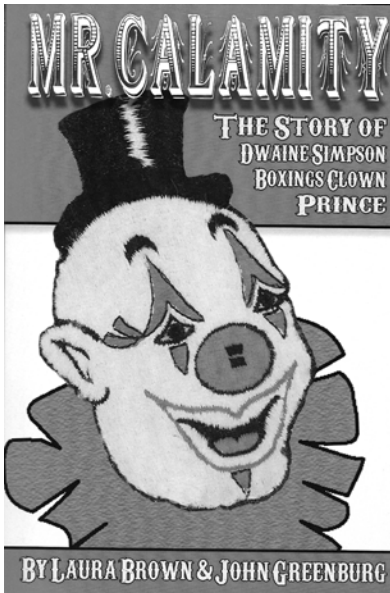


IBRO's Dwaine Simpson *for the record ...*

DS Cogswell

Every era in boxing reflects both the socioeconomic world in which it dwells, as well as the resources of its immediate past. The latter 50s and the early 60s, still rich in accomplished teachers, trainers and fighters, was no exception. IBRO's Dwaine Simpson fought 142 bouts in that period of time, nearly exclusively in the state of Florida. Dwaine, however, plied his trade in a half-recognized twilight that bordered on indentured servitude. This too was part of that boxing era's environment as well.



His biographical book, **Mr. Calamity**, is a frank and humorous chronology of those experiences. Included below are some of the documents of his journey, important archives of bygone times, preserved here in the IBRO Journal.

Dwaine was a self-taught pugilist.

From movies and boxing against my brother and other kids from the neighborhood. I had 11 amateur bouts over a one year period. Three rounders paid \$3, \$5 for the main event.

The promoter of these amateur shows, as well as the AAU and Golden Gloves, was Dick Lee. About 40 of the fighters in Dwaine's circle would be signed to professional contracts by Lee. Major Peoples of the Biscayne Arena would be their promoter. How did this come about?

Peoples needed fighters to fill out his weekly boxing shows but the big payoff would come from the IBC. Simpson's recollection of the talk between Lee and Peoples went something like this:

P: *I got a call from Jim Norris of the IBC. They need 1200 fighters for their televised shows. They'll pay \$10,000 for the contract of any fighter we refer to them and they accept.*

L: *Ten grand! Ya could buy a nice house with that.*

P: *Are there enough fighters around here that could be promoted and possibly sold to the IBC?*

L: *Absolutely! I got a list of 50 who've fought in my amateur shows at the Moose Lodge.*

(from Mr. Calamity)

Lee's share would be \$100 a week, plus a split from purse deductions and any sales to the IBC. Peoples paid \$40 for a 4 rounder, \$60 for a 6, same as his rival, Chris Dundee.

Lee was confident it would take a month to sign the needed fighters. The terms were an exclusive contract for 10 years for \$500 a year. Dwaine worked for the City of Opa-Locka, Florida, for \$47 a week. With a wife and kids, he signed for the extra \$10 a week.

Dwaine's recollections of the venues they would fight in included:

Miami Beach Convention Center

Miami Beach Auditorium (now the Jackie Gleason Auditorium)

Little River Auditorium 7505 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL TU5-3493

(Once a week for 7 years)

Biscayne Arena (Major Peoples Home Base) 850 NW 23rd St. Miami, FL

Pan Am Arena 420 SW 8th St., Miami. (once a week for 2 years)

Bayfront Auditorium 301 Biscayne Blvd, Miami

Jerry White's Magic City 224 SW 6th St. Miami

Ft Lauderdale War Memorial Auditorium 800 NE 8th St. Ft. Laud.

Dinner Key Marina Auditorium SW 27th Avenue Brickle Road

Homestead Auditorium

Key West Dog Track

West Palm Beach Auditorium

Melbourne (A Dundee promotion. Chris didn't want to pay Dwaine, after he was flipped on his back and hurt by his opponent. Ruled a no contest)

Orlando Sport-atorium (rodeo facility)

To keep his stable of fighters busy, paying their keep (and more), Lee contrived a boxing traveling road caravan. Lee would put on the whole show, with a ring, boxers, judges, a referee, and corner men for \$400.

A local nurse or doctor would check blood pressure. We would take 2 or 3 cars, and a truck for the ring. It would all be done on the same day. Put up the ring, fight, and and take down the ring, then drive home, sometimes arriving at 3 or 4AM. Running off the road asleep was not uncommon. We got \$20 for a 4-rounder, \$30 for a 6, and \$40 for 8. (Ibid.)

All rounds were for 2 minutes. Twenty-eight rounds of boxing were scheduled.

On 10 occasions I fought the first 4-rounder against a teammate and a last 4-rounder against a local toughman. I was 140 lbs. up against a local at 180. They would run out of gas in about 2 rounds. (ibid.)

