

RUNNERS START ON 3000 MILE HIKE

LOS ANGELES, Cal., (ANP.) —

Interest is so great in the Negro runners, who are taking part in Pyles' cross-continent Pede-caravan that local citizens, both white and black, are not only offering personal prizes but donated gifts to them.

Of the 275 runners of all nations who set out from Ascot Speedway, Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock only three Negro were in the line-up. They were Eddie (Sheik) Gardner, famous four-year marathon winner of Seattle, Harry Johnson, former track man of Boston and Sammy Robinson sent from Atlantic City by the Atlantic City Press.

Gardner Choice To Win

Of all the runners now doggedly hiking it over desert, mountain, snow, and grass to Gotham, fame and the \$25,000 first prize, Eddie Gardner is conceded by the experts in Pyles' entourage to have possibly the best chance. He has perfect feet, perfect mind, and endurance, besides a thorough knowledge of conserving his forces and getting the best out of a wonderful body.

The Main Loan and Jewelry Company, white, has hung up a valuable diamond ring to be given any Negro runner winning. They fitted Gardner out with a pedometer to wear on the long hike.