

373 MILES ON THE RUN:

Edinburgh will be remembered in running history. Walter Hesketh was all set to run to London, 373 miles, and in carpet slippers, too; the marathon of all time. The 30-year-old Manchester toy-dealer, was dealing himself a tough assignment, out to beat the clock by reaching the Capital in 78 hours. Chartered Accountants calculated Walter would have to average 119 miles a day. He is no stranger to big running, having represented England in track and cross country events 32 times. At Biggleswade he called at the police station the only man ever to run himself in there.

The reason was to get a medical check-up, have his feet attended and be put into shape for the last 36 miles. Walter wasn't boasting any fancy diet, just proving that with a good supply of carpet slippers he could perform an amazing new feat. And at last there was Marble Arch, and what a welcome sight it was. It was a triumph putting into the shade his lowering of Gordon Pirie's six mile record a few years ago.

Hesketh received a cheque for out of pocket expenses; no more, because he's keeping his amateur status. His poor feet didn't quite make the 78 hours he'd hoped for, but he was only four hours longer than that.