

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

Looking through California newspapers from 1915 to 1930, one finds that a boxing man named Fred Winsor had a very colorful career which was full of interesting events. He was recognized in California for his ability as a boxing man, but he seemed to be a person who would self-destruct after getting himself into a good position. If he didn't self-destruct, some things still went awry.

Winsor promoted bouts in Juarez, Mexico in 1915, which was during the Mexican Revolution Era that began in 1910. Juarez is a very important city that is on the Rio Grande, which is the border between the United States and Mexico. Across the Rio Grande from Juarez is El Paso, Texas. There was quite a bit of international commerce going through Juarez and El Paso at the time. Moreover, the first sizable groups of Mexicans were going to the United States to find work starting less than a decade before 1915.

Most Mexicans went to Texas first when coming to the United States before 1930. Relatively few people went from the then-sparsely-populated Mexican State of Baja California. Since a lot of Mexicans were going back to Mexico after working in the United States, it meant that there were a lot of people coming and going. This also meant that the cities of El Paso and Juarez were growing rapidly.

With restrictive laws against boxing in many states in the United States before the 1920s, Mexican border towns along the lengthy U.S.-Mexican border had quite a bit of boxing activity. Besides Juarez; Tijuana, Mexicali, and Nogales would be boxing venues.

Of the mentioned border towns, Juarez was the venue with the most potential at the time. But the big drawback was that a band of revolutionaries under the famous Mexican revolutionary leader, Pancho Villa, had occupied Juarez.

Winsor was faced with obstacles, according to the news items. He had to stage his shows in bullring, orders of Pancho Villa. Winsor also found that he was paying a lot for everything. Even under these conditions, Winsor was able to stage bouts in Juarez, using some well-known fighters such as Battling Nelson and Bobby Waugh.

But more problems cropped up. According to a September 20, 1915 with an El Paso dateline in the Los Angeles Times, Bobby Waugh said that he was ordered to let Benny Cordova win. Hipolito Villa, Pancho Villa's brother, reportedly made a big bet for Pancho on Cordova. Waugh earned a draw in the bout.

Another news item out of El Paso with a date of September 29, 1915 had a list of Winsor's various headaches in staging bouts in Juarez. The said news item also said that the scheduled bout between Bobby Waugh and Joe Rivers was called off. It is quite probable that Winsor had enough in dealing with Pancho and Hipolito Villa. A short while after this, Pancho Villa and his troops were doing a lot of fighting in some bloody battles.

When boxing history buffs think about Fred Winsor, it is in connection with Jack Dempsey. After all, he was the manager of Dempsey in early 1917 just before Jack Kearns took over. It was under the management of Fred "Windy" Winsor that Jack Dempsey had his first recorded bouts in California.

But Winsor had an earlier connection to Dempsey even before he managed him. Winsor was the promoter of the first bout between Dempsey and Fireman Jim Flynn in Murray, Utah in which Dempsey was knocked out (in the first round) for the first and only time in his boxing career, as far as anyone knows.

The late boxing historian, Bob Soderman, did some research on the first bout between Fireman Jim Flynn and Jack Dempsey. Although at least one ringside report gives the impression that Dempsey was knocked out legitimately, eyewitnesses connected with the bout believed that Dempsey "went into the tank."

It was reported in the San Francisco Chronicle that there was talk in Utah about banning professional boxing there after the Flynn vs. Dempsey bout. Dempsey's

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

manager at the time was A. J. Auerbach, a Salt Lake City businessman. Auerbach wasn't mentioned in any recent biographies of Dempsey nor was he mentioned in any of Dempsey's autobiographies, of which there were at least three. Bob Soderman's research brought this fact to life.

When this writer was compiling results from the Los Angeles Times, he found that Dempsey showed up at one of Herman Auerbach's bouts during the late 1920s in Los Angeles. Auerbach was a fairly good middleweight from Salt Lake City. The Times said that Herman Auerbach was the son of a former manager of Dempsey. It is ironic that John "The Barber" Reisler, another man who once managed Dempsey, also had a son who was a capable fighter. His name was Johnny Reisler, who also boxed in a number of bouts in Southern California.

