

OHIO RACE WALKER

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HELLO MOLLY!

The biggest news in Ohio Race Walking circles this month is the addition of a new member to the OTC, Molly Blackburn who joined us in the early morning hours on October 28. Molly weighed in at just over 6 pounds and is the third child of Jack and Mayy Jo. (And the fourth grandchild of that old Doctor and his Mrs. out in Worthington.) Incidentally, Jack was almost as excited about the new child as he was about the new UW he got a week or so before.

OTC Distance Carney

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 20 and 21—Jack Blackburn recorded a fast 14:12.3 two-mile and Jack Mortland scored a double victory to highlight walking events at the Eighth Annual Ohio Track Club Distance Carnival. The two day affair included nine running events and five walking events.

Saturday's walking opened with a seven mile on the tough road course. Each lap is about 1.6 miles with a very long hill. Jack Mortland moved into the lead at the start of this race and after about one-half mile broke away from Chuck Newall and widened his margin from there to the finish. Mortland walked an even pace in recording a 55:45. Newall had little trouble in taking second, finishing over a minute ahead of Dayton veteran Wayne Yarcho.

A little less than two hours after the finish many of the same walkers, joined by Jack Blackburn, were on Worthington's fine all-weather track for a two-miler. Blackburn was aiming for a 14 minute effort and took the lead from Mortland after the first 220. He hit the first quarter right on schedule in 1:45 and held this pace through the fifth lap. By this time he was about 150 yards in front and found it too much to fight the very strong wind blowing down the backstretch. So he lost his chance at 14 flat on the next two laps but came back with about a 1:45 on the final lap and an excellent time for a solo effort. Mortland, after a 7:23 mile, held on for a 14:56. Newall was third this time, but Yarcho was pushed into fifth by Toronto veteran Bert Life, who is on a two-week walking vacation in the U.S. Bert walked the Coney Island back in 1930 and his 17:07 was excellent for a man of his age, although exactly three minutes slower than his best in his prime.

The final event on Saturday was a one-mile for those twelve and under. Four Jack Blackburn trained youngsters took the track and showed fine form and good staying power with eleven year old Charles Williams winning in 9:44.

On Sunday it was back to the road course for a 15-miler and a five-miler for women. The two races were started together along with a 20-mile run. Jeanna Bocci, from Detroit, moved into the lead of the women's event immediately and was never challenged as she recorded an excellent 48:38. Mary Novak, Jr. and also of Detroit

was a little too much for the OTC's grandmother, Corinn Blackburn, and took second. Corinn did record her best time of the season despite the cool temperatures (low 40's) and steady rain.

In the 15 miler, Mortland again took command early and took a very easy victory. Jack Blackburn, starting only fifteen minutes after an excellent 21:42 four mile run on the track (sixth place) held back in the early stages and moved up through the field gradually. Actually, it was a very tight four man race for the second position (five men until Chuck Newell dropped out at four laps) between Blackburn, Dale Arnold, Yarcho, and Life. After six laps Arnold began to open a lead on the others but by the start of the final lap Blackburn was pulling him back and took the lead as Arnold barely negotiated the hill the last time. Dale made a belated bid to get back in the final 150 yards and gained nothing but a DNF. Wayne Yarcho took third from Bert Life, who was also having a little trouble in the latter stages.

Mortland walked a steady 8:30 pace for the first twelve miles and then faltered a bit and came home in 2:09:10, just short of a lap ahead of Blackburn. Also competing in the walks were Mike Horan and Joe Casillo of the Pittsburgh Walkers. Casillo went in all three events, but Horan passed up the seven.

