Fast Times At Cedarville

(Hey this is the Ohio Racewalker! Why not feature something from Ohio for a change? Particularly when we have a ready-made article from Vince Peters himself.)

Cedarville, Ohio, Feb. 13—It was rocking in the Doden Field Hours on the campus of Cedarville University Friday night when the racewalks took place. A charter bus load of student athletes from Cornerstone University of Grand Rapids, Michigan, stood, cheered, and encouraged their teammates in the walks. Soon athletes from Goshen, Lindsey Wilson, Cumberland, and Rio Grande joined in. And it paid off as rising racewalker Cody Risch reached the super-star status. The talented senior destroyed a men’s field that included 2012 Olympic Trials finalists Mike Mannozzi and Dan Serianni. Risch led from start to finish to win in a national collegiate leading time of 12:04.

Nathan Vanderwall, Jacob Gunderkline, Mitchell Brickson, and Isaac Withrow joined Risch in qualifying for the College Indoor T&F Nationals on Friday March 1 in Geneva, Ohio. Meanwhile, the athletes from all of the NCAA schools sat bewildered by all of the hoopla, totally without understanding of this Olympic T&F event.

Preceding the men’s race, the women walkers put on a very competitive show. Katie Burnett and Jill Cobb swapped leads before Burnett broke loose with four laps to go. Burnett, Cobb, and Susan Randall, who walked a PR 14:02, were all Olympic Trials finalists in 2012.

Erick Helmuth and Abby Dunn (Maine’s HS state champ in 2012) walked PR times.

Reine Brickson, Brianna Griffiths, Kayla Ovokaitys, Jourdann Green, and Amanda Bland joined Goshen College’s Helmuth and Dunn in qualifying for the NAIA intercollegiate indoor T&F Championships. Yellow Springs (Ohio) resident Niki Worsham walked to the third fastest time in the USA this year for HS students with her 80 second PR. The results:

Women:

2012 U.S. 50 Km Rankings and List
(In the December Rankings issue I completely neglected U.S. 50 Km walkers. I had my data already to go but in my usual state of senility, never input it. And, I didn’t even realize this oversight until early this month, when Dave Talcott, in a separate communication, noted his disappointment that my rankings neglected the 50 for U.S. walkers. “What?” I said to myself. But, when I looked, nothing was there. So, here we go. Since only three people walked more than one 50, there is no reason to rank the athletes other than by time. The rankings and list are for all walkers—male and female.)

1. John Nunn 4:03:28 (43rd Olympics, 8/11
2. Tim Seaman 4:04:41 (1) US Trials 1/22
3. Ben Shorey 4:17:30 (3) US Trials 1/22
5. Erich Cordero 4:28:03 (5) US Trials 1/22
6. Craig Talcott 4:28:57 (2) Valley Cottage Valley 10/30
7. Dan Serianni 4:38:26 (7) US Trials 1/22
9. Ray Sharp 4:41:45 (8) US Trials 1/22

Others:
4:49:05 Ian Whatley
4:57:47 Omar Nash
5:16:20 Tammy Stevenson
5:24:19 Dave McGovern

Michta, Hallman Capture National 1 Mile Titles

New York City, Feb. 16—The historic Millrose Games T&F meet included the USAF Indoor Mile Championship racewalks for both women and men. In the women’s race Maria Michta scored a relatively easy victory over Miranda Melville, her 6:40:06 leaving Melville more than 9 seconds behind. Melville barely withstood the challenge of Ohio’s Erika Shaver to capture the silver. Katie Burnett was also under 7 minutes in fourth. In the men’s race, Jonathan Hallman captured his first senior title, surviving the challenge of Dan Serianni for a 6:07.62 win. The results:


Challenge Gets Underway In Mexico

Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 23 (Based on IAAF report)—The 11th edition of the IAAF Racwalking Challenge was launched here today with Portugal’s Ines Henriques, Mexico’s Isaac Palma, and Norway’s Erik Tysse scoring victories, the first two at 20 Km and Tysse at 50.

For Henriques, it was her third consecutive win in the season-launching Mexican event as she overcame teammate Ana Cabecinha with a 1:33:46 performance. Norway’s Kjersti Platzer is the only other woman to win here three times.

