

OHIO RACEWALKER



VOLUME VII, NUMBER 12

COLUMBUS, OHIO

FEBRUARY 1972

ROMANSKY WINS 1972 CHAMPIONSHIP OPENER

New York, Feb. 25—Dave Romansky won his third Senior Indoor 1 Mile title in the last four years and broke his own championship record in the process as he edged out defending titlist Ron Laird. Dave, whose disqualification in this race last year started a rather dismal season for him, stormed through the 11 laps of the Madison Square Garden track in 6:13.4 bettering the record of 6:14.0 he set two years ago. Dave must have started the race with some trepidation having been DQ'd just a week earlier in the Olympic Invitational but apparently didn't let it bother him. Perhaps his win here will presage better things for Dave in 1972. One could assume he is on his way back towards real fitness.

Laird walked an excellent 6:14.6 in second and presumably will join Romansky in the 3 Mile against the Russians in Richmond. Always tough Larry Walker improved over 9 seconds from his time here last year as he recorded a personal best, but for the second year in a row had to be content with a close third. Todd Scully in fourth indicated that he has some real speed to go with the strength he has shown in recent races and can certainly be a factor in this Olympic year. At this point I have no detail on the race and only the first five finishers, as follows:

1. Dave Romansky, S.J. Chargers 6:13.4
2. Ron Laird, NYAC 6:14.6
3. Larry Walker, S.C. Striders 6:17.5
4. Todd Scully, Shore AC and US Army 6:20.4
5. Ron Kulik, NYAC 6:22.6

LAIRD RETURNS IN STYLE

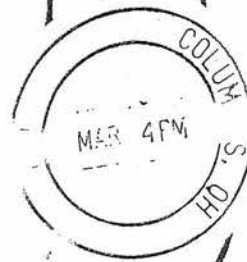
New York, Feb. 18—Ron Laird, after 3 months in England preparing for an all-out Olympic bid, returned to the USA in time to capture the 1500 meter walk at the Olympic Invitational tonight, following the disqualification of Dave Romansky. Laird, showing "superior, flawless form" according to Charlie Silcock, could not quite match Romansky's speed on the final lap after a close race all the way but Dave, although showing his usual great strength, was having a "Goose-stepping problem" and received cautions from both Silcock and Henry Laskau. Dave finished in 5:48.7, which would have broken his own meet and American record. Laird was not far behind and his teammates Ron Daniel and Ron Kulik were right back of him. The fourth NYAC man, John Knifton, also suffered disqualification. Greg Diebold walked a strong race in fourth, but could not quite hold the others. He did nose out Shore AC teammate, Todd Scully, however. The results: 1. Ron Laird, NYAC 5:50.2 2. Ron Daniel, NYAC 5:51.5 3. Ron Kulik, NYAC 5:53.3 4. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 5:58.9 (probably suffered from not having Jeanne Bocci on hand to serve Vodka "goblins") 5. Todd Scully, Shore AC and US Army 6:00.0 6. Howard Palamarchuk, un. 6:17.5.

Bob, Your subscription expires with this issue. When you wrote me in Oct, before leaving for Nigeria, the \$5.00 you said was enclosed wasn't there, as I recall.

OHIO RACE WALKER

3184 SUMMIT ST.

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43202



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dr. R. G. Steadman

3031 68th St,

Lubbock, Tex 79413

through the last part of the race. Meanwhile, Jim Bean had set a reasonable pace for himself and just kept at it all by himself. Further back was another trio. More or less together for 20 Km, Glusker then dropped the pace. Lund ignored it (no courage) and Duran answered the call—for about 5 km. He hung it up at 25 Km and Wayne kicked along to 30 Km before he decided he was through. I had decided long before that I was done, but Mr. Hagarty left there be no doubt by bouncing me at 35 Km. Rotten form,

Those that chose not to go the whole distance included Bob Johnson, Jim Bentley, Jr., Brad Bentley, Sheryl Robinson, and probably Bill Ranney. Each performance is listed below except Jim's. He went 10 Km at an unrecorded pace.

Frank Hagarty was our ever present judge. His presence around the course is getting rather obvious, and not so...he doesn't do much recording anymore. Good news for good walkers, but....Armed with a good fast bike (that's very quiet) and a pair of binoculars, which increases his range even more, he becomes the tear on the unsuspecting. Bryan Snazelle timed and did the recording while Jim Bentley Sr. did the photographic thing. As usual, he was sneaky and took the shots right at the bottom of the hill—he must love pictures of high-flying walkers! Five of the seven very nice medallions went begging. Unfortunate. I'm not sure, but I would guess that Bean's final time was his best. (Ed. Just wanted to show you that it is not only in the ORW that you have to put up with inane, idle chatter. Actually, this is very mild Lund. I will have to copy something when he is at his best, or worst as you prefer, at some future date.)

