

FROM THE MORGUE Classic Articles From Police Gazettes Gone By

This month we're preempting our "Nick The Greek" series to bring you a special From the Morgue classic. In 1908, the *Police Gazette* founded the famous Mount Wilson Trail Race that takes place each year in Sierra Madre, CA. This year's race was just run on May 25th, and Kyle Schnurr, City of Sierra Madre Recreation Supervisor, has been kind enough to provide the results, as well as pictures of the winners. But first, here is the contemporary *Police Gazette* article that describes the race's founding.

April 11, 1908

The Police Gazette Mountain Climbing Medal Contested for on the 29th of this Month.

Charles J. Fox, Pacific Coast Representative, in Charge of a Most Novel and Interesting Athletic Event.

On this page you will see a good portrait of the man who did it all—the one who is responsible for all this excitement on the Pacific Coast. Because of what he has done there are a score of athletes running their legs off to get in condition to make a record for beating it up to the top of Mt. Wilson, at Sierra Madre and back again.



Charles J. Fox and Richard K. Fox, Jr.

Nothing like a contest for running up and down mountains has ever been held in this country before, or in any other country so far as is known, but Charles J. Fox—that's the one—thought it would be a good idea, and he started this circus. He used to get up in the morning before the sun was really out of bed and look up at the top of this now celebrated mount and wonder what would happen to the average man who tried to run up hill and down again without stopping. So the idea got on his mind, and the upshot of it was that he wrote a

long letter to his father, Richard K. Fox, about it.

Then things began in earnest, and it didn't take long to have a medal made at this end of the line in order that mountain climbing might be stimulated. Mr. Richard K. Fox has been handing out medals and trophies all his life, so that was nothing new to him. And it is more than likely that he will always be handing them out—if the cause is a good one, as it is in this case.

This last one—it is on the Coast now—can't be beaten for style. It is of solid gold—as everything that bears the name of Richard K. Fox is—and the man who wins it will have the worth of all of his trouble, to say nothing of the honor which goes with it.

The first run will take place on April 29, and among those who will be on hand when the starter's gun goes off will be E. Norman, of the Olympic A.C., of San Francisco; Eugene Estoppey, of the Y.M.C.A., Pasadena, Cal.; Paul Reinwald, of Los Angeles, Cal., and H.C. Bowden, of the Olympic A.C., San Francisco.

And bear in mind that this is going to be a race for seasoned athletes.

A man must have lungs and muscles to be a mountain climber, with a little extra thrown in to be a mountain runner, and so, you see, when they speak of this out on the Coast as the principal sporting event of the season they come pretty near to hitting the nail on the head.

It is fitting that it should be so, too, for isn't Charley Fox out there with Richard K. Fox, Jr., to see that everything is conducted properly and as it should be. They are good representatives of a famous father and a sporting weekly that is known wherever the sun shines, and in some places where it seldom shines.

Of course, the medal must be won three times before it becomes the personal property of the winner, but there are no chunks of cold comfort and empty honors for the men who will race on the 29th of April, for the winner will receive from Richard K. Fox a gold medal in miniature of the big one as a token of his success. That alone will be reward enough for the most ambitious athlete.

There is consolation for the second man, too, in the shape of a silver medal, while the athlete who finishes third on the gruelling trip up and down a mountain will receive an emblem of bronze.

From now on there will be busy times on the Coast in the athletic line, and it is more than

likely that there will be in the near future other contests for other Richard K. Fox trophies.

Next week the back page of the *GAZETTE* will be devoted to portraits of some of the better known contestants in the mountain run. They will be shown as they will appear when in the actual race, and for that reason the paper will be of more than passing interest to the sport-loving public of the far West, where the square deal reigns supreme and nine hundred and ninety men out of a thousand are on the level.

Mr. Richard K. Fox would like in the future to give a little more space to athletes of the West, and so he invites all sprinters, strong men, boxers, wrestlers and others, to send in their portraits for publication on these pages. In athletic costume preferred. At the present time the Pacific Coast representative is Charles J. Fox, and his address is Sierra Madre, Cal.

2013 Mount Wilson Trail Race Another Success

May 25th celebrated the 105th anniversary and 47th running of the Mount Wilson Trail Race at Sierra Madre, CA. It was another successful year with great weather, stellar finishing times, and a lively crowd. Friday night race festivities included the Pasta Dinner and runner check-in. The Pasta Dinner was catered by Zugo's Café with additional items provided by Stonefire Grill. On display was the 2012 race video, photos from prior races, and point-of-view footage on the mountain.

Saturday activities included the Race, Kids' Fun Run, Beer Garden, and vendor booths. The Race started off with a bang from official race starter Lono Tyson. The first-place overall runner was Eli Rodriguez with a time of 1 hour and 31 seconds; the first-place female was Mireya Vargas with a time of 1 hour 14 minutes and 33 seconds. (See pictures of the winners on page 4.) This year, 184 youth participated in the Kids' Fun Run, which was sponsored by Sierra Madre Community Foundation and CATZ sports. Proceeds from the Pasta Dinner and Beer Garden were donated to Sierra Madre Search and Rescue, which provides race day safety support on the trail the day of the race.

The 2014 Mount Wilson Trail Race will be Saturday, May 24, 2014. Be sure to check out www.mountwilsontrailrace.com for the 2014 MWTR registration information. Registration will take place in early March 2014. In 2013 the trail race sold out in 2.5 hours, so sign up as early as possible!



The original medal presented to the winner of the first Mount Wilson Trail Race. The medal now resides at the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society.