

sports round-up

A YOUNG LOS ANGELES NEGRO boxer recently was the victim of some very injurious publicity—all of it unjustified. John Hall, the fine Los Angeles Times boxing writer who covers all the big fights in Las Vegas, set the record straight during the past week. Here is Hall's report:

You may have missed the final chapter in the Auburn Copeland story. Most people did and it's a little shocking.

Auburn Copeland is a talented but obscure professional boxer, one of the many who will never be interviewed on the David Brinkley show. Although he once fought for a world championship before 35,000 fans in Manila, the only time he ever made Page 1 was last April 3.



That was the day Copeland was arrested and charged with pushing heroin. Arresting officers told a colorful tale. They said they'd been staked out on Copeland for six weeks, that the little Los Angeles featherweight had been pocketing between \$500 and \$1,000 weekly from his illicit sideline. It made hot copy.

It also sounded convincing, and everybody was quick to condemn Copeland.

Auburn Copeland "Another boxing rat," was the immediate verdict despite the fact they still have the quaint and old-fashioned theory in this country that one is innocent until proved guilty.

As it turned out, it WAS all a mistake, the bummiest of bum raps. The charges were all tossed out at the preliminary hearing. There wasn't one piece of evidence against Copeland. The guilty party was merely renting Copeland's apartment. Auburn was cleared completely as merely an innocent by-stander.

The officers finally admitted they'd been looking for somebody else and got carried away when they discovered Copeland was a pro fighter.

'Guilty' for 18 Days

But for 18 days, between the arrest and the hearing, Copeland was considered "guilty," and, as often happens, the story of his arrest was much larger than the later follow-up of his innocence.

"Everybody is still asking me what happened, how come I'm not in jail," Copeland told me Thursday. "I'm still too embarrassed to talk to a lot of people."

Copeland isn't bitter, but he's had problems. During the 18 days before he was cleared, the Athletic Commission suspended his boxing license, the union hall stopped the usual part-time work he does as an electrician's helper and he had a tough time sleeping.

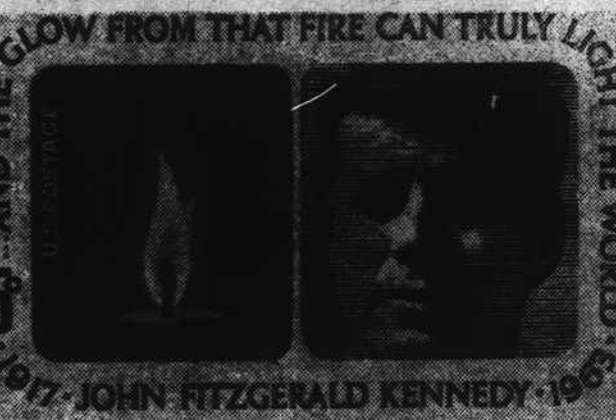
"They all acted like I was guilty," said Copeland. "Except for the boys in the gym. That's the only thing that made me feel good. My friends in boxing knew me too well. They knew I wouldn't be mixed up in anything like that."

Copeland said this was the only time in his life he'd ever been involved in any trouble. He's worked hard. Largest purse he's earned in 15 years of fighting is \$8,000—for the title fight with Flash Elorde in 1962.

Yet, he saved enough to invest in six rental units, and he's been trying to pay them off. "Couple of times I've had to borrow from guys at the gym, Jerry Moore



VALLEY VIEW GOLFERS—Shown at recent meeting of Valley View Golf Club to ratify membership in Western States Golf Assn. were (seated from left) Asst. Secretary Gladine Short; Treasurer Lorenza Calhoun; President C. W. (Bill) Short; Secretary A. T. (Mac) McCoy; Vice President Helen Crozier; (standing from left) James (Pinn) Taylor; Willie (Punch) Hughes; Elijah Moore, Jr.; Louise Roberts; Edward (Eddie) McKinney; Mrs. D. D. Cotton; Marshall Branch. Members not shown include James Gay, Johnus Geran, James T. Roberts, Willie Brewster and Dr. J. B. McMillan. Club plans stepped-up tournament activity this summer.



New Stamp Honors Kennedy

This is the design of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy memorial postage stamp, to be issued nation-wide on May 29, the 47th anniversary of the late President's birth. The stamp combines a portrait of Mr. Kennedy and a reproduction of the eternal flame at his grave, with an inscription from his 1961 inaugural address circling the border. Color is blue-gray.

and Jake Shugrus, to make the payments," he said. "But I've made 'em."

Three nights before his arrest, he fought 10 tough rounds as a late sub at Valley Gardens to earn only \$300, another fact which didn't exactly jibe with the hasty police charge that he was a \$1,000-a-week pusher. With that kind of pin money, you don't need to get your nose bent.

Well, it's worked out now. Copeland has his license back, he's working again out of the union hall, and he's resumed training for more fights to pay off his apartments. But he went through an unnecessary 18 days of torment, and it's time the outside world knew it.

There aren't enough Auburn Copelands in boxing, or anywhere else, for that matter. He's a solid citizen. And it's a sobering thought to realize once again that what happened to Copeland could happen to anybody.

ARMSTEAD, JOE BROWN REMATCHED

Barnstorming former lightweight boxing champion Joe Brown, who lost his title to Carlos Ortiz in Las Vegas in 1962, seeks revenge against No. 1 contender Paule Armstead on May 25 in a 10-rounder at San Francisco.

Brown, 37, Houston, Tex., recently lost to Armstead in Sacramento, but looked sharp in defeating Tony Perez at San Jose last week.

Racial Movie Cannes "Hit"

A film dealing with the American racial problem has scored a rousing triumph at the Cannes Film Festival after being snubbed by the Hollywood selection committee as being "too controversial".

"One Potato, Two Potatoes", produced on a \$250,000 shoestring budget, received a stunning ovation when it was premiered at the French resort along with 51 films from 25 countries. The movie deals with the problem of a white divorcee who loses custody of her young daughter after marrying a Negro factory worker.

THIRD NEGRO GETS GRANT

A third Negro athlete has been awarded a football grant-in-aid by North Carolina's Winston-Salem College. He is Robert Grant, 6-2, 217 pound end from Jacksonville, N. C. Wake Forest has recruited more Negroes than any other Atlantic Coast Conference school. Maryland's Darryl Hill, also an end, became the first Negro to compete in the ACC in 1962.

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