

# CHARLEY ROSE, 1886-1974

By SAM TAUB



This photo of Charley Rose was taken on the battlefield at Verdun, France, in 1918. He was with the First Division of the AEF for 20 months. Charley, the first boxing figure to enlist, captured several German soldiers.

**G**ENIAL, kindly, 88-year-old Charley Rose, is gone. He was determined to make at least next March 4. He prided himself on the fact that he was born on the same day that the Statue of Liberty was dedicated — March 4, 1886. But the Doughboy of World War One fought in vain. He died in his hotel room in New York from inhalation of smoke. He had accidentally set fire to his room while smoking a cigar.

Charley Rose was involved with the careers of some of the greatest fighters of U.S. boxing.

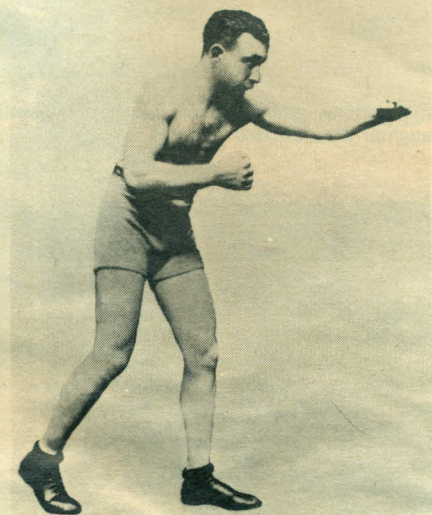
He had a share in Max Schmeling before the Uhlman became the world champion. He managed many boxers who left indelible imprints on American fistic history.

But, most of all, was his kindly, friendly attitude toward life.

Charley Rose was a real old timer. But he



(Above) Broadway Charley, as he was known to his friends, in a photo taken in 1970. (Left) Charley as a young boxer before he took up managing and promoting.



was not one of those ancients of boxing who kept telling us that "those were the good old days, when boxers were great both in skill and in power."

Charley was eager to give the fighters of today their just dues and honors.

When it came to the old days, Charley was at his best with stories of personal contacts with fighters and fight people who made interesting telling about.

Rose had serious trouble with his eyes in his later years. But he never failed to make his way up and down Broadway, jostling passersby but always coming up with a smile. Rose never failed to visit The Ring offices a few times a week, Summer and Winter, rain or shine.

"Please," he pleaded. "Please do not let my name die out. I have loved boxing all my life and I don't want boxing to rub the name of Charley Rose off its list of close pals."

On his final visit to The Ring, Rose talked about the smaller men of the old days.

"Things have changed in this country," Rose said. "The heavyweights have swallowed up the game. If you aren't a heavy, you don't belong."

"Some of the oldtime little guys contributed heavily to the fame and history of the game. Now they shoo them down to the Forum in the Garden."

"The prettiest fight between smaller men was between Abe Attell and Jem Driscoll, the Englishman, in February, 1906, in New York. It was the classic of all time. They fought ten rounds to no decision, as New York did not permit verdicts in those days. Maybe Jem won, maybe Abe had the better of it. But who won did not matter. It was the skill and the craft which these masters displayed. And when I say that Abe and Jem won the medals I say a lot because I give them the call over Attell's fights with Owen Moran, another Briton."

"Whom did I like the best among the heavyweights? Where do I place Muhammad Ali?"

"I am not one of those good old days guys but I also am not one of the veterans who has lost his memory and doesn't remember the great fights we had in the days of old."

"Studying strength, ability, punching power, stamina to fight hard all the way to the end of the 25th round, I think that Jim Jeffries was the king."

"I cried when I read what Jack Johnson did to Jeff in his comeback against the black

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**FIGHT OF THE YEAR**

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the big guy's face. While everyone thought Ali would dance around, using his publicized "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" offense, Muhammad instead began to fight with his back against the ropes, absorbing Foreman's punches like a sponge.

Everyone wondered how long it could last. How long could Ali take it and how long could Foreman give it? Of course, the 216½-pound Ali's strategy won out over the 220-pound Foreman's brawn.

The longer the bout went—though it appeared that Foreman was ahead on points when the end came—the more the steam could be seen oozing out of George's punches.

Finally, in the eighth, the befuddled Foreman was tagged with a good left, followed by a hard right. Trying to keep his balance, Foreman looked as if he was trying to do a buck and wing, but tumbled to the canvas. Groggily, he took the count after getting to one knee, looking toward pilot Dick Sadler. George rose a split second after referee Zack Clayton tolled the fatal count of ten. It was all over and Ali won back the title he had once held, becoming only the second man in heavyweight history to have accomplished that feat. The first, of course, was Floyd Patterson, who recaptured the crown from Ingemar Johansson in 1960 after having lost it to him the previous year.

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man at Reno. They had no right to dig the retired champion out of the attic. Johnson stopped Jeff in 15 rounds but I believe he could have done it sooner.

"Jack Johnson, whom the late Nat Fleischer rated No. 1 for all time, was a wonderful boxer and a hard puncher but he did not take fighting seriously enough.

"What they did to Johnson, chasing him around the country as an alleged violator of the stupid Mann Act was murder. They chased him to Cuba and there he lost the title to Jess Willard, who was not one of the better heavyweights on my list. Did Jack go into the tank? Don't let us discuss that.

"As for Muhammad, he would be rated one of the all time greats if he could hit harder. But don't underrate this man. He has a head on his shoulders and he fights in condition and with fine strategy. I have an idea that you would have to enter him among the leading ten. Those who say he is the greatest are quite a way off base. Did they see Marciano the night he took the title from Jersey Joe Walcott? Did they see Jeff, Langford? Did they see Corbett? However, Ali's fans are the wildest of all time. Give him that."

Rose was one of Freddie Welsh's advisors when the Briton held the lightweight title. Rose had seen Welsh fight Benny Leonard and when there was talk of a title match between them he advised Freddie strongly against fighting Benny.

"I saw in Leonard a young boxer coming up and in Welsh a veteran going down. I am afraid that Welsh did not take good care of himself. But as so often is the case with older champions, Welsh pooh-poohed the idea that the New York Jewish kid could beat him. Fight they did and Leonard became the world champion. And a great titleholder he was."

Charley left behind a collection of anecdotes which he was eager to have published.

Much of that material very likely will be published in The Ring.

**RING APOLOGIZES FOR  
OMISSION OF REPORTS**

**T**HE Ring apologizes to many of its correspondents for omitting their reports for the month from their various areas from this issue.

This March annual, which contains the year's summation and many features needing extended space, forced postponement of area correspondence until publication in the April issue.

Once more, our apologies and our regrets.