

FATTY LANGTRY PUDGY PUGILIST OF THE PAST

By Robert B. Carson

With "Butterbean" getting so much attention in the boxing ring, many fans think that pudgy pugilists are a modern day novelty.

Not so. In fact, a rolly polly, ex-sailor from San Francisco gave aspiring heavyweight, Jack Dempsey, quite a bit of trouble defeating the future Champion twice, losing once, and holding him to a draw, twice.

And who could forget "Two Ton" Tony Galento that put the immortal Joe Louis on his rusty duster in the title fight.

There have been lesser light in the "Beef Brigade", such as Bruce Olsen, LeRoy Jones, Big Bill Jackson and a host of others.

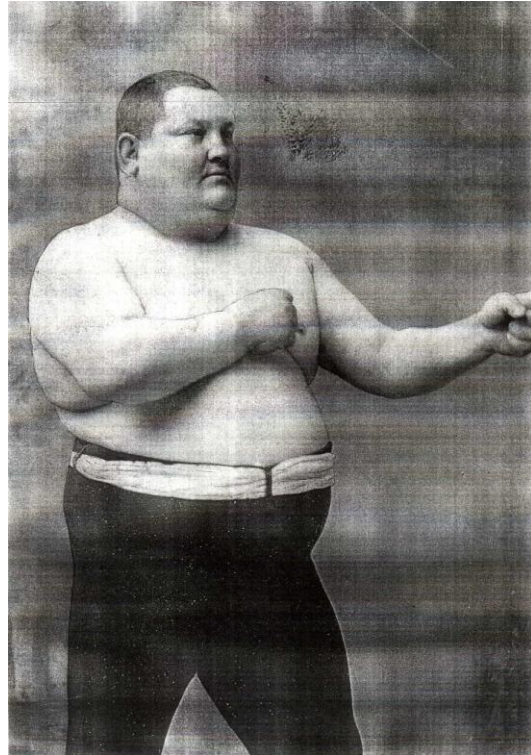
All of these hefty hunks can't hold a candle to the granddaddy of all fat fighters. Ever hear of Tommy "Fatty" Langtry? I would say not. Poor old "Fatty" is overlooked when discussing the old timers, even though, he fought and, sometimes beat, some of the best and toughest of the day.

Tommy first came to the attention of the boxing sports while he was a waiter at Owney Geohagan's joint in old New York. Owney was an ex-bare knuckler and now was a political thug that ran a few one-arm joints that featured prize fights in the back room.

To get a better picture of "Fatty" you have to take into account his dimensions. Standing about 5 foot, 8 inches, he measured well over five feet in girth. "Fatty's" neck was 24 inches in circumference, all perched on chunky, little legs. The only known photo of him shows him in ring togs with the close cropped hair of the professional pug with a pleasant face and a double chin.

Not much is known about Tommy Langtry and his boxing record is spotty at best. His first fight was with a fighter called Charley Norton's unknown, who weighed in at 260 pounds.

It was January 17, 1884, the place, Harry Hill's popular theatre. It was to be a three round affair under "Police Gazette Rules with Harry Hill acting as referee. At the opening bell both pugilists fought like demons. "Fatty" got the better shots in and at two minutes, twenty five seconds, of the first round, the Unknown was sent to dreamland. Harry Hill divided the purse.



George W. Dixon, champion heavyweight of Pennsylvania, was the next to fall in three rounds.

Enthused by these victories, "Fatty" took on veteran Bill Gobig and won handily over a four round distance with old, bare knuckle fighter, Dominic McCaffrey as the third man.

By now "Fatty" Langtry was becoming somewhat of a celebrity and getting notice in the Weekly, sports rag "The Police Gazette."

Beefy Denny Kelliher challenged "Fatty" to a fight for the Fat Man's Championship. It was a great brawl as these two mastiffs pounded away at each other. At the end of six rounds, Langtry came away with the decision. It was decided for a return bout which ended in a draw.

