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## Ring Reminiscences

— Fights and Fighters —  
(By JAMES FENDERGAST)

There were plenty of bare knuckle fights in early days on P. E. I., and no doubt in other Provinces too. It was a hard enough way to settle differences but much better than "duelling" with pistols which got very commonplace, and deadly, particularly in the Southern States. Duelling was also practiced in many European countries. They also had their rough sporting contests.

The Welsh had some sort of shin kicking contests, armed with heavy cleats on their sabots (wooden shoes). The French had "Sabotte" which was also shin kicking. I don't remember of reading of the great sport contests of the Irish and Scots, who were of pure Celtic blood. It would likely be throwing heavy weights (stones). The Scots still refer to the "heavy" and "light" stones (12 and 16 lb. shot). It is obvious that the people of the part of France called Brittany and the original British were of the same origin. The respective names of the inhabitants are Bretons and Britons. There is enough known to bear out the assumption that the parts of Europe bordering on the Atlantic Ocean were explored and colonized by the Phoenicians, a hardy pioneering race of people from Asia Minor, who gradually worked their way along the shores of the Mediterranean to Spain and thence to what is now known as Brittany (in France) and the British Isles. Evidently they gave the Spanish names Iberia and Catalonia to Ireland and Scotland. In the course of a few centuries the names got changed to Hibernia (the old name for Ireland), and Caledonia (for Scotland).

Professor J. Walter Jones, Premier of P. E. Island, a keen student of history, migration and racial origin, at a political meeting in Kensington some years ago said that British and French were basically the same races. That the Roman occupation of Gaul and France (as at present), being of longer duration, the Latin influence got a stronger hold on the language and customs. There is a long hiatus in the history of the Roman occupation of Britain, for one hundred and fifty years before the coming of Hengist and Horsa, the Norsemen, in which little or nothing was written, or at least there is nothing extant. When the Norsemen overran what is now the Netherlands, Belgium and France, in the fifth and sixth centuries, the Norse blood became fused with the blood of the original inhabitants, and in the course of time the progeny became known as Norman-French. The Angles, Saxons, Friesians and other tribes from the Baltic shore area had made inroads in Britain and established the seven Kingdoms of the Heptarchy. Most of the original Britons were forced into the mountains of Wales and into Scotland.

William the Conqueror came from Caen, Normandy, in 1066, vanquished the metamorphosed Anglo-Saxons and original Britons at Hastings and set up a Norman kingdom in Britain. The influence of the Norman conquest and domination of Britain, with many rulers of pure Norman blood had an all pervading effect on the people of Britain. It is natural to deduce, that in the long line of Norman and Plantagenet rulers, and the influx of great numbers of soldiers in order to keep the Anglo-Saxons in subjection, that there would be much inter-marriage—hence a greater fusion of the races.

The early Norman Kings ruled with a will of iron. They were ambitious and disposed to start innovations. William I began the planting of oak trees, which grew and flourished to such an extent that they (or later growth), provided the timber for the ships which made England mistress of the seas. Oak planking did not splinter. A hole made by round shot closed instantly, or nearly so. He also ordered the "Domesday" Book (a record of everybody and everything in the Kingdom). Henry II instituted trial by jury of twelve men—(anent this, the late William McCourt, sage of Hope River, informed the writer that in Roman law courts the number of Jurors was seven, but it was changed in memory of the twelve Apostles). He had access to many books and authorities, and I never knew him to be wrong in a positive statement).

The Norman King Stephen allowed the Barons to fortify their castles and keep armed forces under command. They became a law unto themselves, and some time later were powerful enough to force King John to sign Magna Carta (the great charter), the foundation of British and American law and liberty.

The infiltration of French words and short phrases into the original monosyllabic Anglo-Saxon language was extensive. It is surprising to read a page of a French Canadian newspaper and notice the large number of French words which are the same as many of our larger English words. It is obvious that they have been taken over in their original French form, with a different pronunciation in English.

The Norman influence was great and permanent in most of the western world. Explorers and colonizers were sent to Africa and America. The voyagers like La Salle and numerous others penetrated the great rivers and lakes of North America in canoes, living off the land as they went. Some of their voyages took years to complete. The present generation, who

live in comparative luxury and ease of transportation for great distances, can scarcely visualize the resourcefulness of those determined and intrepid adventurers into the immense unknown land—beset with the rigours of Northern winters, savage animals, rapids and falls in the rivers—and the ever-present imminence of accident.

France has had greater success in holding together her overseas possessions in Africa than in America. The great French equatorial empire in Africa is almost equal in area to the Dominion of Canada. France also had a big colony on the Mississippi River called Louisiana, which then embraced much more territory than the present State of Louisiana. French colonization and occupation of Canada extended almost uninterruptedly from 1605 till 1759. During those 154 years of colonization the population had grown to 60,000 persons. When Canada was formally ceded to Britain by the treaty of Paris in 1763, the French colonists were given generous terms. There was little or no attempt to substitute the English language for the Canadians' native tongue. Their law courts and land regulations were practically unchanged.

The American colonies revolted in 1775 against the arbitrary taxes imposed on them during the reign of George III and the government then in power, and against which they were warned by the great statesmen Pitt, Fox, and Burke. They sent armies against Canada, which they had importuned to join them in the revolution, but the former French colonists showed their loyalty and gratitude to their British masters by defeating both American armies, and keeping Canada under British rule.