Winsor apparently had a tough time getting bouts for Dempsey in early 1917. It should also be pointed out that Tommy Simpson, the boxing promoter in the Oakland area where Dempsey had several bouts, did his best to have evenly matched bouts. The same is true with other promoters in the Bay Area. The boxing record of Dempsey bears this out because Dempsey didn't have an easy time of it in his most of his bouts in the Bay Area.

For whatever reason, Winsor didn't manage Dempsey for long. If the 1920 U.S. Census entry on Fred Winsor is correct, he was only about 24 years old in 1917. It is possible that he wasn't knowledgeable about boxing at this point in time. But it should be pointed out Winsor would have very few, if any, manager-fighter relationships that lasted very long.

There was some mention of Winsor managing a capable Canadian welterweight/middleweight named Frank Barrieau, who would fight in Oakland frequently during the late 1910s and early 1920s. The March 17, 1918 San Francisco Chronicle said that Tommy O'Brien, a future lightweight contender, was going to go back to his hometown of Los Angeles after boxing in San Francisco while being handled by Red Wade. The Chronicle also said that O'Brien was going to be managed by Fred Winsor (who was listed as Windsor in the paper).

But an item in the March 24, 1918 San Francisco Chronicle said that Winsor dropped O'Brien because of Los Angeles boxing people saying that he (O'Brien) was not that good. O'Brien apparently didn't bear a grudge against Winsor because Winsor was in O'Brien's corner for some of latter's bouts in 1926.

The item in the March 24, 1918 San Francisco Chronicle also said that Winsor had an arena with a capacity of 2,000 lined up in Los Angeles and was trying to get Los Angeles authorities to let him stage boxing shows. This is an interesting item because the Shrine Auditorium had boxing shows for a brief period in 1918. But it was when Winsor was managing a good bantamweight named Bud Ridley who was fighting out of Seattle that he (Winsor) started to get a lot of press in Northern California. Ridley started fighting regularly in Northern California late 1919 where there were lots of boxing clubs which staged cards on a weekly or biweekly basis. He quickly became popular with the fans. As a result, matchmakers were lining up to have him in feature bouts on their boxing cards. Winsor was eager to accommodate the matchmakers and Ridley became just about the most active boxer in California.

Winsor and Ridley were found in the 1920 U.S. Census while staying at a boarding house in San Francisco. Winsor's wife, Genevieve, also was staying there. Winsor's listed age was 27. Ridley's first name was Ralph and his listed age was 21. His listed state of birth was Minnesota and he was listed as a boxer in the prize ring in the occupational category.

It seemed that everyone liked Ridley, who got very good press throughout his career. However, Winsor apparently rubbed people the wrong way. When a card took

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

place in Sacramento on January 9, 1920, it was emphasized in the Sacramento Bee that Ridley was barred from boxing in the Sacramento ring because of alleged prank Winsor pulled on the Sacramento club.

But on January 16, 1920, Ridley had a ten-round bout with Georgie Lee, a Chinese-American boxer from Sacramento, at Mather Field, a federal installation near Sacramento. This was the second bout between the two during the new year. The first bout took place on January 1, 1920 in Woodland, California and ended with a verdict of a draw after four rounds. The Mather Field bout took place in front of a larger crowd than could be comfortably seated and Ridley got the decision after winning handily.

The ban in Sacramento didn't last too long because Ridley fought a four-round draw there with Al Walker on January 23, 1920. Just three days the bout with Walker, later, Ridley fought Joe "King" Leopold in a ten-round draw in front of a capacity house at the Presidio, a U.S. Army installation in San Francisco.

It should be noted that state law prohibited bouts which were longer than four rounds, but the state laws didn't apply to bouts at Federal installations. But the professional boxing cards ceased at the Presidio soon afterwards and one suspects that some San Francisco or California authorities persuaded the army to prohibit such cards.

Ridley would have at least thirty bouts from January 1 to the end of August in 1920. Moreover, he was fighting the some of the best bantamweights and featherweights on the West Coast. He even fought a good lightweight named Harry Pelsinger several times. Since Ridley wasn't a knockout puncher and was facing a capable boxer just about every time he stepped into the ring, it isn't any surprise that all of his listed bouts went the distance during 1920.