Palma edged away from Canada’s Inaki Gomez in the closing stages of the men’s 20 to win by 16 seconds in 1:24:02, with four other Mexicans and Poland’s Grzegorz Sudol not far back, Sudol sandwiched in the middle of the Mexican pack.

Tysse, in his first 50 since October 2009, dominated the second half of the race to win in 3:55:23, 61 seconds ahead of Mexico’s Omar Zapeda. Tysse was fifth in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

In the women’s 20, Henriques and Cabecinha took the early lead and passed 10 Km in 46:49 with almost a one minute lead over the rest of the field. Henriques got away at about 12 Km and continued to build a lead to the finish, which she reached in 1:33:36, 28 seconds ahead of her countrywoman. Mexico’s Monica Equihua repeated her third-place performance of last year, finishing in 1:36:29.

Well pleased with her performance, Henriques said, “I am very happy to have won in Chihuahua again. Changing a course did not affect me. If you are in good shape, you walk well. I feel very comfortable here.”

In the men’s 20, a large pack stayed together through the first 10Km, passed in 42:24. At 15, the pack had been halved and soon the race was down to four men with the disqualification of Mexico’s Jesus Benga. In the final two 2-Km laps, Palma and Gomez moved to the front and then Palma found an extra gear to pull away for the win, improving on his fourth place finish in 2012. Gomez was pleased with a second Challenge podium, finishing in 1:36:29.

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however, and cruised to the victory, over Zepeda, who finished strongly over the second half of the race, leaving Segura well back in third. Bustamante finished fourth in a personal best 3:59:07.

The 32-year-old Tysse said: "I would like to thank the people of Chihuahua for supporting all competitors. Winning in Mexico is always an honor considering all the tradition and so many good athletes this country has." Tysse had been third here in 2008.

### Results

**Women's 20 Km**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ines Henriques</td>
<td>1:33:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ana Cabecinha</td>
<td>1:33:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Monic Equina</td>
<td>1:35:24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Arabelly Orjuela</td>
<td>1:36:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rusaoli Ortiz</td>
<td>1:36:16</td>
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**Men's 20 Km**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Isaac Palma</td>
<td>1:24:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Inaki Gomez</td>
<td>1:24:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Diego Flores</td>
<td>1:24:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Grigoroz Sodol</td>
<td>1:25:06</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Other Results**

**USAATF East Region and NE Masters**

**3000 Meters Championship, Providence, R.I., Jan. 27-1**

- Ed O'Rourke III (51) 15:10:15
- Maryanne Daniel (54) 16:04:81
- Ron Winkler (62) 16:04:81
- Brian Savilonis (62) 16:13:68
- Joe Light (67) 16:19:83
- Holly Wenninger (48) 16:08:02
- Charles Mansbach (68) 16:26:40

**Girls' High School Championships, New York City**

- Brooklyn Borough, Feb. 10-1
- Hannah Wilson 8:30:73
- Winnie Yu 8:47:46

**USAATF Masters**

- 3000 meters, Maryland, Dec. 16-1
- Peter Blank 8:41:36

**Remaining Challenge Races**

- March 1, Taicang, China; March 10 Asian Racewalk Championships, Nomi, Japan; March 17-Lugano Trophy, Lugano, Switzerland; April 6 African Racewalk Championships, Mauritania; also April 6 Rio Maior, Portugal; April 13 Podebrady, Czech Republic; May 1 Sesto San Giovanni, Italy; May 19, European Racewalking Cup, Dudince, Slovakia; May 25-26 Pan Am Racewalking Cup, Lima, Peru; June 1 La Coruna, Italy; June 29 Dublin, Ireland; August 10-16 IAAF World Championships, Moscow.

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**Tallent Also Wins Challenge Race**

Hobart, Australia, Feb. 24—Three-time Olympic medalist Jared Tallent scored a commanding win in the Australian and Oceania 20 Km Championships today. The race is part of the IAAF Racewalking Challenge, but drew only Australian walkers. The women's race went to Tanya Holliday, 24, also against an all Australian field.

While Tallent was in complete control of his race, winning in 1:22:10, 20-year-old Danie Bird-Sm ith had a very impressive race, finishing just 17 seconds behind Tallent. Luke Adams was third in 1:23:48.

