

**SPORT FORUM**

**Beware Of Old-Timers In The Boxing Game**

Sir—Beware of old-timers in the boxing game never but never ask them what they think of the present day crop of fighters. They always tell you how bad they are, how they would have been flops in the good old days. So let's go back to the 1920-30 decade, it was the golden age of boxing when men were men. They tell you there were more good Maritime fighters active at that time than anytime in boxing history. Old-timers will remember many of the glovemans, Amateur and pro, who were active in the "Golden Twenties" men like Jack McKenna, Eddy Trimble, Vic McLaughlin, Roy Chislow, Nedder Healy, Clyde McInnis, Dick Hunt, Johnny Nemis, Johnny Alec MacIntyre, Mike Quinn, Charlie Gauthro, Bill Parsons, Roddy MacDonald, J. Harnett, to mention only a few of the real good ones. All made good in Canadian and American ring circles.

In the 30's you find slick names in the headlines as—Tiger Warrington, Bobby Allan, Johnny Lifford, Gussie McLellan, Leo Kelly, George Leslie, Martin "Kid" Parsons, Kid Hart, Gussie "Kid" Lantz, Ray MacIntyre. When Cape Bretoner's talk about fighting sons they instantly bring up the name of Parsons. Bill Parsons of North Sydney was a brilliant fighter, he met every fighter of note from 1905 to 1925. For three years he held the Canadian Lightweight title and for fourteen years he ruled the Maritimes. Parsons was a Cape Bretoner by adoption only. The record books show that he was born in Cordroy Newfoundland 73 years ago. Immediately after World War One, Roddy MacDonald of Glace Bay was the top name in Canadian ring circles, he more than held his own against the cream of the crop, Mike McTigue, Frank Carbon, Vic McLaughlin, Bill McKinnon, Johnny Wilson all were among the foes of Roddy MacDonald from Glace Bay. Johnny MacIntyre was another

Glace Bay mittman of ability back 30 or so years ago. He seldom got hurt although he tangled with the toughest Welter and Middleweights of his era. Joe Harnett of Halifax was fighting in and around Boston in 1925, he fought in the Welterweight class. Jack McKenna although listed as being from North Sydney he was actually Born on P. E. I. He began boxing in Amateur ranks around 1920, and won several amateur boxing titles. After a few years in that category he entered the punch for pay ranks, he was a terrific body puncher and it was a succession of short six inch punches to the mid-section of his opponents that he won many of his fights. Jack Dempsey's ratings for 1930 appeared in the February 1931 issue of Ring Magazine. Dempsey rated McKenna third in the Middleweight division, group five.

In 1926 George Fifield of Toronto was the recognized welterweight champion of Canada. After defeating the best in his class Fifield found it hard to secure fights so in 1927 at Glace Bay in a bout sponsored by the Black Diamond Sporting Association at the Race Track he and Jack McKenna fought off for the right to be the king of the middleweights in Canada and Jack knocked George out in 4 rounds. Earlier in that year McKenna then claiming the Canadian Crown defeated Joe Brown of Detroit at Sydney it was a return bout between the pair. Brown defeated McKenna in Detroit the previous year. McKenna took only four rounds to knock out Morris MacDonald

of Alberta another claimant to the Canadian title in a bout at Charlottetown. Following his win over MacDonald, McKenna knocked out Harry Runcorn of Drumheller Alberta. In five rounds at Charlottetown, and punched out a 10 round decision over tough Johnny Nemis of New Waterford at Sydney. So this would tend to prove that Jack McKenna is the only P. E. I. born boxer ever to hold a Canadian title. Clyde McInnis of Halifax was one of the classiest featherweights the Maritimes ever produced in the early 20's and late 30's. Still another Halifax mittman that made good in ring bouts was Dick Hunt he was the pride of the Canadian Army in the 1920's. Dick was a clever hard hitting welterweight, he fought the best in the game during his ring career, veteran fight followers recall his battles with Nedder Healy, Johnny MacIntyre and Jack McKenna.


