

# Golden Gloves a crowd-pleaser in suburbia

I knew it. I just knew that suburban folk loved boxing.

For years a modest crowd of fight enthusiasts has been saying boxing could be a big draw in the suburbs — just as big as football or basketball.

Detractors held to the hard line that boxing had become the domain of inner city kids who were looking for a way out of the ghetto. White suburbanites, they argued, were uninterested in what detractors felt had become a black man's sport.

But Paul Soucy and his Livonia Boxing Club have put the naysayers to shame.

LAST SATURDAY nearly 3,000 persons saw the Golden Glove Championship bouts at Schoolcraft College. Believe it or not, another estimated 1,000 very disappointed fans were turned away at the door.

Everyone involved in the Golden Gloves tourney was surprised. Schoolcraft College Athletic Director Marv Gans couldn't believe it. Neither could

Livonia police officers who were assigned to watch over what they thought was going to be a small crowd.

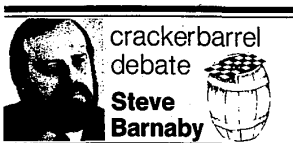
Fans who were turned away obviously were miffed. But few expected 4,000 persons would show up.

A festive mood surrounded what had to be the biggest show in the suburbs that evening.

BIRMINGHAM'S Jim Burch couldn't get the smile off his face. A former Golden Gloves fighter himself, he couldn't recall the last time he saw such a fight crowd in the suburbs.

It was a night of the new and the old. The old-timers gathered around the ring and waxed eloquent about the bouts in which they exchanged blows. Included in those ranks were Tony Gallo and Jackie Farmer — familiar names to fans of Golden Gloves matches.

But unlike other retired athletes, boxers don't yearn for the old days. They know that today's



boxers are quicker, that the sport is safer.

When the likes of Hilmer Kenty, lightweight contender, is introduced, the oldtimers applaud along with the rest of the crowd. As they watched the budding amateurs in the ring, they stood and applauded with the rest of the fans when special skill was demonstrated.

And some very special skills were demonstrated

— much of it from members of the Livonia Boxing Club.

Junior Novice Ron Heady, in the 165-pound class, simply took everybody's breath away with a knockout of opponent Joe Mihela in the first 30 seconds of the bout.

Livonia's Mike Dardini pummeled opponent Alvin Thomas until his corner literally threw in the towel. Although Nick Niemi lost a third-round decision, the bloodied boxer put up a valiant fight.

THE EVENING WAS capped off with a victory by Livonia Club's heavyweight Rick Londberg.

But the victories weren't confined to the ring. More was won that night than bouts. For the first time, the old fight crowd seen down at Kronk Recreation and Gladiator mixed with the crowd from the suburbs.

It was a matter of white and black getting together in the suburbs and everybody went home happy — and with a special feeling in his heart.



**Nick Sharkey**

## Your smoke could harm their lungs

As I write this, smoke shrouds my living room. Several couples visited my home last night. Two persons chain-smoked cigarettes during the evening.

Was I putting the health of my family in danger by inviting those smokers into my home? Last week's report by the surgeon general of the United States seems to say "yes."

The report released by Dr. C. Everett Kopp, the surgeon general, stated: "The evidence currently available suggests involuntary smoke exposure may increase the risk of lung cancer in non-smokers. Prudence dictates that non-smokers avoid exposure to second-hand smoke to the extent possible."

FOR ALL the publicity given last week to the harmful effects of cigarettes on smokers, this section was almost overlooked. Yet it may have the greatest significance. According to the American Lung Association, non-smokers are now in the majority. Only 32 per cent of adults smoke.

Most of us agree smoking is dangerous for smokers. But we reason that if an adult recognizes the harmful effects of smoking and wishes to continue, so be it.

But now another issue is being raised. Does that smoking person infringe on the rights of the non-smoking person?

Michigan enacted a law in 1976 which restricts smoking in public places. For instance, restaurants are required to post smoking and non-smoking areas and to advise patrons they can be seated in either.

But as the years have gone by, the law has lost some of its teeth. In the past few months I've noticed that suburban restaurants I have visited in Plymouth, Livonia, Southfield and Birmingham no longer advise patrons about non-smoking areas.

JENNIFER MEAD of the American Lung Association admits that it has become a problem. "Most of the larger restaurant chains are good about it. But the smaller restaurants in this area often don't bother about making a distinction between the wishes of smokers and non-smokers."

Part of the problem is the flexibility of the law. Restaurants are not required to have a specified proportion of tables for non-smokers. "If you request a non-smoking area, the owner can walk over to a table remove the ashtray and post a non-smoking sign," Ms. Mead said. "The air can be filled with smoke from the previous patrons, but the owner would be in compliance of the law."

NON-SMOKERS ARE becoming more aggressive. A few months ago, a Clear Indoor Air Bill was introduced in the Michigan Legislature.

In addition, more scientific data is being examined. Studies conducted in Japan and Greece have compared non-smoking women married to smoking men with non-smoking women married to non-smoking men. Those married to smokers had a higher incidence of increase in heart rate and increase in blood pressure. More work still must be done in this area.

The issue to be resolved is: Does a minority have the right to smoke in public places? Should local bowling alleys, restaurants and dance halls ban smoking except in certain areas?

Stay tuned for more on this issue. This surgeon general's report raised more questions than it answered. The report may have ramifications, not only for public places but for the people we invite into our homes.



