

RETURN ADDRESS

Aug 6, 1947

STABE EXCHANGE

2490 MT. ROYAL AVE. E.
MONTREAL CAN.

Bernie's first fight
in Montreal can.
S. Pla.

BERNIE CUMMINGS.

VS
SOHLY ZALTER
(clippings)

Webb Bows to Joe Brown

Last night bouts at the Stade Exchange in aid of the Frankie Fleming Fund realized a sum of \$2,605.50. Fleming was introduced to the crowd, which numbered 1,571 attended the fights. The total "gate" was \$3,842.50. Fleming accompanied by his wife and daughter was warmly greeted.

The evening's card was an excellent one, which the crowd thoroughly enjoyed. Joe Brown, New Orleans lightweight, sprang one of the biggest upsets of the year here when he decisioned Danny Webb, Canadian titleholder, in the 10-round feature.

Floored Early

Webb was floored for a 7-count in the first round. He carried the fight to Brown throughout, but the latter proved too skillful. Webb displayed great courage in getting off the floor and forcing the fight for the balance of the distance.

Webb displayed his best form through the fifth, sixth and seventh rounds, but Brown took the play away from him the late stages of the fight. The visiting fighter was particularly brilliant in the last round, giving a clever exhibition of boxing in this session.

Ray Daoust came through with a decision win against Pat Flowers, while Ray Moisan came through with first round knockout against Tommy McMillan. Bernie Cummings got the judges' decision over Solly Zalter, while Gerry O'Connor and Jerry Laliberte fought a draw.

Old Favorites

Two exhibitions were staged. Dave Castilloux, former Canadian featherweight, lightweight and welterweight titleholder, and Maxie Berger, another former Canadian champion, figured in one of these, while Bobby Leitham and Harry Gerson, two old favorites with local ring followers, took part in the other exhibition.

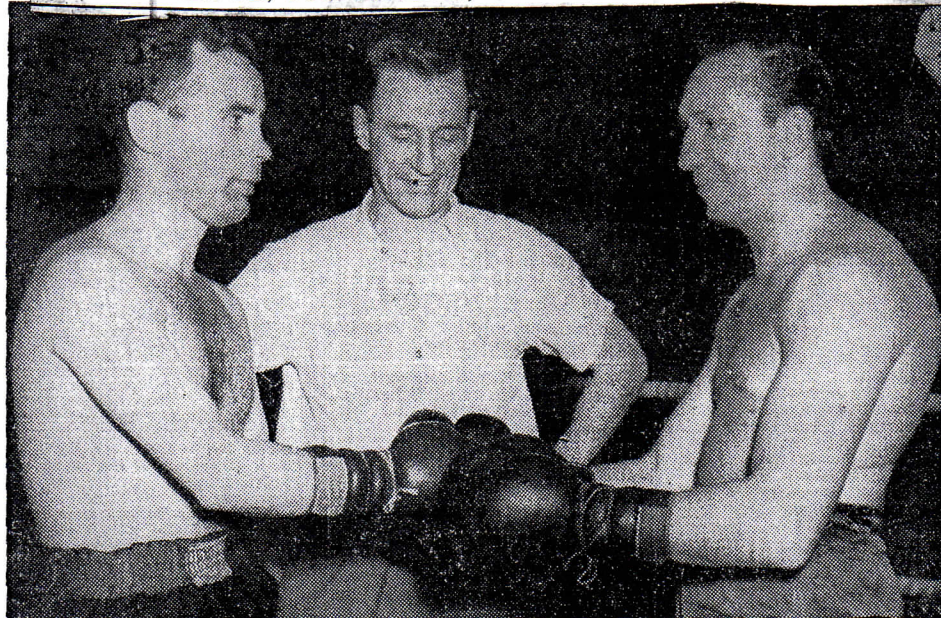
The bouts were promoted by Raoul Godbout and gave the crowd an excellent card. During the fights Benny Cohen, one of the members of the Frankie Fleming Fund Committee, auctioned off a painting that realized \$150.

THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1947
KNOTS AND TARS

Now that the Frankie Fleming Fund is certain of being an overwhelming success, a few bouquets are in order. Jack Rogers, Benny Cohen and Raoul Godbout have worked untiringly to make the venture a success and they have finally reached the crest of victory . . . Some say that anybody connected with boxing is usually a hard character but when the chips are down they usually come through with flying colors. We know for a fact that this triumvirate has spent plenty of money out of its own pocket. Going a step farther, they knew that many of the people who bought tickets for last night's show couldn't attend, so they phoned them and asked them to pass their ducats along to the boys up at the Military hospital. . . . Once they reached ringside, they bought them peanuts, soft drinks and cigars . . . Yes, they're the same boys who are being criticized daily by people who couldn't even carry their shoes to the cobbler. . . . The next fight show at the Forum will possibly involve Hubert Gagnier's featherweight title. Should Gagnier refuse to meet Lou Alter, the title will be declared vacant and a suitable opponent will be brought in for Alter. However, it's unlikely that Gagnier will back out. He's met better men than Alter. This show will probably take place around the 26th of this month . . . Gus Mell is slated to meet a topnotcher in the Forum late in September . . . No Greco bout in sight yet . . . That mixed mile swim will be held at the Lachine Canoe and Boating club this evening . . . It should be quite an event with several top distance swimmers competing . . . The boys in Point St. Charles are lining up a benefit for Freddie Deegan, the old Atwater ball player who was stricken with blindness recently . . . Had the promoters thought of it, a good gag for a pre-fight poster would show Dave Castilloux fingering Maxie Berger's shorts and remarking on the good quality . . . Dink Carroll is back from the salmon country with nothing but poor reports. Apparently the salmon weren't running or else the good trout fishing took up too much of Dink's time.



THE GAZETTE, MONTREAL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1947.



FOR A GREAT FIGHTER — Frankie Fleming's friends gathered in force last night at Stade Exchange to honor him, welcome him back from a serious illness and swell the fund for him. Top picture shows Frankie sitting between his wife,

(left), and daughter (right). Bottom picture sees **Dave Castelloux** (left) and **Maxie Berger**, (right), old ring rivals, square off for an exhibition bout. The referee is Commission head, **Alderman Fred Duclos**.

(Gazette Photos by Markow.)

Joe Brown Beats Webb at Stade

By PAT CURRAN

They paid tribute—that crowd of almost 2,000 fans—to a great little man last night at Stade Exchange. He was Frankie Fleming, who somehow managed to stand up and acknowledge the cheers of a grand sentimental and kind-hearted fight mob, who remembered or had learned of him as one of the greatest fighters this country of ours has ever produced. When it was all over a sum of almost \$2,000 had been added to the fund which Frankie's loyal friends have promoted boosting the amount to some \$5,000 with still more to come.

Still those that came with a touch of charity in their hearts soon lost all feeling of having given something away, after the fight card got into full swing. The fistic fraternity really got their money's worth last night from the opening preliminary to the main event, in which Joe Brown of New Orleans scored a clean-cut victory over Danny Webb, the Canadian lightweight champion.

In the opening rounds the visitor took advantage of his reach to score with long-range blows holding off the Montrealer as he tried to crowd in at close quarters. Brown caught Danny with a hard right to the head to send him to the canvas for a seven-count and it looked as if it wouldn't go the limit, but superbly conditioned Danny came right up to carry the fight and made Brown back-pedal with his crowding tactics. The first four rounds were all Brown's however even though Webb kept forcing the fight he couldn't get in a solid blow.

Only in the fifth, sixth and seventh round did Danny look like the boy who upset cagey Dave Castelloux to take the Dominion lightweight title. In those sessions Danny seemed to come to life and Brown seemed reluctant to mix it up with the home-town boy crowding in and scoring at close quarters.

Then in the ninth and tenth Joe Brown showed all the power that was hidden in his stock of boxing skill. He began to circle Danny so that the speedy little champion couldn't catch on and scored time and time again with those long rights that gave him the decision by a wide margin.

The preliminary bouts were action-packed and the special exhibitions had the crowd roaring with laughter at the goings on of Maxie Berger and Dave Castelloux and Bobby Leitham and Harry Gerson.

Preliminaries: Ray Moisan defeated Tommy McMillan, K.O., first round; Gerry O'Connor and Jerry Laliberte drew; Bernie Cummings decisioned Solly Zalter; Ray Daoust decisioned Pat Flowers.



★ Elmer Ferguson

THE GIST AND JEST OF IT

● **THEY SAY BOXING** is a cold and hard-boiled business, in these times, and in a general sense, that is so. But it has its softer side, has this tough sports-business enterprise, and that was demonstrated last night, in the Frankie Fleming Fund boxing show at Stade Exchange.