Tallent noted: "My wife Claire and I are making some pretty big changes this year by moving to Adelaide soon and also with her taking over as my coach. It's been a good move for me so far. I am stoked to have her there with me every session and her support is insurmountable."

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tanya Holliday</td>
<td>1:34:32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cheryl Webb</td>
<td>1:35:46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Rachel Tallent</td>
<td>1:36:50</td>
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**Men's 20 Km**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
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<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jared Tallent</td>
<td>1:22:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Danie Bird-Smith</td>
<td>1:22:27</td>
</tr>
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Alejandro Chavez, Miss. Baptista 13:39.75 4. Aleksander Jakobsen, Ashford U. 15:07.54 (Both Christie and Chavez were conserving energy for later events in this indoor track meet, so did not seriously challenge Stroupe, not to belittle his excellent time.)


Japanese Championships, Kobe. Feb. 17. Check these times and the depth of performance.

Are the Japanese going to challenge the Chinese for Asian supremacy, or are these results akin to the infamous annual Russian Winter Championships? Either answer is speculation at this point and I suppose that I should not speculate but just present the results as they come to me.

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Upcoming Races

March 1-3 National USATF Indoor 3000 meters, Albuquerque, N.M. (D)
Sun. March 3 SE Masters 1500 meters, Winston Salem, NC (E)
Sun. March 10 Florida State races at 5 to 50 Km (B)
2000 meters, Farmingville, N.Y. (K)
20 Km and 2 Miles, Houston, Texas (G)
3000 meters, Columbia, Missouri (V)
1 Mile, Houston, Texas (G)
Sun. March 17
Pan-Am Cup Trials and U.S. Masters 20 Km, Huntington Beach, CA (D)
5 Km, Wallkill, N.Y. (S)
Fri. March 22
USATF Masters Indoor 3000 meters, Landover, Maryland (D)
Indoor 1 Mile, New York City
Sun. March 24
Ron Zinn Memorial 10 Km, Wall Twp. N.J. (A)
Thur. March 28
5000 meters, Goshen College, Indiana (R)
Sat. March 30
5000 meters, Shawnee, Oklahoma (G)
Sat. April 6
5000 meters, Fayette, Missouri (V)
5 Km, New Orleans (W)
Sun. April 7
5000 and 10,000 meters, Upper Nyack, N.Y. (N)
Sat. April 13
Carolina Masters 3000 meters, Charlotte, N.C. (E)
Sun. April 14
1 Hour, Ottawa, Ontario (Z)
3000 meters,Farmingville, N.Y. (K)
Sun. April 21
102nd Coney Island 10 Mile Handicap, Coney Island, Brooklyn (P)
Sat. April 27
Penn Relays 5000 women and 10,000 men, Philadelphia (L)
5000 meters, Goshen College, Indiana (R)
Sat. May 4
1500 meters and 5 Km, Palo Alto, California (J)
5 Km, Portsmouth, N.H. (S)
Sun. May 5
USATF National 10 Km, Hauppauge, N.Y. (D)
Jack Mortland 5,10, and 20 Km, Dayton, Ohio ((M)

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D-www.USATF.org
E-Shatelyian@gmail.com
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G-Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
H-1933 West Plum Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521, 970-493-3425
I-Matt DeWitt, ccwalker-upw@yahoo.com
J-Art Klein, 324 Alta Vista, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
K-Gary Westerfield, gary@westerfield.com
L-Jeff Salvage, www.racewalker.com
M-Vince Peters, 607 Outer Circle, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387 (937-767-7424)
N-www.nyackracewalkers.webs.com
O-A.C. Jaime, jaime@jaimeglobal.com
P-Lon Wilson, 1020 Grand Concourse, Suite 15X, Bronx, NY 10415
Q-New Mexico Racewalkers, P.O. Box 90111, Albuquerque, NM 87199
R-Doug Yoder, 574-353-7495, dougy@goshen.edu
S-bgillvayo@gillgraphicsdesign.com
T-svatones@usatfn.org
U-Elaine Ward, 945 S. Orange Grove Beach, Pasadena, CA 91105
V-Cruenhage.com/schedule
W-www.runnote.org