With Ridley boxing in featured bouts every time, he must've been getting good purses in 1920. The crowds and the gates at established venues in Northern California were quite large during this period after World War I.

It was reported that a typical card in Oakland during this period had a gate of about \$7,000. For a main eventer, a purse of \$500. or more wouldn't be out of line if the gate is that big. At the Dreamland Rink in San Francisco, main eventers often got \$400 or \$500. It is quite possible that Ridley got \$10,000. or more in purses by the end of August 1920.

But Winsor still rubbed people the wrong way despite having a proven "meal ticket." According to the July 31, 1920 San Francisco Chronicle, Bud Ridley was barred from boxing in Seattle as long as he was managed by Fred Winsor.

The sports editor of the San Francisco Chronicle of the period, Harry B. Smith, was a long-time observer of boxing. Smith didn't have any use for Winsor. In the August 20, 1920 San Francisco Chronicle, Smith blasted Winsor and wrote that Ridley was overworked. Ridley had just lost a bout to Jimmy Dundee in Oakland on a Wednesday, his third bout in eight days. He had fought at the Dreamland Rink in San Francisco the previous Friday and in Oakland two days before the bout in San Francisco.

According to the September 22, 1920 San Francisco Chronicle, Ridley, who was scheduled to fight Joe Lynch at Madison Square Garden in New York City on September 28, 1920, went back to his home in Seattle. Winsor claimed that Ridley wasn't "game" and that he (Ridley) was afraid to box Lynch.

Despite leaving Winsor abruptly, it is significant that Riddle wasn't criticized by the press in California for the action. It is apparent that California boxing observers felt that Ridley would do better without Winsor.

In the October 19, 1920 San Francisco Chronicle, it was reported that Ridley had written that he wasn't going to accept matches over the next two three weeks

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

because he felt he needed a rest. Looking at his record for 1920, one has to say that he earned it.

In the November 23, 1920 San Francisco Chronicle, it was reported that Ridley bought out Winsor. The news item said that when Ridley was boxing under Winsor's management, the agreement was that Ridley would get 70% of the gross, but the "kicker" was that Ridley paid all of the expenses!

Ridley's next manager was Joe Waterman, a well-known boxing man from the Northwest. Besides managing Ridley, Waterman would later manage Doc Snell, one of the best-known boxers in the Northwest during the late 1920s and the early 1930s. Waterman also was a promoter for a couple of years at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles during the middle 1930s and had a great deal of success there. He also promoted cards in the Northwest over the next few decades, especially in Portland.

Ridley reportedly had two hundred bouts in his career before retiring in 1927 with a nest egg and in good health. At the time he announced his retirement, it was reported he was learning to be a film cutter at one of the movie studios in the Los Angeles area. It was said that if he gave film cutting the same amount of dedication that he gave to boxing, he would be a success.

Winsor was stuck without a fighter and tried to get Frankie Farren, a San Francisco lightweight who was a four-round bout star, to fight for him, but Farren declined. But Al Walker, a capable bantamweight from California, answered the call

Winsor was familiar with Walker because Walker and Bud Ridley fought at least five times in 1920. Four of the bouts ended with "draw" verdicts and Ridley won a decision in the remaining bout. Boxers of note that Walker fought included Dave Shade, Frankie Garcia, and Babe Herman. "Regulars" of the four-round ring on Walker's record include Georgie Lee, Danny Edwards, Bobby Ertle, Jimmy Brenton, Felix Villamore, Joe "Petie" Coffey, Young Farrell, Georgie Spencer, and Henry "Smiley" Bricker.

