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**BY NORRIS McWHIRTER**

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# GUINNESS

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## 1985 BOOK OF

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# WORLD RECORDS

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(ROSS McWHIRTER 1955-1975)

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## FOREWORD

When my great, great, great grandfather acquired the brewery in Dublin in 1759 he could not have foreseen that his own brewery would one day be setting world records. Still less, it could not have occurred to him that his Guinness brewing company would one day create and publish a Guinness Record Book.

Both these things have happened. The brewery grew as the reputation of its principal product grew, spreading first across Ireland, then across the Irish Sea to England and finally around the world. The dark, creamy brew was originally known as Guinness's Extra Stout Porter; later it became Guinness Extra Stout, Guinness Stout, or often nowadays just plain Guinness. Though it may have been known by different names, the essential recipe and the quality has not changed, which is possibly why Guinness can now be bought and enjoyed in 141 countries around the world. That may be a record in itself, I do not know; what we do know is that the Dublin Brewery in the 1920's was the largest in the world and although the brewery has since been overtaken in sheer size, we note with some pride that there are now Guinness breweries in England, Nigeria, Malaysia, Cameroon, Ghana and Jamaica.

It is 225 years since the first Guinness Stout was created by my ancestor. The Record Book is a youngster by comparison; it has just passed its 30th birthday. We have often said we brought out the Book to provide a means of settling peacefully arguments about record performances. It must have settled a few arguments in its time because it is now published in 24 languages and in all versions has now passed the 50 million mark. There are some records there too.

We are all proud of our Book. Every new edition brings something fresh, something especially interesting. Every new edition brings me pleasure and I hope it does the same for every one of its readers.

Iveagh

[BENJAMIN GUINNESS]

EARL OF IVEAGH, Chairman

Arthur Guinness, Son & Co (Dublin) Ltd

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## PREFACE

This 23rd US edition has been brought up to date by the compilers and editors and provided with new illustrations. About a quarter of the many thousands of records listed have to be changed from one edition to the next.

In this edition we have devoted more attention to American events that led to world records and have included recent histories of records in some cases.

We wish to thank correspondents from the many countries of the world for raising and settling various editorial points. Strenuous efforts have been made to improve the value of the material presented and this policy will be continued in future editions.

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## IS IT A RECORD?

From the American Editors of *Guinness*

### Categories

We are *likely* to publish only those records which improve upon previously published records or which are newly significant in having become the subject of widespread and, preferably, worldwide competition. Records in our sense essentially have to be both measureable and comparable to other performances in the same category.

It should be stressed that unique occurrences, interesting peculiarities and the collecting of everyday objects, are not themselves necessarily records. Records which are *qualified* or limited in some way—for example, by age, handicap, day of the week, etc.—cannot be accommodated in a reference work so general as the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

We do not publish records in gratuitously hazardous categories, such as the lowest starting height for a handcuffed, free-fall parachute jump, or the thinnest burning rope suspending a man in a straitjacket from a helicopter. World records claimed on TV specials are not always set according to Guinness rules. Certain innately dangerous but historically significant activities, such as tightrope walking, are included but are best left to professionals. Other categories which have reached the limits of safety, such as sword swallowing and Volkswagen stuffing, have been retired and either are so marked or have been deleted. No further claims will be considered for publication.

We reserve the right to determine in our sole discretion the record to be published and the use of the name of the record holder for purposes of inclusion in the book.

### Rules and Procedures

A record attempt should compete *exactly* with the record in the book and the conditions under which it was set. Where there is doubt about the rules, it is recommended that the strictest interpretation be adopted. Contact with the Guinness editorial offices at 2 Cecil Court, London Road, Enfield, Middlesex, England (01-44)-367-4567) for clarification should be made well in advance of a planned attempt.

If there is a recognized world or national governing body for an activity, that body should be consulted for rules and one of its representatives, whenever possible, should be involved in officiating. For any attempt, expert officiating by impartial witnesses is desirable.

In marathon events, five-minute rest intervals are permitted, but only **AFTER** each *completed* hour, except for a few "non-stop" categories in which minimal intervals may be taken only for purposes other than for resting. These rest breaks are optional and may be accumulated (for example, 3 hours of activity earns 15 minutes of rest time, etc.). Violation of the rest-interval rules will disqualify an attempt. The accepted record will be the gross time (that is, the total elapsed time, including rest intervals, from start to finish). However, unused accumulated rest break time cannot be added to the final figure.

