

AMERICANS CAN WALK

AMERICANS of 1963—from tough marines to pretty secretaries—have been proving that they are not so “soft” after all.

The test: a grueling, 50-mile hike—used as a measure of fitness by President Theodore Roosevelt and revived by history-loving President Kennedy.

The original idea was that the hike should be stretched over three days.

That got lost in the shuffle. “Bobby” Kennedy, the President’s brother, hiked for 17 hours at a stretch. That set a record which soon tumbled as boy scouts, beautiful girls, whole high-school classes, and U. S. marines got into the act.

The whole thing came as a surprise to those automobile-age Americans who have been saying, in recent years: “Nobody knows how to walk any more.”



—Crockett in “Washington Star”

“Eureka!—At Last I’ve Got America Moving Again!”



2.6 miles per hour. Long on looks, this group of congressional secretaries hiked 32 miles in 12 hours flat.



3 mph. Attorney General Kennedy rests after “non-stop” 50 miles in 17 hours.



5.1 mph. Not counting the rests, Lieut. Marty Shime did it in 9 hr., 53 min.



3.2 mph. At left, 50-year-old Brig. Gen. R. McC. Tompkins of Marines, followed by aide, does 50 miles in 15 hr. and 32 min.

4.1 mph. Some of 400 teen-agers who staged mass hike in California near 50-mile goal. Best time: 12 hours, 8 minutes.

Photos: UPI, Wide World and Bettmann Archive



A warning? Pheidippides started it all in 490 B.C. He ran from Marathon to Athens to report victory, dropped dead at finish.