1 mile Age Group--1. Charles Williams (11) 9:44 2. Billy Werner (11) 9:51
3. Mike Epp (10) 10:55 4. Tim McClain (9) 10:57

2 mile walk--1. Jack Blackburn 14:12.3 2. Jack Mortland 14:56 3. Chuck Newell 16:38 4. Bert Life 17:17 5. Wayne Yarcho 17:17 6. Dale Arnold 17:30 7. Mike Horan 18:08 8. Joe Casillo 18:20 9. Wayne Ambrust 10. Ken Gilcher 11. Danny Sicelv 12. Gary Stockley 13. Steve Levitt

5 mile (women) 1. Jeanne Rocco 48:38 2. Mary Maganic 59:42 3. Corinn Blackburn 57:48 4. Becky Carter 60:00 5. Margo Hibler 67:26 6. Debbie Crist 70:24

7 miles--1. Jack Mortland 55:45 2. Chuck Newell 60:21 3. Wayne Yarcho 61:32
4. Doc Blackburn 66:23 5. Dale Arnold 69:25 6. Joe Casillo 71:00

15 mile--1. Jack Mortland 2:09:10 2. Jack Blackburn 2:24:57 3. Wayne Yarcho 2:26:44
4. Bert Life 2:30:35 5. Joe Casillo 2:36:53 6. Mike Horan 2:42:48 dnf Chuck Newell, D. Dale Arnold.

Chuck Newell, although failing to finish on Sunday, had a good weekend as he bettered personal bests in both of Saturday's races. Dale Arnold evidently got warmed up on Saturday as he was walking faster laps during the 15 mile on Sunday than he was in the sprints on Saturday. Blackburn's 21:42 four mile is really quite amazing. He has been running about twice a month week since September. He had a 5:19 mile, then slowed to a 10:51 at two, but finished very strongly over the last half mile. Mortland is hoping this will convince him to return to running. Wayne Yarcho is as tough as ever and walked three very strong races in the two days.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!!!!!

Second annual New Year's Eve 6 mile Handicap. On the world's worst one-third mile stone and grass track at Indian Village Day Camp, 3039 Fishinger Road, Columbus, OH. Start about 7:30 p.m. December 31. No entry fee, no prizes but a real hoot! Time, dancing, dirty stories, etc., after the race (or during the race if you prefer). Don't miss it. Chances are good for several inches of snow on Sunday which will add to the fun.

Laird Wins His 7th Pg. 3

Detroit, Oct. 17--A still rapidly improving Chuck Newell walked the best race of his career and upheld the colors of the Ohio Track Club in finishing eighth in today's National 35 kilo, just a step behind Olympian Bruce McDonald. The Ashland postman took off with the pack and set personal records from 25 kilo on with 5 kilo splits of 27:11, 54:17, 82:40, 1:52:40, 2:23:44, 2:58:03 and 3:31:24.

Meanwhile Ron Laird was taking his seventh national title of the year, although Ron Daniel came close to him in the late stages of the race before he staged a closing rally. The following is Mr. Newell's report of the race.

The start of the race saw Ron Laird take the lead of the 17 man field, a lead which he never gave up. Behind Laird was Pat Farrelly of Canada and then a group of six: B. MacDonald, Paul Schell, Jim Clinton, Ron Daniel, Dale Arnold and C. Newell. Further back were Dan Calef and C. McCarthy. Over the next mile the only change was the dropping back of Arnold with Laird becoming a spot in the distance.

At the end of the first of seven 5,000 meter laps, Laird was well out front with the same group still together after catching Farrelly. The next lap the pace increased a bit and the field spread out with Farrelly and Clinton together, then Daniel and back of him MacDonald and Newell and then Schell. During the next couple of laps, the big changes were the moving up of Schell and the fast moving up of Calef. The 20 kilo mark saw the retirement of overweight and undertrained C. McCarthy.

Ron Daniel's effort carried him to within one minute of Laird with two laps to go but Laird then moved out to win by five minutes. By this time Calef had moved up and finished two minutes behind Daniel for third. After Daniel came Schell holding a four minute edge over Farrelly with Clinton next. The race for seventh was between MacDonald and Newell who walked together the entire race with MacDonald moving away with $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to go to win by two seconds.

The next places were well back with Kolodzinski, Killinger and Arnold. They were well spaced apart for 9th, 10th, and 11th. The team championship went to the NYAC. The weather conditions were perfect and the race well managed.

(Editor: The performance of Dan Calef is worthy of special mention. That he can do this well at 35 kilo and do it in a strong, come-from-behind manner strikes a little fear in the hearts of we veterans. He has shown good speed in the past and showing this kind of strength and endurance at his age certainly stamps him as one to be watched very closely. Maybe from behind.)

