



(Above) Here's Bobo Olson at his best, knocking down challenger Rocky Castellani for an eight count during the 12th round of their scheduled 15-round title encounter in San Francisco on August 20, 1954. Olson retained his middleweight title via the unanimous decision route. (Right) Bobo in his fighting prime.

"BOXING WAS GOOD TO ME," SAYS BOBO OLSON

By MURRAY OLDERMAN

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Bobo Olson, it can be reported with authority, is alive and well in Santa Rosa. And drinking Calso water.

The sign in the Mission district, on the corner of 18th street, above the neon, was startling. "Meet Bobo Olson Tonight." At a place called Harris' Town Pump.

Outside on the sidewalk, a couple of rummies. Inside, a neighborhood crowd, no ties, a washed-out blonde, a picture of a bull high on the wall.

Big John behind the bar won't tell you he owns the joint because he's afraid you might be serving him a subpoena from his ex-wife. Big John's an old buddy of Bobo, which is why Olson came down to The City with an old one-hour documentary of film clips—Louis and Baer and Joey Maxim and Bobo himself.

He does this a lot. Public relations, he calls it. And now Bobo comes quietly through the door to meet the public. The crowd so far is thin. Hardly anybody notices him.

Bobo, after all these years, looks great. Your mind wanders back to the mid-1950s and New York's Friday night fights. The little old ladies in their long evening dresses at the Inn in Pinehurst, N.C., quickly finishing their post-dinner sherry so they can go into the sitting room and watch the fights.

Names like Chico Vejar and Irish Bob

Olson scores with the one-two to the head of France's Pierre Langlois during the second round of their 15-rounder at San Francisco on December 15, 1954. Olson scored a KO in the 11th.

Murphy, Chuck Davey and Joey Giambra Also Carl (Bobo) Olson, the middleweight champion of the world.

One night in Los Angeles, after he was knocked out by Sugar Ray, Bobo said he was quitting. The year was 1956. But the record books shows he fought 11 more years, in Fresno and Victoria, back home in Honolulu, where he came from, and Reno.

What would he look like now, coming into this two-bit bar with a can of old film?

Almost the same. No smashed nose, no scarred eyes, no puffiness, no balder than he was because Bobo was already losing his hair those 20 years ago. And there is no slur to his speech.

What a gentle man he was. And still is. The soft dark eyes are clear. The shy smile persists. A punchy old guy comes up and shakes his hand and Bobo is friendly. A young kid with long hair and two front teeth missing leads a procession of working stiff who manage to come by, not pushing, just acknowledging the old champ.

"You was great, Bobo."

"T'anks." That's the way Bobo always talked—the hard "t" from his early life as a dock walloper. He remembers fighting Wayne "T'ornton" and he talks about the guys he knew—Maxim, Pastrano, Marciano.

(Continued on page 37)



INSIDE THE ROPES

(Continued from page 31)

in some good body blows. Midway in round two it really got hot. Fullmer threw science to the winds and just continued to charge at Ray and threw punches in all directions. Of course, Fullmer didn't have things his own way. Robinson found spots to get in some good well-timed punches but Fullmer's constant charging was too much. In the fourth round I had to warn Fullmer for heeling.

An unusual incident occurred in the sixth round. Fullmer lunged at Robinson and both tumbled to the canvas along the ropes. The force was too much for the lower strand of rope, which broke. The Garden maintenance crew was unable to adjust matters immediately, so there was a 50-second delay before the seventh round started. Upon resuming, Fullmer landed a hard right to the body. This punch and the fierceness of the charge sent Robinson through the ropes and onto the apron of the ring. He soon was back in and surprised everyone with a series of well directed punches to Fullmer's face and body but Gene just wouldn't stop and kept on punching right back. I guess it wasn't Robinson's night. Fullmer was given a unanimous decision.

In reading the account of the fight the next day, I learned that Robinson complained that I allowed Fullmer to get away with rough stuff. I'm sure that George Gainford and the corner didn't really mean that. Ray reprimanded then by saying that he was beaten fairly and squarely. The same paper mentioned that there was a 90-day clause for a return bout. If I had been one of Robinson's handlers, I'd protest, too, as it furnishes good ballyhoo for the return bout.

Robinson surely learned something in the return bout at Chicago the following May, as Sugar Ray KO'd Fullmer in five rounds. They met twice again after that. One bout ended in a draw. In the other, Fullmer gained a 15-round decision.

"I WAS FIRED"—FUTCH; DID HE OVERTRAIN NORTON?

(Continued from page 23)

Futch disagreed with the fighter's feeling of obligation to Biron and Rivkin and expressed disappointment in Norton's passive approach to his being fired.

"I'm disappointed because I've had fighters that I expected less of who did more," Futch noted. "But if he goes along with them, I don't have a leg to stand on."

Although both sides at times in discussions of the Futch situation, have given indication something might be resolved that would keep the Norton-

Futch team together, at this writing it didn't seem too strong a possibility.

Trainer Bill Slayton (he handled Jerry Quarry at one time) is now working with Norton as he awaits word on whether or not a fight with Foreman is to be a reality.

Futch expressed concern that Norton and his new trainer might run into problems.

"Ken is not the type of individual you can turn loose to just anybody and everybody. There's so much you have to know about him and his personality. He's a very strong-minded individual and you have to have complete control over him to get results."

It's ironic that after his win over Ali in San Diego, Norton's camp dismissed local hypnotist Dr. Michael Dean, saying he no longer was needed and now after losing to Ali the second time around, it's trainer Futch's turn.

What next?

"BOXING WAS GOOD TO ME," SAYS BOBO OLSON

(Continued from page 24)

A guy named Joe complains to Bobo, "I seen them all and today there ain't no fighters."

