

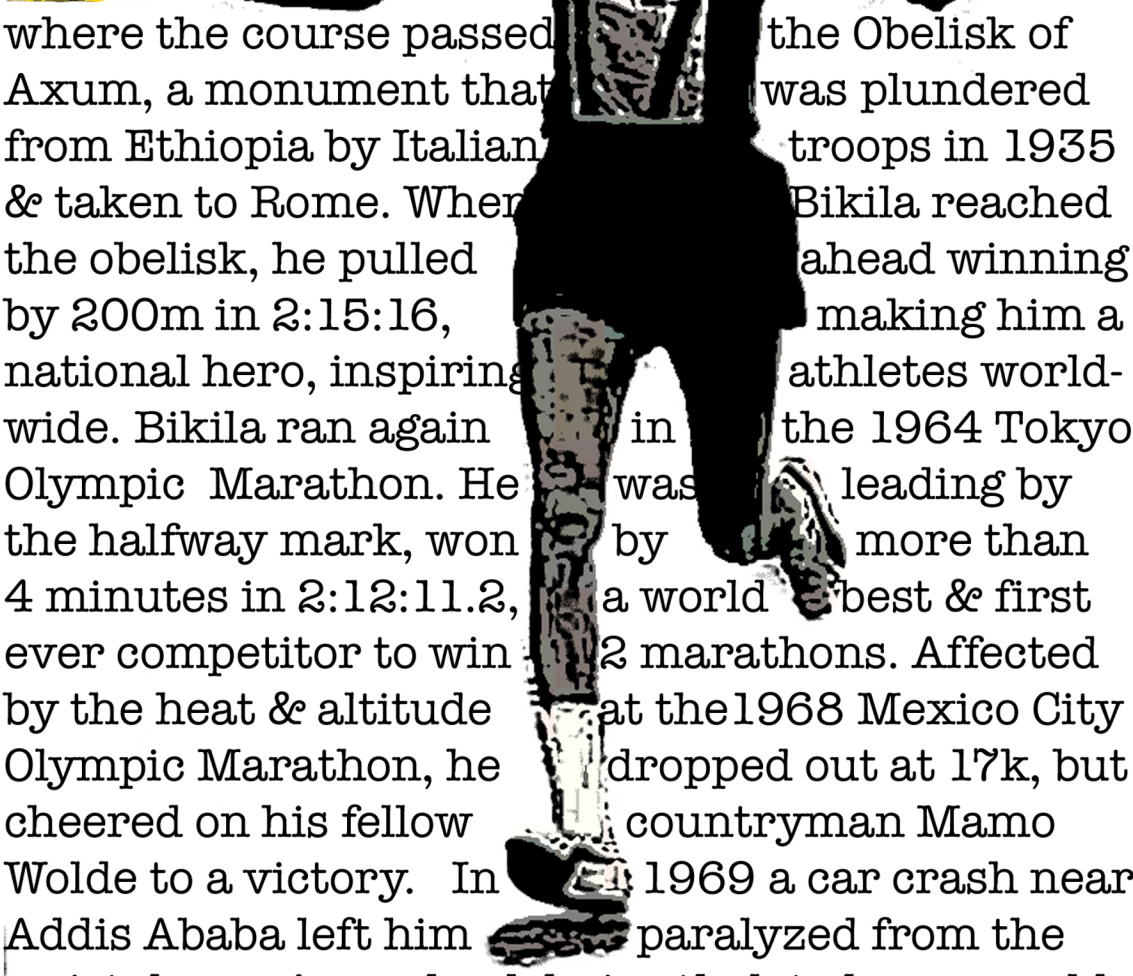
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9th Annual

Abebe Bikila Day

International Peace Marathon & Half

This race is conducted in memory of a man who changed the world. On August 7, 1932 - the day of the Los Angeles Olympic Marathon, he was born in Mout, Ethiopia. At 28 he ran bare-footed in the 1960 Rome Olympic Marathon. He & his coach decided he would make his move 1k from the finish line



where the course passed the Obelisk of Axum, a monument that was plundered from Ethiopia by Italian troops in 1935 & taken to Rome. When Bikila reached the obelisk, he pulled ahead winning by 200m in 2:15:16, making him a national hero, inspiring athletes world-wide. Bikila ran again in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Marathon. He was leading by the halfway mark, won by more than 4 minutes in 2:12:11.2, a world best & first ever competitor to win 2 marathons. Affected by the heat & altitude at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Marathon, he dropped out at 17k, but cheered on his fellow countryman Mamo Wolde to a victory. In 1969 a car crash near Addis Ababa left him paralyzed from the waist down. As a wheelchair athlete he won gold medals in 1970 at 10k and 25k cross-country sledge competitions in Norway.

Bikila died in Addis Ababa on October 25, 1973.

September 12, 2015

C&O Canal Towpath at Fletcher's Cove