

Medford PAL Club Seeks Location for Bouts

Boxing Is Essence Of Organization; Site Is Problem

By GREG NOKES
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Boxing is the essence of the PAL club, and until the Medford PAL club can find a place to hold its fights, it will have to remain inactive.

Finding locations for fights has been a problem for the supporters of the local PAL since its beginning in 1954, and although they managed to find locations for nine fights, they were all inadequate, and they finally gave it up, going inactive after their last fight in March, 1958.

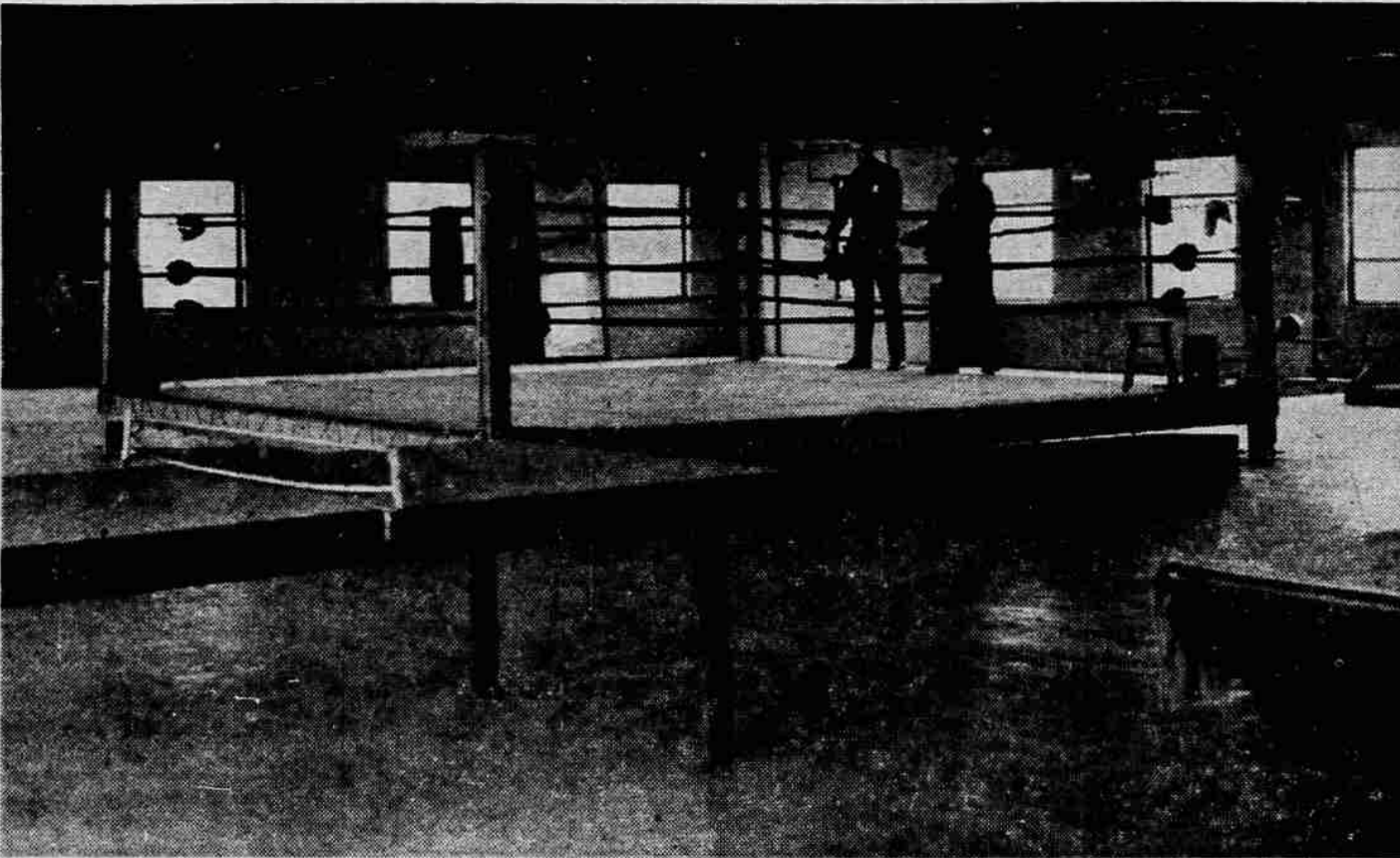
The Medford police department started the incorporated and non-profit Police Athletic League, commonly known as the PAL club, in 1954 when it took over the old Rogue Valley Boxing club at the latter's request.

