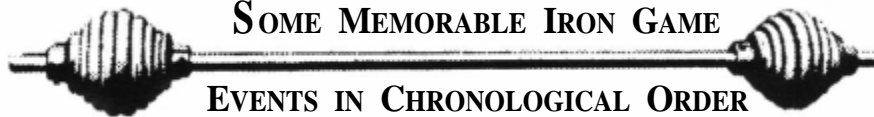


# The Roark Report

## SOME MEMORABLE IRON GAME

### EVENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER



The late 1930s and early 1940s were an especially interesting era in the history of the Iron Game. Bob Hoffman had been putting out **Strength & Health** for only a few years, Peary and Mabel Rader had just begun *Iron Man*, and young Joe Weider was just beginning the magazine empire that would one day be his. York, Pennsylvania became a center for weightlifting activities in those years; "Muscle Beach" got started in California; the first Mr. America contest was held. As war brewed in Europe, as the Depression wound down in America, through it all, the history of lifting continued. Below are *some* of the significant events of that era. For those who would like to read more about them, I've included an abbreviated bibliographic guide to sources in the major magazines or books in our field. Please send additions, corrections and other tailoring to Joe Roark, Box 320 St. Joseph, IL 6187 as soon as possible so that in each issue we can present corrections on previous offerings. Please document any such corrections as completely as possible. Thanks.

The references for the following information are:

**S&H** is *Strength & Health*

**HS** is *Health and Strength*

**Vol. 1 or Vol. 2** refers to Leo Gaudreau's two volume work, *Anvils and Horseshoes*

**Mr. A** is *Mr. America* by Weider

**IM** is *Iron Man*

**SA** is David Willoughby's *Super Athletes*

**MD** is *Muscular Development*

**V** is *VIM* magazine by Eells

**M** is *Muscleman*

**IG** is *The Iron Game* by David Webster.

#### 1938

- Jan. 8 In Vienna, a special weightlifting contest was held to honor Joseph Grafl, who won the world's heavyweight weightlifting title in 1908 and 1909 in Vienna, in 1910 at Dusseldorf, and in 1911 he won one of the four world's championships held that year. In 1913 he won the title in Breslau, Poland. That makes five world titles. SA , 86-87.
- Jan. 27 Roger Eells bent presses 200 lbs with his left hand, 185 lbs with his right hand. S&H, May 1938.
- Jan. 30 LeeRoy Saba born: IM, 20:2, 10.
- Feb. 16 George Petroski world record middle-weight crucifix at the St. Petersburg, Florida strength show at the YMCA: S&H, May 1938, 4.
- Feb. 19 Roger Eells bent pressed 235 pounds with his left hand, feet not together.

- Mar. 7 Joe Zimmerman, 145 lbs bodyweight, withstood his 150lb brother's jump from a six foot step ladder onto Joe's abs. Dick, the brother was holding a 50 pound dumbbell in each hand. SA 205; S&H May 1938, 18.
- Mar. 19 Black Jack Wodson born, birthweight 17 pounds, 9 ounces.
- Mar. 25 Roger Eells fourteen futile attempts to bent press the Cyr dumbbell. S&H, June 1938, 33.
- May 16 Chick Fisdell bent pressed the 175 pound Rolandow barbell.
- June 14 The German weightlifting team visits USA.
- June 25 Josef Manger, in New York City, jerked 402 1/2 pounds (he did not clean the weight) but at the time no one in America had jerked that amount. S&H, August 1938, 18.
- July 30 The French finals, at La Baule, for the World Physique Championships held, winner was Pitet.
- July 31 Overall winner of above title during the World's finals was Emile Bonnet.
- Sept. 5 At North American Championships in Toronto both John Grimek and John Davis earned berths on the USA team headed for Vienna, with totals, respectively, of 830 and 815 pounds. Vol. 1, 101.
- Nov. 26 Ron Walker's first pro record: 286 1/2 pound snatch. M, May 1953, 15.
- Nov. 26 Bob Hoffman claimed a bent press of 263 1/2 pounds. S&H, March 1939.
- Dec. 1 Johnny Hordines' bodybuilding contest at Gardner's Reducing Salon and Gymnasium in Schenectady, N.Y. No overall winner, but the three height class winners, in height order were: Jack Channing, Bill Hillgardner, and John Bousa. Title was "Finest Physique" contest.
- Dec. 2 Aurele Veilleau at Klein's gym *almost* bent pressed the Rolandow dumbbell 14 times.
- Dec. 4 S&H showed a poster for contest this date between Milo Steinborn and Charles Rigoulot.
- 1939:**
- Jan. 1 Bob Hoffman bent pressed the Rolandow dumbbell (which weighed 209 lbs).
- Feb. 25 Copy of Cease & Desist Order against Charles Atlas. S&H, June 1939, 12.
- Feb. 26 List of lifts done by W.L. Travis on this date. S&H, April 1940, 33.
- Feb. 27 W.L. Travis signed an affidavit attesting to previous day's lifting. S&H, April 1940, 33.
- Apr. 4 Emile Deriaz died, or, he was cremated. V, December 1940, 12.