From a sporting view-point, the amount raised wasn't so important as the favorable reflection on the entire boxing edifice, which was this: 90 percent of the folk who contributed to the success, last night at the Stade Exchange show, never saw Frankie Fleming fight. A large majority of that ninety percent never even heard of Fleming, and didn't know about him until they read it in the newspapers.

So it wasn't just a tribute to a fighter those present had seen, and admired, and rooted for. It was a tribute by sports folk, spanning the years, to one who had been, by mere hearsay in most cases, a great athlete and a sports envoy on behalf of Canada. That, in a sport way, Fleming was. Before him, the only Canadian fighters to achieve prominence were boxers whose names you wouldn't know, fighters like "Marine" LaBlanche, the Pivot Puncher, the Costello boys who had a saloon on Craig street at the corner of St. George that was a famous sports hang-out, in the nineties, and Harry Gilmore of Toronto, who fought the great lightweight champion Jack McAuliffe 28 rounds in a frozen barn at Lawrence, Mass., before a slim handfull of secreted customers.

These names were hardly known even in the Fleming era. They had left the scene. No one recognizes them today. Few, indeed, recall Fleming. But sports folks, it seems, don't need to make personal recalls. They extend a helping hand, regardless of personal acquaintance. And that they've done handsomely in the Fleming case.

● **FOR NO GOOD** reason, someone dug up the other day the ancient Marin Plestina statement. Plestina, dead several years ago, was a wrestler of sorts just after the Frank Gotch era, a ponderous, slow-moving fellow so uninteresting to watch that he got the brush-off from promoters who didn't wish their audiences to go to sleep. Wrestling was tedious enough, in those pre-Sonnenberg times, without putting it into reverse with slow-motion performers like Plestina.

Side-tracked, Plestina took a new business tack, which is more than he ever did in the ring. He made public accusations that wrestling was controlled by a trust, that he was barred because he had turned honest after years, said he, blushing, of fakery. It was a new slant. The papers played it up big, and Plestina labelled himself "The Trust Buster."

But the only bust was Plestina himself. The customers, indifferent to his charges, and to his new-found honesty, went to see Stecher, the Zbyszkos, Malcewicz, and other established stars of the era. The customers followed the promoters, and ignored Plestina in large numbers. Montreal furnished a typical example of public indifference to a self-admitted burglar's declarations of honesty. A local promoter figured the publicity Plestina's charges had received created a natural build-up, that would be cashed in at the box-office, which, of course, is what Plestina hoped. So the Trust Buster was brought to Montreal, wrestled at Monument National—and drew a meagre \$35. at the gate.

That was probably the all-time low for a major heavyweight wrestling match in Montreal. Plestina never showed here again. In fact, he never showed anywhere, at least, not often. Smart promoters realized that his fakery campaign had back-fired against him, without hurting the established wrestling structure, whether it was trust-controlled, or not. But, more important, Plestina couldn't wrestle. He was a big strong lummox who possessed the blazing speed of a paralytic turtle, and just wasn't a box-office attraction. So he passed out of the picture.

It's easy to scream "trust" about wrestling at any time, though less now than in the days of Plestina, when the game wasn't so big and a comparatively small group of promoters, George Kennedy, Jack Curley, Ed. White, and a few more had a working agreement among them, in the matter of talent. Today, there isn't as much "trust" in wrestling as there is in Mike Jacobs boxing empire. There are various inter-city understandings between promoters, applying strictly to talent, but there are many of such groups, and their inter-group workings contain nothing of the "trust" idea, because some of the groups are as about as friendly as two rival bull-terriers.

● **AROUND AND ABOUT** . . . Ernest Sheppard, of Montreal, and P. Rowe, of Gardenvale, Que., are among the list of honorary board of governors named for the fourth annual tuna angling matches off Westport, N. S. . . . Two Colorado College players of last year's hockey team are among fifty candidates who have officially been recommended for the U. S. Olympic hockey try-outs to be held at Princeton University in December, Clement Roy and Thomas "Red" Seasons . . . the latter is a Montreal boy, who played for Montreal Winged Wheelers and Iovels . . . he lived for three