No Age Limit
Although there is no age limit in PAL, most of the persons who have belonged to the club are youths in their teens. The membership, which has ranged from a respectable low of 211 boys to a high of 341 in the years when the club was active, was mainly comprised of potential juvenile delinquents and boys from "underprivileged" homes.

Almost all of the work necessary to train and condition the youths for fighting, and for staging the actual fights, has been done by city police officers on their own time.

Financial support comes in the form of contributions from individuals, service clubs and businesses, who have taken an active interest in the club, and from what profits the club makes on its fights.

There are several things besides a site which are needed to reactivate PAL, including boxing ring, some new



INSPECT EQUIPMENT — Medford city police officers, Gerald Butler, left, and Frank Elson, are shown here looking over some of the police-sponsored PAL club's equipment which is lying idle at their training quarters on the floor of the old Acme Hardware Building. The equipment,

and back to the schools when the fight was over.

"We also had to provide our own ring light and ring. The ring we used was a cumbersome thing, taking ten men to move it, and we transported it from the Davis Transfer and Storage company on South Fir st., clear to the armory and back again.

"This maintenance work was in addition to running and promoting the fight itself, which is no little task, I might add.

Voluntary Efforts
"To do this work it took the voluntary efforts of nearly all of Medford's off-duty police force for two days, in addition to the months of training that the boxers themselves did.

"For this charitable event (Heart Fund) it cost us nearly \$150 just to rent the armory

which includes a training ring, punching bags, boxing gloves and two pool tables, is valued at nearly \$3,200. The PAL club, which is open to youths of all ages, was forced to go inactive in 1958 because they could not (and still can't) find adequate locations for staging their fights.

and even at this price we were not allowed to have charge of the concessions there.

"When it was over, we got \$200 and the Heart Fund got \$200.

"Because of the manpower involved, the extensive training costs before a fight and the expense of bringing in an out-of-town fight team, the PAL club needs more than \$200 profit per fight.

"If the drawbacks of the armory, including rent, are eliminated, although I don't have much hope that they will be, then the place would be ideal."

Out of Town Fights
Besides the fights held in Medford, the local PAL also fought in Bend, Portland, Seattle, Klamath Falls and Chiloquin, which all have

very good amateur boxing teams, Perkins pointed out.

These same cities and others, he said, are anxious for Medford to reactivate its club so more inter-city fights can be staged.

PAL club fights are always staged between amateur boxing clubs of different cities, with the host city paying the expenses of the visiting club, but also collecting the profits so that no money is made away from home, he pointed out.

Graduates of Medford's PAL have done well in boxing circles, according to Perkins. One former member, Jackie Puscas, went on to win the National AAU lightweight championship in 1956.

Makes Finals
Members have also won several Golden Gloves cham-

ionships, and just last month an ex-PAL member who now attends Washington State university, made the finals of the regional Golden Gloves championships in Seattle.

Members of the PAL club are not recruited or pressured into joining, but join of their own free will and there has never been any shortage of members.

Juveniles with delinquent tendencies are attracted to PAL, Lt. Perkins reasoned, because it is a good outlet for their energies, gives them something to do, there is a definite element of competition, is good clean fun and it costs them nothing.

"While PAL was active here," Perkins said, "it very definitely reduced the amount of juvenile delinquency in Medford and even set several otherwise mixed-up youths, straight."

One of the youths whom Lt. Perkins takes much pride in is the youth who made the finals of the Golden Gloves tournament in Seattle.

Interested in Boxing
"When he came to PAL several years ago he was one of the worst juvenile delinquents I ever saw," Perkins said, "but he became interest-

ed in boxing and once his energies were channeled to worthwhile activities, his entire outlook on life changed so that by the time he graduated from high school, WSU gave him a four-year scholarship."

The club has nearly \$3,200 worth of idle equipment stored in their training quarters on the second floor of the old Acme Hardware building on Sixth st.

Most of this equipment is in good shape and includes such things as a training ring, a ring light, boxing trunks, robes, boxing gloves, two pool tables, a ping pong table, table, punching bags, numerous pieces of furniture and a good television set.

The entire second floor of the building has been made available to the club as a training quarters for the past several years and they would again train there if and when PAL is reactivated.

