

# Looking at People



Jacki Hansen (Doug Schwab photo)

● **Bill Rodgers** was the sole winner of the Lynchburg, Va., 10-miler in September—but not by choice. As they neared the finish, Rodgers and **Frank Shorter** said to each other, “You take it.” Neither moved ahead. They finished holding hands, the recognized signal of an intentional tie, but officials insisted on separating them.

Shorter wasn't too concerned about the hair-splitting this time. He said, “I don't care if I come in first or second as long as we have the same times.”

Several years ago, however, when Frank regularly tried to tie with **Jack Bachelier** and was sometimes criticized for it, he had said, “Hell, what should it matter if 10 runners want to come across the line together? They're the ones who are putting out the effort. Why should someone else's hangups dictate what runners are going to do?”

● **Marc Bloom** wrote earlier this year (“The New York Winter,” Feb. *RW*), “Indoor track is King in New York, and the crown does not seem to be losing its grip—although it does slip now and then...” Major slippage occurred this fall when the city's Public School Athletic League eliminated the high school indoor program which Bloom said was “without question the finest of its kind in the United States.”

The meets were run in The Armory, on “a splintered wooden oval more suit-

ed for a square dance than a one-mile relay.” Bloom recently wrote in the *New York Times* that the days there were educational. “If the athletes have digested the action for upwards of 100 hours amid 3000 peers, and if they have returned home without getting disqualified or ripped off, then they have had a successful cram session in sociology, psychology, economics and survival training.”

Now, because of budget cuts, the kids do their running on the streets.

● The women's marathon record has come down in three jumps this year, from 2:43 to 2:38—and it's back in the US and back in the hands of the woman who had it a year ago. **Jacki Hansen** passed up the national championship in New York for a faster course and cooler day in Eugene, Ore.

Jacki said later, “Early splits lead me to believe the record was possible: 6:07 first mile, 29:58 for five and 60:15 for 10. When I heard 2:01 for the 20-mile mark, I felt an overwhelming surge.”

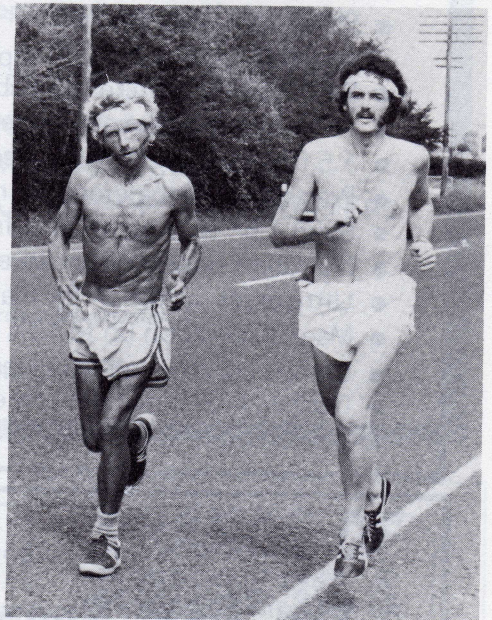
She ran 6:00 mile pace from there to the finish, which she reached in 2:38:19.

● Running and runners have several roles in the celebrated **Patty Hearst** cast. Hearst was sheltered for several months by **Jack Scott**, a former sprinter, running coach, athletic director and writer of sports articles and books. Scott reportedly had Hearst and **Bill and Emily Harris** running while they lived in a rented Pennsylvania farmhouse, and the Harrises were arrested in San Francisco while going to run. **Steven Soliah**, who lived with Patty when she was captured, is a former Humboldt State University trackman.

● We owe an apology to **Ron Ray**. The September issue's story, “Where Have All the Young Boys Gone?” led off with his name. It said he was one of several runners who had “not improved significantly—if at all—on high school times.” He had run well, the article continued, “but not well enough to justify the ‘Olympic prospect’ label.”

That may have been true when this was written in early summer. But one-lap sprinter Ray contributed to a world record mile relay in July. Then in October he won the Pan-American Games 400 with one of the fastest times ever run.

● **Doris Brown** and **Ralph Heritage** both live in Seattle, but they met last year on a mountain in Nepal. Brown, many-times International cross-country champion, and Heritage, an ex-hurdler and football player, were married this September. The wedding was at 1:30 p.m., the reception an hour later. Instead of the usual formalities, the couple hosted and competed in a run-swim biathlon for their athletic friends.



Siegfried Bauer (1) with Dave Cameron

● In August, six runners from California and a recruit from Tennessee set a record of 258-plus miles for the 24-hour relay. The story here is that all are vegetarians and Seventh-Day Adventists.

● A team of seven California women came within a few miles of the record for a full (10-member) team. The West Valley Women went 214 miles in a day, nearly 60 miles beyond the old record for a team this size and only nine short of the overall women's mark. **Sue Neary** averaged 5:55 for 31 miles.

● **Siegfried Bauer** isn't as well known as other New Zealanders who raced through Europe this summer. But in his own way, his feats are as amazing as those of **John Walker** and **Rod Dixon**.

Bauer's race schedule: August—177 kilometers in Germany; 100 kilometers in Belgium. September—100 kilometers in Germany; October—150 kilometers in Italy; 100 miles in England. Earlier in the year, he had run the length of New Zealand—1300 miles—in 18 days. ●