## Miss McIntyre was right

## 60-year economic forecast

Sitting at home the other evening listening to the TV commentators tell of the latest moves by capital and industry to get workers to make monetary concessions, The Stroller recalled one of the most memorable moments of his school days.

On a hot June afternoon, the graduating class of our junior high school was preparing to say goodbye to our teacher.

She gathered us around her desk and gave us a message that has lived with The Stroller all these years:

"You are moving into a most exciting time of your lives, and I'd like to tell you some of the things that you can expect as you move along. And it has to do with your way of life."

THE TEACHER, Sally McIntyre, was a veteran at the task of imparting knowledge to youngsters' minds. She never married and had a mind of her own — even to the point where she defied the school board and its dress code. She wore a skirt and a loose blouse, called a "dressing sack." But she was rated the best teacher on the faculty.

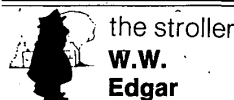
At the time, we were living in a company house and dealing at the company store. That was the custom in those days. When you went to work for an industrial firm, you had to deal at its store and live in one of its houses. Your rent and grocery bill were deducted from your wages.

Miss McIntyre called our attention to this way of life and said:

"You scholars who are moving on will live to see a change. The pendulum is now at its highest point on the arc in favor of capitalism."

But some day, the workers will be bold enough to fight back. They are almost certain to change things. But like capital is doing now, they are almost certain to go overboard and demand too much.

THEN WILL COME the day when there will be a battle, and labor will be asked to retract (make concessions). They will be told to reduce their wages or salaries to the point where the companies



can make money — or lose their jobs.

"It will be a serious threat, but a needed one, because the economy won't be able to continue as it has been with the workers getting fabulous wages and salaries."

As she spoke, she drew an arc on the blackboard with the labor force at the peak of one side and capital coming down on the other.

"These will be exciting times," Miss McIntyre went on, "and there will be a great deal of debate and some heart-rending thoughts from the lower classes of the working man. But it will have to be done. This arc will slowly come down, and there will be plenty of excitement until it hits the bottom where it will meet capital."

"When that happens, we will have a nice, peaceful world, and our lifestyle will change. I will not be around, but you scholars will. It should be great living and an enjoyable life."

"Good luck to you."

Well, Sally McIntyre, the best teacher The Stroller ever had, has gone to her reward. Unfortunately, she is not here to see her prediction come true.

But she called the turn correctly more than six decades ago.



**Tim Richard**

## But how?

## OCC to fill a board seat

Six Oakland Community College trustees have a big decision to make before they appoint a replacement for Trustee Richard J. Pappas.

Pappas, a former teacher who had been in a family insurance business in Troy, resigned effective March 15. He's moving to Davenport to become associate dean of business at the Eastern Iowa Community College District. He was elected in 1980.

Whoever the remainder of the board appoints to replace him will serve only three months before the next election. At that point, someone must run for the remaining four years of Pappas' term.

### THE BOARD'S options:

- Look for experience by appointing a former trustee, someone who will be able to step right in but not run in June?

- Appoint someone who is interested in running and thus give the person the advantage of exposure as an incumbent — and risk the charge of playing politics?

One thing is certain: The board is determined to fill the vacancy, even if it is for only three months. "We could just let it go and leave it up to the voters to decide in June," suggested board Vice-Chairwoman Suzanne Reynolds.

"If we don't do anything, we're not living up to our responsibilities," said Trustee Sandra Ritter, who carried the day.

INTERESTED candidates should send a cover letter and resume to the office of the president of OCC, 2480 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills 48013.

Deadline for applications is 4 p.m. March 12. The board will screen applications March 15 and invite finalists in for interviews March 25.

The last time the OCC board filled a vacancy was in late 1980, when Chairwoman Lila Johnson angrily quit in mid-term. It took the board three months to settle on retired trustee Gordon Henderson of Birmingham as her replacement.

Commonly, a board looks at candidates in the last election and picks the runnerup, figuring that person had some public respect. In this case, however, runnerup in the June 1980 election was trustee Barbara Jane Willing, a maverick who was less than loved by several other trustees and President Robert F. Roelofs. Ms. Willing was bypassed, though she would have loved the appointment.

If the board decided to ask a former trustee to fill a three-month vacancy, it could look to Mrs. Johnson, Ms. Willing, Gordon Rogers (defeated in 1978) or George Mosher (retired in 1978).

ON THE OTHER hand, the board could go to a fresh face.

The challengers of 1980 might apply. They were (in order of finish) Nancy Vangilder, Farmington Hills resident, former student government leader at the Orchard Ridge campus and a sister of Rogers; Veronica Sexton, newspaper circulation manager from Pontiac; Mariellen Greenbury, PR person, Farmington Hills; John J. Yezman Jr., gun shop proprietor from Rochester; Robert F. Trautman, law professor from Bloomfield Hills; and Theodore Dziurman, consulting engineer from Troy.

In that campaign, I was highly impressed by Filatrault and Dziurman, who ran last.

What would you do?

Did you know that when you visit Detroit's riverfront Civic Center, you can see and visit a building weighing six million pounds that was picked up bodily a quarter-century ago and moved hundreds of feet to its present location? This is the old stone Mariners' Church, a picturesque feature of the riverfront development.