No Training Problem
"There is no problem in training our fighters," Perkins said, "as we have most all of the necessary equipment, but youths aren't interested in training only, they want to fight too."

The nine fights that the club held here from 1954 to 1958 were not nearly enough, in Perkins estimation, and he would like to hold fights at least once a month if the club is reactivated.

He said there are two reasons why frequent fights are necessary under this program, the first being that they are necessary to keep up both the participants and the fans interest.

The second reason, according to Perkins, is to make more money and keep the club from operating at a loss which it has done in the past.

Even though the club has been (and still is) receiving many generous monetary donations, it would still like to operate on a self-sustaining basis, Perkins explained.

Different Locations
The club fought at many different locations in the nine fights it had, including the high school stadium, Hedrick Junior High school's gym, the Esquire theater and the armory.

"When the club was first organized, we held our fights at Merrick's arena," he said, "which used to be located at Riverside ave. and Sixth st. This was an ideal spot, having all of the necessary facilities, but it was torn down in the spring of 1955 and we had to look elsewhere.

"The main drawback of the other locations is that they would not hold enough fans. Nearly every fight we had a sell-out, but there was just a limited number who could watch and the profits were not high enough to warrant our efforts."

In addition to having one fight a month, Perkins said, the club would also like to employ a full-time trainer to train the fighters, arrange for the bouts and stage the fights.

12 Bouts on Card
A PAL fight card usually consists of 12 bouts in different weight classes. Under the AAU rules there are only three rounds per bout, but the 12 bouts will give fight fans a good night of boxing, Perkins pointed out.

The opposing fight groups do their best to make sure that the fighters are as even-

Retirement Does Not Mean Full Inactivity

Retirement, for social security purposes, does not mean complete inactivity, according to Edward B. Jacobson, district manager of the Medford Social Security administration office.

Male workers, 65 years of age or over, and women workers, age 62 or over, may be suffering a loss of benefits if they have been working on a job or were self-employed in employment covered by social security and do not know the meaning of retirement as it pertains to the social security law, he said.

Retirement, as defined in the social security law, does not mean that a person must be completely inactive, but rather that the person is working for wages or self-employment income of not over \$1,200 a year, or he is age 72 or over (in which case amount of earnings has no effect regardless of how much is earned).

Partial retirement is defined as working in employment and/or self-employment by an individual of retirement age for not over \$2,000 in a taxable year, Jacobson said. Individuals who earn over

Open Heart Surgery Topic for Meeting

Open heart surgery is the topic of Dr. Victor Menashe, deputy director of the crippled childrens division, University of Oregon Medical school, Portland.

Dr. Menashe will speak at a meeting of the Jackson Medical Society, Rogue Valley Country club Wednesday.

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Hosts for the meeting are Drs. F. J. Shasky, E. W. Sickels, and W. W. Stevenson.

Kelly Firm Gets New Partner Here

Robert Hugh Grant, 27, recently joined the Medford law firm of Kelly and Kelly as an associate, according to Bernard P. Kelly, partner in the firm.

Grant is taking the place of Noreen Kelly, the other partner in the firm, who recently went to work in the attorney general's office in Portland in the trials division of the industrial accident commission.

The Kelly family has been practicing law in Medford since the early 1920s. Circuit Judge Edward P. Kelly headed the firm prior to his judicial appointment in June, 1957.

Before coming to Medford to take his new job, Grant served three years in the Air Force as a first lieutenant and was stationed at George Air Force base near Victorville, Calif., where he worked in the judge advocate's department.

He received his bachelor of arts and bachelor of laws degree at the University of Oregon where he graduated from the law school in 1956 and was admitted to the Oregon bar the same year.

Company Notes Sixth Year in Business

An insurance account submitted by Donald L. Stathos, Independent insurance agent of Medford, marked \$200 million in total dollar volume of premiums financed by Afco in six years.

The company noted its sixth anniversary March 1. The \$383 account which Stathos submitted included a three-year fire policy on a home and contents and two automobile policies budgeted through Afco on an eight monthly payment plan for Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Lewis, 1755 Thomas rd., Medford. To honor the occasion, Afco purchased the three policies for the insured, a company spokesman said.

Annual Turnabout Party Held At Camp White Domiciliary

The need for volunteer help will increase with the advancing age of hospitalized and disabled veterans, Henry Herzog, Camp White Domiciliary manager, told those attending the domiciliary's turnabout program recently.