According to results were found in the San Francisco Chronicle and the Sacramento Bee, Walker fought a fifteen-round draw with Dandy Dick Griffin on January 14, 1921 at Ft. Bliss, Texas; lost by a technical knockout in the eighth round to Mike Dundee in San Antonio on January 25, 1921; and won by a knockout over Dick Brenton in four rounds in El Paso (Ft. Bliss?) on February 10, 1921

The February 20, 1921 San Francisco Chronicle said that El Paso fans were angry at Fred Winsor because Winsor allegedly left Walker "high and dry" and headed for California after making an appointment to meet Walker. It was reported that Walker was being taken care of by friends. But Walker was in a bout on March 4, 1921 in El Paso and was knocked out by fellow Californian, Danny Nunes in the first round. According to the available results of his later bouts, he would have indifferent success during the rest of his career.

Winsor may have managed some other fighters during the period. According to the April 22, 1921 Great Falls (Montana) Tribune, Winsor was managing Oakland Jimmy Duffy, a lightweight who was seeking bouts in Montana. Duffy, whose real name was Hyman Gold, was a popular Jewish fighter from Oakland who fought from 1915 to early 1930s.

Duffy apparently wasn't managed by Winsor for long because he (Duffy) went to box in the East under the management of Jack Kearns in 1922. It turned out to be a rough trip because he was knocked out by Lew Tendler and Bobby Barrett.

In 1923, Winsor was listed as the promoter at what was called the Madison Square Garden Club in Los Angeles. The club had been around for about two years by August 1923 and was in the Central Avenue area, which was the location of the black community in Los Angeles at that time. It appears that most of the fighters who boxed on the cards at the Madison Square Garden Club were black, but boxers of other

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

nationalities fought there, too. One problem for a boxing researcher is that there was very little in the way of coverage of the club in the Los Angeles Times. But there was a lot of coverage when Sam Langford, the great black fighter who was well past his prime, was matched with Rocco Stragmalia, a heavyweight whose claim to fame was that he was a sparring partner for Jack Dempsey. One must remember that there was a law in California which not only prohibited bouts longer than four rounds, but it also prohibited prizes or trophies worth more than \$35.00. to be handed out to an individual boxer for a bout. This law was the result of an amendment which was on the ballot in the November 1914 election. The law was repealed when the "Ten-Round Law" passed by a small margin in the November 1924 election.

Professional fights continued to box in California from late 1914 to the beginning of 1925 despite the law. But there were times when the authorities clamped down. There was an estimated crowd of four thousand jammed into the club while there were about 1,000 other ticket-holders who were unable to get inside. Several bouts on the card had already taken place when about 150 Los Angeles policemen and 30 deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department stopped the bout from taking place. It was reported that there was some rioting and that the people didn't get their money back. Needless to say, this show signaled the end of the club.

It was felt that Winsor was pressing his luck by trying to stage a card featuring Langford. One notices that Langford didn't box at any of the main clubs in California during the 1920s. Was this because the matchmakers of the main clubs knew better than to tempt the authorities into clamping down? It is quite possible because Langford boxed at only smaller venues in California during the 1920s as far as it can be determined. They included Venice, San Fernando, Huntington Beach, and Bakersfield.

Winsor got back into the news in 1924 when he was managing a heavyweight of Mexican descent named Tony Fuente, who began boxing as "Kid Shine" in Arizona. Fuente was a fairly quick and game boxer with a decent punch. The December 4, 1924 Arizona Republican had a long article on Fuente's side of the story in regards to boxing under the management of Winsor.

According to Fuente, he had dealings with Winsor when the latter was the matchmaker at the Madison Square Garden Club in Los Angeles. Fuente apparently fought at the club while Winsor was there and reportedly had been unfortunate in his bouts there while being managed by one Captain Conklin. Conklin stuck with Fuente after that, but was unable to get bouts for him because he (Conklin) wasn't a recognized manager.

When Winsor's name came up as a potential manager, Fuente reportedly objected because of the unfortunate experiences at the Madison Square Garden Club. But Conklin apparently believed that a boxer had to have a recognized manager to get bouts, so Conklin got together with Winsor and gave him part of the manager's share of the purses. Since Conklin still was his manager and he (Fuente) would still get the same percentage of the purse, Fuente didn't object. Bouts started to come Fuente's way in California after that. When Winsor was connected to him, Fuente was scoring a lot of quick knockouts, especially in California. The reporters appeared to be impressed with Fuente, who quickly became popular in the Southern California.