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X-Steve Vaitones, P.O. Box 1905, Brookline, MA 02446 (617-566-7600)
Y-Walkers Club of Los Angeles, 233 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201
Z Roger Burrows, roger@bvtownwalkers.org

From Heel To Toe

Troy Engle. On Feb. 14, USA1F announced the staff for the IAAF Outdoor T&F Championships in Moscow, August 10-18. One of the man’s assistants is Troy Engle, a national-class racewalker in the early 1980s and now a very successful track coach at West Point. In 1984, Troy had a 4:18:11 for 50 Km, finishing fourth in the National title race. Later that year, he finished sixth in the Olympic Trials. He also had his best 20 that year, a 1:34:47 for eleventh in the Trials... History request. Tom Dooley, two-time Olympic racewalker (1968 and 1972), now perhaps the world’s leading collector of racewalking memorabilia, is seeking photos of Henry Cieman, Adolph Weinacker, and Price King. Tom’s address is 2817 Sain Simeon Way, San Carlos, CA 94070. (For the second time, I have misplaced Tom’s phone number and e-mail address. Also, I should have run this notice last month, but just uncovered the note to myself. Senility, you know. Sorry Tom.)... Note. This issue completes our 48th year of publication. Never imagined that when Jack Blackburn and I started this humble venture. Can it be the ORW will reach 50? And in June, Marty and I will reach 50 years of wedded bliss—a blessed journey, indeed)... Liberty Games. This from Bill Vayo: The Liberty Games is a nine-day, Olympic-style sports festival held in the Capital Region of New York state during July. A total of 17 spots will be contested, including track and field. Racewalking will be a highlighted event, and will feature two days of races. A 10,000 meter race for Open and Masters athletes will be held Friday, July 19 in the late afternoon. The next day, a 5000 for Open and Masters athletes, a 3000 for Scholastics, and a 1500 for Youth will be held concurrently. In addition, a judging seminar will be conducted by several of the top racewalking officials in the country. This will be held prior to the 10,000. These officials will then give on the job training to aspiring judges during the event. There are also plans for a coaching seminar to be held Friday evening. You don’t need to be a resident of either New York or the U.S. to participate. Nor, do you need a USA1F membership. Learn more at essportscouncil.org/liberty-games. Or, contact Bill at bgillvayo@gillgraphicsdesign.com... Olga. Commenting on Olga Kaniskina’s 19:47 for 3000 meters, reported in last month’s issue, Canada’s Roger Burrows notes: “Pending any news that would ruin my day, I will take Olga’s time and just assume that an all-Russian panel of judges did not quality the performance for World Record status. I have been a big fan of hers for some time. Anyone in the club having a particularly good workout is named “Olga” for the day, which has led to tension among some non-olgas... Taking nothing away from “the kid” (Lashmanova). I saw her at the World Juniors in Moncton. First, the Russian team-walking was really impressive coaching and execution—more like choreography than a race plan. Second, when Elena finally broke away from her teammate just after 9000 meters, I remember thinking “that tall girl really is amazing”.

2012 Senior National Team
As announced by National Chair Ron Daniel.
In commenting on the men’s team, Ron notes: “Significantly, the list shows an important trend that eight of the twelve are less than 30 years of age.” He also notes the presence of Tyler Sorenson, still in the junior ranks, but deserving of a place off his excellent 20 Km record. On the other hand, we can’t help but notice the well-deserved presence of Tim Seaman, now in the master’s ranks and Ian Whatley (53) on the 20 Km team; Joanne Dow, nearing her 49th birthday on the women’s 20 Km team; and Seaman, Allen James (48), Ray
Sharp (53), and Whatley on the 50 Km list. All certainly deserve their spots with super performances for masters athletes. But it speaks to the fact that we still have development work to do if he old timers can still make such a team.

