

Billy Petrolle

Raised in Schenectady where he attended public school

Started boxing as an amateur in Schenectady at age 15

Began his pro boxing career in 1922; moved from Schenectady that year

Known as the “Fargo Express”

Once rated as the top challenger for the welterweight, junior-welterweight & lightweight titles

Fought for the World Lightweight title vs. Tony Canzoneri on Nov. 4, 1932, at Madison Square Garden, losing a 15 round decision (previously beat Canzoneri)

Had other notable fights vs. Barney Ross, Battling Battalino, Jimmy McLarnin & Kid Berg; knocked out Battalino in front of 18,000 fans at Madison Square Garden (3/24/32); defeated McLarnin at MSG on 11/21/30

Fought ten current or past world champions, defeating five of them

Fought 11 bouts at Madison Square Garden; also fought at Yankee Stadium, Boston Garden & Chicago Stadium

On the cover of The Ring magazine 3 times

Very popular boxer who drew large crowds

Mike Casey (BOXER.com) described him as a “bullish, all action fighter & a great body puncher”

BoxRec.com lists him as the 47th best welterweight of all time

A member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame (Canastota), World Boxing HOF, Ring Magazine HOF & Minnesota Boxing HOF

One of three fighting Petrolle brothers (along with Pete & Frankie)

Named a Schenectady Patroon

Mentioned in the novel *Catch-22*