



## **Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race Collection (R0094)**

**Collection Number:** R0094

**Collection Title:** Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race Collection

**Dates:** 1925-1929

**Creator:** Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race

**Abstract:** The Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race Collection contains photocopies of programs from Charles C. Pyle's first and second annual transcontinental foot races. The 1928 race was from Los Angeles to New York; the 1929 race was from New York to Los Angeles. Through Missouri the runners followed United States Highway 66.

**Collection Size:** 0.04 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. 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](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race Collection* (R0094); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The collection was loaned for photocopying to the University of Missouri by Ella Miller on September 4, 1981 (Accession No. RA0087).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Pyle's International Transcontinental Foot Race Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Bunion Derby Collection* (R1417)

**Processed by:** Processed by Mark Stauter, February 2, 1982. Revised by Kathleen Seale, April 7, 2020.

### Historical Note:

Charles C. Pyle was a prominent sports promoter and showman who in 1928 and 1929 sponsored professional foot races which traversed the United States from coast to coast. Known popularly as C.C. (Cash and Carry) Pyle, he had fostered the professional sports careers of football star Harold E. "Red" Grange and tennis player Suzanne Lenglen. The foot races were intended to be profitable affairs, but neither contest proved to be very successful, and the series was halted after the second event.

The 1928 race departed Los Angeles in early March. It soon earned the sobriquet, "Bunion Derby," as the hot desert roads quickly eliminated more than half of the international field. Following old United States Route 66, the troupe crossed Missouri late in April. Averaging about forty miles per day, 55 of the 199 starters finished in New York on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The winner was Andrew Payne of Claremore, Oklahoma.

In late March 1929, the second race started from New York, to garner more publicity and avoid another early burnout in the desert. This year a vaudeville show accompanied the caravan, performing in a tent erected at the site of the next overnight stop. Essentially retracing the previous year's route, the runners crossed Missouri, again on old Route 66, in late April and early May. However, promotion was a financial disaster, and only nineteen racers finished the ultra-marathon in Los Angeles on June 18.

### Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of programs from Charles C. Pyle's first and second annual transcontinental foot races. The programs, sold prior to the caravan's arrival in each town along the route, describe the itinerary, praise C.C. Pyle's brilliant entrepreneurship, provide background information on foot racing, and provide small photographs and thumbnail biographies of the contestants. Also included is a poster size copy of the programs cover.

### Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Official programs, 1928-1929
	f. 2	Program poster, 1928

### Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Conway (Mo.)	1	
Joplin (Mo.)	1	
Maplewood (Mo.)	1	
Marathon running	1	Yes

<b>Index Term</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Image</b>
Miller (Mo.)	1	
Payne, Andrew, 1907-1977	1	Yes
Pyle, Charles C., 1882-1939	1	Yes
Rolla (Mo.)	1	
Springfield (Mo.)	1	
Sullivan (Mo.)	1	
United States Highway 66	1	
Waynesville (Mo.)	1	