

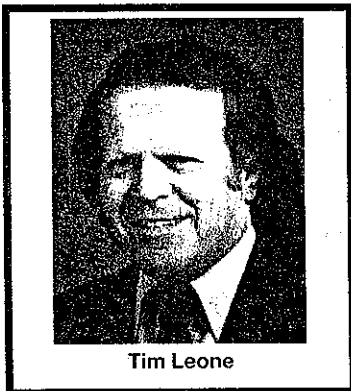
IBRO

INTERNATIONAL BOXING RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

TIM LEONE

January 20, 1943-July 16, 1997

TURQUOISE PRODUCTIONS



Tim Leone

Charles Timothy Leone, second president of the International Boxing Research Organization, one of America's great boxing aficionados, and a good friend of the editor of *International Boxing Digest*, died, aged 54, at St. Louis University Hospital in July. Death was due to cancer, which Tim had been battling for the last few years.

Tim was very special. He knew his business—photography and film production—like few others knew it, and was an expert in virtually every area of tape and film. Born in Washington, D.C., Tim grew up in Lawrence, Kansas and was a graduate of Washburn University. A successful businessman and founder (1982) of Turquoise Productions in St. Louis, he nonetheless listed himself simply as “photographer” on his income tax return. And, to all who knew him, he was unpretentious, genuine, sincerely interested in all his friends and in many people he had never met as well.

A handsome headstone now adorns the grave of the great Sam Langford thanks to Tim's generosity. Tim also carried IBRO through some

very trying times until declining health forced him to nominate Ralph Citro as his successor in the last three years. The organization is now growing, due to an increased awareness on the part of boxing fans regarding its existence. But Tim kept it alive when it would otherwise have folded, putting out a quality newsletter that its membership devoured, month after month. IBRO's existence at this date is due largely to him.

Tim's interests were far reaching. He produced a documentary on Robert Wadlow, America's tallest man, and another on Bonnie and Clyde, celebrated bank robbers of the 1930s. He also turned out several national television commercials, and won several local Emmys.

Tim's interests as a boxing historian focused on the under appreciated, the forgotten, the deserving but unknown. He devoted considerable time to assembling records for pre-World War II black fighters like Brad Simmons and Tut Jackson. Tim also shined light on Wildcat Monte and Duke Trammel, two forgotten southern welterweights of the 1920s and '30s who had close to 800 bouts between them. (Monte, in fact, had more fights than any other American fighter, and more than any man in history save Britain's Len Wickwar.)

It's hard to realize that Tim is gone. I did not know his family, but Tim leaves a daughter, Angela, 17, and a son, Sean, 12. He also leaves his devoted wife, Peggy, and numerous friends, in and out of boxing.

The phrase, “He will be missed” is rather shopworn. Tim, however, is missed, and it's hard to realize I will no longer hear his inimitable voice again on the phone from St. Louis, as he took a respite from his business to talk about his latest research on Wildcat Monte, or Brad Simmons, or boxing in general. He truly loved the sport.