1. Goetz Klopfer 3:20:27 (49:45, 1:22:30, 1:39:07, 2:03:49, 2:28:28, 2:53:58) 2. Jim Bean 3:39:48 (54:50, 1:49:47, 2:15:34, 2:42:35, 3:10:05) Steve Lund 3:25:38 for 35 and then DQ, Bob Bowman 2:32:28 for 30, Wayne Glusker 2:53:48 for 30, Roger Duran 2:33:25 for 25, Bill Ranney 1:39:07 for 20, Bob Johnson 1:42:48 for 20

RANDY MIMM CAPTURES "DECATHLON"

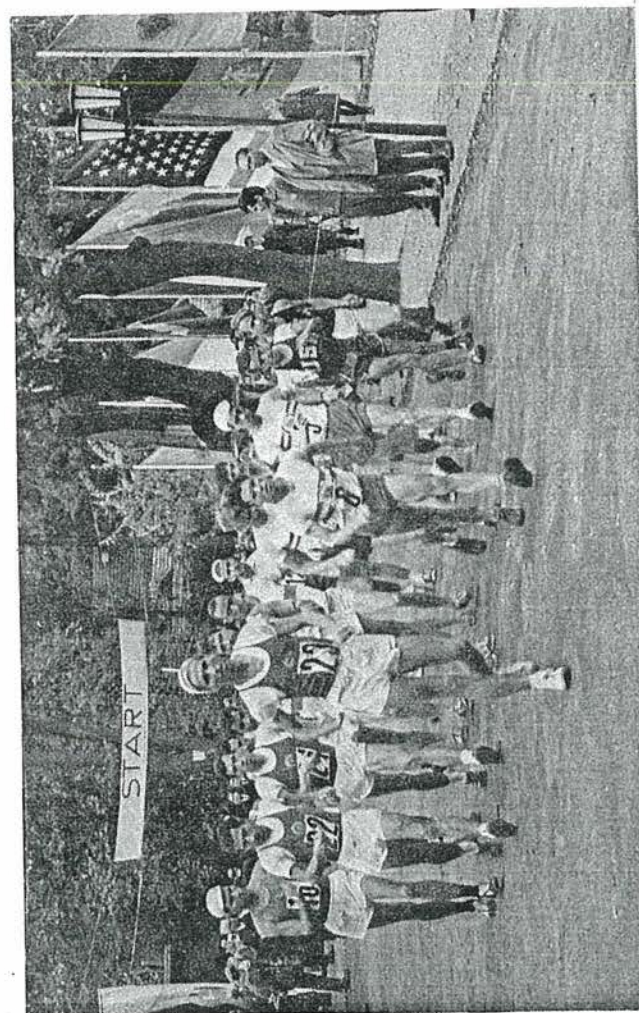
Philadelphia, Jan. 30--Randy Mimm captured the North Branch YMCA's annual indoor decathlon today beating out defending champion Curtis Cockenburg of LaSalle College. This special event, with all events contested on a single day consists of the 16 Lb. Shot, 440 Walk, 880 Walk, 2 Lap Run (about 117 yards), Mile Walk, 440 Run, 880 Run, Standing Long Jump, Standing Triple Jump, and Pull-Ups. Randy's performances and his placing in each event were: Shot--29'13, 4th; 440 Walk--1:46.2, 3rd; 880 Walk--3:52.1, 2nd; Mile Walk 8:01.5, 2nd; 2 Lap Run--16.8, 3rd; 440 Run--73.0, 5th; 880 Run 2:52, 8th; Standing Long Jump--8'11½, 1st; Standing Triple Jump--24'6½, 2nd; Pull-ups--6, 10th. Randy could not beat his old man, Bob, in the walks but was superior in other events as Bob wound up fifth in the competition. Bob won the 880 walk with .1 second to spare and won the other two in the same time as Randy. Capturing third in the contest was another walker, John Skislak of the Shore AC who had the following performances (in the same order as Randy's): 33'10, 2nd; 1:51.1, 4th, 3:58, 6th; 8:47.5, 5th; 18.5, 8th; 74.5, 8th; 2:38.8, 5th; 8'5, 2nd, 19'10, 12th; and 13, 2nd. Other walkers in the contest were 57-year-old George Braceland who finished 12th, Fred Spector, 13th, and Bob Carlson, 15th. Thirteen-year-old Chris Mimm also competed, but his position of finish is not given.