Terrance "Tiger" Warrington a native of Liverpool N. S. was another Maritimer of great possibilities back shortly before World War Two the folks in his home town went for Warrington he was a good drawing card and ran up a neat string of victories, he proved himself clearly superior to both Lee Oma and Al McCoy by beating both at early stages of their careers. In Sept. 13 1938 Warrington named eighth contender for John Henry Lewis worlds lightweight weight crown by the National Boxing Association. Tiger was then light heavy and heavyweight Champion of Canada. Although he didn't get a crack at the world title he fought the best that were on the go—the likes of Tiger Jack Fox, Jack Porter, Al Delaney, Jack McKenna, Clayton Bob Pastor and Buck Tracy. In 1935 Bobby Allan of Westville N. S. was the acknowledged welterweight champion of the Maritimes. When ever Allan's name appeared on a fight poster the fans could rest assured that they were going to get their money's worth. That's the type of a fighter Allan was he threw leather every second that he was in the ring. In 1934 Gussie MacLellan of New Aberdeen Cape Breton, N. S. started tossing leather for pay and for five years he ruled the roost of Maritime Featherweights. He was also well known in New England ring circles and in one period of 13 weeks he took part in as many fights in and around Boston he was managed in his American bouts by Al Clementie of Boston. McLellan announced his retirement from the ring shortly after losing to Russel Kid Lantz of Halifax in March 1938. Leo Kelly's name was appearing quite frequently in the sporting pages, shortly before World War Two. It was in 1937 that Kelly won the Golden Gloves in Albany N. Y. he was awarded a medal as the outstanding fighter in the tournament. In two outings against Ray McIntyre then Canadian Middleweight Champion Leo dropped a 10 round decision to the dusky New Brunswick scrapper at Saint John N. B. In their next outing at the Charlottetown Forum, McIntyre chilled the local scrapper in two rounds. Kelly lists among his foes the likes of Danny McCormack, Albert Nicholson, Earl Kinsmen, Bill Sparks, Cecil Braithwaite and others. Tom Claybourne was making a name for himself in loca rings at the time Kelly was doing so well. Claybourne is an Islander by adoption only. He was born in

Fredericton N. B. It was in this city that he made his mark in professional boxing. He was managed by Russel Abbot well known Charlottetown sportsman, after defeating Mickey McMillan of Glace Bay in 1939 Claybourne laid claim to the Maritime Welterweight crown Tom is best remembered in these parts for his terrific battles with Danny McCormack, Benny Binns, Joe Kinch and Tiger Joe Hennessey. So never, never ask the old timers what they think of the present day fighters or they will drill you full of holes. I am, Sir, etc., W. O. McCLUSKEY

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OTTAWA (CP)—The transport department is investigating whether it is necessary to have flight engineers aboard large commercial aircraft. Transport Minister Hees said Wednesday in the Commons his department has received representations from the International Association of Flight Engineers on the question.

**BIG LITTLE MAN - - - - By Alan Maver**



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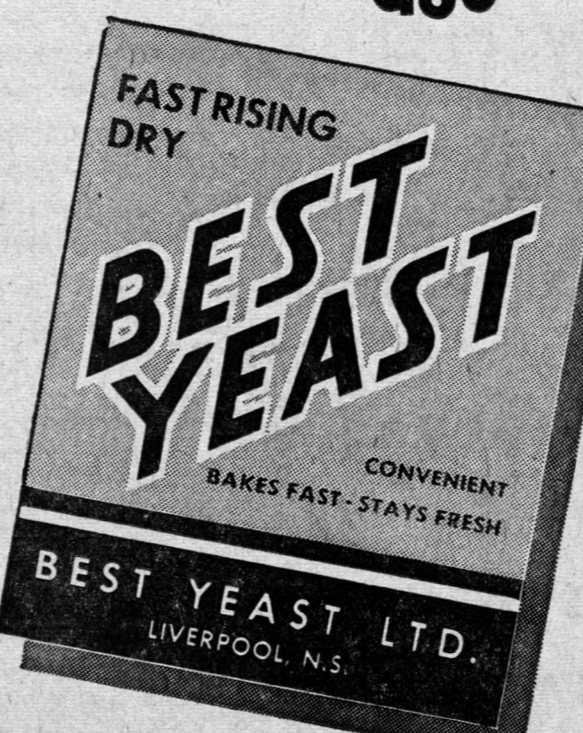
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