

Out There

IT HAPPENED HERE!

Death of a songwriter

"My Old Kentucky Home" has been played at Churchill Downs since 1921, and nine years later began signaling riders to the post. When the University of Kentucky strikes up the tune at this Sunday's Derby, give a thought to **Stephen Collins Foster**. A songwriter from Pittsburg, he wrote the song in 1853, and it was just one of his many hits, including "Beautiful Dreamer," "Oh Susannah," "Swanee River" and "Jennie With the Light Brown Hair." Unfortunately for Foster, prolific and popular did not translate into prosperous in the 19th century. He was the Lennon and McCartney of his day, but in 1864, he died at 37 after collapsing at the North American Hotel, his flophouse home at **30 Bowery**. He had 78¢ in his pocket. —KP



Walk of the town

How to see Manhattan—
all of it—at 3mph

When the Shorewalkers commence the Great Saunter on Saturday 7, it will mark the 20th anniversary of the walk. At 7:30am, an assortment of adventurers, exercisers and rubberneckers will leave South Street Seaport to hike the 32-mile perimeter of Manhattan. Um, why?

"It's a good question," agrees Cy Adler, the Shorewalker founder who claims to have trod 6,000 miles in his 70-plus years and boasts that his calves are his best feature. He doesn't offer an answer, but instead recalls the very first Saunter. "We went the wrong way, up the East Side and down the West Side," he says. "There's a wrong way?" "We discovered that the sun rises in the East and sets in the West," he explains. "It got hot." Oh.

Since the seminal Saunter drew about 25 people, it's grown, to 500 participants last year, with 130 walking the whole way. Adler, who hasn't completed the trek in five years, doubts he'll do so this year either, citing obligations like "administrative crap." Still, what keeps him walking?

Adler brings up "The Great Saunter Song," which he co-wrote with Pete Seeger and is based on a Lead Belly piece. He says he won't sing, but can't help falling into melody as he speaks: "You don't know, you don't know, you don't know this town/Till you join the Shorewalkers and they get you walking around." —KP

The Great Saunter is Saturday 7. Event starts at 7:30am, but you can join up later. Registration is \$10, day of \$15. See www.shorewalkers.org for info.

