



Bunion Derby Collection (R1417)

Collection Number: R1417

Collection Title: Bunion Derby Collection

Dates: 1928

Creator: Gibbons, Robert H.

Abstract: The Bunion Derby Collection consists of three Pathé film reels titled “Cross Country” the Route 66 Bunion Derby Footrace, an unlabeled reel documenting the 35th Division Reunion, and “Moving Cars” Route 66 West of Springfield, Missouri.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic foot
(1 folder, 3 reels)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri.

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research, but is stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Bunion Derby Collection* (R1417); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The films were loaned to the State Historical Society of Missouri for copying by Robert Gibbons on April 21, 1999 (Accession No. RA0723).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, January 25, 2018

Historical Note:

The Trans-American Footrace, popularly known as the Bunion Derby by the American press, was a footrace across the United States organized by Charles “Cash and Carry” Pyle. The race began in Los Angeles, California on March 4, 1928 at 3:30 pm. One hundred and ninety-nine runners began the race. Fifty-five would cross the finish line at Madison Square Garden in New York City on May 26, 1928. The runners ran a total of 3,423.5 miles. Much of the race was run on Route 66, a relatively new highway that had been commissioned on November 11, 1926. The highway was not paved in many places and runners had to contend with dust and mud and other poor conditions during the race. Route 66 is 2,448 miles long and connects from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois and passes through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri along the way. Contestants were supported by teams that followed the runners in vehicles. They were also followed by the press and a mobile shoe repair shop was also provided. Each runner had paid a \$125.00 entry fee for the privilege of running in the race. Runners slept in tents each night and meals were provided at each checkpoint.

Andy Payne was the winner of the bunion derby. His prize was \$25,000. Andy received a heroes’ welcome when the race passed through his hometown of Claremore, Oklahoma. In all \$48,500 dollars in prize money was awarded to the top three finishers. The race was run once again the following year but with much less fanfare. This time the race began on the East Coast and terminated in Los Angeles. The winners of this race were never paid their prize money, as C.C. Pyle had gone bankrupt. Only one runner, Harry Abrams, finished both races coming in at 11th and 9th places respectively.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection consists of the three Path’e film reels titled “Cross Country” the Route 66 Bunion Derby Footrace, an unlabeled reel documenting the 35th Division Reunion, and “Moving Cars” Route 66 West of Springfield, Missouri.

Container List:

f. 1 Films, 1928

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