In recent years there has been a marked increase in efforts to establish records for sheer endurance in many activities. In the very nature of record-breaking, the duration of such "marathons" will tend to be pushed to greater and greater extremes, and it should be stressed that marathon attempts are not without possible dangers. Those responsible

for marathon events would be well counseled to seek medical advice before, and surveillance during, marathons which involve extended periods with little or no sleep.

### Documentation and Verification

■ We do *not* normally supply personnel to monitor, invigilate or observe record attempts, but reserve the right to do so. In any case, the burden of proof rests with the claimant. No particular form is required, and no entry fee is payable. Guidelines for documentation are provided below. We cannot accept as accurate any claim that is insufficiently documented.

■ Claimants should obtain independent corroboration in the form of local or national newspaper, radio or TV coverage. Newspaper clippings must be annotated with the name of the newspaper, its place of publication and the date of the issue in which the article appeared. When possible, the name of the reporter and black-and-white and/or color action photographs should also be supplied. Videotapes and audio cassettes should not be sent, but held in reserve in the event further documentation is requested.

■ Claimants should send signed authentication by independent, impartial adult witnesses or representatives of organizations of standing in their community. Where applicable, a signed document showing ratification by a governing body should be supplied (see above). A claim is naturally enhanced by a witness with a high degree of expertise in the area of endeavor.

■ Signed log books should show there has been unremitting surveillance in the case of endurance events. These log books must include, in chronological order, the times of activity and the times and durations of all rest breaks taken. The log books must be legible and readily decipherable. They must include signatures of witnesses with times of entering and leaving (at least two *independent* witnesses must be on hand at all times). Where applicable, scoresheets must be kept to demonstrate a satisfactory rate of play.

All submissions become the property of the publishers. The publishers will consider, but not guarantee, the return of material, only if a self-addressed stamped envelope or wrapper is supplied *with sufficient postage*.

### Revisions

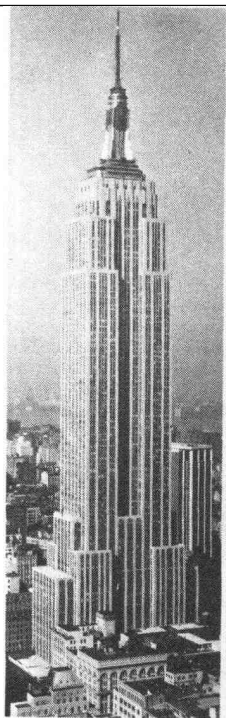
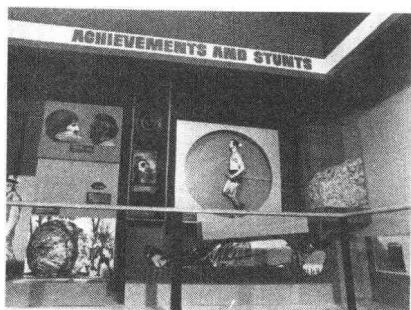
Notwithstanding the best efforts of the editors, errors in the book, while rare, may occur. In the event of such errors, the sole responsibility of the publishers will be to correct such errors in subsequent editions of the book.

If there are discrepancies between entries in one edition and another, it may be generally assumed that the *later* entry is the product of up-to-date research.

### Editorial Offices

Please consult the latest edition of the book before phoning or writing the editorial offices, which are primarily concerned with maintaining and improving the quality of each succeeding edition. We do not offer advice on choosing a record for anyone to attempt breaking. Also, we are unable to perform the function of a free general information bureau for quiz competitions and the like. However, we are always happy to hear about new record attempts.





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# The Human Being

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## I. DIMENSIONS

### Tallest Giants

The true height of human giants is frequently obscured by exaggeration and commercial dishonesty. The only really admissible evidence on the actual height of giants is that collected in the last 100 years under impartial medical supervision. Unfortunately, medical papers themselves are not guiltless in including fanciful, as opposed to measured, heights.

The assertion that Goliath of Gath (c. 1060 BC) stood 6 cubits and a span (9 ft 6½ in) suggests a confusion of units or some over-enthusiastic exaggeration by the Hebrew chroniclers. The Hebrew historian Flavius Josephus (b 37 or 38 AD, d after 93 AD) and some of the manuscripts of the Septuagint (the earliest Greek translation of the Old Testament) attribute to Goliath the wholly credible height of 4 Greek cubits and a span (6 ft 10 in).