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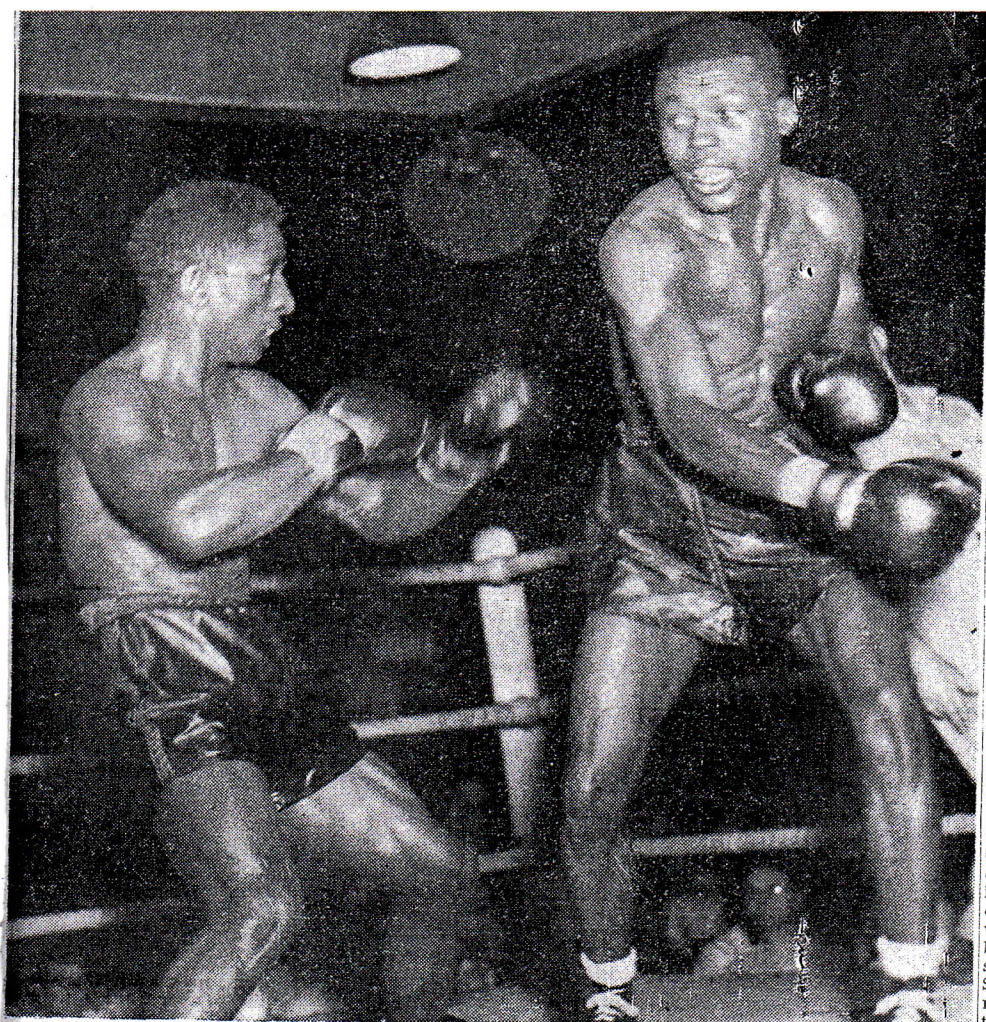
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Although Eddie Quinn has never met Frankie Fleming, and was wearing his little velvet suit with lace collar when Fleming was boxing, the wrestling promoter today sent his cheque for \$100. to the Fleming Fund . . . Mickey McGowan not only refereed gratis in the Exchange Fund bouts last night, but afterwards presented his cheque to the cause . . . Moe Herscovitch, former welterweight star, Prof. W. J. Leonard of Plattsburg, who claims he taught Fleming his first dancing steps, fight fan Phil Blair, of the Plattsburg Monopole cafe, a great sports hang-out, sent donations, and Eddie English reported with cheques from Bill Lester, George Ganitakos, United Amusements and Confederated Amusements . . . Wm. K. Ross another donor . . .

Montreal night life is due to lose another familiar figure, on and after September 7 . . . on that date Willie Obie is to wed Miss Sara Warsaw, the event to take place at the Mount Royal . . . Alphonse Ginnie, prominent art collector, was purchaser for \$150. of the picture auctioned in the Stade ring last night . . . the painting, a boxing scene in the modern painting manner, was donated by Mr. Guam . . .

Frank Starr contributed enough, last night, to bring the Fleming Fund to \$4,990., whereupon Jimmy Doyle, New York fight personality here to see the show, tossed in \$11. "Now" said Jimmy, "only \$999. is required to make it \$6,000."



