

BOXING

Interviewed: May 28, 1976

Tape 68, 24

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Darlene Clyne - Researcher

- The first club I know of in Richmond was run by Len Davies and was called the Richmond Lions Boxing Club.
- He had a real good stable of boxers in the old Brighthouse Club from 1946 to the early 1950's.
- Some of the boys I can remember who had boxing with him were: Ronnie Anderson, Brazil Sandbery, David Errington.
- Len Davies is now looking after a pub over in England.
- I got started in boxing in 1948.
- Harry Minns got me involved.
- It actually started out as a boys's club and it turned out that we had so many boys who wanted to go into boxing, that we did.
- A fellow by the name of Art Turner who was a Middle-Weight Champion of Canada at one time, came down and helped me out with the boxing after Harry Minns left.
- This boxing club started at the old 209 Legion on Bridgeport Road.
- It was an old "H" hut that was moved from River Road to here.
- One side of it was the dance hall, the other side was beer parlor where we had our boxing room and ring set up.
- We had a portable ring; we could put it up and take it down in a minute.
- When we started out we had 60, 70, up to 100 kids a night boxing.
- We had lots of help in the beginning: Jack Birch, Len Brown, Len Andrews, Stan Francis, Ron Douglas, Harry Minns.
- Over a period of time we got interested in helping the girls out because the girls were always coming down looking through the window to see what the boys were doing.
- In 1953 or 1954 we got the girls started wth majorettes.
- The Boys Club's soccer team we had, had done real good the first year --- we got trophies.

Tommy Yule

BOXING

- We also had wrestling and tumbling at the club.
- The kids did everything --- they were in real good shape.
- A couple of weeks before their boxing show, the boys would run from Bridgeport Road right up to Len Davies Boxing Club in Brighthouse Clubhouse.
- Had a Morris Minor car at that time and I go along side of these kids while they were running.
- Then they would work out with Len Davies boys, then I would bring them all back to the Clubhouse in my Morris Minor.
- In boxing, conditioning is a great thing.
- On one side of this "H" hut where the dance floor was, we had the kids playing floor hockey.
- So if we wanted a couple of kids in the ring or on the bags, we would just grab them from floor hockey.
- This club was open three nights a week and then the girls were in there one night a week.
- If there was a tournament coming up, Thursday night was the weight-in and Friday and Saturday were the nights for boxing.
- The club was opened from 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. because of the kids going to school.
- One things this club had that other clubs didn't have, was that I had a variaty of boys of different nationalities --- East Indians, Chinese, French kids fighting for me, it was like the league of all nations down there.
- I thoroughly enjoyed it but then it got so that all I became was a baby sitter so that's why I got out of it.
- In training the boys, I was in it from 1948 to 1961.
- Used to take the kids to different clubs to train at during the week so they weren't fighting with the same kids all the time.
- 1955, had the most successful club award in the Bronze Gloves in all of B. C.
- We beat out the likes of Vancouver College, St. Paul's Indian School, Marpole Community Centre.
- That was our best year.
- Boys in the club were from six years old to nineteen years old.
- Len Davies packed up in 1953.

Tommy Yule

BOXING

- When the Bridgeport Legion burned down, I went to Steveston and trained the kids there for two years (1961 or 1962).
- I think boxing is the greatest sport for any boy to get involved in because it teaches them sportsmanship.
- I always taught my boys sportsmanship.
- Explains some of the rules and techniques of training these kids.
- Talks about the old Georgia Auditorium and the boxing matches that went on there.
- Had some parents who would volunteer money just to get the kids off their hands.
- The boys had to supply their own mouth piece, running shoes, boxing shoes and towel.
- The club supplied the jock, shorts, and robes.
- At the club down here we supplied all equipments like: punching bags, speed bags, heavy bags, gloves for hitting heavy bag, light bag, gloves for going into the ring, gloves for sparing, skipping ropes, head gear, plus more.
- Steveston Community Centre bought the boxing ring and all our equipments from us when we folded.
- From the money received from that I put into trophy for Ken Kester who used to help me a lot at the club; he was killed here in Richmond.
- Ken Kester was my right hand man for years.
- Vancouver College was very good to me, whenever I needed any equipment, they would give it to me.
- It was Brother Brady who helped me out a lot.
- The years I put into the club, I thoroughly enjoyed it.
- It was time consuming and you had to have an awful lot of patience.