

Boxing champ also part-time farmer



Clyde Gray, Canadian and Commonwealth welterweight boxing champion, is also a part-time farmer. Here he pauses while feeding his horses at his newly-acquired farm north of Claremont. Mr. Gray is also training for an upcoming bout. — Ted Wilcox

By TED WILCOX
CLAREMONT — The man with "C. Gray" painted on his mail box near here isn't just another part-time farmer. Besides forking hay to his horses, Clyde Gray's other occupation involves stepping into a ring periodically to defend his Canadian and commonwealth welterweight titles.

At his home two miles north of Claremont, The Tribune talked with Gray recently about both of his interests — farming and boxing.

"I spend my mornings in the barn and my afternoons in the gym," he said. Each afternoon, he drives to a gym in Landsdowne for a two-hour workout of sparring, rope-skipping and bag-punching. His mornings consist of a three or four-hour run, and his work around the barn.

For some time, Gray, who is considered the number one contender, has been trying to get a shot at the world welterweight title, but

current champ Jose Napoles of Mexico has been more adept at dodging a bout with Gray than some feel he would be at dodging Gray in the ring.

As to whether he could defeat Napoles, Gray said "Oh yes. He's at the end of his rope." Gray was one of the few opponents to go the distance with Napoles, when he lost a 15-rounder to the champ last September.

Now, Gray feels that with a change of strategy — being more aggressive from the beginning — he would have no problem downing Napoles.

Recent negotiations for a world-title fight on March 22 fell through, and now Gray is lining up fights with some of the lesser lights in the welterweight class.

AS for his Claremont farm, Gray said, "It's nice. I really like it here." He purchased the farm last November, after noticing a for-sale sign while driving through the country.

Gray hopes to build a gym at his farm this summer so that he wouldn't have to commute each day for his work-out.

Regarding boxing, Gray said, "To me, it's just a job. You don't actually enjoy it like you

used to enjoy it when you were an amateur. It's a tough game; it's a lonely-type sport. I feel that you've got to be really dedicated to it."

At 27 years of age, Gray feels that he has pretty well reached his peak in boxing skill, and would have his best chance at the world boxing title now.

"If he won the world title, Gray doesn't feel his life would change that much. One change, he said, might be that he would be looking for a bigger farm in the area. When he retires from boxing, Gray said he would like to be able to take up farming, perhaps just as a "hobby" it would give me something to do, he said.

Dance Cancelled
The Mount Zion dance scheduled for Feb. 22 and the euchre slated for Feb. 21 have been cancelled due to alterations to the building.

Visit Minden
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Vague, Linda and Diane visited her sister Mrs. Mary Stiver in Minden and did some ice fishing while there.

Claremont News

Lions hold box social at the community hall

By ANNE LONEY
CLAREMONT — The afternoon Unit of the UCV will meet at the home of Mrs. Hazel Sanderson Wed., Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. Instead of the usual Roll Call, each member sent a Valentine to a Shut-in on Feb. 14. Mrs. Clara Carson and Mrs. W. J. Briggs will be in charge of the Devotional.

Claremont Lions are holding a Box Social and dance in the Community Hall Sat. March 1, at 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Winners at the Community Hall Euchre last Tuesday were: Mrs. Norris Hardy, Mrs. Carson Watson and Mrs. Frank Hayward. Men, Martin Gall, George Middleton and Joe Borland. The Lone Hand prize was won by Mrs. Harry Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Peddie are vacationing in Texas. Although they are now living in Whitby, after many years residence in Claremont, Mrs. Peddie is still an active member of the Afternoon Unit of the UCV and attends all the meetings.

Mrs. Hazel Carruthers is holidaying in Georgia where she is visiting several nieces and nephews.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Hiles never have to go far for winter entertainment. Their home on R. R. 1 is surrounded by acres of beautiful bush and they are enthusiastic snowshoers. Even the stormiest days do not keep them from enjoying their hobby for it is always quiet and peaceful among the trees. They say they would not exchange snowshoeing for any other winter recreation.

An item in the Tribune of Feb. 6 has resulted in a large number of letters and phone calls. Naturalist Edge Pegg is pleased and surprised for he had no idea that so many people were interested in bird life.

Just out of the hospital, after an operation, Mr. Pegg went with his son for a ride Sunday afternoon. They drove along the side road, south of Cherry Downs Golf Club, where a row of Multiflora Roses were planted along the Conservation area fence. They counted over 100 Cedar Waxwings making a fine meal on rose tips. Among them were two Bohemian Waxwings a rare sight for these are Western birds seldom seen in the East, although, occasionally, they will join a flock of Cedar Waxwings.

Incidentally, the Roses were planted just for the birds.

Our sympathy goes to the Rev. Arthur Cresswell and Mrs. Cresswell in the tragic death of their son Eldon who was killed in the freak accident last Saturday while kite flying over Lake Scugog. Eldon went to Public School in Claremont. He was very friendly as a boy and young man and was well known and liked in the life of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Cresswell flew home from Florida where they were vacationing. They now make their home in Oshawa.

The Mission Circle of the Baptist Church will meet in the Parsonage Monday evening, Feb. 24, at 7:45. Group one will be in charge. The topic will be "Indonesia," and the Roll Call will be the word "Great" taken from a verse in the Bible.

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R. F. Richardson, P. Eng.,
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