You mention Joe Frazier and Cassius Clay (here, Muhammad Ali is a tongue twister), even Jerry Quarry. Joe is adamant. But nice. "Don't get mad," he jabs at your chest. Bobo smiles, enjoying the fight talk.

He weighs around 200 now, but he runs two miles every morning and has his garage in Santa Rosa fixed up like a gym. He picks up a buck at banquets. He tells about this big kid in the gym getting his nose bloody and Bobo telling him, "Look, I been around the fights since I was 9. Why don't you try some other sport, like football or baseball?"

Five years later the kid taps Bobo on the shoulder and introduces himself. He's Daryle Lamonica of the Oakland Raiders.

There is no bitterness in Bobo. No looking back, even though his first manager lost all the money he made through bad investments. "I'm doing fine," says Bobo. "Boxing was good to me."

While he was still fighting for championships, some sensation-monger exposed Bobo as a man with two families—a wife with four kids in Hawaii, a wife with four kids in San Francisco. "It's all settled," says Bobo.

His first wife remains in Hawaii. He lives with the second wife in Santa Rosa. Three children are still at home. He has five boys who weigh over 200 pounds each.

"Some horses," says Bobo. "Weight

lifters. My 23-year-old, he's got a 23-inch neck. My kids all turned out good."

One day in 1967, when Bobo was getting close to 40, he quit the ring for good. He went to Santa Rosa to run a physical education program for deprived kids in a Merchant Marine camp. When the funds ran out, he went into his present job of public relations for the Teamsters.

He's genuinely glad someone who saw him in the big days in Madison Square Garden took the trouble to look him up again. "You make me remember," he says as I walk away from the bar, "the enjoyable times."

Oh yes, there is one noticeable change in Bobo Olson. He has a black mustache now.

MARKET PLACE

For ad rates write Classified, 100 E. Ohio, Chicago.

EDUCATION—HOME STUDY

★ **LEARN CARTOONING** at home. (Veterans approved) Free bulletin. Cartooning, Box 7069TG, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80933.

★ **BARTENDING-BAR MANAGEMENT COURSE**. Free Information. Universal Academy, Box 8180-AE, Universal City, CA 91808.

★ **DETECTIVE COURSE**. Free Information. Universal Detectives, Box 8180-C, Universal City, Calif.

DO IT YOURSELF

★ **TRAMPOLINE KIT (PIT TYPE)** 6' x 12' commercial duty \$165.00 prepaid. "Teco," Box 706, Matthews, N.C. 28105.

★ **HOW TO MAKE WINE** and Champagne at home! \$3.00 guaranteed. Shek's, Box 12-A, Ferndale, Mich. 48220.

GOVERNMENT SURPLUS

★ **SURPLUS AND SUPER BARGAINS**. Giant Catalog \$1. BYKO Electronics, Box 741 "A", Montreal.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

★ **I MADE \$40,000.00 YEAR** by Mailorder! Helped others make money! Start with \$15.00—Free Proof. Torrey, Box 318-MC, Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197.

MONEY MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

★ **JOIN "MONEY-GETTERS" GUILD** \$1. Free Samples, Magazines, Tips. Russell Advertising, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44669.

★ **HOW TO MAKE MONEY ADDRESSING**. Mailing Envelopes. Offer Details 10c. Lindbloom Brothers, 3838 Peterson, Chicago 60659.

SALESMEN WANTED

★ **EARN BIG COMMISSIONS** soliciting delinquent accounts. No collecting or investment. Metropolitan Finance, 1129 West 41st, Kansas City, Missouri.

OF INTEREST TO MEN

★ **MILITARY CATALOG**—5000 products illustrated! Medals, guns, berets, Vietnam decorations, rings, figurines, wings and more. Fifty pages! Free details. Ken Nolan, Dugout 406, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677.

★ **VACUUM IMPROVES** measurements immediately. Illustrated. \$1.00 (refundable). Aspira, 210 Fifth, NYC 10011.

★ **INCREASE HEIGHT!** 2"-6". 25c (guaranteed). Weber-L, 2410 Sylvester, Dayton, Ohio 45409.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

★ **GUARANTEED BEST SHAVE EVER!!** Face-Legs-Problem Cases-Heavy Beard-Sensitive Skin. Formulated Emollient Must Be Tried!! \$2.98—Fedreck Enterprises, 4122-A Palmyra Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065.

★ **LONELY?? FIND YOUR LIFEMATE!** Nationwide Date-matching. Details \$1. (refundable). Elite, Box 64, New York City 10019.

SONG POEMS—MUSIC

★ **RECORDINGS, PUBLISHING CONTRACT**. Songs, Poems. Talent Searchers, Suite B, 6311 Yucca, Hollywood, CA 90028.

SLEEP LEARNING—HYPNOTISM

★ **HYPNOTISM REVEALED!** Free Illustrated Details: Powers, 12015 Sherman Road, North Hollywood, Calif. 91609.

★ **SLEEP-LEARNING—HYPNOTISM!** Strange catalog free! Autosuggestion, Box 24-MX, Olympia, Washington.

ADVERTISERS—AGENCIES

★ **"SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING"** tells short-cuts to biggest mail response and profit. Includes copy-hints plus where to place your ads and why—and much more. \$2.00 postpaid. Refundable. Free Details about millions-of-prospects for your "offer." Write S. Omega, Dept. SO-M5, Classified, Inc., 106 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Birth Certificates \$1 for 2

DIPLOMAS—WILLS—

★ **Marriage Certificates, High School and College Diplomas, Last Will & Testament (Blank Forms)**. Any 2 for \$1. All 5 for \$2. Prompt Confidential Service. Available only to persons 21 or over from ARTEK FORMS, 7471 Melrose Ave., Dept. 9384 Los Angeles, Calif. 90046.