Extreme medieval data, taken from bone measurements, invariably refer to specimens of extinct whale, giant cave bear, mastodon, woolly rhinoceros or other prehistoric non-human remains.

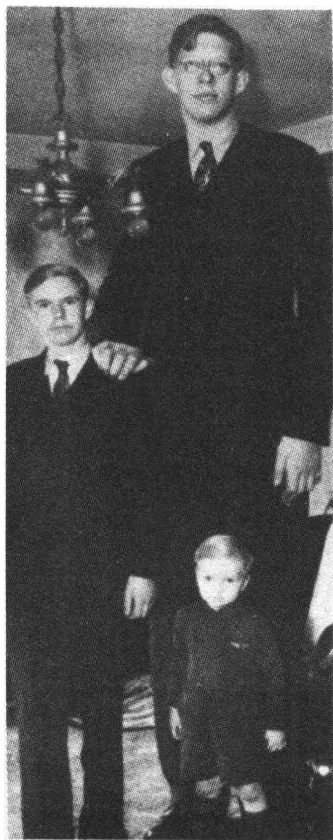
An extreme case of exaggeration concerned Siah Khan ibn Kashmir Khan (b 1913) of Bushehr (Bushire), Iran. Prof. D. H. Fuchs showed photographs of him at a meeting of the Society of Physicians in Vienna, Austria, in Jan 1935 claiming that he was 10 ft 6 in tall. Later, when Siah Khan entered the Imperial Hospital in Teheran for an operation, it was revealed that his actual height was 7 ft 2.6 in, a full meter (39.4 in) less.

Modern opinion is that the tallest recorded man of whom there is irrefutable evidence was the pre-acromegalic giant Robert Pershing Wadlow, born at 6:30 a.m. in Alton, Ill, on Feb 22, 1918. He was born to Mrs Addie Mae Wadlow (1896-1980) and weighed 8½ lb. His abnormal growth started at the age of 2, following a double bernia operation.

Dr C. M. Charles, Associate Professor of Anatomy at Washington University School of Medicine, in St Louis, and Dr Cyril MacBryde measured him at 8 ft 11.1 in, on June 27, 1940. He died 18 days later, at 1:30 a.m. on July 15, 1940, in Manistee, Mich, as a result of cellulitis (inflammation of cellular tissue) of the right ankle aggravated by a brace.

which had been poorly fitted only a week earlier. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Alton, Ill. in a coffin measuring 10 ft 9 in long, 32 in wide, and 30 in deep.

His greatest recorded weight was 491 lb on his 21st birthday. He weighed 439 lb at the time of death. His shoes were size 37AA (18½ in long) and his hands measured 12¾ in from the wrist to the top of the middle finger. His arm span was 9 ft 5¾ in and he consumed 8,000 calories daily. At the age of 9 he was able to carry his father, Harold F. Wadlow (d Sept 1967), later mayor of Alton, who stood 5 ft 11 in tall and weighed 170 lb, up the stairs of the family home. His last words were, "The doctor says I won't get home for the . . . celebrations" (a reference to his paternal grandparents' golden wedding anniversary).



**TALLEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED** Robert Wadlow, then only 7 ft 5 in at age 14, towered over his brothers.

*Robert Wadlow*

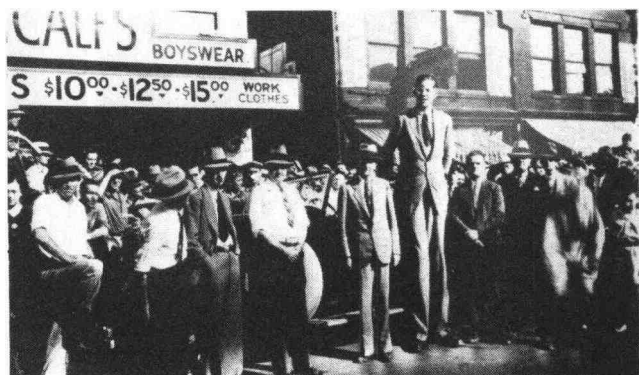
(his autograph)

His height progressed as follows:

Age in Years	Height		Weight in lb	Age in Years	Height		Weight in lb
	ft	in			ft	in	
5	5	4	105	15	7	8	355
8	6	0	169	16	7	10½	374
9	6	2½	180	17	8	0½	315*
10	6	5	210	18	8	3½	
11	6	7	—	19	8	5½	480
12	6	10½	—	20	8	6¾	—
13	7	1¼	255	21	8	8¼	491
14	7	5	301	22.4†	8	11 1	439

\* Following severe influenza and infection of the foot

† He was still growing during his terminal illness.