CHAMPION LOSES—Left, Danny Webb, lightweight champion of Canada, looking pretty weary in the eighth round of his battle with Joe Brown, New Orleans, at Stade Exchange last night in the Frankie Fleming Fund match. Brown, right, is swinging freely, and won the decision in the local fistic upset of the year.

Brown Is Surprise Winner

By ELMER FERGUSON

Fans of today did their bit for a boxer of yesterday, and at the same time saw a fine fight card that developed some ring possibilities for tomorrow, at Stade Exchange last night. A program staged to help the Frankie Fleming Fund, with Raoul Godbout, Jack (Slotkin) Rogers, and Benny Cohen as the moving figures, drew a gross gate of \$3,542., with 2571 paid admissions, showed a net profit of \$572.23. A donated picture was auctioned through the golden tones of Benny Cohen for \$150., and \$1,000 clear was made on the program, so that the Fund benefitted \$1,722.23.

WEBB DEFEATED

Boxing in general benefitted by introduction of a new and interesting figure in the person of Joe Brown, tall, sun-tan negro from New Orleans, so tall that he reminded fans of Al. Brown. And a good boxer, too, so good that he sprang the big upset of the boxing season here when he took a decision from Danny Webb, the Canadian lightweight champion. Brown out-boxed Webb early, using a long left hand to jab and hook, floored Webb in the second for a seven-count, with a blow that

was half-punch, half push, shook Danny with hard rights in the third. Webb was warned for hitting low in the fourth, though these blows were plainly unintentional, and in the fifth and sixth, Danny looked like himself, throwing punches at a great rate, missing some, landing plenty of others. Webb did all right in the seventh, landed a hard right to the head in the eighth, but the ninth and tenth, particularly the latter, went to Brown by a wide margin. It was a first-rate fight, and a distinct upset. Brown is a smooth boxer, has a nice defence, and a fair punch. He weighed 133½, Webb was a half-pound lighter. Ouimet, Bergeron voted Brown, Gill gave it to Webb.

A TOUGH FIGHT

There was a rip-snorting semi-final, in which another promising fighter was introduced in the person of the stocky negro, Ray Flowers. He gave away considerable weight to Raymond Daoust, Flowers' weight being stated 122¼, Daoust 128½. He dropped Daoust in the second twice, with smashing rights. Daoust came back with some savage slugging to the body, and they fought until both were ready to drop. Daoust got the decision, Gill and Bergeron giving it

to him, Ouimet to Flowers. The verdict evoked some adverse demonstration. A draw was what the tough battle rated.

Bernie Cummings, 170, of Burlington, came up off the floor to punch out a win in a gruelling battle with Solly Zalter, 166. Ray-

Gagnier Signs for Alter Bout

Putting an end to a series of challenges, Hubert Gagnier, champion featherweight of Canada, today signed with match-maker Al. Foreman, to defend his championship against the logical local challenger, Lew Alter, who recently defeated Jean Richard. Foreman gives Gagnier a guarantee of \$1,500, highest any challenger ever received, and is willing to pay Alter the title percentage stipulated by the Canadian Federation, to challenge for the title.

"I am not trying to block any other promoter" Foreman explained. "If any other promoter wishes to out-bid me for the match, I will gladly turn over my contract to him."

Maurice Foreman, manager of Gagnier, said he had no intention of allowing Gagnier to defend his title outside the Forum, or ball-park. "It is a big match here," he declared, "and in the Forum will draw well."

Foreman stated that he was taking Gagnier to England, to fight Al. Phillips for the British Empire featherweight title, in September.

Two other Foreman fighters figure in important matches soon. Gus Mell is due to fight the colored lightweight "Doll" Rafferty in Milwaukee, on August 28, and on the same card, Harry Hurst will box Al. Jordan. Hurst's debut in Madison Square Garden was set back when the main-bouter, Sonny Horne, sustained a broken nose, but he is due to fight Minelli, the Italian champion, in the Garden the first week of September, on an all-star show.

mond Moisan, 125½, dropped Mac-Millan, 126 in the first. The two Jerries, O'Connor, 129¼, and Labinberte, 131½ drew. Good fighting.

Maxie Berger and Dave Castil-loux, great fistic rivals in other days, had a lot of fun in their 3-round exhibition. Both looked in better physical condition than you might expect. It was referee Fred Duclos who needed a chair more than the fighters, between rounds. Fred also refereed a spicy bout between Bobby Leitham, 170-pound bantam, and Harry Gerson, 160-pounder of the same division.