1. Ron Laird, NYAC 3:07:09 2. Ron Daniel, NYAC 3:12:25 3. Dan Calef, UCTC 3:14:47
4. Paul Schell, N. Medford 3:16:03 5. Patrick Farrelly, Gladstone 3:20:52 6. Jim Clinton, UCTC 3:27:35 7. Bruce MacDonald, NYAC 3:31:32 8. Chuck F. 11, OTC 3:31:34
9. Paul Kolodzinski, N. Medford 3:45:22 10. John Killinger, N. Medford 3:50:22
11. Dale Arnold, OTC 3:54:27 12. Harold Hoffman, Gladstone 4:01:31 13. George Grzebien, N. Medford 4:01:21 14. Jerry Bocci, un. 4:15:45 15. Rex Kehler, Detroit CA 4:21:41 16. Arthur Keay, Toronto Police 4:31:21 dnf Chris McCarthy (2:03:05 20k.)

Elliott In England Pg.

Special from Elliott Donnan to the ORW---Where do you get such wild rumors as the fact I was 29th in the London to Brighton walk on Sept. 47. The fact of the matter is I actually was 28th, damn proud of doing that and still nursing assorted limps and aches as proof of the accomplishment.

I was clocked in precisely 9 hours, 32 minutes, 16 seconds to fall a mere one hour and 54 minutes behind the leader, Abdon Panich. The fact that I lost by this slight margin can only be attributed to ~~steal~~ a fast gun on the part of the starter. As anyone can tell you, when you enter a 52-mile 758-yard race bring your starting blocks.

Actually, the starter didn't show up so we used Big Ben. Some guys jumped the gun and started moving at five seconds before 7 a.m. and there was nothing for the others to do but follow the bunch. Under conditions like these, no recall was possible. We would have had a long wait before Big Ben chimed seven times again.

It really was a great race and I'd recommend it to any visiting tourist. It's certainly a great way to see the English Countryside- far better than . . . in one of those tourist buses. Actually, it takes the bus about an hour and . . . to get to Brighton so what's the big saving anyway.

I had the honor of beating more guys in one race - 69- than I ever had before. But then again, more guys -27- beat me than ever before in one race, too, so I guess that evens it out. The British are truly a hardy lot - as evidenced by Olympic results over the years - plus Don Thompson's cherished soap in Madame Tuscani's famous London waxworks - the only male track athlete so honored.

The Brighton race is actually like a 50 kilo race here over a long course. The first 20 miles are relatively easy - a gentle stroll over mostly flat road. The bumps start coming after that but the first 30 miles are still easy. Trouble really doesn't start until 40, when you're at the lovely Sussex Downs. Actually they should be called ups and downs. Dale Hill, at 46, is the steepest hill but you have the consolation of being downhill the rest of the way. There's great frustration at the 47-mile post, just past the crest. There stands an attractive sign saying "Welcome to Brighton". The finish must be around the corner, obviously, one surmises after reading that. It's not the case. Still 5½ to go.

I went through 20 miles in 3:20 (I think), 31 in 5:21, and 40 in 6:58. However, the last 20 miles took a limping 2:34 which killed my final time. My real goal was Paul Schell's American citizen's record of 9:28:56 accomplished in finishing 19th for the Turry Walking Club in 1962. So Paul still holds this distinction by 3:18 but . . . perhaps someday we'll have another shot at this course.

The top ten : Panich 7:37:42, Thompson 7:45:04, Hasle, S. Af. 8:03:58, Charley Fogg 8:15:59, Guy Goodair 8:35:53, Dennis Read 8:40:28, Colin Young 8:41:18, Ray Hall 8:46:50, P.W. Thorn 8:50:57, M. Holliman 8:52:57. In all two men were under 8 hours, four under 8:30, 12 under 9, 18 under 9:15 and 26 under 9:30.

Every finisher gets a special certificate to prove he did it and all under 9:15 get first class medals and under 10:00 get second class medals. These are lovely hot - the waiting at the other end. I immersed for about ½ hour and now it's tough getting . . . or getting anywhere for two weeks afterward, for that matter.

