defend my position with a statement like, “If you really believe such foolishness, you ought to be sitting at the feet of those who seek wisdom by studying the entrails of animals!” Chris would probably try telling me such practices couldn’t really guarantee the improvement of anyone’s athletic performance. I’d tell him that neither science or Holy Scripture supported his conclusions. With the experience I’ve had over the years, I’d have to argue against men and women trying to discover their destinies by way of some sort of physical fitness activity. Chris might try to affront me with claims about the ability of racewalking to cure the evils of the world and that it cold even be applied to someone as hopeless as me. Either that or a good woman was what I needed to help me fulfill my destiny. Yes, if Chris and I were taking long workouts today, we’d be sure to have some lively dialogue on a variety of subjects. I do know McCarthy would be pleased to see how well his concept of a monthly periodical has survived and prospered in the capable hands of his old Olympic teammate from Ohio. (Ed. At that time I said: “Unfortunately, Chris quit sending me money quite a few years ago and I quit sending him free ORW’s a few years after that. However, if I can resurrect his address, I guess he should get these last three issues.”
Eighteen years later, I'm not sure if that ever happened. However, Betty McCarthy is getting them now. About a year-and-a-half ago, another 1964 Olympian, Poland's Matt Rutyna—then and now a Chicago resident—upon renewing his own long-time ORW subscription, sent me the funds to subscribe Chris for 3 years. The remainder of that subscription is now going to Betty and we hope she enjoys these memories of a very special person—her husband. Special not only as a racewalker and a friend of the sport, but special for being one of the most genuine, ego-free persons I have known.

A closer look at that crystal. Mortland and Laird flank the Polish walker, Czaplinski, who was second in the race.

Alden Partridge—An Early American Pedestrian

by Andy Milroy
UltraMarathon World

Although Great Britain is well known for its pedestrians of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, such as Captain Barclay, the pedestrians in the United States have received less attention. Among these is Captain Alden Partridge (1785-1854). Just as many of the British pedestrians of the early 19th century were soldiers, who undertook their walking and running careers as much to prepare them for the rigors of warfare as for sport, Partridge also saw long distance walking in a similar light.

Partridge became superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1815 at age 29, but in 1871 he was forced to resign from the Army. After surveying part of the United States-Canada border, he returned to his home town of Norwich, Vermont.

Partridge was distrustful of a standing army, seeing it as a threat to democracy. However, he was also convinced that the lack of trained leadership had caused the appalling disasters of the War of 1812 against Britain. Consequently, in 1819, he founded Norwich, the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, to produce well-trained citizen soldiers as the best protection for the republic. To be effective, such a militia needed training in basic military science and tactics.

A key part of his educational program stemmed from his own physical endurance. Partridge was renowned as a great walker, reportedly once walking 60 miles in a single day. On one occasion he walked 110 miles across the mountains from Norwich to Williams town, Massachusetts, then ascended Mount Greylock before returning home. The entire trip of 220 miles took him just four days. These were the days before footpaths and trails were maintained.

He undertook similar feats to many of the peaks in New England, carrying along with him a barometer and a thermometer to measure the altitude of each peak. Hardly surprising, his pupils were also expected to undertake brisk, long-distance walks. In addition to extensive drill practice, they had to complete regular marches of up to 50 miles a day.

Alden Partridge is now seen as one of the first American educationalists to use such outdoor experience in the educational program—long before the days of outward bound and field trips. Partridge saw such walks as providing a physical challenge and a way of building self-confidence and learning to deal with discomfort and fatigue.