**Men 20 Km**
- Trevor Barron, New York AC
- Tim Seaman, New York AC
- Nick Christie, un.
- Dan Serianni, World Class Racewalking
- Michael Mannozzi, Shore AC
- Tyler Sorenson, Champions International
- Ben Shorey, Shore AC
- Richard Luettchau, Shore AC
- Patrick Stroupe, un.
- John Nunn, US Army
- Ian Whately, World Class Racing
- Erich Cordero, Shore AC

**Women 20 Km**
- Maria Michta, Walk USA
- Miranda Melville, un.
- Erin Gray, Bowerman AC
- Jill Cobb, Miami Valley TC
- Joanne Dow, un.
- Lauren Forgues, New York AC
- Susan Randall, Miami Valley TC
- Stephanie Casey, un.
- Katie Burnett, un.
- Solomiya Login, SE Penn TC
- Erin Taylor-Talcott, Shore AC
- Nicole Bonk, Embry Riddle U.

**50 Km**
- John Nunn, US Army
- Tim Seaman, New York AC
- Ben Shorey, un.
- Patrick Stroupe, un.
- Erich Cordero, Shore AC
- Erin Taylor-Talcott, Shore AC
- Allen James, un.
- Ray Sharp, un.
- Dan Serianni, World Class RW
- Michael Mannozzi, Shore AC
- Ian Whately, World Class RW
- Omar Nash, Miami Valley TC

**Obituaries**

Too frequently over the past couple of years we have had to report the deaths of those with a special place in our racewalking community. Unfortunately, there are two more this month.

**John Gray**, a long-time racewalker and runner, died on Jan. 10 at age 88. John was a frequent age-group champion race walker, an amicable presence at countless races, and the author of the 1985 book *Racewalking for Run and Fitness*, a book that rests on your editor’s bookshelves. He was also such a fixture in the running community that an annual 10 Km and Half-marathon on Cape Cod were named in his honor while he was still a competitor. Thanks to Charlie Mansbach for bringing John’s death to our attention.

**Chris Schmid**, died on February 13 in Lakewood, Ohio, where he had recently bought a new home, moving from Wooster, Ohio. He was just two weeks past his 66th birthday. Entering the racewalking world about five years ago, the German native, blazed a trail of national age-group titles and age-group records, while competing for Dave McGovern’s World Class Racewalking team. Dave remembers Chris as follows:

“Although all of Chris’s tributes mention his amazing athleticism, they all also mention what an incredibly kind, generous person he was. I first met Chris at an indoor clinic held in Indianapolis in February of 2007. Chris had been a soccer player and dabbled in mountaineering, but was never a big fan of running for recreation. He wanted to get/stay in shape so he decided to try racewalking. He was a little robotic at first, but worked hard to refine his technique and took to it fairly quickly. Chris was extremely inquisitive. Although he always faithfully followed my training schedules, probably more so than any other athlete, he also always wanted to know why he was doing every workout. I learned to include LOTS of notes in his training schedules! As Chris learned more and improved as a racewalker, he was always very generous with his knowledge. He was always the first to give up his secrets because he knew that there are no secrets: Hard work is the answer, and Chris worked harder than any of his competitors, plain and simple. Chris was more than happy to work with beginners, as did at my Clinic this past August in Lakewood, near Cleveland.

“T erry always looked forward to seeing Chris. We talked a lot, and it was almost never about racewalking. I loved that! Everything seemed to be going great for Chris. He had just moved into a new lake house and was busy moving in and making repairs. He talked about his family, his wife, his kids, and grandkids. We spent a lot of time catching up at my Clinic in August and during many hours together during the National 40Km in September. I last saw Chris at the National 30 at the end of October. He had another amazing race. Of course, but I remember joking with him about his date with my wife, Loretta, with who he walked the entire race start to finish. This is a huge blow to our sport. To know Chris was to love him. I'm so heartbroken personally, for his family, and to anyone who never had the honor of meeting the man.”

Chris was named as the USATF Master Walker of the year in 2009, 2010, and 2011. In private life, Chris had served as president of LuK, Inc, Tekfor, and Wooster Hydrostatics. He was the board of directors of several companies and foundations. His passion was the encouragement of economic development and entrepreneurship in Wooster and the entire Northeast Ohio region and he was instrumental in bringing new businesses to the area He is survived by his wife Laurel and sons Andreas and Derek. Cards may be sent to Laurel at 1046 Kenneth Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.

