

DAN O'LEARY DEAD; FAMED AS WALKER

Long a Colorful Figure in the
Athletic World, He Won
Races With Weston.

SUCCUMBS IN WEST AT 90

At 66 He Covered a Mile at the
Beginning of Each Hour for
1,000 Consecutive Hours.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LOS ANGELES, May 29.—Dan O'Leary, world-famous walker, died here today after a long illness in the Glendale Sanatorium. He was 90 years old. He had been a contestant in endurance walks in almost every corner of the world, winning medals and money in England, Europe, America and Australia.

Defeated His Rivals for 60 Years.

Noted for his characteristic good humor and remarkable health and stamina, as well as for his record-breaking walking feats, Dan O'Leary was one of the most colorful athletic figures of all times. For almost the last sixty years he laid claim to the world's walking championship, having defeated scores of others who disputed his "title," most of them much younger than himself.

Mr. O'Leary's tall, straight, well-knit figures, swinging seemingly tirelessly along scores of roads and streets in this country and in Europe and Asia, was familiar to tens of thousands. He also gave many exhibitions of his walking prowess in baseball parks, fair grounds and other exhibition places. During his lifetime he is said to have walked well over 300,000 miles, more than 125,000 of which were in competition.

A native of Cork, Ireland, where he was born on June 28, 1842, O'Leary came to the United States when he was 19 years old. While working as a book agent in Chicago he said he could walk 500 miles in six days, a feat never before accomplished although tried by many noted walkers of the period. Mr. O'Leary astonished the entire athletic world and gained national prominence by traversing that distance in the specified time.

Quitting his job as a book agent, Mr. O'Leary launched himself on an active walking career, meeting and defeating some of the best walkers of the country. Eventually he challenged Edward Payson Weston, then the acknowledged walking champion. He won a decisive victory over Weston in November, 1875, subsequently defeating him again in a six-day race in England.

Supported by His Winnings.

It was O'Leary's custom to challenge other walkers to races at any distance for wagers ranging from \$25 to \$5,000. He was able to support himself very comfortably in this way, also winning many thousands of dollars in prize money as well, besides medals, trophies and other awards. The Astley Belt, one of walking's greatest trophies, was won twice by him.

Mr. O'Leary held many records for long distance walking, some of which have never been equaled. Not content with consistently defeating the best walkers in the United States, several times he journeyed to France, Ireland, England, Australia, Canada and other countries, winning all walking races in which he was entered.

What was regarded as his greatest walking performance was accomplished at Norwood Inn, Cincinnati, when he was 66 years old. He walked a mile at the beginning of each hour for 1,000 consecutive hours, thus disproving medical theories that no human being could stand such a severe physical strain.

Because of the excellent health he experienced until recently, Mr. O'Leary always maintained that he would live beyond the century mark. In an interview once in Brooklyn he said. "I will get my full growth when I am 100 and will be up and going until I am 110. After that I am making no promises."

Despite his advanced age, until he was taken ill a short time ago he could walk a mile in nine minutes and could average six miles an hour for two or three hours. He never used a cane when walking, always preferring a lath stick or a folded newspaper to keep his hand balanced.

Regarding his exceptional powers of endurance, which enabled him to keep going when most of his other competitors were forced to quit through exhaustion, he once said: "I never stay in one place long enough to get stale. Life is always fresh for me. That is my secret."



Times Wide World Photo.
DAN O'LEARY.