A few days later, on March 31, 1886, in Philadelphia, Fatty fought Henry Anders with skin tight gloves under Police Gazette Rules. In the first round Langtry forced the fighting and swung repeatedly with both rights and lefts, never stopping to rest. Wilting under the barrage, Anders was knocked out in two minutes and thirty seconds, in the first round, for a purse of \$500.

On March 22, 1886, he met a real toughie in Mike Boden, "The Canuck", a fighter that had faced and beat Pete McCoy, John L.

Sullivan's chief sparring partner. Hike stood 5 feet, 7 1/2 inches and weighed between a healthy 180 to 200 pounds.

The fight took place in Philadelphia and went into the dark with Fatty sustaining a fractured arm and a no decision verdict. Boden and Langtry met again on May 5 with "The Canuck" winning the six round nod.

Heavyweight champ of Chester City, John Spencer, went only three rounds until he was dispensed with. Fatty's next opponent was the toughest of the lot. Mike Conley, "The Ithaca Giant" was a strapping 6 footer that hit the beam between 180 and 200 pounds. The fight was held at Clark's Theatre in Philadelphia on November 6, 1886. It was a good fight and, much to Conley's surprise, wound up a draw.

Harry Andrews lasted only one round at Tom Stark's sporting house in Philadelphia.

Another draw with Bill Gabig was followed by beating Bob Coffee in four. Coffee not only lost, but, broke both his hands on Fatty's thick head.

Popular "Clipper" Donahue didn't fair any better in Philadelphia, January 7, 1887. As usual, Fatty came out swinging, with both hands, whacking Donahue all over the ring. In the third round, Fatty uncorked a shot that not only put Clipper down but out of the ring into a water trough that stood adjacent to the ring.

This seemed to be the last fight, of any importance, that Fatty engaged in. Oh, no doubt, he fought on after that, but, any details of these bouts have been lost with time.

It would seem nice if Fatty eventually got weary of the ring wars and wisely decided to hang 'em up and go back to waiting tables at Owney Geoheghan's and retire to his abode at 281 Bowery in New York.

Fatty never will have a place in the Boxing Hall of Fame and only dedicated boxing historians even recognize the name. It has to be remembered that Tommy "Fatty" Langtry fought with small, horse hair gloves or the murderous, skin tight gloves, and, usually won.

Hauling his bulk through those ring ropes, with little time to heal from the previous battle, says a lot for the spirit of the man.

You just can't help but admire the guy.

JOEY CARKIDO

By Jim Amato

The great city of Youngstown, Ohio has produced many a fine fighter. Lenny and Ray Mancini, Tommy Bell, Tony Janiro, "Red" D'Amato and Harry Arroyo, etc...

One of Youngstown's finest from the 1940's and early 50's has been all but forgotten. Only the die hard local boxing fans remember just how tough Joey Carkido was.

Joey Carkido racked up an impressive 33-3 record as an amateur boxer before turning professional in 1945. As a pro he won 46 of his first 50 fights against some rugged customers like Vic Moreno, Pete Manchio, Ray Salas and Ross Anzalone.

On December 8, 1947 Joey fought the first of four world champions he would meet in his distinguished career. Paddy DeMarco halted Joey in seven rounds.

The year 1948 was an up and down year for Joey. He won only five of 16 fights while losing 8 and drawing in three. In 1949 Joey again lost more than he won but it was against top flight competition like Ron Delaney and another champ, Lew Jenkins.

On April 3, 1950 Joey scored the biggest win of his career when he outpointed Beau Jack over ten rounds. In his next match he dropped a ten round duke to Charley Fusari. As you can see Joey didn't fight too many stiffes. Still there were more losses than victories.

In 1951 kayo losses to Chuck Taylor and Johnny Saxton pushed Joey out of the big leagues. He would lose all four of his 1952 contests.

In 98 professional fights Joey retired with a respectable 59-32-7 record. He boxed several times at Madison Square Garden.

In 1988 he was inducted into the Trumbull County of Ohio Legends Of Leather Hall Of Fame. A worthy tribute to a fine fighter.