**Remembering Al Heppner**

While dwelling on deaths, it was nine years ago this month, that Al Heppner took his own life after again failing short in the 50 Km Olympic Trials. A poem was recently posted on the website of Ben’s poem follows:

I’m remembering how Al made me smile
And how I thought with one more chance
He’d be able to make the big dance
And how I thought with one more chance
He’d be able to make the big dance
And how I thought with one more chance
He’d be able to make the big dance
And how I thought with one more chance
He’d be able to make the big dance

On February 19th 2004
Al took the leap to nevermore.
I know that I almost cried
When I read about his last ride
And it touched me deep inside
The day Al Heppner died.

You’re still missed racewalking guy
Reporter extraordinaire,
Mind in deep despair,
Because things went awry.
And I'm still thinking: Why?
Why did Al have to die?

In our Feb. 2004 issue, above our front page story on the 50 Km Trial, we wrote:
In the following article on the Olympic 50 Km Trial you will find that Al Heppner finished fifth. Three days later, Al took his own life, jumping off a bridge. During his 29 years, Al brought much joy to many and lived a full, productive life, touching many both in our sport and beyond it. That he felt his performance in this race was cause to end that life is something none of us can comprehend.

"We will all remember your talent, your drive and commitment to the sport. Those of us whose paths you have crossed will remember you fondly. Your tortured soul is now silent. May you rest in peace." Stella Cashman.

"Don't dwell on the last four days. Remember who he was when you saw him in his element, the man you knew for years." Cheryl Rellinger.

Al loved to write and wrote well. He was witty and entertaining. He often sent me articles on races and other things, but I never had room to print it all. But I had some of his things on file and honored him by publishing two of his articles in that February 2004 issue as a memorial. I will repeat one of these here Al had sent me this during a European racewalking tour.

Bridges and Buckingham

by Al Heppner

April 17, 2002

Contrary to what you sang as a child, London Bridge is not falling down. John Nunn and I went there yesterday and it looked just fine, thank you. The only things that were falling down were John and I from the 8-hour time change. Fortunately, England has Red Bull everywhere. I had seven. Forget the wings, Red Bull turned me into Sonic the Hedgehog.

It turned out to be worth the effort after all. The Wimbledon tennis Museum was free. It turned out to be worth the effort after all. The Wimbledon tennis Museum was free.

In the morning, we racewalked by Buckingham Place, where the queen lives, during the daily changing of the guard.

The first time I offered the 100-miler, no one came, but we did a 50-miler. The next year, Larry 'Neil showed up and a few others none of who went past 50 miles, so all I had to do was tell Larry his time each lap. I remember them being between 3:10 and 3:20 for the last 200 laps.

The man was amazing. He went to the restroom once in 24 hours. The restroom was a public facility just off the track. He used a sidewalk to it and came back to the track at a different place. He kept his form all the way to the little house and went back on form as he left the little house. Because he entered at a different spot than he left, the AAU refused to recognize his performance as a modern record.

I went before them at the National AAU meeting with two survey reports. First, the 1/4 mile track was 4 inches long at the designated spot from the curb. Thus, Larry walked a distance of 100 miles 133.3 feet.

Second, the distance to and from the restroom was about 100 feet longer than the distance on the track straightaway. Since he was on form all the way, he actually covered 100 miles, 78 yards! The AAU approved the record.

I'll never forget the hot day the road melted at a National 30 and the Big Red Duck's (Jack Blackburn) shoe stuck in the asphalt and came off. I think that was the day Ron Laird hit the ball and his worst time ever. (Ed. As did everyone else, but not so bad as Ron. It was 1966. Ron Daniel won in 2:57:07. Larry Young, just coming into his own, was second in 3:01:13 and your editor was third in 3:02:43. Laird finished in 4:04:05, but he finished. And, yes, Jack Blackburn did walk right out of a shoe that was stuck in the tar. Yes, a hot day.)

When I went into baseball scouting full time and became deeply involved with weight lifting, I formed the Columbia Track Club and let others take care of things. Joe Duncan's house was where we organized and he's been the man ever since.