WOMEN'S 5000 METER RACE WALKING POSTAL MATCH (Track), 1971

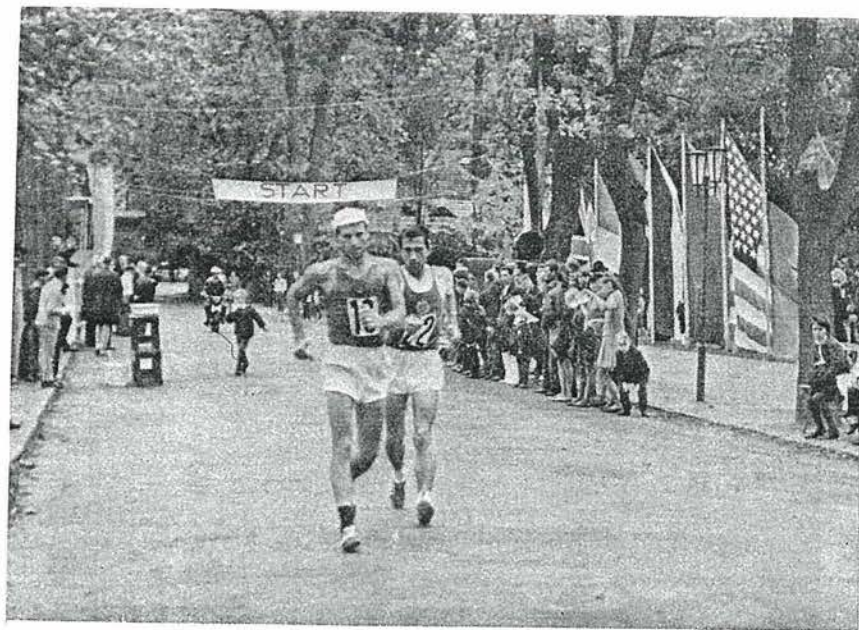
1. Eivor Johansson, Sweden 24:51 2. Elisabeth Olsson, Sweden 24:55.2 3. Siv Gustavsson, Swed. 25:23 4. Torhild Sarpebakken, Norway 25:30 5. Berit Jonsson, Swed. 25:38 6. Margareta Simu, Swed. 26:07 7. Gerd Gylde, Nor. 26:19 8. Laila Jensen, Nor. 26:20 9. Brenda Cook, England 26:47.6 10. Lena Bodin, Swed. 26:40 11. Karin Moller, Denmark 27:00 13. Betty Jenkins, Eng. 27:02.6 13. Eli Rolstad, Nor. 27:18. 14. Margaret Lewis, Eng. 27:37.8 15. Liselotte Rasmussen, Den. 27:40.4 16. Torhild Gylde, Nor. 27:44 17. Cathryn Daniels, Eng. 28:06.4 18. Solveig Kristensen, Den. 28:13.8 19. Ida Skerlund, Den. 28:21.6 20. Martine Mouchel, France 28:28 21. Marie-Claire Dany, France 28:31 22. Pamela Horwill, Eng. 28:37.8 23. Penhe Larson, Nor. 28:38 24. Jytte Rasmussen, Den. 28:46.2 25. Maureen Graham, Eng. 28:55.4 26. Stella Palamarchuk, USA and Pirkko Pallari, Finland 29:04.6 28. Karin Moller, Den. 29:18 29. Peryl Robinson, USA 29:21 30. Riitta Immonen, Finland 29:44 31. Marie-Claire Greroult, Fr. 30:18 32. Yolaine Carpenhler, Fr. 30:35.2 33. Kristina Rintala, Fin. 30:39 34. Jacqueline Lamarche, Fr. 30:36.4 (Ratz, I got those two reversed) 35. Anne Froberg, Fin. 30:43 36. Gail Bristow, USA 31:58 37. Pam Weigle, USA 32:15.8 (Rats again. I left out Maureen Lavasseur, Fr. 30:51 who was ahead of the last two) 39. Kaijo Lento, Fin. 32:21 40. Ellen Minkow, USA 32:24.8 41. Merja Immonen, Fin. 32:28 42. Carmen Sierra Lomas, Spain 33:20 43. Jeanne Griffin, USA 34:43.6 44. Alicia Ardany Madiano, Spain 34:45.2 45. Rosana Cals Alcantara, Spain 35:36 46. Monserrat Ardany Madiano, Spain 36:44 47. Silvia Valles Pi and Mercedes Lieberas, Spain 36:51 Team Scores--1. Sweden 2:34:00.2 2. Norway 2:41:57 3. England 2:47:07.6 4. Denmark 2:49:20 5. France 2:59:19.6 6. Finland 3:00:59 7. USA 3:09:47.2 8. Spain 3:34:07.2 (The finish was the same on an unofficial point scoring basis.)

5 Km, Oklahoma City, Jan. 9--1. Dale Paas 22:52 2. Mike Hale 25:00 20 Km, Eneq Chefer, Israel, Jan. 8--1. Dr. Shaul Ladany 1:36:03 2. Reuven Peleg 1:36:10.8 3. Ben-Ami Charush 1:57:24 4. Ely Charush 1:58:12 50 Km, Savyon, Israel, Jan. 22--1. Ladany 4:18:20 2. Peleg 4:27:40.6 3. E. Charush 4:58:30 20 Km, Jan. 22--B. Charush 1:50:08.6 10 Km, Jan. 22--Shimon Shomroni 54:19.8 20 Km, Eneq Chefer, Jan. 29--1. Ladany 1:35:31.4 2. Peleg 1:36:21.8 3. Shomroni 1:49:12 (Shaul is apparently developing some more walkers over there and appears to be getting some competition.) 7 Mile, Cambridge, Eng., Dec. 11--1. Paul Nihill 50:43 2. Malcolm Tolley 51:25 3. Ron Laird 52:12 4. Carl Lawton 52:46 5. B. Adams 53:05 6. Ken Carter 53:21 7. Alux Buchanan 53:22 8. Ray Middleton 53:50.....17. Jim Bean 56:17 British National Women's 6500 Meters (just over 4 Miles), Dec. 4--Barbara Jenkins 33:50 2. Judy Farr 34:18 3. Margaret Lewis 34:28 4. J. Coleman 35:15 5. M. Graham 35:50 6. M. Hindley 36:18 5 Mile, Chigwell Row, Eng., Dec. 18--1. Steve Gower 36:00 2. Don Cox 36:04 3. Peter Marlow 36:11 4. Amos Seddon 36:18 5. Ken Carter 36:45 6. Roger Mills 37:04 20 Km, Toronto, Feb. 6--1. Pat Farrelly 1:42:39 2. Karl Merschanz 1:45:16 3. Bill Purves 1:51:00 4. Max Gould 1:55:54 5. Joe Monaco 2:11:36 6. Art Keay 2:21:10 20 Mile, Toronto, Feb. 26--1. Pat Farrelly 2:56 2. B. Barnes 4:05 3. Art Keay 4:27