One problem with Fuente's story is that Winsor was listed as Fuente's manager in the Los Angeles newspapers in late 1924. Winsor may have been deciding everything involving Fuente by this time.

Another boxer linked to Winsor during late 1924 was Jimmy Darcy, also known as Valley Trambitas. Darcy was a journeyman light-heavyweight from the Northwest and had two brothers who were boxers, Alex and Johnny Trambitas. He (Darcy) had just boxed for several years in the East and was on the downside of an interesting career.

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

It is not known how long that Winsor managed Darcy, but one would have to think that it wasn't long.

In addition to managing Fuente, Winsor was to become the manager of an American Legion boxing club in Culver City in late 1924. Winsor and the officials of an American Legion Post in Culver City had negotiated for awhile before coming to an agreement.

The new arena in Culver City (a city near Los Angeles and would be known as the home to the motion picture company giant, MGM) was a nice one and was the site of just two cards after opening its doors earlier in 1924. The first card was a success, but the second one was a fiasco because a lot of the boxers who were scheduled to fight, didn't show up.

Tom Jones (who once managed Ad Wolgast and Jess Willard), the matchmaker, had to get some substitutes and the small crowd (about 1,000 people) had to stay late in order to see the entire card. The arena was shut down for several months before Winsor became the manager.

The stage was set for the most notorious bout of the "Four-Round Era" and it came after the "Ten-Round Law" was passed in the November 1924 election. Tony Fuente was matched to fight Fred Fulton, who was once a top heavyweight.

There were about four thousand fans in the arena with many turned away. The gate was a good one, which was about \$12,000. Fuente met Fulton in the center of the ring at the beginning of the bout. Fulton went down three times before being counted out by Referee Earl Mohan less than one minute before the bout began. Mohan was a last-minute replacement for Tom Jones.

The so-called knockout was anything but convincing to both the boxing people and the fans who saw the bout. There were a lot of cushions thrown into the ring and many fans were yelling, "Fake!" Jim Jeffries, who was at ringside, looked to be very angry to one observer. Jeffries' comments to reporters support that observation. George Blake, the famed referee and trainer who was managing Fidel La Barba, said that he didn't see one punch land.

Arrest warrants for Fuente, Winsor, Fulton, and Jack Reddy (Fulton's manager) were issued. Culver City American Legion Post officials were wondering about some missing money from the gate. To their chagrin, they also discovered that the main event boxers were scheduled to get 59 1/2% of the gate, which is high considering there were five other bouts on the card. So that meant that there were ten boxers who were scheduled to be paid of out of the remaining 40 1/2%.

Fuente, Winsor, Fulton, and Reddy all were arrested eventually. Meanwhile, Winsor lined up a bout for Fuente with Charley Weinert in Newark and he reportedly getting a \$500. advance. But Fuente obviously didn't want to fight for Winsor anymore and went back to Arizona. Winsor claimed that he bought tickets to Newark and gave Fuente \$200. out of the \$500. advance. Moreover, Fuente was in trouble with legal authorities in Los Angeles for going to Arizona and his bail set at a higher figure.

It should be pointed out that it was generally thought that Fuente wasn't to blame for the fiasco in Culver City. Meanwhile, Winsor got a lot of bad press in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. In Los Angeles, one writer said that Winsor was a talented boxing man who knew how to "move" a fighter, but he had a habit for getting into trouble.

With the "Ten-Round Law" going into effect at the beginning of 1925, regulation of professional boxing in California was transferred from the local level to the state level. The new law mandated that a state athletic commission would govern the sport. One would imagine that Fred Fulton wasn't permitted to box in California after the fiasco in Culver City. Winsor was unable to get a manager's license in California for over a year.

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

Fuente continued to box and he was involved in another fiasco in Yuma, Arizona in 1925. His opponent fought under the name of Sailor McCarthy and was knocked out in the first round. It was felt that McCarthy "took a dive" and legal authorities got involved.