I still follow the game in the ORW and have— if I can find them— every issue you ever wrote, plus some of Chris McCarthy's stuff... I still treasure the days when I was a part of the racewalking world as much as anything I've done in the world of sport. (Bill is also in the Weightlifting Hall of Fame, the local Bowling Hall of Fame, the State H.S. officials Hall, the prisons corrections Hall, and is recognized as one of five scouts responsible for opening up international baseball.)

My direction these days—in the nine years since I left baseball—is as a columnist where I review theater, music, and history and write about the people who make our community so great—people few really know. I've now become the bird watchers columnist, as well.
LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the February 1963 American Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy in Chicago)—The National AAU 1 Mile Championship race, contested in Madison Square Garden, went to Ron Zinn for the third straight year. The 23-year-old Army lieutenant finished in 6:42:0.1, 5.1 seconds ahead of Ron Laird. Close on Laird’s heels was Bill Omeltchenko, who finished in 6:49. Alan Blakeslee was fourth in 6:52 and four others broke 7 minutes. A week earlier, Akos Szekely, only sixth in the national race, had beaten Zinn at the New York AC Games with a 6:38:2. However, he had a 35 yard head start in the handicap race. Zinn walked 6:41:8 from scratch. A week after the National, Zinn won the New York K of C race in 6:36:3. Szekely, a West Point cadet, won the IC4A collegiate mile in 6:56:6 as West Pointers, following the Zinn example, swept the first four places. Mike Brodie won the Golden West Invitational 1 Mile in San Francisco in 6:38.

45 Years Ago (From the February 1968 ORW)—In the National AAU Indoor 1 Mile, Ron Laird won in 6:16:9, after capturing one of two qualifying heats in 6:42:9. Dan Totheroh edged Larry Young for second with a 6:23:4 to 6:24:7. Larry Walker finished in 6:19:5, but was DQ’d. In late news, we learned of a great 100 Km effort by the GDR’s Christoph Hohnen the previous fall. Passing 50 Km in 4:23:47, the German ace went on to win the Swiss race in 9:15:58. Tom Dooley did 20 miles on the track in 2:40:39, passing 30 Km in 2:28:47. Laird, shooting for a world 30 Km record, called it a day after passing 15 miles in 1:54:51.

40 Years Ago (From the February 1973 ORW)—Ron Daniel prevailed in the National AAU 1 Mile race, covering the distance in 6:22. His NYAC teammate, Ron Kullik, captured second in 6:24:2, with Todd Scully just missing a chance to compete against the Soviets with his 6:25:7 in fourth. Lynn Olson won the women’s title with a quick 7:39 ahead of Jeanne Bocki, who was then DQ’d. Thus, second went to Ellen Minkow in 8:06 with Carol Mohanco, Kettering, Ohio, just 2 seconds back in third. Daniel also won the Olympic Invitational 500 meters in a close race with John Knotlin, Kullik, Scully, and newcomer Dan O’Connor. Times were 5:57:2, 5:58:2, 5:58:5, 6:00:7, and 6:03:5. 16-year-old Sue Brodock showed some promise with a 7:55:7 mile in a girl’s race in California. Later, she did 7:17 for 1500 meters.

35 Years Ago (From the February 1978 ORW)—We made a big mistake in our lead headline, which we didn’t notice until 15 years later when doing the Looking Back feature. Apparently no one else had noticed either, or they just passed it off as another of the famous ORW typos. Anyway, the lead reads “Liers Defends Indoor Title.” The only problem—Sue Brodock won the race, which was the National Indoor 1 Mile, and it was she who was defending the title. (I guess when you’ve seen one Sue, you’ve seen them all.) Boroduch’s 7:01.7 bettered her own record of 7:05.9. Liers was a distant second in 7:34.9 with Tracy Trisco third. The Men’s 2 Mile title went to Todd Scully in 13:07:6. Dan O’Connor (13:20:2) edged Jim Heiring (13:21:2) for second. Ron Daniel and Dave Romansky were next, about 14 seconds back.

