

### Cow Ponies Small For Willard's Long Legs; He Took Up Boxing



JESS WILLARD

JESS WILLARD, THE GIANT WHITE HEAVYWEIGHT, WHO WON THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP BY HIS VICTORY OVER JACK JOHNSON.

Jess Willard was born December 29, 1887, in Pottawatomie county, Kansas. At 14 he was a tall slim boy, as big as any man, and he undertook a man's work—cow-punching.

Willard soon had to abandon this as none of the cow ponies were high enough in the withers to keep his feet off the ground. He was more than six feet tall at 16 and at 22 had attained his present height of six feet six inches.

But Willard was no need. That apparent slenderness carried with it powerful, well apportioned muscles and Willard's companions, finding that none was a match for him in the rough cowboy games of wrestling and boxing, persuaded him to try his skill in the squared circle as a professional fighter.

Willard did. The first fight of which there is any record was with Louis Fink, in February of 1911 at Sapulpa, Okla., the town which gave Carl Morris to the ring. Willard lost on a foul in ten rounds.

Then followed five knockout victories in a row. One of these went 11 rounds, but four rounds was the limit for the others. Two ten-round victories ended the 1911 season for Willard and he was firmly established as a boxer.

But Carl Morris, the giant freeman, was attracting all the attention in the southwest, so Willard went to Chicago. There Charles Cutler, the American wrestling champion, took him in charge, put him through a course of training in boxing and in that neighborhood Willard soon added three more knockout victories to his credit.

Then Willard went on to New York and acquitted himself creditably in two no-decision bouts with Arthur Peikay and Luther McCarthy, shortly before these two met in the battle that killed the last named, recognized at the time as the white heavyweight champion.

Sailor White was doing well in the east before Willard upset him in one round at Buffalo. A few weeks later one of the best fights of his career took place, when he stopped Soldier Kearns, a tough heavyweight, in eight rounds.

Jess opened the 1913 season by knocking out two hopes around Chicago. Then he went to San Francisco and lost a 20-round decision to Gunboat Smith. The referee's ruling was by no means popular.

A demonstration of Willard's punching power resulted in a ring tragedy on August 22, 1913, when he knocked out "Bull" Young in 11 rounds at Vernon, Cal. Young died the next day.

Willard has since left the wing of Charles Cutler and put himself in charge of Tom Jones, manager of Ad Wolgast. He stopped a fellow in two rounds at Fort Wayne, Ind., and went on to New York again, to win from Carl Morris in 10 rounds. George Davis lasted two rounds before the giant, then Boer Rodol took the count in nine rounds.

Willard, having fought himself out of opponents, did little in 1914, but wait and keep himself in condition for the match with Johnson, which was there in the first stages.

wind from the blasts. He pointed with his stick to a piece of rock that rolled to their feet, and in the dull stillness that followed the terrific uproar he said:

"I really believe, Mr. Kane, that we have uncovered the gold we have looked for so long."

And Tom Kane reached down and picked up the nugget and stared at it. Then he turned to the white faced gentleman beside him.

"The Master Key?" the old man muttered.

"Yes," returned Sir Donald quietly, "it unlocks strange doors."

THE END

High Grade Job Printing costs no more than the other kind.—Observer.

#### Dreadnoughts May Have 16-inch Guns

Washington, April 5.—The two battleships provided for in the current naval bill may be armed with 16-inch rifles, the heaviest naval guns ever designated.

While tentative plans for the new ships contemplate vessels similar in general design to the 32,000-ton giants of the California class now building, details of the armament and engine equipment are being given unusual attention by navy designers and the results obtained by the 15-inch main batteries of the newest British and German battleships are being closely watched.

Already the new 16-inch navy gun has been subjected to tests at the Indian Head proving ground, and while details of its construction and performance are closely guarded, it is known the gigantic weapon has given proof of its efficiency which delighted navy ordnance experts. The gun was built at the American naval gun factory, and has been undergoing tests for several months.

Some idea of the probable size of the new American gun may be gathered from the fact that each of the eight 15-inch guns of the British battleship Queen Elizabeth weighs 96 tons, while similar rifles designed in the Krupp works for German battleships laid down this year each weigh more than 82 tons. The 14-inch rifles of the battleship New York and Texas for the five new American dreadnoughts now under construction weigh 63.8 tons each, and it is certain the new 16-inch weapon weighs more than 100 tons without its mounting.

Krupp engineers have designed a 16-inch gun which fires a projectile weighing 2028 pounds, against the 1075-pound mass of steel hurled by the 15-inch rifles adopted for the German navy and the 1720 pound projectiles poured into Turkish fortresses of the Dardanelles by the British battleship Queen Elizabeth.

The New York, Texas, Nevada and Oklahoma each carry 10 14-inch guns, while the Pennsylvania, California, Idaho and Mississippi each will carry 12 placed three to a turret. These weapons throw projectiles weighing 1400 pounds as is the case with the 14-inch guns designed for the four Japanese battleships estimated for in 1914.

With the increase in size, the life of the gun is shortened by erosion, due to the heat generated by the explosion of the huge charge of powder necessary to hurl nearly a ton of metal 15 miles, that is said to be the range of the American 16-inch weapon. The rifling of the gun turns out under the blast. Drops of melted steel are visible in the bore after each shot and it is said that the life of the Queen Elizabeth's 15-inch weapons is less than 100 shots each. After that the gun is so inaccurate as to be virtually useless.

Navy gun designers have overcome that obstacle somewhat, it is said, with the new American 16-inch gun, but the life of the gun is still far below that of the 14-inch.

The Krupp works, before the outbreak of the present war, announced that a process of steel and powder manufacture had been evolved that decreased erosion, but the factory is

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understood to have refused to contract to supply a large number of great guns under guarantee of 250 rounds accuracy-fire life. In placing aboard the Queen Elizabeth the 15-inch weapon designed for her class, British navy officials on a cheap process for relining, perfected by their engineers, to offset the short life of the gun. If that be true, it is probable the Queen Elizabeth soon may be compelled to return to England and have new guns placed aboard if the steady pounding at the Dardanelles forts exhausts her main battery. It has been suggested that 16-inch guns could be substituted for the 14-inch batteries of the American battleships now under construction, placing them two to a turret instead of three and giving the ships eight guns.

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- CHAMPIONSHIP BATTLES**  
1892—Corbett beat Sullivan, 21 rounds.  
1897—Fitzsimmons beat Corbett, 14 rounds.  
1899—Jeffries beat Fitzsimmons, 11 rounds.  
1905—Jeffries retired; awarded title to Marvin Hart.  
1906—Burns beat Hart, 20 rounds.  
1908—Johnson beat Burns, 14 rounds.



They Saw Man After Man Come Down the Hill Till Only Wilkerson Was Left.

air, and the avalanche of rock poured over the two lovers in wave after wave till it had buried them forever.

And as explosion after explosion rocked the earth and filled the evening sky with lurid debris Ruth struggled from Sir Donald's detaining grasp and fled into the arms of John Dorr, where she clung, sobbing: "John! John!"

Sir Donald looked at John Dorr's transfigured face and heard that cry, meant for lover's ears alone.

Very steadily he turned away and stared up at the terrific cataclysm which had united both the darkling hearted and golden youth.

He found the cook beside him, his gray locks streaming in the gusts of

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