It was thought that Nick Newman, a club-fighter who had been active in California for the previous year or two, fought Fuente under the name of Sailor McCarthy. As far as the writer knows, this wasn't confirmed. It should be pointed out that available results of Newman's bouts in California give the impression that Newman gave an honest effort every time he stepped into the ring and that he won his share of bouts.

Fuente had indifferent success during the rest of his career although he would win quite a few more bouts. Although Fuente was game, it was apparent that he wasn't durable. There would be a succession of managers, but he could not rise above the journeyman class.

Fred Winsor had to wait until April 1926 before getting a manager's license in California. In the April 17, 1926 San Francisco Chronicle, Harry Smith, the sports editor, condemned that fact that Winsor was able to get it.

But Winsor couldn't stay out of trouble for long. Harry Smith wrote in the May 9, 1926 San Francisco Chronicle that Winsor got suspended for getting into three or four altercations which almost became physical during a boxing show at the Dreamland Rink in San Francisco. According to the September 3, 1926 San Francisco Chronicle, he was taken off the suspended list and added that he had an altercation with Inspector Murphy at the Dreamland Rink in May.

Winsor also got some ink in Los Angeles in 1926 for being in Tommy O'Brien's corner when O'Brien, a fine veteran lightweight from Los Angeles, was boxing in a few bouts at the Olympic Auditorium. He was known in Los Angeles boxing circles at this time for his sage advice. He apparently was managing a bantamweight club-fighter named Mateo Magdaleno around this time. Magdaleno fought some main events in small clubs in the Los Angeles area with just a little bit of success.

In 1927, Winsor was listed in the newspapers as the handler of Johnny McCoy at the time he won the California version of the Vacant World Flyweight Title in a tournament staged at the Hollywood Legion Stadium. The tournament was held to find a successor to Fidel La Barba, who had retired from boxing in order to go to Stanford University.

McCoy scored two upsets in his first two bouts in the tournament when he won a decision over Britt Gorman in a ten-round on September 2, 1927 and then won a decision over Willie Davies after a ten-round bout on September 16, 1927. On October 28, 1927, McCoy fought Tommy Hughes in the final bout of the tournament, winning a decision after ten rounds in a dull bout.

He held the California version of the World Flyweight Championship for a little over two months and then lost the title when he was beaten by Newsboy Brown by decision after ten rounds of boxing at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles on January 3, 1928. McCoy fought quite often in California during 1927 and 1928.

When McCoy won a ten-round decision in a slow bout over Trip Limbaco, a Filipino boxer, at National Hall in San Francisco on January 18, 1928, the report on the card said that McCoy was in Winsor's stable. (Note- Why wasn't Winsor listed as McCoy's manager in McCoy's record in the 1986-87 Ring Record Book? Was Winsor considered McCoy's California representative for a manager who was elsewhere?)

On January 26, 1928, McCoy won a ten-round decision over Alfredo "Freddy" Imperial, a Filipino boxer, before what was described as a record crowd of more than 2,000 in Stockton. This bout isn't on McCoy's record in the 1986-87 Ring Record Book.

About this time, Winsor also was managing a big boxer (heavyweight?) named Tony

The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor

By Chuck Johnston

Randolph. Randolph was matched box Armand Emanuel, a Jewish heavyweight from San Francisco who was a hot prospect at the time. The bout took place at National Hall in San Francisco on February 8, 1928.

Harry Smith, the sports editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, was at ringside. Smith wrote that Randolph was a big, strong chap who was equipped with "stamina and a swing, but nothing else." Winsor threw in the towel in the eighth round and Smith wrote that it "was the first decent thing that he had seen "Winsor" perform in the many years he has been connected with the boxing game."

On April 26, 1928 in San Bernardino, McCoy was knocked out by Baby Sal Sorio, a young boxer of Mexican descent who was boxing in his home area. This bout also isn't on McCoy's record in the 1986-1987 Ring Record Book. Sorio later lost by decision to Tod Morgan in a ten-round bout that was for Morgan's World Junior Lightweight Title at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles on May 26, 1929. Soon after the bout with Sorio, McCoy went back to the East.

