

Kingston

Quiet Harry Hayden Once Fought 'Em All

And Won from 117
Out of Tough 118
Through Coal Region

While it is generally accepted that the world is a stage and to each one of us a part is allotted, it is sometimes interesting to find a person who has played an unusual role.

On Wyoming avenue just above Still Brothers, is a little radio store and on the display windows is the sign: "Gene's Radio Shop."

In the interior one generally finds Harry (Yack) Hayden, a retiring gentleman who would give the impression in brief conversation that he has lived a most tranquil life.

Long Fight Career

However, when one opens up the conversation he soon discovers that this unassuming man for over 15 years was the boxing champion of the hard coal counties in the early nineties; that at one time John E. Wallis, now county treasurer, was his manager and another was the late Todd Walsh, who served a term as county commissioner.

When Wallis was asked to verify the statement, he replied: "Sure, I was his manager for several years."

Hayden fought 118 fights and lost one. These fights took place in every mining hamlet in the coal fields.

When Hayden was asked how he became a fighter, he explained in these words:

"I was employed in a cutlery works in Wilkes-Barre as a young man of 16. One of the foremen had a reputation of being a fighter and naturally his word was law. One morning he gave me a poke in the ribs as a reprimand. I told him I did not like his actions and he retaliated with these words: 'Well, kid, what are you going to do about it?'"

Manager Surprised, too

"I suggested we go outside and in a few minutes he was knocked out. The manager sent for me and my first reaction was that my job was gone. The manager, however, asked me whether I would meet the foreman in a bout and I told him 'yes'."

"It was later arranged and in the first round I knocked him out. The manager was not satisfied, feeling that I landed a lucky blow."

"Another bout was arranged and the same thing happened."

From that time on Mr. Hayden



HARRY HAYDEN

said he was in demand. In each mining community there was always a good boxer and naturally his friends would back him up with money. Hayden's supporters would confer with these gentlemen and in a few minutes a boxing match would be arranged in some out-of-way place or along the mountain side.

For over 10 years Hayden kept on fighting, no matter who was his opponent or how much he weighed. In Ohio he fought a colored boxer who was the terror of his section. This fighter was six foot three and tipped the scale at 240. Hayden entered the ring at just 148 pounds.

The audience, comparing the two men, felt the hard coal lad would not last very long.

In three rounds, Hayden said he had the colored boy on the ropes and in the fourth knocked him out. Not Always for Blood

Another time Hayden said he fought a colored fighter back of Luzerne along the Bunker Hill mountains. He said his opponent had a good sense of humor.

"I had him in bad way when he declared to the crowd: 'I cannot continue the fight, because it is unfair to Mr. Hayden. I can see him, but he cannot see me because of the darkness.' The fans agreed with him and the side bets were returned."

Hayden reveals many other exciting episodes. He mentioned that the sheriff was always on his heels to stop the fights.

In Girardville, Hayden mentioned that he encountered Jack Bonner, who was then the champion of that section. A fight was arranged in an old barn and the audience as well as the money were on Bonner.

In the third round, Hayden said, "I had Bonner in distress when the audience commenced to mix up generally. It became a free for all fight and my handlers said: 'Hayden, if you value your life get out of here.'"

Hayden then declared he left his clothes in the barn and made for a nearby hotel where he was staying.

"The proprietor was an Irishman and one of my backers. The crowd followed me and the Irishman became suspicious. He hid me and with a shotgun yelled at the advancing crowd."

"If ye move one bit farther, the undertakers will be busy for the next week."

Later on Hayden said the Irishman brought the crowd under control and another bout was arranged. This bout the local man declared never came off.

Decorated the Decorator

Hayden also revealed that he fought one fight in Kingston. The time and the place he would not mention.

It appears that an interior decorator, while staying at Hotel Sterling, was constantly bragging about his ability as a fighter. He encountered friends of Hayden and with-

out much ceremony \$200 was bet on the outcome.

In the third round the decorator was knocked out. When he recovered sufficiently he requested Hayden to give him another chance. The fans objected, but the local man declared that the guest from the Sterling should have another opportunity. He was again knocked out.

Later he gave Hayden \$20 because he was a good sport in letting him have another opportunity.

Hayden now is in partnership with his son Theodore and grandson Gene.

The one bout he lost was on points and Billy Leslie, late newspaperman who was an interesting figure at that time, declared Hayden was drugged.

VISITING NURSES NAME OFFICERS FOR 1941

Officers were elected at the 31st annual meeting of the board of directors of West Side Visiting Nurse Association held at the home of Mrs. Floyd Sanders, Pioneer avenue, Dallas, Tuesday.

Those named were: president, Mrs. Floyd Sanders; first vice-president, Mrs. W. H. Mainwaring; second vice president, Mrs. Harry Montz; third vice president, Mrs. Frances Glou; recording secretary, Mrs. Philip Van Blarcom; corresponding secretary, Mrs. James W. Jones; treasurer, Mrs. Benjamin R. Jones Jr.; assistant treasurer, Mrs. John C. Ruggles.

Members of the nominating committee were: Mrs. Harry W. Montz, chairman; Mrs. Jack Hastings, Mrs. Edgar Brace.

Other board members re-elected were: Mrs. Edgar Brace, Mrs. V. P. Edwards, Mrs. Dwight K. Fisher, Mrs. Jack Hastings, Mrs. Reuben Levy, Mrs. Walter E. Lewis, Mrs. John J. Maloney, Mrs. Charles Matthews, Miss Mary Ross, Mrs. Sherman R. Schooley, Mrs. Stanley J. Theis, Miss Margaret Wood, Mrs. William F. Logan, Mrs. Robert Altick and Mrs. Murray Scureman.

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HORSE SHOW PRIZES, FIVE YEARS OLD, WERE NEVER AWARDED

Editor, Sunday Independent—I do not wish to detract in the least from the splendid work being accomplished by Kingston Business Men's Association. However, I would like to know why the organization failed to award prizes following the successful West Side Horse Show held in October, 1935?

The first prize winner, if my memory is correct, in the men's division was H. R. Bittenbender whose entry was "Rhythm."

First prize among the women was awarded to Mrs. Harry Adams, whose beautiful bay, "Miss Hindu," was the center of attraction. M. J. Brown of Plymouth had another horse, "Pal of Mine," who was also a winner.

I happen to be one of the winners and since 1933 I have waited patiently for Kingston Business Men to come through with the prizes.

The horse show was one of the outstanding events in that year and it attracted interest throughout the country.

I believe the new officers of the organization should make some effort to get the prizes around—A LOVER OF GOOD HORSES.

BRENNER BEING ENCOURAGED TO RUN

Henry Brenner, constable of the Third ward, is urged by his friends to seek the Republican nomination for burgess.

He is an employee of the road and bridge department of the county government.

RENOVED PIANIST HERE TOMORROW

Musicians of this vicinity will have the opportunity to hear a young American-born, American-trained artist who, in competition with products of outstanding European conservatories, has won from leading critics the designation "next great titan of the keyboard," when William Harms gives a concert in Kingston high school auditorium tomorrow night.

His appearance here is sponsored by the West Side concert association.

DRUGACH'S PROPOSED COUNCIL BID GETS BACKING

Many residents of First, Second and Third avenues have discussed with much favor the proposed candidacy of Michael Drugach for council in the Seventh ward.

Drugach is a graduate of Wyoming Seminary and has been employed for a number of years with

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