30 Years Ago (From the February 1983 ORW)—Leading all the way, Ray Sharp won the National Indoor 2 Mile title in a record 12:13.33. Jim Heiring stayed close, but could never quite challenge for the lead and finished second in 12:15:36. Dan O’Connor and Todd Scully were also under 13 minutes, with Troy Engle and Wil Priester rounding out the top six. The Women’s 1 Mile title went to Sue Brodock in 7:14:67, less than 3 seconds ahead of Teresa Vaill. Susan Liers, Vicki Jones, Chris Anderson, and Carol Brown followed. Heiring set an American record for 3 Km in Chicago, winning in 11:32:15, better than a half-minutes ahead of

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Tim Lewis... Sharp blasted a 5:47.98 for the mile in Albuquerque, beating Heiring by 7 seconds, and won the L.A. Times in a “pedestrian” 6:07:8, with Dan O’Connor, Tom Edwards, Gary Morgan, and Todd Scully on his heels.

25 Years Ago (From the February 1988 ORW)—At Research Triangle Park, N.C., Carl Schneider scored an impressive National 5 Km victory in 4:02:55, his fifth title at the distance. Carl blasted the final 10 Km in 44:50 to move easily away from Andy Kaestner (4:11:10) and Jim Heiring (4:12:37). Dan Pierce (4:18:00) and Mark Green (4:18:47) were next, as 14 walkers went under 4:30. Just getting started on an illustrious, Curt Clausen, just 20 years old at the time, was eleventh in 4:27:25. Maryanne Torrellas edged Teresa Vaill to win the National Indoor 3 Km in 12:45:38. Teresa had 12:47:32. Lynn Weik was third in 13:24:48. Canada’s Guillaume Leblanc led the men’s 5 Km in 19:56:05, 6 seconds ahead of Gary Morgan. Paul Wick (20:11:42) and Mike Stoudt (20:25:50) followed. Leblanc’s time placed him seventh in the All-Time World List at that time. Tim Lewis had a World’s best time of 5:33:53 in winning the Millrose race by 20 seconds over Gary Morgan. He had another World best 5:13:53 in winning the Vitalis Invitational 1500 meters. Torrellas did 6:37:06 for 1 Mile in Fairfax, Virginia, beating Weik by 11 seconds.


15 Years Ago (From the February 1998 ORW)—The National 50 Km in Palo Alto saw Canada’s Tim Berrett crossing the line first in 3:55:08. Second, and winning to U.S. title was Curt Clausen in 3:57:24. That bettered his personal best, dating back to 1988 (see above), by about-an-hour, as became the sixth U.S. walker all-time to better 4 hours. Tim Seaman, in his 50 Km debut, was third in 3:50:35 and Andrew Hermann came fourth in 3:48:00. Clausen also had an indoor 3 Km win in 11:40:3. In Australia, Nick A’Hern had a quick 20 Km in 1:21:40, beating New Zealand’s Craig Barrett (1:22:20).

10 Years Ago (From the February 2003 ORW)—High schooler Zac Pollinger won the Millrose Games 1 Mile in 4:01:19. Michelle Rohl did 12:37:90 for an indoor 3 Km in Findlay, Ohio. In the men’s race, Adam Stolzer (12:07:4) edged Matt Boyles (12:07:7). In Wisconsin, Ben Shorey had a 12:22.74 for 3 Km and 43:55 for 10 Km, both indoors. The Spanish 50 Km went to Mikel Ondrizauro in 3:42:03 ahead of Jesus Garcia (3:46:03). The women’s 20 went to Maria Asco in 1:30:52 with Eva Trujillo and Maria Cruz Dias close behind.

5 Years Ago (From the February 2008 ORW)—In the 50 Km Olympic Trials in Miami, Philip Dunn pulled away from Matt Boyles in the final 10 Km to win in 4:12:55. Boyles led through 30 Km and was just 12 seconds back at 40 but faded in the final 10. Ben Shorey was third in 4:27:14. Two weeks later, Boyles won the National Indoor 5 Km in Boston in 20:30:00, 29 seconds ahead of Patrick Stroope. The women’s 3 Km title went to 45-year-old Teresa Vaill in 13:08:40. Joanne Dow, a younger at 43, was a close second in 13:09:61, well ahead of youngsters Sam Cohen and Maria Michta. In Russia, Olga Kaniskina bettered the World 20 Km record with a 1:25:11, but there were not three certified judges on hand as needed for record approval. At the same site, Valeriy Borchin had a 1:17:55.