Winsor's next fighter of note was the ill-fated Fred "Dummy" Mahan, a good junior welterweight from the Southwest. He was deaf since he was six, according to the February 24, 1930 San Francisco Chronicle. His real name was Fredrico Mesa and his hometown was in Tombstone, Arizona. Fans in California were impressed by Mahan's ability and would continue to be even after knocked out by Mushy Callahan in the third round in a bout staged in 1929. The said bout was staged in Los Angeles and Callahan's World Junior Welterweight Title was at stake.

According to the February 19, 1930 San Francisco Chronicle, Windy Winsor decided not to let John Lester Johnson go through with his scheduled bout with Frankie Campbell, which was scheduled to take place at the Dreamland Arena in San Francisco. Johnson was a veteran black heavyweight at this point in time and it is apparent that Winsor had something to do with managing him. Jack Dempsey was scheduled to referee the scheduled Johnson - Campbell bout for a fee of \$2,500. There had been talk about the bout "being in the bag." It is probable that this rumor led Dempsey and Winsor to decide not to have anything to do with the scheduled bout. (Note- As pointed out before, Winsor once managed Dempsey. Moreover, Dempsey fought John Lester Johnson in 1916.) Campbell, a heavyweight from San Francisco and brother of a future baseball star, Dolph Camilli, had recently made a comeback in Southern California, beating carefully selected opponents. There had been talk about matching him with the tough Spanish heavyweight, Paulino Uzcudun. He would die from injuries sustained in a bout with Max Baer later in the year.

On February 23, 1930 in front of about 1,000 people, Dummy Mahan jumped out of an airplane which was flying an altitude of 3,500 feet. He was only wearing one parachute and it failed to open, causing the boxer to fall his death. The unfortunate accident led to some discussion of requiring parachutists to have a reserve parachute.

Mahan reportedly had parachuted several times in Southern California. It also was reported that he could hear for a short time after making a jump. Mahan left behind a stepfather and a mother, who lived in Brackettville, Texas.

After Mahan's death, Winsor was in the newspapers later in 1930 when he was managing a veteran journeyman boxer from California named Tiger Johnny Cline. Cline fought Mickey Walker in St. Louis on October 17, 1930. Since Cline weighed 170 1/2 and Walker weighed 165, Walker's World Middleweight Title wasn't at stake. Cline was down two times and was knocked out in the second round. It was reported that it was the first time that Cline was counted out. (Note- Cline was a boxer who had decent record up to the time he fought Walker. He may have not been counted out up to this point, but he was stopped by Johnny Burns in San Francisco a month before he fought Walker. The writer's record of Cline's bouts lists no other losses by knockout or by

**The Interesting Career of Fred Winsor
By Chuck Johnston**

technical knockout before the bout with Burns.)

The writer doesn't know whether Winsor continued to manage Cline, but Cline seemed to go downhill after the Walker bout. He would sustain several more losses by knockout.

There would be an interesting item in the May 19, 1933 Los AngelesTimes which said that there would be services for Mrs. Alice "Windsor", who was 67 at the time she died. She was listed as the wife of Fred "Windy" "Windsor" and the mother of Fred "Windsor", Jr. One has to wonder if this obituary had some errors. If the 1920 U.S. Census data is accurate, Winsor would be about forty years old in 1933. It is possible that Alice "Windsor" was Fred Winsor's mother.

Much more research needs to be done in regards to Fred Winsor. For example, what happened to him after 1933? What did he do before promoting in Mexico? One hopes that answers to both of these questions are found. (Added note- There was a Fred Winsor who died in San Mateo County in December 9, 1955, according to the California death records database on the RootsWeb website. He was born on November 14, 1892 in New York. In the 1920 U.S. Census, Winsor's listed age was 27, so it is quite possible that the Fred Winsor who died on December 9, 1955 in San MateoCounty and the Fred Winsor, the boxing man, are "one-and-the-same.")

Sources

I. Newspapers

Arizona Republican (Results compiled by Bob Soderman)

Bakersfield Californian

Los Angeles Times

San Francisco Chronicle

Sacramento Bee

II Websites

RootsWeb (This is a genealogical website)

III Other Sources

Various Articles and Results Compiled By Bob Soderman