His academy was to be a prototype for similar establishments, where military studies were combined with more conventional studies. These too combined similar long distance walks as part of their character building programs. Things have changed somewhat since then. According to one recent survey, the average American now walks 1.4 miles a week. In other words, barely 350 yards or 1050 feet a day! I wonder what Captain Alden Partridge would have made of that.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the Early Summer 1964 issue of the Midwest Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy)–Ron Zinn snatched Ron Laird’s National Championship winning streak at four straight and extended his own winning streak at the National 10 Km to the same number. With reckless disdain for blazing sun and a temperature in the low 90s, Zinn covered the first lap of Chicago’s Stagg Field track in 1:41 and went through the first mile in 7:01. Laird was at 7:16 with Jack Mortland also ahead of him. McCarthy reported that Mortland came into the race expecting to finish second to Laird (Mortland, who I recall if that report is correct) and moved up behind Zinn for a repeat of their 1961 race at the Schenley Oval track in Pittsburgh. Mortland continuously challenged, but Zinn would always accelerate, refusing to be passed, while the overall pace faded in the heat. Zinn pulled away in the final two laps. Final result: Zinn 48:08.6, Mortland 48:20, Laird 49:49, Don DeNoon 50:39, Jack Blackburn 50:42. Mortland and Blackburn led the Ohio Track Club to the team title (Note, three weeks later on another hot day in Pittsburgh, Laird carried a much faster part of his educational program stemmed from his own physical endurance. Partridge was renowned as a great walker, reportedly once walking 60 miles in a single day. On one occasion he walked 110 miles across the mountains from Norwich to Williams town, Massachusetts, then ascended Mount Greylock before returning home. The entire trip of 220 miles took him just four days. These were the days before footpaths and trails were maintained.

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Partridge was distrustful of a standing army, seeing it as a threat to democracy. However, he was also convinced that the lack of trained leadership had caused the appalling disasters of the War of 1812 against Britain. Consequently, in 1819, he founded Norwich, the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy, to produce well-trained citizen soldiers as the best protection for the republic. To be effective, such a militia needed training in basic military science and tactics.

A key part of his educational program stemmed from his own physical endurance. Partridge was renowned as a great walker, reportedly once walking 60 miles in a single day. On one occasion he walked 110 miles across the mountains from Norwich to Williams town, Massachusetts, then ascended Mount Greylock before returning home. The entire trip of 220 miles took him just four days. These were the days before footpaths and trails were maintained.

He undertook similar feats to many of the peaks in New England, carrying along with him a barometer and a thermometer to measure the altitude of each peak. Hardly surprising, his pupils were also expected to undertake brisk, long-distance walks. In addition to extensive drill practice, they had to complete regular marches of up to 50 miles a day.

Alden Partridge is now seen as one of the first American educationalists to use such outdoor experience in the educational program—long before the days of outward bound and field trips. Partridge saw such walks as providing a physical challenge and a way of building self-confidence and learning to deal with discomfort and fatigue.

His academy was to be a prototype for similar establishments, where military studies were combined with more conventional studies. These too combined similar long distance walks as part of their character building programs. Things have changed somewhat since then. According to one recent survey, the average American now walks 1.4 miles a week. In other words, barely 350 yards or 1050 feet a day! I wonder what Captain Alden Partridge would have made of that.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the Early Summer 1964 issue of the Midwest Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy)–Ron Zinn snatched Ron Laird’s National Championship winning streak at four straight and extended his own winning streak at the National 10 Km to the same number. With reckless disdain for blazing sun and a temperature in the low 90s, Zinn covered the first lap of Chicago’s Stagg Field track in 1:41 and went through the first mile in 7:01. Laird was at 7:16 with Jack Mortland also ahead of him. McCarthy reported that Mortland came into the race expecting to finish second to Laird (Mortland, who I recall if that report is correct) and moved up behind Zinn for a repeat of their 1961 race at the Schenley Oval track in Pittsburgh. Mortland continuously challenged, but Zinn would always accelerate, refusing to be passed, while the overall pace faded in the heat. Zinn pulled away in the final two laps. Final result: Zinn 48:08.6, Mortland 48:20, Laird 49:49, Don DeNoon 50:39, Jack Blackburn 50:42. Mortland and Blackburn led the Ohio Track Club to the team title (Note, three weeks later on another hot day in Pittsburgh, Laird carried a much faster part of his educational program stemmed from his own physical endurance. Partridge was renowned as a great walker, reportedly once walking 60 miles in a single day. On one occasion he walked 110 miles across the mountains from Norwich to Williams town, Massachusetts, then ascended Mount Greylock before returning home. The entire trip of 220 miles took him just four days. These were the days before footpaths and trails were maintained.

