

A MAN IN A HURRY

The Extraordinary Life and Times of

Edward Payson Weston

THE WORLD'S GREATEST WALKER

Nick Harris, Helen Harris, Paul Marshall

“Weston's astonishing athletic feats are only part of his attraction. He was a showman and social butterfly, a dreamer and a cad.”

“He cared desperately what people thought of him, but acted like he didn't care at all. His story has everything: achievement, controversy, celebrity, love, money, drugs.”

“If he were alive today, he'd be a regular on the back pages of every broadsheet and the front pages of every tabloid.”

— Nick Harris

“What he brought to the party was his personality. He was a fantastic athlete, capable of walking 80 miles without stopping, but he was also a terrible show-off, given to singing and clowning around during races. He was at least two parts showman to one part athlete, a recipe that made walking races (essentially a man or men walking round and round a track, hour after hour) so dramatic and entertaining, not to mention controversial, that they began to draw audiences of up to 20,000 people a day.”

— Helen Harris

“Imagine being so famous, that nearly every word you spoke and every move you made was written about? Imagine being feted like a film star, a famous politician, or even royalty wherever you went? Imagine performing in front of thousands of screaming spectators, many of whom just loved you to bits? Imagine walking down streets that were lined by thousands of people cheering for you? Imagine being given a police escort to stop mobs of people from trying to touch you? Imagine being welcomed into hamlets, villages, towns and cities by the sound of cannon fire, the warmth of bonfires and the illuminating spectacle of fireworks? Imagine schoolchildren being let out of lessons and factory workers being told to lay down their tools, so that they could catch a glimpse of you? Imagine being listened to by packed audiences?”

“Imagine being a sporting superstar like Edward Payson Weston...”

— Paul Marshall