Odds and Ends—Speaking of cold weather walking, as we were last month, how about this for a Polar Bear walk, as reported by Karl Merschenz. Six walkers turned out for a 20 miler in Toronto on Feb. 20. The temperature ranged from 5 to 10 below zero with a chill factor of 50 to 60 below, as announced by radio report for the locality. Two walkers quit at the starting line (smart fellows, they.) Art Keay who arrived by Taxi because his car would not start, managed 2 miles with a 10-15 minute warm-up break in between. Farrelly and Merschenz finished the 20 miles in 3:10 only because they came dressed for the occasion with thermal underwear, balaclavas, and parkas.....Additions to the list of best track and field performances by walkers from Jim Hanley: Estaban Valle, 4:09 mile; George Reinhart, a Strider walker of the mid '60s, 13'6 pole vault. Jim also offers the opinion that there is great depth in the distance events and says that every top walker in the U.S. today (with the exception of Laird who is the worst runner in the world) can probably run a 4:30 mile or a sub 3 hour marathon. With which I take exception, particularly if he means right now. But even if he means with specialized running training, I think there would be quite a few other than Laird who could not break 4:30. Of course, this depends, too, on where you draw the line between top and whatever comes next. Are there six top walkers, a dozen, or 20 to 30? Jim also points out that several runners have entered walks with mixed success. The best have been the Striders' Ted Nelson (sub 9 minute mile while he held the American Indoor 800 meter record), ultra-distance man Bob Dienes, and Germany's 800 meter Arnd Kruger who did a 2:10 20 Km while at UCLA. (Ed. I believe that Mike Larrabee walked an All-Comers Mile once in the early '60s, which would make him the only Olympic gold man to have a go) The most successful has been Gerry Lindgren who was second to Jim Bean in the AAU Junior 15 km. Lindgren has done a 7:15 mile and was considering trying to get down to 7:00 so he could go in the indoor walks. (Ed. Times recorded by athletes such as those above would of course go in a category of best walking times by runners and their running times would not qualify for our list, which is limited to full-fledged competitive race walkers. Now if Gerry would go for an Indoor season on the boards, we would have a problem.)....Paul Nihill recently covered 143 miles in a 3-day training weekend from Dec. 17 to 19. On Friday he did 37 miles, had a 2 hour break, and then did another 8, 1 1/2 hours rest and another 5. On Saturday it was 37 again, a short break, and another 11. In atrocious weather on Sunday, he did a third 37 miler, had 2 hours off, and then walked a flat-out, hilly 8 mile in 72 minutes. He had companions for 25 miles or so on each of the long ones. The hardest day was the second, while the Sunday long one was the best, with a 6 mph average pace.....Don Jacobs, Box 23146, Tigard, Oregon 97223 has a couple of copies of Race Walking 1971 (the English book by Julian Hopkins and Tony Taylor reviewed earlier in these pages) available for \$1.50 postpaid.....The Western Hemisphere 20 Km Championship Walk has been set for Saturday, May 13 in Sharon, Pennsylvania, according to Bruce MacDonald. Each country can enter up to four men and eight countries in addition to the U.S. have indicated an interest. The U.S. team will be selected in the National 20 three weeks earlier at C.W. Post College on Long Island. The one problem is that each athlete will have to pay his own way to the race (or find an angel) but once there, accommodations and food will be provided for two days and two nights....Tom Knatt has now listed an itinerary for his Transcontinental Trek and would appreciate any assistance along the way by way of accommodations or accompaniment on the road as he passes through your area. His schedule is:



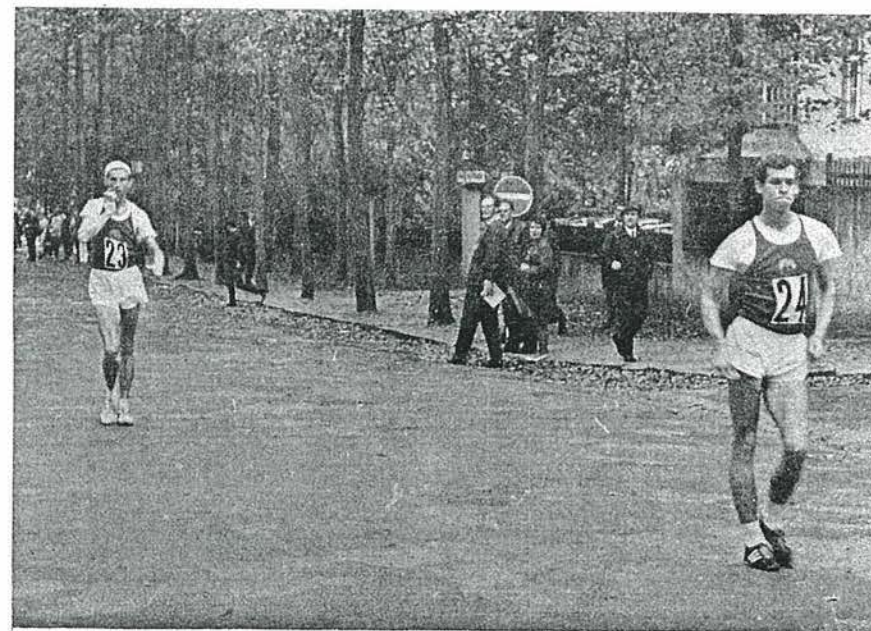
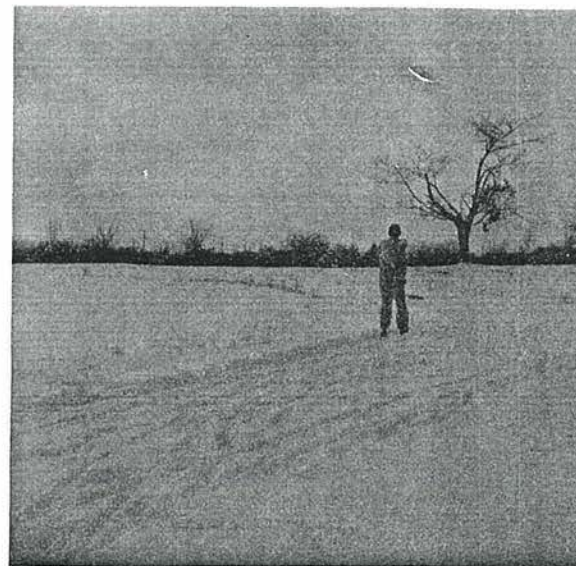
START OF THE 1967 LUGANO CUP 50 KM IN BAD SAAROW, EAST GERMANY. From left: Scherbina, USSR; Hohne, E.G.; Selzer, E.G.; unknown; hupfeld, w.g.; Sakowski, E.G.; Magnor, W.G.; Weidner, W.G.; Ingvarsson, Swed.; Lightman, G.B.; Thompson, G.B.; Clinton, US; Middleton, G.B.; Klopfer, US; and Young, US.



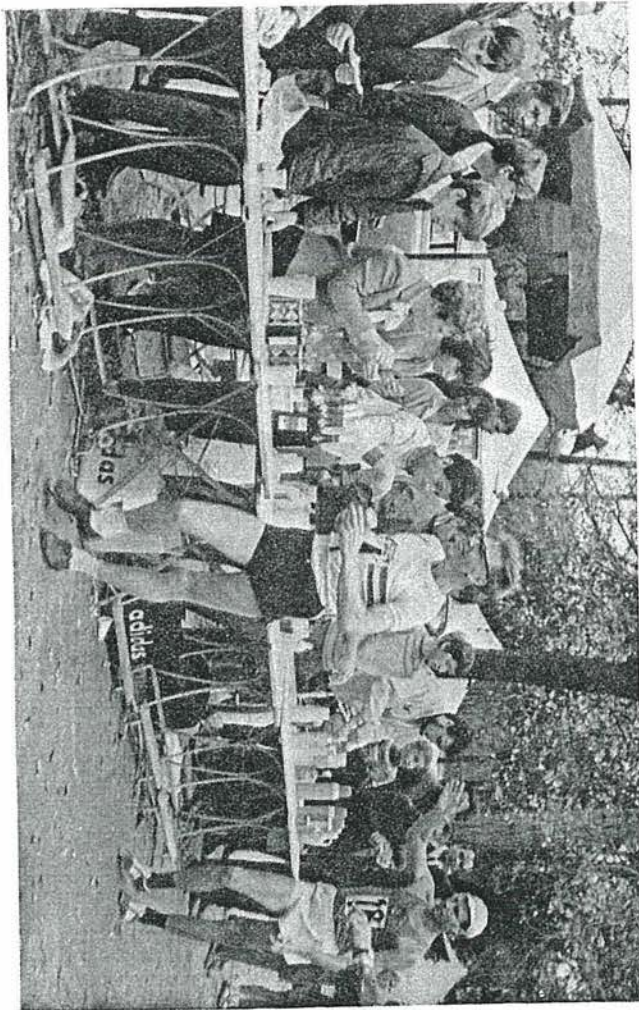
Above: Alexander Scherbina leads Christoph Hohne in middle stages of 1967 Lugano 50. Hohne bombed last two laps (10 km) to leave the Russian and capture first in 4:09:09.