Had severe knee and foot aches, due undoubtedly to insufficient preparation. Longest I went all summer was 40 kilo and longest all year 50 kilo. Longest training was 22 miles. Obviously not enough. It takes several weekend spins of 45 miles plus long work during the week to get ready for this one.

This is really a great and I can recommend it to anyone going in that direction (England that is). What with air fares coming down all the time, perhaps we'll see more Americans giving this race a go in future years. I, for one, would like to try it again. (Elliottgoes on to list plans for a 50 mile track race in his locale on April 17, 1966 to assault the U.S. record of only 9:29:22. Here is something for you all to brain for. Elliott also included a clipping from the Long Branch rag for which he writes concerning the London to Brighton. No room this month, but we will save it for sometime when we are desperate for filler. Actually, this is all quite interesting and we can only admire someone stupid enough to walk that far.)

KELLY Guts It Out

While on the subject of ultra-long races, John Kelly, the ex-hammer thrower, boxer, and current long distance runner continues to impress as a walker. The following is stolen from Browning Bass's Long Distance Log.

Friday, October 8 at 3 p.m. saw the start of the Metropolitan Police 100-Mile Walk at Chigwell, (England) and by 2:53 p.m. Saturday, October 9 another Centurion was added to the small select band of 100 milers, and this was the first American, John Kelly of New York's Millrose AA. What a great and gutsy fight he put up.

The course was really a difficult and "lumpy" one with very little flat road. the ten mile lap consisted of three small stretches of just over 3 miles of flat and the rest was all gradients, some long drags up hill and some short sharp pulls. Despite the hills and down gradients, which were no better, Kelly ploughed on, keeping up an evenpace for the first 50 miles. As the night, and the miles dragged on we saw a slowing of John's walking and at 70 miles he was in a state of near collapse, but after treatment to his feet and legs, he gallantly continued on, fighting off the fatigue. Between 85 and 90 miles the real climax came, and I am sure that at this period John was almost unconscious and moving automatically. At 90 miles, he was given further treatment to his feet and legs and he refused to give up as he started off on the last lap. He seemed to gain strength as he clocked 2 hrs. 53 min for the last 10 miles, which was faster than his previous two laps. His over all time was 22 hrs. 53 min. The field started with 54 entrants, but 20 retired. John was 23rd. His splits--25 miles- 5 hrs, 50-10 hrs, 70-14 hrs 15 min., 90-20hrs 20 min.

National 25 Kilo, Seattle, Sept. 11—1. Ron Laird, MCAC 2:01:42, 2. Karl Johansen, ASTC 2:13:55 3. Bill Ramsey, MCAC 2:17:54 4. Rich Bowman 2:21:52 5. Martin Rudow 2:22:25 6. Bob Bowman 2:22:58 7. George Scott 2:23:16 8. George Edwards 2:23:42 9. Mark Achen 2:32:00 10. John Neville 2:32:35 11. Frank Dalton 2:33:15 12. Tom Peist 2:33:50 13. Larry O'Neill 2:35:20 14. Bob Bradley 2:41:00

Chicago City, Oct. 16—20 Kilo—1. Dieter Lindner, E.Ger 1:41:46 2. Laird 1:45:07

England 20 Kilo, Sept. 5—1. Ron Daniel 1:34:51 2. Ron Kulik 1:37:47 3. Ray Palmer 1:40:04 4. Paul Schell 1:40:11 5. Steve Bowman 1:42:18 ----5 Miles for Women—1. Ann Richall 56:16 2. Debby Frederson 58:10 3. Pat McCoy 58:26 4. Linda Gray 59:13. All races held at Lowell, Mass.

TALK About Rankings ➤ Pg. 6

Allen Cook has included in his most recent American Race Walker a ranking of US walkers based on finishes in National Senior Title Races during 1965. The first 10 finishers in each race are scored 10, 9, 8, etc. As I recall, I sent something like this to McCarthy a couple years ago when he was publishing, only I divided the total by the number of races competed in as we cannot all make all the races. Allen would not agree with this, and has listed as one of his criteria that a champion will get to as many races as he can. True, but the number he can get to will vary quite a bit depending on circumstances and locale.