**HEIGHT MADE WADLOW A CELEBRITY** (above): When he visited St Louis in 1939, the crowds found his height of almost 9 feet hard to believe.



**HAND OF THE TALLEST LIVING MAN** (left): 8-ft-3-in Muhammad Aalam Channa of Pakistan shaking hands with a normal size man.

The tallest known living human is Muhammad Aalam Channa (b 1956), who works as an attendant at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Pakistan. He began growing abnormally from the age of 12 and reached a height of 7 ft by the age of 20. He now at age 28 has reached his full height 8 ft 3 in and weighs 458 lb.

## TALLEST PEOPLE

John F. Carroll (1932-69) of Buffalo, NY	ft	in
John William Rogan (1871-1905) of Gallatin, Tenn	(a)	8 7/4
Muhammad Aalam Channa (b 1956- <i>f.</i> 1984) of Sehwan Sharif, Pakistan	(b)	8 6
Don Kochler (1925-81) of Denton, Mont, later Chicago	(c)	8 3
Bernard Coyne (1897-1921) of Anthon, Iowa	(d)	8 2
Vainö Myllyrinne (1909-63) of Helsinki, Finland	(e)	8 2
Patrick Cotter O'Brien (1760-1806) of Kinsale, County Cork, Ireland	(f)	8 1.2
"Constantine" (1872-1902) of Reutlingen, W. Germany	(g)	8 1
Gabriel Estevao Monjane (b 1944- <i>f.</i> 1982) of Monjacaze, Mozambique	(h)	8 0.8
Sulaiman 'Ali Nashnuh (b 1943- <i>f.</i> 1982) of Tripoli, Libya	(j)	8 0
	(i)	8 0.4

(a) Carroll was a victim of severe kypho-scoliosis (two-dimensional spinal curvature). The figure represents his height with assumed normal spinal curvature, calculated from a standing height of 8 ft 0 in, measured Oct 14, 1959. His standing height was 7 ft 8 3/4 in shortly before his death.

(b) Measured in a sitting position. Unable to stand owing to ankylosis (stiffening of the joints through the formation of adhesions) of the knees and hips. Weighed only 175 lb.

(c) Started growing abnormally at the age of 10. Has been credited with heights up to 8 ft 6 in.

(d) Spinal curvature reduced his standing height to 7 ft 10 in. He had a twin sister who is 5 ft 9 in tall. His father was 6 ft 2 in tall, his mother 5 ft 10 in.

(e) Eunuchoidal giant ("daddy-longlegs" syndrome). He was rejected by the US Army in 1918 when he stood 7 ft 9 in.

(f) Stood 7 ft 3 1/2 in at the age of 21. Experienced a second phase of growth in his late thirties and may have stood 8 ft 3 in at one time.

(g) Revised height based on skeletal remeasurement in 1975.

(h) Height estimated, as both legs were amputated after they turned gangrenous. He claimed a height of 8 ft 6 in. Eunuchoidal.

(i) Operation in Rome in 1960 to correct abnormal growth was successful.

(j) Measured 7 ft 5 in at age of 16, and 7 ft 10 in Dec 1965. Eunuchoidal. Has not been anthropometrically assessed since joining a Portuguese circus, billed as 8 ft 8 3/8 in.

The Associated Press quotes him as complaining that he has little money, can't buy a suit or shoes in a store and taxi drivers won't take him anywhere for fear he will wreck the cab if he climbs in. So he hardly ever leaves his home town of Sehwan in the heart of the Sind Desert, 187 mi north of Karachi.

The only other men for whom heights of 8 ft or more have been reliably reported are listed on page 4. In seven cases gigantism was followed by acromegaly, a disorder which causes an enlargement of the nose, lips, tongue, lower jaw, hands and feet, due to renewed activity by an already swollen pituitary gland, which is located at the base of the brain.