- Apr. 23 Best Built Man Contest was held at the Bronx YMHA. Height class winners in order: Murray Markoff, Bill Hillgardner, and Bert Goodrich. S&H July 1930, 25.
- May 9 Shams cleaned and jerked 338 1/4 pounds at 142 pounds bodyweight. S&H April 1967, 26.
- June 24 Marriage of Jim Halliday of Great Britain.
- June 7 Batta died: born August 17, 1866. IM 17:4, 29, also V 2, 126.
- June 10 "America's Finest Physique" contest at Amsterdam, N.Y. Height winners: Elmer Farnham, Jack Hempe, Bert Goodrich.
- June 20 Tony Garcy born.
- July 4 Joe Abbenda born.
- July 4 Roland Essmaker won Mr. America title.
- July 25 Joe Greenstein's chair/auto accident was featured in *PIC* magazine
- Nov. 17 George Paulik pinched two 45 pound Olympic plates, by the hub, then with one in each hand, curled & pressed them. MD September 1974, 6.
- Dec. 17 W.A. Pullum displayed his six weightlifting medals at the Camberwell Club.
- 1940:**
- Feb. 3 Floyd Odom born. MD January 1977, 22.
- Feb. 17 John Grimek continentaled and pressed 320 pounds in York. S&H April 1940, 17.
- Mar 14 George Hobby bent pressed the Rolandow dumbbell (209lbs).
- Apr. 5 John Davis bent pressed the Rolandow dumbbell.
- Apr. 28 The Jr. Nationals in weightlifting were held in Detroit S&H June 1940, 40.
- Apr. 30 Letter from Emile Valtier to Leo Gaudreau concerning the Apollon rail car wheels. Vol. 1,153.
- May 5 Nature Boy Buddy Rogers first wrestling bout. MD November 1966, 55
- May 25 Weightlifting Sr. Nationals. S&H July 1940, 30.
- May 25 John Grimek won Mr. America. S&H July 1940,30.
- Sept. 13 Bob Gajda born.
- Oct. 19 Tony Terlazzo, at 148 lbs, pressed 250 pounds, snatched 245 pounds and cleaned and jerked 330 pounds. Vol. 1, 31.
- Oct. 20 John Grimek wed Angela, thus making Angela the first woman to ever marry an AAU Mr. America title holder.
- Dec. 1 Grimek, Bob Hoffman, and Tony Terlazzo headed west on a tour. S&H January 1941, 5.
- Dec. 6 Rolandow died, born May 6, 1874. IM 19:5, 26.
- 1941:**
- Jan. 9 Ron Walker's son born. HS May 24, 1941,483.
- Jan. 30 Joe Bednarski (Ivan Putski) born in Poland.
- Feb. 21 W.L. Travis celebrated his 65th birthday by lifting 1000 pounds s one thousand times in 39 minutes S&H October 1956, 50.
- Apr. 13 Steve Reno born. IM 28:1, 14.
- Apr. 27 Weightlifting Jr. Nationals in Akron, Ohio. S&H June 1940, 34.
- May 10 Bent press championships held.
- May 23-4 Weightlifting Sr. Nationals in York, Pa. S&H July 1941, 32.
- May 24 Grimek wins Mr. America for second year.
- June 8 Randy Watson born. IM 22:6, 12.
- July 4 Sergio Oliva born.
- July 13 At 12:30 A.M. W.L. Travis died; born Feb. 21, 1876. SA, 82
- July 14 Les Stockton took as his bride Abbye Eville, better known now as Pudgy Stockton.
- Aug. 7 *New York Times* published part of Travis' will.
- Dec. 23 Serge Reding born; died June 27, 1975.
- 1942:**
- Jan. 7 Vasily Alexeev born.
- Jan. 26 Tom Helms born.
- Feb. 13 John Farbotnik began exercising with weights at Fritshe's Gym; age 16. IM 8:1, 9.
- Feb. 15 Jim Halliday became a prisoner of war. Imprisoned 3 1/2 years.
- Mar 20 Ken Waller born.
- April 1 In a circus caravan, Joe Roark was conceived.
- Apr. 9 Weightlifting Jr. Nationals in Bristol, CT. S&H June 1942, 30.
- Apr. 20 Andy Jackson's wedding day (according to Andy; a magazine misreported this date)
- May 24 Sr. Nationals in Cincinnati. S&H July 1942, 22.
- May 24 Frank Leight wins Mr. America.
- June 6 Chuck Amato born. IM 37:6, 28
- June 28 Frank Zane born.
- July 10 Andy Jackson drafted. IM 34:2 p31
- Sept. 30 John Lopez pressed 150 pounds 37 times. SA, 197.

