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by Percy Villa

Editor's Note: I question if there is another local personality who has received so much space by local and nationally known newspapermen as our own Jackie Fields.

The following is a well written story that appeared in the New York Post, Lester Bromber does an excellent story on our Jackie, so read



Boxing Tintypes [Then & Now] 数设计设计算 By LESTER BROMBERG FEBRUARY

When Gov. Paul Laxalt of Nevada phoned Jackie Fields in Las Vegas earlier this year to say "you're working for me now, champ," it was the frosting on the cake.

Being designated a state athletic commissioner was an appropriate new distinction for the boy from Chicago's Maxwell St. slum area who'd fought his way to the welterweight championship and post-ring success in business. He's one of the directors of the Tropicana, a Vegas showplace.

His family moved to Los Angeles when he was 11 but he already had been a small fry pupil of Jack Blackburn, later Joe Louis' tutor, around Kid How-

ard's Gym at 32 South Clark St. At 16 he was a case hardened amateur leatherweight and made the Olympic team in 1924, though put out in the semifinals of the 126-pound National AAU of the 120-pound National AAU, championship. In an all-American Olympic final at Paris he beat Joe Sallas for the title. Sallas had taken the AAU final from Harry Wallach, who'd defeated Fields in the semis.

Three days before his 17th birthday he turned pro in a sixorthday he turned pro in a six-round main event at Pasadena. In that same year, 1925, he (A) co-leatured the opening of the Olympic in L.A., (B) boxed the first 10-rounder at Hollywood Legion Stadium, (C) met the better-established Jimmy McLar-nin at the Olympic, Weight-making hurt young Fields and nin at the Olympic. Weight-making hurt young Fields and McLarnin stopped him in the second round.

But he resumed winning, also growing. He'd gone 14 fights without a loss when he made weight for Louis (Kid) Kaplan, former featherweight champ at the Polo Grounds in a 1927 charity show. Kaplan beat him in 10 rounds.

In the following two years he thundered past the best in the n the following two years he thundered past the best in the nation, fighting mainly on the West Coast. Joe Dundee, the welterweight champion, had proved a reluctant defender so Fields was paired with Young Jack Thompson (who had knocked out Dundee over the weight) for NBA recognition.

JACKIE FIELDS

They met in Chicago on March 25, 1929. The fight was no problem, Fields winning in 10 rounds as he'd done against

PROFILES Spa New Sales Manager

Bob Rohlman, 46, has been named sales manager of the Paradise Spa, the \$40 million Las Vegas condominium community at 9457 Las Vegas Blvd., So.

The announcement was made by Richard E. Eckenweiler, general manager of the 400-home resort community.

Rohlman formerly was sales manager of Collins Bros. Development Co. During his three-year tenure, the company sold 150 custom-built homes in the Las Vegas area, He also served several years with the Nevada State Welfare Department and has been a resident of Las Vegas since moving here from Detroit in 1959.

A former handball champion, Rohlman plans to take advantage of the Spa's many recreational facilities, which include horseback riding from the community's own stables located on the backside of the 300-acredevelopment.

The huge complex, which features such attractions as two fully-equipped health clubs (mineral whirlpools and steam baths included), an art gallery and a theatertype auditorium, is only five minutes from the Strip.

In addition to horseback



BOB

riding, the Spa incompasses two huge swimming pools, tennis courts, volleyball courts, a golf complex and other recreational facilities for the sports-minded resi-

Tours are conducted daily with sales representatives serving as escorts. In addition to an "ala carte" program for non-residents in the health clubs, overnight facilities also are available for guests.

Homes in the development start at \$13,750, including such bonus features as carpeting, drapes and refrigerated air conditioning.

The 5-foot, 9-inch, 140pound Rohlman will live at the Spa with his wife, Micheline, and two daughters, Christine, 16, and Debbie, 5.

pson in San Francisco

On July 25 of the same year, in Detroit, Jackie finally faced Joe Dundee for the championship. He floored Joe twice in the second round and was readying him for "a third and presumably final knockdown when Dundee, realizing he had no chance, fouled

out." The quotation is from an Associated Press Account.

Fields lost the title back to Thompson in 1930 at Detroit in
15 rounds but two years later, by which time it had passed into
the hands of southpaw Lou Brouillard, he regained it in Chicago on a 10-round decision.

His ultimate loss of the championship came on Feb. 22, 1933,

to another lefty, Young Corbett III, in 10 rounds at San Francisco.
His career covered nine years and 84 fights, of which he lost
nine. He'd scored 28 KOs, won 41 decisions.
Fields, 59, corrects his listed age. "I was born Feb. 9, 1908,

I made myself a year older," he says, "I was 21 when I first won the title." He affirms that his name was Jacob Finkelstein. "In those days I couldn't see myself fighting as Finkelstein, so I took the name of Fields," he explains. Why? Because of the Marshall

Field store in Chicago."

His style—aggressive boxing came from "all the great people I got to know in the different gyms," he says. "Blackburn, George Blake, Joe Burman, Pat Moore, Benny Leonard, I can't remember them all." He has a warm word for the men who managed him,

Gig Rooney and, at the end, Doc Kearns: "They were OK."
"One of the nights I'll never forget," he says, "was when
Sgt. Sammy Baker came to L.A. (1928). He was from New York and had a great rep. In the second round I nailed him coming out of a clinch with a left hook. As he went down, I started to pray 'keep him down.' And my prayer was answered."

He's married to a onetime Follies dancer and they have a daughter Michele, 19, who lives in Beverly Hills. "And what do

you know?" he says, "she books trips to my opposition in Vegas, Caesar's Palace."

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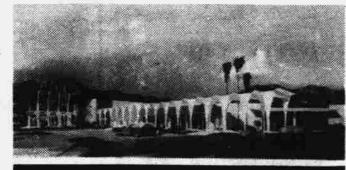
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