Above right: Winter races in Ohio. Your editor as seen on the Ohio School for Deaf track during a January, 1970 3 mile race.

Below right: Peter Selzer, now world record holder, then just 21, leads veteran teammate, Kurt Sakowski, during 1967 Lugano 50. Selzer blasted final 5 km lap in under 24:00 to catch Scherbina and finish second in 4:11:39.6. Sakowski came fourth in 4:13:51.8.



AN INTERNATIONAL FEEDING STATION. Shaun Lightman has just taken a drink from the noted ultra-distance walker, Colin Young (in white jacket with right arm extended.) Scherbina moves up with hand out for handout. Jim Clinton's cans of coke, carried from U.S., can be seen on table.



Day 1---Leave Los Angeles on or about Wed., March 22, 1972
 Day 5---Cross Cal.-Ariz. border, continue north on US Alt. 89
 Day 10---Flagstaff, Ariz., change to Rt. 66
 Day 17---Albuquerque, N.M. Rout 66 and I-40
 Day 23---Amarillo, Tex.
 Day 28---Oklahoma City, Okla. Will probably follow State Rt. 152.
 Day 30---Tulsa, Okla.
 Day 38---St. Louis, Mo. Switch to US Rt. 40
 Day 42---Indianapolis, Ind.
 Day 45---Columbus, Ohio
 Day 48---Southef Pittsburgh, Pa. State rte 136, then 31, US 30 through Pa.
 Day 51---Gettysburg, Pa. Probably US 202 and NJ 518 and 27 through N.J.
 Day 55---New York City. Hopes to cross either the Verrazano Bridge or Holland Tunnel.

For information on Tom's whereabouts enroute the contact is: Rev. Richard Bauer, 1329 Main St., W. Concord, Mass. 01742, (617)-369-7544. He will also attempt to check mail at the Main P.O., General Delivery, in Flagstaff, Albuquerque, Amarillo, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, and Columbus. In Columbus, he can be reached at this address on whatever day he is here, which Tom will be pleased to know, since I have neglected to write him as I have intended to do

The following has nothing whatsoever to do with walking, except that the learned Dr. Blackburn has noted through his long years of association with the race-walking breed that the majority of us at least have strong tendencies to paranoia if we are not out-and-out paranoids. A recent article that he came across regarding the sad mental health picture in our country included the following admonition, which the author thought quite appropriate even today, and which the Doc thinks each race walker might consider carefully in an attempt to regain his sanity.

FOUND IN OLD SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, BALTIMORE--1692

Go Placidly Amid The Noise and Haste and Remember What Peace There May Be IN Silence. As Far As Possible Without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career; however, humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your lab-

ors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

RACE WALKING SCHEDULE

(letters in parenthesis refer to list of contacts, which follows the schedule)

- Sat. March 11—8 Mile, Cosmo Park, Columbia, Mo., 9 a.m. (A)
 3 Mile (indoor), Chicago, 12 noon (B)
 Northgate 15 Km, San Rafael, Cal., 10 a.m. (C)
 3 Mile Hdep, 3/4 Mile Grade School, Boulder, Col. 12 (D)
 15 Km, Green Lake, Seattle, Wash.
- Sun. March 12—30 Km, Belle Isle, Detroit, Mich. 10 a.m. (E)
 Shore AC vs Phil. AC 10 Mile, Browns Mills, N.J.
- Sat. March 18—NAAU SENIOR 35 KM CHAMPIONSHIP, Pomona, Calif. (F)
 Region 6 20 Km Championship, Worthington, Ohio, 1 p.m. (G)
 2 Mile and Women's 1 Mile, Boulder, Colo. (D)
- Sun. March 19—15 Miles, Melville, N.Y., 8:30 a.m. (H)
 RMAAU Indoor 2 Mile, Boulder (D)
 20 Km, Snohomish, Wash. H.S., 1 p.m.
- Sat. March 25—MVAAU and Open 10 Km, Independence, Mo. (I)
 Claremont Relays 10 Km, Open and Womens, 10 a.m. (F)
 50 Km, Adams County Fairgrounds, Colo., 10 a.m. (D)
- Sun. March 26—Region 6 50 Km, Belle Isle, Detroit, 10 a.m. (E)
 2 Man 6 Mile Run-Walk Relay, Columbia, Mo., 2 p.m. (A)
 Lake Merced 7 Mile, San Francisco, 10 a.m. (C)
- Sat. April 1—20 Mile (track), Rider College, N.J. (tentative) (J)
 6 Mile and OHIO AAU 25 Km, Dayton, 1 p.m.
- Sat. April 8—Sacramento Invitational 10 Km, 5 p.m.
 SPAAU 50 Km, Pierce College, Cal., 9 a.m. (F)
 5 Km Hdep and 3/4 Mile grade school, Northglenn, Colo.,
 10 a.m. (D)
- Wed. April 12—Los Angeles Athletic Club 4 Mile (F)
- Sat. April 9—NAAU SENIOR 25 KM, Seattle, 9 a.m.
 15 Km, Belle Isle, Detroit, Mich., 10 a.m. (E)
 Capt. Ronald Zinn Memorial 10 Mile, Astbury Park, N.J. (J)
- Sat. April 15—NAAU JUNIOR 20 KM, Cornwells Heights, Pa.
 10 Miles, Continental, Ohio 1 p.m. (G)
 RMAAU 20 Km, Adams County Fairgrounds, Colo., 10 a.m. (D)
 PNWAAU 15 Km, Washington in conjunction with Birch Bay
 Marathon
- Sun. April 16—Eastern Regional 50 Mile (track), Mornmouth Col, N.J.
 7 a.m. (J)
- Sat. April 22—1 Mile, Kansas U. Relays, Lawrence, Kan.
 50 Km, West Seattle Track, Wash.
- Sun. April 23—NAAU 20 Km, C.W. Post College, Long Island (K)
- Sat. April 29—NAAU JUNIOR 10 Km, Boulder, Colo., 10 a.m. (D)
 7 miles and 40 Km, somewhere in Ohio (G)
- Sun. April 30—10 Mile, Seaside Heights, N.J. Boardwalk, 10:30 a.m. (J)
 Olympic Qualifying 20 and 50 Km, Woodside, Cal., 9:30 (F)
 Dr. Tripp Memorial 10 Km, Women's 5 Km, Broomfield, Col. (D)
- Sun. May 7—7 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit, 10 a.m. (E)
 Walking Pentathlon, Sunnyvale, Cal., 10 a.m. (C)
 20 Km, West Seattle Track, Wash., 9 a.m.
 WESTERN HEMISPHERE 20 KM, Sharon, Pa. (K)

