

HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMPIONS SALUTE SET FOR FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1977

An event of historical proportions will take place in Las Vegas on Friday, May 20 when 'America Honors the Heavyweight Champions' in the Aladdin Hotel Theatre of Performing Arts.

Harry Bloomfield, Executive Coordinator, announced that plans are now firmed for the unique event which will feature Muhammad Ali and most of the living former heavyweight boxing champions.

In addition to Ali, those who have confirmed their participation include George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Floyd Patterson, Jersey Joe Walcott and Jack Sharkey. The legendary Joe Louis will be on hand, and the event will take on an international flavor with the arrival of Max Schmeling, from Germany, and Ingemar Johansson, from Sweden. Circumstances may prevent Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney from attending, although every effort is being made to make this possible, said Bloomfield.

National Director of Publicity and Promotion for the Committee is Madison Square Garden's famed John F. X. Condon. Martin Black will be handling the local public relations.

Superstars from the entertainment world will act as presenters for each of the Champions who will receive a personalized gold and diamond ring symbolic of their achievement in the fistic world.

A magnificent poster relevant to the event was designed by Leroy Neiman and will set the motif for the staging of the event. The United Cerebral Palsy, Westchester, New York will benefit from the proceeds of the evening. Their Building Fund and Research Center will receive much needed financial assistance from the proceeds of the undertaking.

Chico Vejar, is the Chairman of the Champions Committee of the United Cerebral Palsy, Westchester County, New York, which will benefit from the profits of the event.

Vejar is noted for his campaigning mostly in the Middleweight Division during the 1950's when he appeared in 28 nationally televised matches fighting such men as Kid Gavilan and Tiger Jones. He retired in March of 1961 and he was undefeated in his last year as an active campaigner. In his last fight he defeated the Canadian Middleweight to retire because of the death of his first and only son, James Damion, who was a victim of Cerebral Palsy at the age of four.

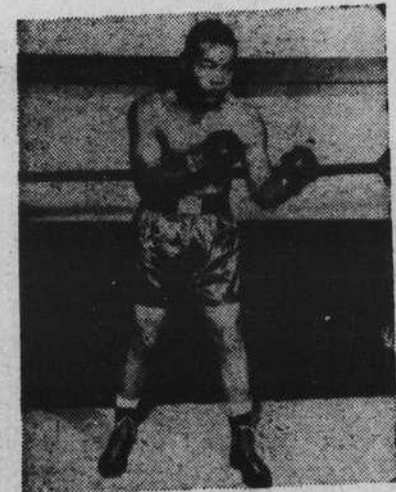
During the 16 years following Chico's retirement, he has worked almost exclusively with the United Cerebral Palsy. This past December, after 10 years service, he was appointed Director of the Westchester County New York Health Agency. The Agency's Jimmy Vejar Day Camp provided Chico with moments of happiness and grateful appreciation for the thousands who are aiding the fight against this dread disease. Many of the local hotels, labor groups and private individuals have already begun their support of this fabulous evening.



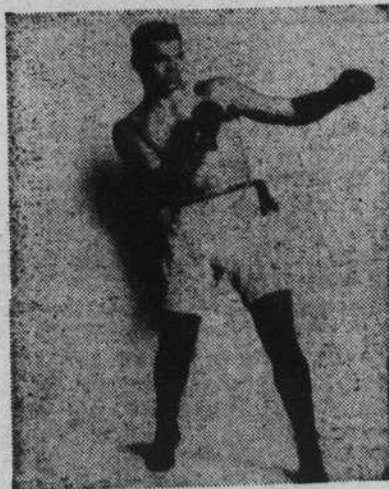
Joe Frazier



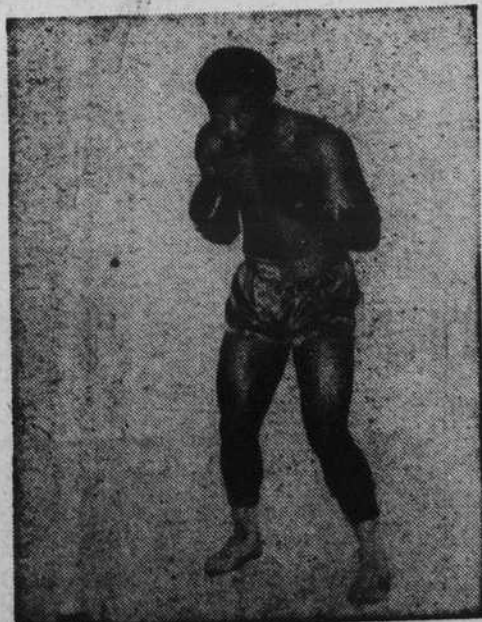
Max Schmeling



Joe Louis



Jack Dempsey



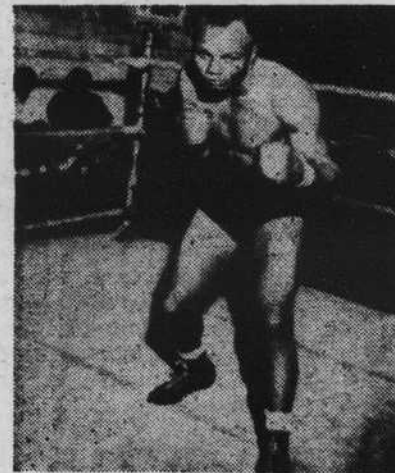
George Foreman



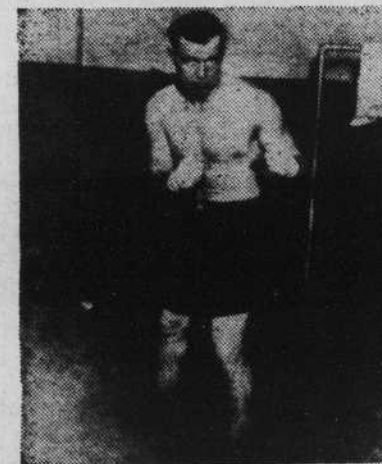
Floyd Patterson



Ingemar Johansson



Jersey Joe Walcott



Jack Sharkey



Gene Tunney