Unfortunately, we do not all live in California while competing for a rich New York club. Only about one of us, I think, and I mean this as no indictment of him. But it is interesting to note in perusing these rankings that the only other two besides Laird who made over half the races this year belong to this same club, which is to my knowledge the only club that will consistently pay expenses for walkers. Obviously, this makes it a little more convenient to travel about the country competing.

Does this financial assistance make these men the better walkers as this ranking would lead us to believe? Another criteria Allen lists in his ranking is, "If a walker is to be rated for a period of time (a year) he should be rated by performance and not reputation. Let us look at performance. Paul Schell beat Bruce MacDonald in four of five national races this year, Dean Rasmussen beat Bruce three for three and Don DeNoon beat him two for two. This is rather superior performance, yet Bruce is rated above all three.

I am certainly not trying to take away anything from Bruce, who I admire about as much as anyone in the sport. I am just trying to point out a glaring fallacy in the ranking system. I think Bruce would be the first to admit that he was not the number four walker in the country this year. And now that I have said all this, I must admit that I really don't have anything better to offer. One thing is for sure, by any criteria we choose Ron Laird will come out on top for 1965.

(The publisher comments on the above to Allen Cook: I think your system is about as good as any except for the fact that I believe first place and possibly even second and third should be weighted more heavily over the other places. Might check with McCarthy on Ribon Trophy rating. Also maybe the American Race Walker and the Chic Race walker could go together and sponsor awards to the top ten or twenty walkers at the end of the year.)

Mort Reports

After my discourse last month on the defeat of the US track team in Kiev, I will try to confine my remarks more to the race walking aspects of the trip this month. There were warm-up meets for the team to be held in Kansas City and New York on the weekend prior to the Kiev meet, with the New York to include a walk. No one ever told me what the distance was to be, or the exact time, but as I had to work for a while that morning I had informed them I would be unable to compete.

This concerned me a little as I had received several gung-ho letters stressing the need to keep up hard training, to keep in competition, and to make this final warm-up meet. Of course as it turned out no one particularly missed me or was concerned at my absence. I guess I got carried away and forgot I was only a race walker.

Now I will have to say that Coach Brutus Hamilton showed genuine interest in us on this trip and very nice arrangements were made for us to compete in Poland, where there was no walk in the meet. But at the same time if we never trained on the trip I doubt that anyone would have known, or even particularly cared. The first night we were in Germany we went on a team bus to the practice stadium and were told the bus would leave in an hour. We took off for a spin through the streets of Augsburg (its easier to take the gibe in a foreign country where you don't know what they are saying) were back in about 58 minutes and found ourselves stranded in a strange city. Fortunately, the German team was there and we waited and caught a ride on their bus. We hoped to make ourselves seen, and create a little stir as we entered the Hotel, but no one ever did realize we had been lefted. And so it goes.

Now the walkers are always well accepted by other members of the team on these trips, and I think most of these athletes have some knowledge and appreciation of what we are doing. At the same time they have very little real interest in our event, while walkers are usually extremely interested in the other events. I myself am as avid a track fan as you will find and the greatest part of these trips is being able to see top international meets and associate with the athletes in them.

Now to get back to where I started--a tune-up meet in New York. As it turned out they had a two-mile in very hot, humid conditions and Laird managed something around 14:40 with Ron Daniel a distant second. I had done a two-mile in around 16:30 late in the morning, before leaving for New York, in equally stifling conditions in what I let pass as a workout.

The next morning (Sunday) I joined Mr. Laird for a spin around the perimeter of Central Park. During our walk we passed one rather hefty woman on a bench who I could see was going to have something to say. I braced myself for one of the trite, hackneyed epitaphs to which we walkers are constantly subjected and which I knew must be inevitable. But this one came out quite original. "Boy, with a walk like that you must be a real faggot. I bet I could make a lot of money off of you." Made my day complete. Gave me something to write about in the O&W.

We got one more workout in New York, at Randalls Island on Monday morning, before taking off that night. No training Tuesday as it was after midnight before we got bedded down in Kiev. A very long tiring trip, of which you may have read elsewhere. However, after regaining our legs on Wednesday, we went through a ten kilo on the track Thursday. Not pushing real hard, and alternating the lead each two laps, we went through a 47:56 and I figured I was ready for a good 20 kilo on Saturday.