Contacts:

- A. Joe Duncan, 4004 Defoe Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65201
 B. Ted Haydon, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
 C. Bill Ranney, 1 Barker Court, Fairfax, Calif. 94930
 D. Floyd Godwin, 935 Ash St., Broomfield, Colo.
 E. Jerry Bocci, 11444 Beaconsfield, Detroit, Mich. 48224
 F. Martin Rudow, 1124 3rd St., Apt. 2, Santa Monica, Cal. 90403
 G. Jack Mortland, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202
 H. Dr. John Shilling, 112 Sunderland, Melville, N.Y. 11746
 I. Fred Young, 9824 E. Linwood, Independence, Mo. 64052
 J. Elliott Derman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, N.J.
 K. Bruce MacDonald, 39 Fairview Ave., Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

LOOKING BACK:

10 Years Ago (From the Feb. 1962 American Race Walker)—Ron Zinn won the National 1 Mile in a rather pedestrian 6:36. Only challenge came from Rimas Valcaitis, who received a call when trying to pass Zinn on the eighth lap. Rimas dropped back to settle for second in 6:49 but found later he had been DQ'd. Second went to the cagey old veteran and one-time Polish Falcon, John Humeke in 6:50.2 with Ron Daniel grabbing third in 6:59.4 and Bill Ometchenko just .2 behind. Ron Laird strolled through in 9th with 7:23....A listing of all-time Senior titles won, showed Henry Laskau way out in front with 43 followed by Bill Mihalo's 21 and Harry Hinkel's 18. The only presently active walkers on the list, which included everyone with two or more titles, were Ron Laird 9, Leo Sjogren 9, Rudy Haluza 7, Bruce MacDonald 3, and Elliott Derman and Alex Oakley 2.

5 Years Ago (From the Feb. 1967 ORW)—Jack Blackburn won the first walking race ever held in Ohio State's French Fieldhouse, a hallowed hall he had once been booted out of during a training session, with a 6:43.6 mile. Jack Mortland was second in 6:56.4 and Chuck Newell third in 7:40.....Up in Chicago, Bob Gray beat Phil McDonald three times in a row in 1 and 2 mile races...Ron Daniel blasted a 6:29.5 in New York...Rudy Haluza was named the recipient of the Capt. Ronald L. Zinn for 1966, an award given annually to the outstanding US race walker

WHAT IS A "WOBBLE"?

(Stolen from the March 28, 1970 Athletics Weekly and authored by Peter Lovesey)

What is a wobble? The expression was first coined in the 19th century to describe the walking style of Edward Payson Weston (1839-1929), whose pedestrian feats still challenge belief. He spent much of his life stepping out across the North American continent; from 1861 when he walked from Boston to Washington to see Abraham Lincoln's inauguration

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(but arrived late) to 1927, when, still on the march, he was struck by a taxicab and partially paralyzed. In the years between he several times took the Tullloh trail across the continent, making his best time of 77 days (resting each Sabbath) for the 3483 mile route in 1910 at the age of 72. In the previous year he had walked both ways (7495 miles) in 181 days. Years earlier, however, his "middle-distance" efforts in 6-day events led to the palmy days of wobbling in the 1880's.

