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LAS VEGAS SENTINEL

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SPORTS BOARD

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SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

Giant Step By Boxing Hall



Step No. 1 in the drive to build an international boxing hall of fame at the Dunes Hotel & Country Club is about to be taken.

This is the beginning of the first project that the public will actually be aware of — the creation of an exhibit within the hotel's new South Tower area.

According to Sandra McGee, the hall's vice president in charge of special events, two huge — 18 feet by 8 feet — murals will be hung in the lobby of the South Tower as a way of letting people know the hall is coming.

"We've got to raise \$5 million before we can break ground for the permanent shrine," McGee said. "But right now, we're working on the exhibit in the South Tower."

"Plus," she added, "we're gathering memorabilia and so far we've come up with a number of excellent items."

They include a pair of trunks from Muhammad Ali and a number of pictures and other items from the old days of boxing.

The South Tower exhibit will include a mural featuring all the heavyweight champions in

the sport's history and a co-picture of Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey, the first two official entrants into the hall.

Eventually, it will all be housed in a proposed \$40-million complex that will tentatively be built behind the Dunes next to the golf course.

And before that is built the items scheduled for the hall will be presented to the public in a special 8,000 to 10,000 square foot exhibit hall that the Dunes will create near the Dome of the Sea restaurant inside the hotel.

When the fund raising drive really gets underway, McGee said, several special events are being planned to help raise money and publicize the project.

"In the spring," she said, "we're planning to have an International Night Of Boxing that will feature show business and boxing leaders. That's the night we'll enter Louis and Dempsey into the hall officially. We're also working on a golf tournament and several other things."

From an individual fund raising standpoint, a Nevada 500 Club is being (See Giant Page 17)

Shannon, Carter - At Showboat

Two Nevada State champions — Willie "The Cannon" Shannon and Johnny "Dancin' Machine" Carter — headline a triple championship, 36-round "Showboat Fight Night" boxing card Friday, Dec. 5, at the Showboat Hotel.

This is the first time that the monthly card promoted by Tony Trudnich will be held on a Friday. The three-bout card starts at the usual time of 8:30 p.m. in the Showboat Sports Pavilion with doors open at 7:30.

Both Shannon and Carter have outstanding records

and are aware that another win could propel them into the world rankings.

Shannon takes on Len Hutchins in a 12-round bout for the vacant Nevada State light heavyweight championship while Carter faces Mark Pacheco for the vacant United States bantamweight crown in another 12-rounder.

The third 12-round title bout matches Santo Morino against Hector Ortiz for the vacant United States junior lightweight championship.

Both ringside reserved and general admission

tickets are available or can be purchased at the door Friday night at the Showboat Sports Pavilion located on the second floor above the Trophy Star Lounge in the northeast corner of the hotel.

Shannon, the current Nevada State cruiserweight champion, has an 18-1 record. The victims include Leroy Caldwell and Jimmy Ingram. His lone loss came against Dwain "Slick Black" Bonds in which Shannon gave up almost 25 pounds and fought from the second round on with a broken hand.

At 6 foot 3 inches the

hard-hitting Shannon has no problem adding a few pounds and moving from the light heavyweight to the cruiserweight division. Originally from Florida, "The Cannon" now fires out of Las Vegas.

Hutchins, from Detroit, also is looking for a win that would boost his stock, and a victory over Shannon would do just that.

Hutchins has been there; he has fought both John Conteh and the late Victor Galindez for world championships. In March of 1977 in Liverpool, England, he lost to Conteh for the World Boxing Council light

heavyweight title and in December of 1974 in Buenos Aires he fell to Galindez for the World Boxing Association light heavy crown.

Carter, from Philadelphia, is the Nevada State bantamweight champion but is looking to win the more important U.S. title against Pacheco. Carter has a 14-1 record while Pacheco, from Reno, has an 11-3 mark.

Actually, Carter already has gained a world ranking by the WBC and was scheduled to fight champion Lupe Pintor on the Larry Holmes-Muhammad

Alli card in October. Plans were dashed, however, when Pintor fought the late Johnny Owen in Los Angeles less than three weeks before the Holmes-Alli card.

The other U.S. championship bout for the junior lightweight title is a classic matchup between a most talented prospect, Morino, and a cagey veteran, Ortiz.

Morino is undefeated with a 27-0 record while Ortiz has a 53-2-1 mark, according to Trudnich. Morino is from Salt Lake City while Ortiz, originally from Ecuador, now is fighting out of Los Angeles.