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35 Years Ago (From the June 1974 ORW) -- The Colorado Track Club duo of Jerry Brown and Floyd Godwin took one-two in the National 20 Km on Long Island. Brown's 1:33:34 left him 24 seconds ahead of Dave Romansky at the finish, but Dave had been DQ'd before 15 Km, though never properly notified. Godwin finished in 1:35:01, followed by John Knifton, Ron Daniel, and Bob Henderson. Three weeks later, Knifton won the 5 Km title in L.A., finishing 8 seconds ahead of Larry Walker in 22:22. Bill Ranney, Tom Dooley, Daniel, and Ed Boudin followed, all under 22 minutes. Carl Swift won the NAIA 10 Km in 49:18.6, from Paul Ide and Jim Bean. The National Junior 10 Km went to Steve Hermann in 49:08 with Jim Murchie second. In Italy, Karl-Heinz Stadtmueller, of East Germany, walked 1:20:58 for 20, but the course turned out to be only 19,154 meters in length. East Germany's Winfried Skotnicki won the supposed 50 Km (49.91 Km) during this botched international meet in 3:52:12.

30 Years Ago (From the June 1979 ORW) -- In Trials for the Pan Am Games, Marco Evoniuk won the 50 and Neal Pyke the 20. Evoniuk's 4:10:33 was nearly 10 minutes ahead of Vincent O'Sullivan, with Karl Johansen third. Pyke took command at the start and led all the way to win the 20 in 1:27:11, but Todd Scully was only 44 seconds back at the finish. Chris Hansen bettered 1:30 in third, with Larry Walker fourth, and Evoniuk, with only one day off after the 20, fifth. The races were held in Walnut, Calif. Sue Brodock won both the 5 and 10 Km in the Women's Nationals, doing 24:07 on Friday and 50:33 on Sunday, both American records. Paula Kash, Chris Sakelarios, and Sue Liers followed in the 5, and Liers, Sakelarios, and Esther Lopez in the 10. In Norway's annual Grand Prix, records fell to Mexicans in both the 20 and 50. Domingo Colino did 1:20:59 in the 20, leaving former world record holder Daniel Bautista some 80 seconds back. Anotoly Solomin, Boris Yaklyov, and Felix Gomez also broke the old record of 1:23:32. Raul Gonzales did 3:41:39 in the 50, leaving Lehelievre better than 16 minutes behind in second. Colino also walked a fast 50, 3:47:18, as Mexico won an international meet from West Germany, Sweden, Hungary, and Spain. Bautista won the 20 in 1:22:15.

25 Years Ago (From the June 1984 ORW) -- Walking races a week apart, Marco Evoniuk won the U.S. Olympic Trials at both 20 and 50 in Los Angeles. The 20 came first, and Marco did 1:26:17, leaving Jim Heiring a minute behind. Dan O'Connor captured third in 1:29:12, with Sam Shick fourth in 1:30:25. Evoniuk completely dominated the 50, winning in 4:02:25, nearly 12 minutes ahead of Vincent O'Sullivan. Carl Schulter was another minute back, but 1½ minutes ahead of Tom Edwards. Randy Mimm and Troy Engle followed. The National 20, held just a week ahead of the Trials, didn't attract a very strong field, but Ray Funkhouse turned in a good performance to win in 1:31:48, 2 minutes ahead of Gary Morgan. They were seventh and sixteenth the next day when the big guns showed up for the Trials. Debbi Lawrence won the women's National 10 Km in 51:01, beating Esther Lopez by 15 seconds. Susan Liers was third. Lopez did a 50:42 a couple of weeks later ahead of Teresa Vaill.

20 Years Ago (From the June 1989 ORW) -- Soviet walkers were dominant in the World Cup held in Barcelona, winning both men's and women's titles decisively. China and Italy f