Well, I described that race a couple months ago. A few other details. They had an out and back course on the city streets, very little on level ground but no real bad hills. Now why they had a long course, I don't know, but it had to be measured long all the way. I took my wristwatch along to try and keep track of how far along I was, and when I hit what they had marked as five kilo in about 26 minutes, I was completely discouraged. I knew I could not have been going that slowly so early. Getting out of contact I could slow down and not realize it later on, but not that early.

At ten kilo I was around 54 and if I had been anywhere else would probably have quit. I did have the privilege of tying up Kiev traffic all by myself. Coming along several minutes back of Laird, I passed an intersection around 15 kilo with at least a dozen buses backed up in each direction and several hundred people milling around, all waiting for me to get off their street. The humor of the situation scared me just then though.

We worked out the next morning at the practise Stadium, or the stadium designated for practise. It was a very nice place itself. Stadiums throughout Europe are beautiful and facilities tremendous. After a little warmup we joined two local walkers who appeared to me to be doing rather leisurely 400 meter intervals. Their style was quite deceptive, one in particular, and I soon found myself flying through a 1:42 lap, which felt a bit fast after my exertions of the previous day. I did six of these in 1:42 to 1:43 with about two minutes rest. The better of the two of them was carrying a watch, evidently faulty, and kept writing things like 1:35 on the track when we finished. Ron did the final two with him, the last one in about 1:33 (the Russian wrote 1:21 after that one) as the second Russian joined me on the side line. I don't know how this guy ranks among Soviet walkers, but he sure looked tough for some local club guy.

On Sunday afternoon I was able to spend some time with the Soviet walkers we had competed against. Actually they had two alternates on hand as they did in most events. One of these alternates was friend Solodov, who spent a wild night with Ron Zinn following the Tokyo 20 kilo. Solodov had retired after Tokyo, but couldn't stay away and now hopes to make it to Mexico City. The second alternate was a fellow named Bondarenko. With none of us speaking the others language, I managed to learn that Solodov is 31 and is in the physical culture field, probably as a teacher. Shchelovich is also in this field and is 29. Bondarenko is around this age and is some sort of engineer, I believe. All three are very friendly, fun-loving, and quite good company. Agapov is also 31, doesn't seem friendly at all, and spent very little time with us.

After I had spent a half-hour or so with these friends, Bill Jimeson came along and rescued us somewhat from our communications plight. Bill, the Baltimore Olympic Club coach who was later of great help to us in Poland, speaks some German, apparently rather poorly, as did Bondarenko. Anyway they helped Bill purchase a nice Russian fur hat and then proceeded to buy one and present it to me.

That evening at the banquet, Solodov again exhibited his tippling skills. Pouring me a few shots of I didn't know what, he proposed a toast and threw his glass down in one big gulp. I managed to nurse and choke mine down in several sips, finding it was cognac. So when he offered me a cup of coffee, which I don't like at all, I jumped at the chance to counter the effects of the cognac. So just as I am ready to raise the cup to my lips, what pops out but the bottle of cognac in good old Solodov's hand, and zap I have a shot in my coffee. And so I left Mr. Solodov, after nursing down the coffee. And so I leave you until next month when I will cover the rest of the trip.

S/Sgt. Joseph Lebowsky Memorial 10 Mile Walk (Handicap), Long Island City, Nov. 14----
 1. John Gray, Walpole, Mass. 1:30:17 (actual time) 2. William Warburton, N. Medford Club 1:30:19 3. George A. Life, Gladstone A.C. 1:37:03 4. Cadet William Lorch, USMMA 1:36:07 5. Shaul Ladany, NY Pioneer Club 1:26:18 6. Dr. George Shilling, Pioneer Club 1:22:54 Fast Time--Ron Daniel, NYAC 1:20:29, Paul Schell, North Medford 1:22:45, Shilling, Dr. John Shilling 1:24:12, Ladany, Stephen Rabnam, N. Medford 1:26:53.

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