French Canadian citizens are generally a peace loving people, deeply rooted to the soil. Their number has increased from sixty thousand at the date of British occupation to approximately three and a half millions. They are emotional, and esthetic in the line of music, carving, painting and the fine arts. Being a peace loving people, close to the soil, they have an aversion to war as a means to an end. There was quite a lot of unpleasantness between the different races in Canada during World War I, but the Bolshevik Soviet threat has had the effect of merging the two races in a common purpose to defeat the aims of the

## Four White Sox Players Head Barring Race

CHICAGO, May 1 — (AP)—Four Chicago White Sox players, headed by pace-setting Jim Busby with 462, were among the top five American League batters yesterday.

In official statistics computed through Sunday's games, Busby was credited with 18 hits in 39 trips. Team-mate Eddie Robinson had 448. In third spot with 423 was Cleveland's injury-slowed Luke Easter.

In fourth and fifth spots were two more White Sox players, Nelson Fox with 400, and Chico Carrasquel with 391.

Boston's Ted Williams led in homers with four, while Chicago's Al Zarilla was tops in runs-batted-in at 12. Busby and Carrasquel led in hits with 18 apiece, and Dom DiMaggio and Cleveland's Larry Doby had the most runs, 12 each. Busby also led the base-stealing department with five.

New York's Eddie Lopat ranked the No. 1 pitcher with 3-0.

modern would-be Atila—the "bear that walks like a man." Greater familiarity with one another's language would expedite and solidify the union.

Norman influence and culture also had far reaching effects in Ireland. In the twelfth century Ireland was ruled by six kings who were engaged in an internecine war. One of them asked the Norman King Henry II for help. He sent a nobleman whose cognomen was Strongbow, in 1172 with a large army. The army got so enamored of the place and people that it remained and took possession—with the result that Ireland remained a "field" of the British Crown for over six hundred years. There are thousands of Irish names of Norman origin. Those with the prefix "Fitz" are very numerous. Long lists of names of Norman origin may be seen in Irish histories. Authorities on genealogy say that the native Irish had black eyes and a dark Castilian complexion. The blond and auburn Irish are either of Danish or Celtic origin. Ireland, the land of "Saints and scholars" held to the Christian faith and education established by St. Patrick during the dark ages and the reign of barbarism established by the Huns and Visigoths in Europe. When the Renaissance and return of learning came, Ireland was able to send scholars from her seats of learning to teach the people who were benighted for centuries.

## Williams-Carter Fight On May 25

NEW YORK, April 30 — (AP)—Ike Williams, world lightweight champion, will defend his title against James Carter in Madison Square Garden May 25 instead of May 11.

The champion, who hasn't put his crown on the line since Dec. 5, 1946, suffered a one-inch cut over his left eye in training Thursday.

**SINNOTT ROAD SCHOOL**

Report for month of March: Grade IX—1. Elva Trainor; 2. Gerard McCarthy; 3. Gerard Sinnott.

Grade VIII—1. Patricia McCarthy; 2. Lila Connolly and Rita McCarthy (equal).

Grade V—Leo Malone.

Grade IV—1. Joan Sinnott; 2. James Trainor.

Grade II—1. Leonard Trainor; 2. Kevin Phelan.

Grade I—1. Gerald Trainor; 2. Mrs. Mary Malone, Teacher.

## Record Swordfish Caught Off Florida

POMPANO BEACH, Fla., April 30 — (AP)—A record 440-pound broadbill swordfish was caught on 30-pound line off Hillsboro inlet Friday by Frederick J. Fleming of Yonkers, N. Y.

Fleming boated the 12-foot fish after a fight of three hours and five minutes.

If the International Game Fish Association approves the catch it will bring the record to the Atlantic coast for the first time.

The association lists a 366-pound broadbill as the world record catch on 30-pound line. It was boated in 1928 off Catalina, Calif.

**ST. NEOTS, ENGLAND**—(GP)—A historic "kissing gate" in this Huntingdonshire town is to be removed, on the official grounds that it is "serving no useful purpose."

Thomas Trainor; 3. Freda Devaux.

## Pioneer Cape Breton Gaffer Passes

DOMINION, N.S., April 30 — (CP)—One of Cape Breton's pioneer golfers, Malcolm Martin, died suddenly Saturday in this coal mining town. He was 82.

Mr. Martin was one of the men instrumental in the formation of Cape Breton's first golf club. That was over 50 years ago and the club was established at Lingan, near New Waterford.

He later assisted in setting up the Highland Golf Club at Dominion.

## CLAIM NEW ARMY MASSING

TAIPEH, Formosa, April 30 — (AP)—The China Union Press said today an international Communist army under direct Russian control is massed in Korea—ready to attack if the present Chinese Communist offensive fails. The report said the army included 50,000 Japanese prisoners of war.

## OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

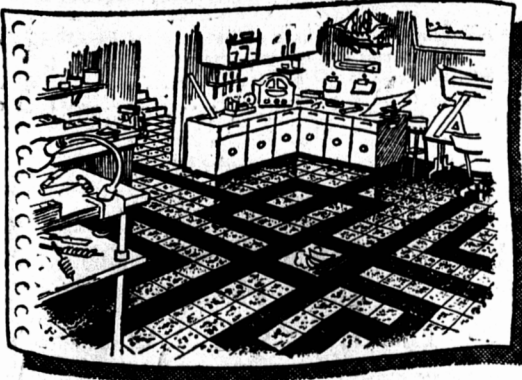


'HEROES ARE MADE -NOT BORN' J.R. WILLIAMS

**TORQUAY, Devon, England**—(CP)—A merchant seaman here explained why he has three red reflectors and horn strapped to his suitcase. "There's no excuse for any motoplat knocking me down."

**BORDEN DIVIDEND**  
NEW YORK, Apr. 30—The Board of Directors of the Borden Company today declared a dividend of 60 cents payable June 1st to all stockholders of record May 11th.

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