Dwaine's traveling road show Florida venues included:

Dade County Armory 2728 NW 7th Ave. Miami

Hialeah Municipal Auditorium 4700 Palm Ave. Hialeah (tried to run once a week for a year)

North Miami Boxing Club Carpenters' Hall 131 St. and NE 6th Ave. North Miami (ditto weekly for a year)

Biscayne Boxing Club 3400 NW 1st St. Miami (Dick Lee's HQ)

Ft Lauderdale Arena 2555 NW 137th Way Ft. Laud.

Hollywood Sports - Auditorium Hollywood Blvd & Highway 27. (Broward Co.)

City of Surfside Rec. Bldg. (one show, 5 4-rounders - this is where Liston trained for the Clay fight)

Dade County Auditorium NW 28th Ave & Flagler St.

Lakeworth (Johnny O'Brian promotion)

Coco Beach

Westchester Shopping Center (4 shows) US #1 (1st time I boxed twice in a show, made \$40 instead of \$20)

The Palace (Bar in Liberty City, Miami) Near 75th St & NW 22 ave. Once a week for a year. Very dangerous area -no socializing for boxers.

Sir John Hotel (Club Night Beat) Top Black Hotel,



Hialeah Municipal Auditorium

downtown Miami. (one show a week for a year)

Bunch Park Shopping Center Opa-Locka. 22nd Ave & NW 156 St. Old movie house.

Opa-Locka Optimist Club (2 shows) Sharazad Blvd & Fisherman St.

City of South Miami Park - Rec. Center (one show)

Four shows off US 1. Al Netlow's Lounge in Perrine, FL. A friend of Dick Lee. Netlow was a former ranked boxer, KO'd by Sugar Ray Robinson 12-14-42. No address, building torn down. Netow's close friend, Rocky Marciano, refereed my fight with ex-con Charlie Allen. He weighed 160 lbs. I weighed 145. Rocky about 250. The next time I saw him he was down to 195 for the computer fight with Ali.

Tampa (5 shows)

Gainesville (4 shows - old movie house)

Jacksonville (4 shows)

Jacksonville Beach (2 shows)

Tallahassee (one show)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church Opa-Locka



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Clubs that sponsored the traveling boxing caravan:

VFW

American Legion

A lot of Optimist Clubs

Many Police Athletic Clubs

Rotary Clubs

Dade County Fraternal Order of Police 151st St & NW

27th Ave. Later PBA @ South & Highway 75.

Shriners

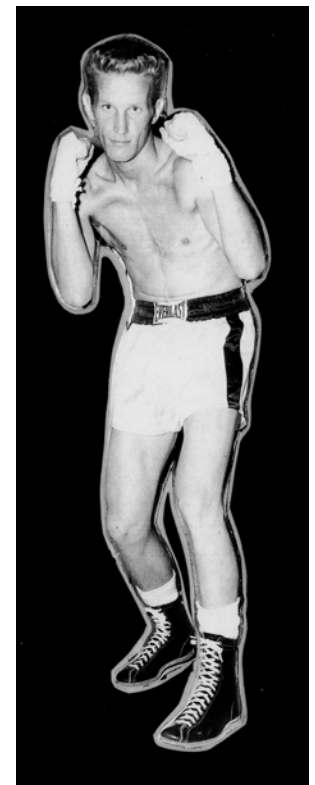
Many other clubs who sponsored juvenile football, basketball, baseball, etc.

One stablemate of mine, Billy Hall, I fought 5 times. About 5 others I fought 3 or 4 times each. In a Hollywood, FL show Dick Lee tried to get me to fight a 17-year old pro who stood 6'2" and weighed 165. I said are you crazy. His name was Tony Alongi. (ibid.)

Dwaine fought 5 bouts in 10 days, winning them all, and grossing \$120. After deductions he netted less than \$60. The Miami Beach Commission suspended him for 10 days, due to "fighting too many times within a short period."

Appropriately for an era controlled largely by organized crime out of the IBC, the Little River venue experienced mob infiltration in a betting scam run through a kid's ice cream promotion. As with much of the above, Dwaine supplies always self-effacing and humorous anecdotal evidence.

I had an excellent record but not against good fighters, unless you think Goldie Locks, Little Red Riding Hood, and Snow White and the 7 Dwarves are tough. (ibid.)



New Pro 1956

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 6th day of November 19 56, by and between MAJOR W. H. PEEPLES, JR., of Miami, Florida, hereinafter referred to as the first party; Dick Lee of Miami Florida, hereinafter referred to as the second party and Duane Simpson of Miami Florida, hereinafter referred to as the third party,

WHEREAS, the first party, by reason of his reputation and ability as a promoter of boxing, locally and nationally, will be responsible for the building up of the good will, name and reputation of the third party as a boxer by matching him with suitable opponents of worth and ability, and

WHEREAS, this association will result in great benefit to all the parties hereto,

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

1. In consideration of the promises and of the above consideration and the counsel and advise given by the first party to the second and third parties hereto, the said second party, in his capacity as manager, and the third party, in his capacity as a boxer, do hereby give to the first party the exclusive rights to the services of the third party as a boxer, in the City of Miami, County of Dade both in Florida, the United States of America and in all foreign countries, for a period of ten (10) years.

