

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

May 14, 1981



'I Want Sugar Ray,' Says Boxer Thomas (Hit Man) Hearn



A smile sweet as Sugar's.

By Mark Goodman

It's a variation on an ancient joke. Q: What do you call Thomas Hearn? A: Anything he wants. And in the case of this devastating, 22-year-old welterweight, he prefers to answer to "Thomas" — not "The Cobra" or "The Hit Man," or "The Destroyer from Detroit" — characterizations he considers unseemly. "A hit man is a person who goes out to kill people for money," he says. "Sure, I'm getting paid

for what I do, but I don't try to kill nobody."

The names will stick, however, as long as the gangling young boxer with the serpentine reach continues to pound his opponents into mulch. At 6 feet 2½ inches, he is the tallest welterweight in the chronicle of boxing, and last summer he needed a final trip to the sauna to get down to the requisite 147 pounds for his World Boxing Association championship bout with Pipino Cuevas.

His steam bath did not demonstrably sap Hearn's strength, though. Cracking his jab like a ringmaster, Thomas decked Cuevas for the count in the second round, thus making himself the second-best-known welterweight champion in the world. Never mind that Hearn has now won 30 straight professional bouts, 28 by knockout. In the complex structure of boxing, Hearn remains a secondary champion: The man general-

ly recognized by the public as the *real* welterweight boxing champion of the cosmos is Sugar Ray Leonard, who captured the World Boxing Council title in November in the infamous nonfight against Roberto Duran.

But Hearn may be about ready to step out of the shadows. After a defense of his own title February 21 against former WBC champ Wilfred Benitez, there is talk of a showdown between Hearn and Leonard. (Hearn certainly is ready. After Leonard verbally slighted him recently, Hearn threw a rubber chicken at the champ.)

NEW TOWN LAVERN AND CASINO

600 W. Jackson

648-9262

NO LIMIT POKER

21

SLOTS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

RESTAURANT

BAR

Sports Roundup

Caesars Sets Hope-Benitez Card

LAS VEGAS - On Saturday, May 23, Caesars Palace will host the WBC World Junior Middleweight Championship fight between Maurice Hope off England (current Champion) and Wilfred Benitez of Puerto Rico. Benitez, the former Welterweight Champion, lost his title to Sugar Ray Leonard here at Caesars Palace in November, 1979.

The fight is presented in association with Don Chargin Productions of Los Angeles. The Main event is scheduled between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. Also featured on the card will be a 10 Round fight by ½2 (WBC) ranked Junior Middleweight Carlos Santos, and an 8-Round match between Super Bantaweights Edwin Rosario and Jose Rosendez.

Tickets will be available at the Fantasy Tower Tickert Sales desk in early May and will be priced at \$15, \$25, \$50, \$75, and \$100 for ringside. For ticket information call 731-7890.

NEVADA'S LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE BLACK COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

TV REPAIR

All Makes & Models

HI-VIEW PLAZA TV SERVICE

Prompt • Efficient • Courteous

Call Willie Harris, Owner

648-9783

2027 North "H" St.

More Readers And Advertisers Served More Weekly

Real Estate is a people business Here is one of the people at Toler Realty



Residential Income & Land Commercial

BONNIE JUNIEL

Bonnie came to Las Vegas from Texas. She is a graduate of Southwestern Christian College and attended Texas Tech University. Bonnie is quite active socially being a member of Gamma Phi Delta and Beta Eta Iota sororities. She is also a member of the Nevada Voters League and NAACP Women's Auxiliary. Bonnie's hobbies include horticulture and reading.



TOLER REALTY



1056 No. Rancho Dr. Twin Lakes Shopping Center

COMPUTERIZED MLS 648-0484

Equal Housing Opportunity

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!



PHIL'S SALVAGE BUILDERS EMPORIUM

51 20. MAIN • 302-7020