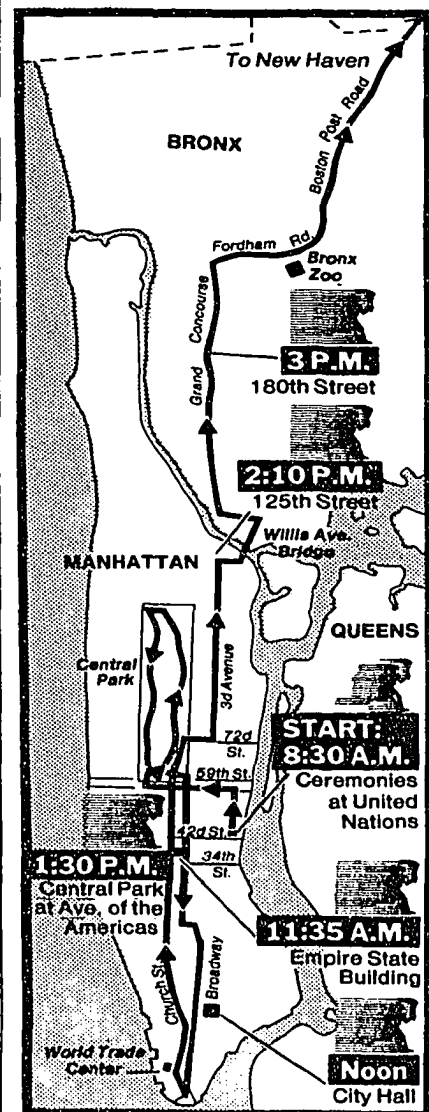


Olympic Flame to Start Odyssey Across U.S.: Odyssey for Torch To Begin at U.N.

By FRANK LITSKY

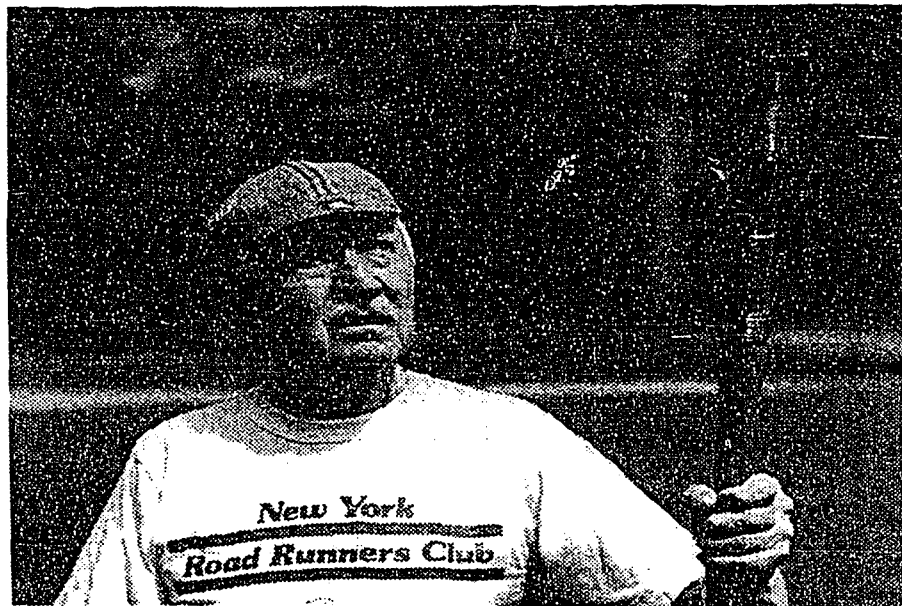
New York Times (1923-); May 8, 1984; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times
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Olympic Flame to Start Odyssey Across U.S.



The New York Times / May 8, 1984

Route of Olympic torch and times of arrival throughout the city.



The New York Times / Fred R. Conrad

Abel Kiviat, a 1912 Olympian, will be one of the torch bearers today.

By FRANK LITSKY

The pageantry of the 1984 Olympic Summer Games will begin at the United Nations today when runners start the Olympic torch on a 9,000-mile, cross-country relay to Los Angeles.

Olympic officials, heroes of past Games and the mayors of New York and Los Angeles will be among those taking part in the start of the journey, which will cover 33 states and take 82 days to complete. The torch will then burn in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum during the Olympics, which begin July 28.