"As the percentage of aged veterans increases more help will be needed in interpretation of planned living and other programs in giving these veterans motivation to achieve a feeling of being wanted and a part of outside society," Herzog said.

The turnabout party is an annual event during which domiciliary members and officials show their appreciation to the people of the area who volunteer to assist the veterans and help with various projects.

The party featured entertainment by the veterans. Annual award certificates of appreciation are presented to volunteers. More than 400 members and guests attended the party.

Helen Lusk gave a brief talk on "The Satisfaction I Receive From Being a Volunteer Worker." Milton C. Stafford talked on "What the Volunteer Means to a Member." Herzog, assisted by Assistant Manager Banks I. Paul and Chief Medical Officer Dr. A. S. Anderson, presented the VAVS certificates of appreciation.

Crater Lions Set Sportsfair Event

Crater Lions club will hold its annual Sportsfair exhibitors' banquet Saturday night, March 12, at the Rogue Valley Country club.

Dinner is set for 7:30 p.m. following a 6:30 p.m. social hour. Crater Lions, exhibitors, special guests and their wives are to attend the banquet, according to Dave Franklin, Sportsfair general chairman.

Highlights of the evening will be a style show by Sportsfair queen candidates and popular vote balloting for queen.

Franklin stressed the importance of the dinner meeting to exhibitors. He said that the event will clear up questions and problems such as those on floor arrangements, decorations, police protection, insurance and booth construction. The chairman also asked that clubs and businesses participating in the fair bring material for news releases to the banquet.

Mrs. Marjorie Green of Burleson's store will narrate the style show. John Lusk will provide the music.

Certificates of outstanding service representing 500 hours or more of service were given to Faye Allison, Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary; Austria Barneburg, United Spanish American War Veterans auxiliary; Margaret Eakin, American Gold Star Mothers; Lorena Leach, American Legion auxiliary; and Augusta Perry of the American Red Cross.

Certificates of merit representing 300 hours were given to Eva Campbell, American Gold Star Mothers; Ann Kroeger, American Legion auxiliary; Harry Leuty, World War I Veterans; Eva McLaughlin, American Legion auxiliary; Eula Middlebush, Blue Star Mothers; Marian Peacher, DAV auxiliary; Milde Reherd, American Legion auxiliary; Vera Rippon, American Red Cross, and Edna R. Robinson of the Blue Star Mothers.

Certificates of appreciation for volunteers who have completed 100 hours of service were given to Lura Applewhite, American Legion auxiliary; Pearl Austin, VFW auxiliary; Laura Buckner, Blue Star Mothers; Leola Faber, American Legion auxiliary; Ruby Helms, American Legion auxiliary; Velma Showers, Alexandria Tremble and Esther Turner, non-affiliated; A. O. Young, VFW; Jessie L. Stagg, American Red Cross.

Receiving certificates of recognition were the following parent organizations, units of organizations and their various branches: American Gold Star Mothers, American Legion and auxiliary, American Red Cross, American War Mothers, Benevolent and Paternal Order of Elks, Blue Star Mothers of America, Daughters of Union Veterans, Disabled American Veterans and auxiliary; the Grange, Military Order of the Cooties, Military Order of Lady Bugs, National Women's Relief corps, Navy Mothers clubs, Oregon Federation of Garden clubs, radio and television stations, Salvation Army, United Spanish War Veterans auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars and auxiliary, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Veterans World War I and auxiliary. Many non-affiliated organizations and individuals also contributed to the comfort, welfare and entertainment of the domiciled veterans.

A vaudeville program was presented. The Camp White orchestra played a prelude, followed by Harold Imhoff at the organ; Herman Chartrab, accompanied by Art Kenton played the harmonica, and Tom Benefield sang. There were clarinet numbers by Art

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ly matched as possible so the action will be fast and the fights not one-sided.

"This is a good fight town," Perkins said, "both amateur and professional, and I know for a fact that promoters would not hesitate to bring their boxers or wrestlers here if they had a place to stage their bouts.

"It's too bad that Medford's armory isn't like the one in Klamath Falls where the Chiloquin group stages their fights. I took the Medford club there several times and it is ideal. They have a ring and a place to store it; there is a good and adequate seating arrangement, convenient dressing rooms, and the rent for one night is only \$25."

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