Weston's great rival was Dan O'Leary (born in County Cork in 1846) who also had an extraordinarily long career, for he began in 1871 in Chicago, and in 1927 at 81, managed a 100 mile spin to win \$100. Between those years he covered 105,000 miles in competition, which didn't leave much time for training. O'Leary first met Weston in a 6-day walk (the idea being to go as far as one could between two Sundays, when no God-fearing gentleman competed) in Chicago in 1875, covering 501½ miles to Weston's 451½.

In April 1877, Sir John Astley, a great figure of the Turf and the Ring, branched into pedestrianism by matching them at the Agricultural Hall, Islington for 500 pounds a side. Weston estimated that 506 miles would win the race, and prepared an elaborate schedule. O'Leary, however, though "fearfully used up on the morning of the 6th day" tottered beyond Weston's target. When Astley tried to rouse Weston from his bed "he went soft and on my telling him I should chuck some cold water over him, he burst out crying, and that settled the matter; for you can do nothing at any game with a party that pipes his eye". O'Leary finished 10 mile ahead with 520 miles.

There was great interest in 6-day walking, but equally great controversy about the style of the competitors. Weston's wobble was said to be "very peculiar, hardly fair heel and toe perhaps". To silence all objections, Astley's next promotion at Islington in March 1878, was a Go As You Please Contest. Eighteen stalwarts started, and the race conditions included an early example of racial discrimination: "Two tracks will be laid down—one for Englishmen and one for foreigners". Weston scratched, so O'Leary wobbled in splendid isolation, while the 17 home runners battered and bruised each other on the outer circuit. O'Leary's eventual winning distance was 520½ miles, but he had done enough to win by 8 p.m. on the Saturday, and retired early.

A spate of ultra-long distance wobbles—some called them "Cruelty Shows"—followed. In Manchester, Hull and Aberdeen. In late October, 1878, the record was raised to 521 miles by "Corkey" (actually named W. Gentleman and born in 1832) on a diet of eel broth, provided regularly by his devoted wife. It is recorded that she ran the last few laps arm in arm with Corkey, proudly wearing a new bonnet. "Despite the hideous din of the band" wrote Bell's Life, "and utter failure of the new-fangled electric light, everything passed off satisfactorily". In March 1879, Charles Rowell (born 1853 at Chesterton) won himself nearly 5000 pounds at Madison Square Garden, New York with a 500 mile effort, which he improved to 530 miles in September, although an attempt was made to poison him (Ed. One of those paranoids we discussed earlier). The record, however, had already been raised to 542 miles in April by a brickmaker, "Blower" brown.

"Blower" was fond of his beer, and his trainer Jack Smith, could always get an extra spurt from him by standing at the track-edge and shouting, "Well done Blower! Yes, Blower shall have a barrel of beer all to himself if he wins; go it Blower!" It was the same trainer who, when Astley provided two chops for Brown, ate the best part of them himself leaving bone, gristle, and fat, with the words: "Bless yer Colonel! Blower has never had the chance of eating the inside. He likes the outside!"

In June 1879, Weston reclaimed the limelight with a record of 550 miles, easily defeating Brown. But "Blower" came back with 553 miles in February 1880 at Islington. In April, America wrested back the record in the person of Frank Hart, a negro from Boston, who covered 565 miles 165 yards in New York, and in December Pat Fitzgerald (USA) raised it to 582 miles. This was too much for Victorian England to bear. A catsmeat salesman, George Hael, was sent to Madison Square Garden, where he made all previous efforts seem half-hearted with 600 miles in February 1882. Two other British wobblers added to the triumph, for James Saunders ran 120 miles 275 yards in one non-stop stage (still the record according to the Guinness Book of Records) and Charles Rowell notched 150 miles 385 yards in the first 24 hours (respectably close to Wally Hayward's 159 miles 562 yards in 1953, the present running record.)

Pat Fitzgerald (USA) regained the record with 610 miles in May 1883 and 612 miles a year later, and then there was lull until February 1888, when James Albert (USA) managed 621 miles, again in New York. The last word in these extraordinary contests was to be uttered by a two-man team from England who travelled to New York that December. One, George Cartwright, took "Go As You Please" literally and, although a husband and a father in England, arranged a marriage with a young New Yorker. When Cartwright failed to walk (or wobble) up the aisle, the bride's brother "made hot search for him, and will wreak vengeance on him when he finds him". The other ambassador from Britain was happily George Littlewood, who astonished the Madison Square Garden crowd by running 623 3/4 miles in one minute under 140 hours. During the race his foot was badly burned when a spark ignited his alcohol bath, but he smothered the flames with a pillow, and continued with a severely blistered foot. (ed. If he would drink it instead of soaking in it, as one should, all would probably have been well.) It was the greatest wobble ever recorded. Indeed, it was described by B.B. Lloyd in Advancement of Science (1966) as "probably about the maximum sustained output of which the human frame is capable". A fitting last word to the curious history of the Wobble.