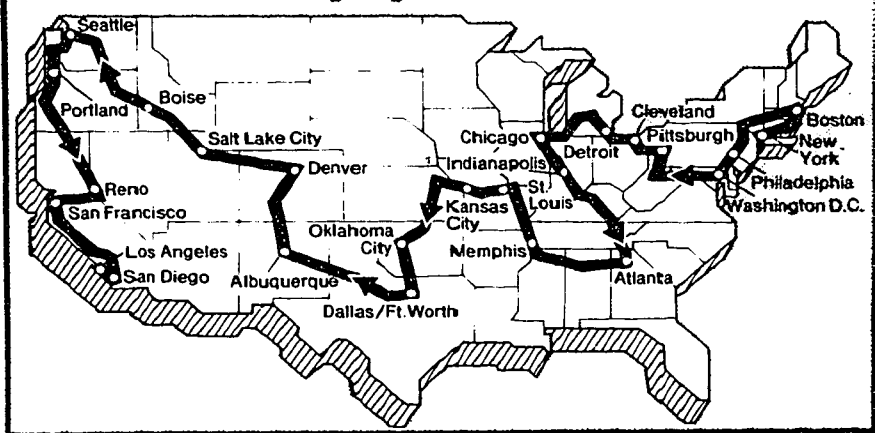
The ambitious journey planned for the torch begins at 8:30 A.M. today at the United Nations. Rafer Johnson, the 1960 Olympic decathlon champion; Monique Berlioux, director of

the International Olympic Committee; Peter V. Ueberroth, president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, and Mayor Edward I. Koch of New York and Mayor Thomas Bradley of Los Angeles will participate in the ceremonies.

At approximately 9:15 A.M., Gina Hemphill, the granddaughter of Jesse Owens, who won four gold medals in track and field at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and Bill Thorpe Jr., the grandson of Jim Thorpe, who won the decathlon and pentathlon in 1912 at Stockholm, will light a torch from the Olympic flame. They will carry it for one kilometer, or five-eighths of a mile, up First Avenue. Abel Kiviat, a

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Route of the Olympic Torch



The New York Times/May 8, 1964

Odyssey for Torch To Begin at U.N.

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91-year-old who won the silver medal in the 1,500-meter run in 1912 when he was Thorpe's roommate, will carry the torch the next kilometer.

The torch will be carried on a circuitous route through Manhattan before leaving the city through the Bronx at about 4 P.M. on its way to New England.

The flame was lighted yesterday in traditional ceremonies at Olympia, Greece, where an actress wearing the flowing robes of an ancient Greek priestess kindled the torch using the rays of the sun. It was then flown here by United States Government aircraft and was scheduled to arrive last night.

The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee originally planned a 19,000-kilometer route through all 50 states. It had hoped to sell each kilometer for \$3,000, with the buyer allowed to choose the person who would carry the torch for that distance. All proceeds would go to one of four charities of the donors' choice — Boys' Club, Girls' Club, Y.M.C.A. and the Special Olympics.

In a sometimes bitter political dispute, Greek Government and Olympic officials objected to the relay as "commercial exploitation." They said they would refuse to allow the traditional ceremonies in Olympia in southern Greece.

The International Olympic Committee intervened, however, and the torch was lighted in a 40-minute ceremony yesterday that was closed to

visitors to avoid demonstrations. Later, several dozen protesters staged a peaceful demonstration.

The Los Angeles organizers' long negotiations with the Greeks led to a shortening of the route to 15,000 kilometers and the elimination of 17 states from the route. The sale of kilometers was ended prematurely, and only 4,000 legs, about 2,500 miles of the route, were sold.

The remaining 70 percent will be covered by 200 employees of American Telephone & Telegraph Communications — a company that knows something about long distance service — the official sponsor of the relay.

On most days, the relay will last about 16 hours. The first-day program is expected to end in New Haven about 1:30 A.M.

From the United Nations, the flame will be carried up First Avenue to 57th Street, west to Eighth Avenue and north into Central Park. It will pass through the park counterclockwise, looping around the reservoir, and exiting at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street.

Then it will go south on Fifth Avenue to Broadway and 23d Street, south on Broadway and pass City Hall about noon. At Battery Park, it will reverse direction, go north on Church Street and Avenue of the Americas and briefly enter Central Park again. It will leave the park at Fifth Avenue and 72d Street, go east on 72d Street to Third Avenue, then north across the Willis Avenue Bridge into the Bronx and ultimately north on Grand Concourse.

It will pass the Bronx Zoo and head east and north on Route 1 (Boston Post Road), leaving the city about about 4 P.M. It will follow that road to New Haven.

After that, and before it reaches Los Angeles, the torch will take a winding path across the United States. In order, it will pass through Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Dallas, Fort Worth, Albuquerque, Denver, Salt Lake City, Boise, Seattle, Portland, Reno, San Francisco and San Diego.

Before the relay ends, the torch will be carried by such celebrities as Muhammad Ali and Bruce Jenner, Olympic gold medalists; Mark Breland, a gold-medal favorite in Olympic boxing this year; O.J. Simpson, and Jane Fonda. The Los Angeles organizers have not said who the final torchbearer will be.

Each runner will transfer the flame to the torch of the next runner, allowing everyone to keep the torch he carries. There will be 4,200 spun-aluminum torches in all, each 22 inches high and weighing 2 pounds 4 ounces. They will be fueled by propane gas and can burn as long as 50 minutes. If the flame goes out, it will be rekindled from one of six miner's lamps with backup flames.