Giants exhibited in circuses and exhibitions are routinely under contract not to be measured and are, almost traditionally, billed by their promoters at heights up to 18 in in excess of their true heights. Notable examples of such exaggeration were listed in the 1982 *Guinness Book of World Records*. The acromegalic giant Eddie Carmel (b Tel Aviv, Israel, 1938), formerly "The Tallest Man on Earth" of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Circus (1961-8), was allegedly 9 ft 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  in tall (weighing 535 lb), but photographic evidence suggests that his true height was about 7 ft 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. He died in NYC on Aug 14, 1972, when his standing height, due to severe kyphoscoliosis (two-dimensional spinal curvature), was c. 7 ft.

### Tallest Twins

The tallest (identical) twins ever recorded were the Knipe brothers (b 1761 -*fl.* 1780) of Magherafelt, near Londonderry, N Ireland, who both measured 7 ft 2 in. The world's tallest living twins (also identical) are Dan and Doug Busch (b Aug 12, 1961) of Flagstaff, Ariz, who both measure 6 ft 11 in.

### Tallest Giantess

Giantesses are rarer than giants but their heights are still spectacular. The tallest woman in history was the acromegalic giantess Zeng Jinlian (pronounced San Chung Lin) (b June 26, 1964) of Yujiang village in the Bright Moon Commune, Hunan Province, central China, who was 8 ft 1 in when she died on Feb 13, 1982. She began to grow abnormally from the age of 4 months and stood 5 ft 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in before her 4th birthday and 7 ft 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in when she was 13. Her hands measured 10 in and her feet 14 in in length. She suffered from both scoliosis and diabetes. Her parents are 5 ft 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  in and 5 ft 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in while her brother was 5 ft 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  in tall at age 18.

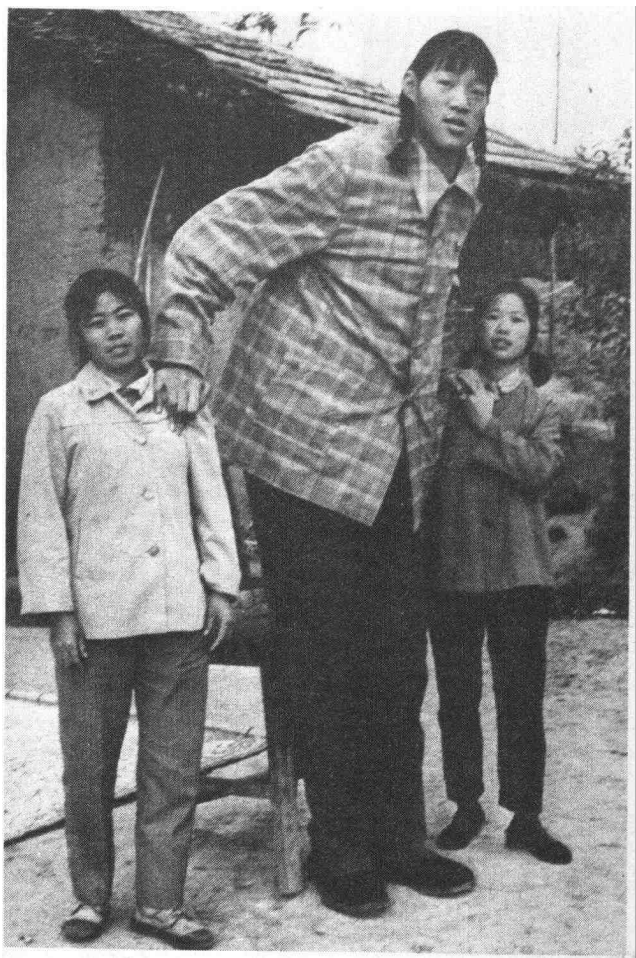
### Tallest Living Woman

The tallest living woman is Sandy Allen (b June 18, 1955, in Chicago), who lives now in Niagara Falls, Canada. On July 14, 1977, she measured 7 ft 7 $\frac{1}{4}$  in at age 22, when she underwent a pituitary gland operation to inhibit further growth. A 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb baby, her acromegalic growth began soon after birth. She now weighs about 460 lb and takes a size 16EEE shoe.

### Tallest Couple

Anna Hanen Swan (1846-88) of Nova Scotia, Canada, was billed at 8 ft 1 in but actually measured 7 ft 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  in. In London, June 17, 1871, she married Martin van Buren Bates (1845-1919), of Whitesburg, Letcher County, Ky, who stood 7 ft 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  in, making them the tallest married couple on record.





**TALLEST WOMAN EVER** Zeng Jilian reached 8 ft 1 in before she died in 1982 at age 17 years 8 months