2. The second party agrees that he will not attempt to book, and the third party agrees that he will not engage in, any boxing contests or exhibitions, for or under the auspices of any other promoter, organization, club, corporation or individual, without the expressed consent of the first party, Major W. H. Peeples, Jr., at any time during the duration of this agreement.

3. It is understood and agreed between the parties hereto that this agreement shall not prevent the third party from employing such managers, trainers, handlers or other assistants or from paying to them any portion from any of the purses

which he may from time to time receive for services rendered in any boxing contest or exhibition as herein above stated, it being the distinct purpose of this agreement that the third party will not engage in any boxing contest or exhibition other than above stated, except upon expressed consent of the first party.

4. The second and third parties hereby agree to accept as an opponent for the third party, any boxer in the weight division of the third party, whom the first party deems to be a worthy and suitable opponent, and to accept as payment in full for services rendered, a sum of money not less than fifty (50) dollars nor more than a sum of money represented by not more than thirty-five (35) per cent of the gross gate receipts of any boxing contest or exhibition in which the third party appears as a feature, or main-event contestant.

Interpretation of "gross gate receipts" as used above, for the purposes of this agreement, is meant to be, all monies received from the sale of tickets of admission, after first deducting any City, County, State or Federal taxes, imposed by law upon said admissions.

5. It is further understood and agreed that the party of the first part hereby guarantees the second and third parties hereto, that the annual earnings of the third party, during the term of this contract, shall not be less than \$ 500.00 and if said annual earnings during any one year shall fall below the said sum of \$ 500.00, the first party shall pay to the third party, a sum of money to make up the deficiency.

6. It is mutually understood and agreed and made a part of this agreement, that the services of the third party are extraordinary, exceptional and unique, and are of a personal nature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have caused these presents to be executed, the day and year first above written.



BISCAYNE BOXING CLUB

"Featuring Outstanding Action Boxers"

DICK LEE, Manager

Phones: Day - FR 1-4770
Night - TU 8-2608

Dwaine Simpson

3400 N. W. 1st AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA

Featuring...

John Tombley	-	145
(Ring Prospect of the Month)		
Clarence "Cat" Robinson	-	160
(Lost Split Decision to Bobby Dykes)		
Billy Hall	-	142
Joe Budow	-	132
Boots Burkhalter	-	135
Bob Morale	-	145
John Ladnier	-	125
Duane Simpson	-	140
Hershel Washburn	-	130
Ricco Saunders	-	155
Levi Pearson	-	150
Ernie Fayson	-	135
Eddie Ludlow	-	135
John Kelly	-	125
Jack Stringer	-	125
Eddie Hogan	-	175
James Thomas	-	158

EXPENSES OFF THE TOP: THE MANAGER GETS $33 \frac{1}{3}$
AND BOXER GETS $66 \frac{2}{3}$

4 ROUNDS: SMALL BOXING SHOWS AND ON THE ROAD SHOWS, IN SOUTH FLA. AND STATE. SUCH AS LITTLE RIVER ARENA (WEEKLY SHOW ONCE A WEEK, FOR SEVEN YEARS), PAN AM ARENA (WEEKLY SHOW FOR TWO YEARS) SIR JOHN HOTEL, HIALEAH AUDITORIUM ETC.

\$ 20.00
.50 TAPE & GAUZE
- IN ENVELOPE WITH MONEY - 2.00 CORNER
DOWN TO PENNY - 17.50
= 5.77 MANAGER
\$ 11.73 BOXER

MIAMI BEACH AUDITORIUM, BISCAYNE ARENA,
WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (FT. LAUDERDALE)
\$ 40.00

.50 TAPE & GAUZE
3.00 CORNER
36.50
12.04 MANAGER
\$ 24.46 BOXER

On the left are 17 members of the boxing caravan. On the right Dwaine's breakdown of his purse, netting a bit over 50%.

Pitching the Boxing Caravan

DICK LEE, President
C. W. WILL, Vice President
J. F. KINNON, Vice President
ARTHUR M. KORN, General Manager
D. W. SIMPSON, Sales Manager

Phones: Day FR 1-4770
Night TU 8-2608



Gentlemen:

We of the Biscayne Boxing Club have a ready made organization that can add dollars to your treasury with a limited amount of work to your organization.

Our plan is simply this, we furnish for you for your given night six boxing bouts plus a battle royal, it includes a boxing ring, transporting and setting up and removing of same, it also includes all officials that it takes to run the show including judges and referee, seconds etc.

The talent used on these shows are many of the same boys that you see appearing at the Miami Beach Auditorium on their weekly fight shows.

The complete cost of the show to your club is surprisingly low, with twenty five people involved in the running of the show is only four hundred dollars, the complete cost to you. Selling tickets to your members and their guests, five hundred of them at two dollars apiece would give you a profit of six hundred dollars, if you sold them at one dollar apiece, one thousand people would bring you the same return.

We think that if your dances and other promotional efforts have been in vain as far as profits are concerned, try us, let us help make your organizations activities profitable again.

Please call us for further information. One of our representatives can call on you at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,