

Osmond Youth Does Marathon Walk Of Fifty-two Miles to Settle Argument

18-YEAR OLD RICHARD SCHMITZ DOES STRETCH IN LITTLE OVER 13 HOURS

(PICTURE ON PAGE 5)

There is a lad in Osmond who knows from experience something about "pickin' 'em up and layin' 'em down."

He is 18 year old Richard Schmitz who walked more than fifty miles in 13 hours and 28 minutes Saturday and Sunday because he said he could and someone else said he couldn't.

Richard is a member of the class of '48 of Osmond High and since school was out in May has been working for Earl Thomsen of Osmond who operates a gravel pit 5 miles south of Wynot, Nebraska. The whole thing started, says the young marathon walker, when a joke was cracked that he might have to walk home from work at Wynot sometime to play baseball with the Osmond Tigers where this season he has rated a regular berth. He said that he'd prove that he could do it in 15 hours or less. In one way or another he was to get \$25 in cash plus numerous treats from well wishers if he pulled into the Osmond city limits in less than 15 hours after leaving Wynot.

He started walking from downtown Wynot at 5:03 p. m. Saturday

afternoon after what he described as a day of light routine work. Four cars followed him into the Osmond city limits at 6:31 Sunday morning. At 6:35 he was being photographed in front of the postoffice.

Young "Richie" was followed closely by a car in which were riding a brother, Ralph Schmitz, and Jos. Bichlmeier Jr., on the last 24 miles of his trek. At times there were more cars. He walked in everyday oxfords and wore swim trunks and a sweat shirt over which he wore a red leather jacket part of the time. The weather during the dark hours of the night was cool and in places very foggy. Richie says that 6 different cars stopped and tried to give him "lifts." Answering, always walking, six times he refused, though more and more consideration was given to the pleas as the miles were clicked off and muscles became tighter.

The trip is figured at about 52 or 53 miles. Richard planted his lunch at two places between Osmond and Wynot as he went to work Saturday morning. One plant was made at the junction of highways 81 and 84 northeast of Wausa, another a mile west of Hartington. He used the Boy Scout pace (50 walknig steps then 50 running steps) for the first 8 miles out of Wynot which he did in 90 minutes. He hit his first lunch cache after 14

miles and made what he now thinks was a bad mistake. He sat down 4 or 5 minutes to eat. He said he ate only half of one of the two meat sandwiches he hid near a signboard. He carried with him a canteen of black coffee. Severe cramps in calves and thighs of both legs set in when he resumed his journey. He said he slapped his thighs and calves almost continuously from near Hartington to Wausa where friends gave him an alcohol rubdown somewhat relieving his distress.

The coffee didn't go good he said, so he poured it out. At Pleasant Valley 9 miles west of Hartington he stopped at 10:30 p. m. and had a quick hamburger and bottle of red pop. He didn't even stop for his second planned lunch near the highway 84 and 81 junction 11 miles north of Wausa. For all he knows, it's still there.

A friend got Wausa's physician, Dr. R. E. Johnson, out of bed at 2 a. m. to answer the telephone. "Would he, in about 45 minutes make a quick check of a marathon walker?" The doctor was a bit skeptical but quickly consented. At 2:45 he was checking the heart beat, pulse and blood pressure of the boy who had walked and ran 39 miles. The patient's pulse was a bit fast but not dangerously so. With a good word the slightly be-

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wildered M. D. sent him on his way. Four cars of people followed the determined walker into Osmond as he crossed the city limits at 6:31 Sunday morning. His gait was steady, arms swinging widely and he was limping quite badly. His steps were far short of the estimated 30 inches at the start of the journey. He weighed 130 pounds when he gave up walking at the postoffice in favor of a car ride to his home a block and a half away. He lost between 5 and 6 pounds he said.

Severe muscle cramps persisted throughout Sunday permitting only interrupted sleep. He had said he would play ball with his Osmond team Sunday night. His leg cramps

made that impossible. He was able, but not anxious to walk alone Monday afternoon. He thought he would go back to work on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Richard is the son of Mrs. Lillian Schmitz of Osmond and the late E. L. Schmitz. He does not smoke or drink intoxicants. His future plans include attendance at Wayne State Teachers college next fall. Junior and Senior college years will be at Notre Dame.

Yes, Richie "picked 'em up and layed 'em down" 75,000 times if you figure a normal stride on his "trip." His steps were very short in the closing miles. The figure is probably closer to 100,000 steps.