

Businessman Is Aim Of Joe Louis

Courtesy Globe and Mail
By Robert Richards
New York, Oct. 17—Joe Louis said it was almost as hard as learning to fight, but he was going to be a good businessman.

Outside his new restaurant the kids pressed their noses against the plate glass window and screamed when they caught sight of Joe. He turned, smiling at the noise, and shook his head.

"I still give money away," he said, "but not like I did."

They come every night to his 125th Street place. Some come with babies in their arms and some come with ten-cent cigars in their mouths. Some want a quarter to buy a package of cigarettes, and some want \$5,000 to start a new business.

"Joe," they all begin. "You remember me, Joe."

"I used to five 'em," Joe said. "I just about fived myself to death, but I don't do it too much now."

A Negro woman walked in holding a small child by the hand, and asked: "Will you help me with his schooling, Joe?"

"Write Me a Letter"

"Write me a letter about it," Joe said slowly. "Write me a letter and we'll see."

He wasn't stalling her. He really wanted the letter. He might give her the money, or he might give her the money, or he might not, but he wanted the request in writing.

"I learned," Joe explained. "I want that letter for my income tax. They might not let me take it off, but I want it just the same."

"Anybody asking for much dough now, I tell 'em the same: 'Write me a letter about it.'"

Joe was relaxed and he talked easily, after climbing the stairs to a private office.

"The Army did it," he said. "I reckon it didn't help me any as a fighter. It couldn't, not taking away all those years. But it sure helped me to meet people."

Joe said he might retire sooner than people thought. He likes this idea of a business career.

"Anything can happen with two guys in a ring," he said. "Look at that Tami (Tami Mauriello). If he had hit me lower with that punch I might have been in lots of trouble."

But some people feel that he still hasn't learned to keep a tight enough hand on his pocketbook.

"I stood beside him for two hours when his place opened up." One man said. "They kept coming up and asking, and he shelled out \$80 in two hours. I know, because I counted it. If he knew them, he gave 'em five. If he didn't he would slip them anything from half-a-buck to two dollars."

"That was different," Joe said. "That was opening night and I just let up a little. I don't do that regular. I generally hold it down to six-seven dollars a night now. Just small change."

Joe had a letter on his desk from a man in New Jersey who wanted to borrow \$3,000, at 6 per cent, to expand his business.

"I dunno," Joe said, "I'll look into it. At 6 per cent I might let him have it."

Downstairs a white customer sat sipping at a rye and soda.

"Joe ought to be down here now," he said. "He ought to be seen and be mixing. That's how they handled Jack Dempsey. He was there, and people could see him."

"He'll be down," another man said. "He always comes down."

"That's all it takes," the first man said. "Let them see him and let them start coming."

"Once they get the habit you don't even need him any more."

Leadership Registration Real Heavy

New York, Oct. 10th—Registrations are beginning to pour into the National Office's Branch Department for the Louisiana-Texas Leadership Training Conference, to be held in Shreveport, La., on November 8th and 9th, Gloster B. Current, Director of Branches, announced today. More than 200 delegates are expected from the 122 branches in Texas and the 29 branches in Louisiana.

Several leadership training conferences are held each year throughout the country, to acquaint branch leaders with NAACP principles and techniques of operation. Last year, there were five such conferences in various regions in the United States. Because of the size of Texas and Louisiana, the November Conference will be confined to the branches within those two states.

The theme of the Conference is "A More Militant Program for the South." Speakers will be Gloster B. Current, Leslie Perry, Administrative Assistant, Washington; Daniel E. Byrd, President, Louisiana State Conference; Attorney Louis Berry, Baton Rouge, La.; Mrs. Lulu B. White, Executive Secretary, Houston, Texas branch, and A. Maceo Smith, Secretary, Texas State Conference.

Formulation of a regional program and establishment of an office in the Southwest will be the main business of the Conference, which will also discuss political action, combating mob violence and lynching, and methods of making branch committees work.

NAACP FIGHT FOR "ALL AMERICANS AIDED BY NEW YORK RABBI'S GIFT."

New York, Oct. 10th—On the Jewish New Year, a day spent by Jews the world over more in mourning than rejoicing for those of their brethren who are still being subjected to untold humiliation and suffering in their search for a place to lay their heads, a letter came to the NAACP from an American member of that minority who understands what oppression and loss of freedom have meant to his people through the long years of recorded history. Said Rabbi Milton Steinberg, of New York:

"The enclosed check for \$25 represents a personal contribution on my part, made on the occasion of the Jewish New Year and in expression of my appreciation of your valiant fight on behalf of Negro Americans, which is, in effect, a fight on behalf of ALL Americans. My sole regret is that the amount of the check could not be larger."

OLDEST NEGRO DOCTOR DIES

Philadelphia, Oct. 28 — Dr. Nathan Francis Mossell, said by associates to be the oldest practicing Negro physician in the country, died yesterday at his home. He was 90. A native of Hamilton, Ont., Dr. Mossell, an uncle of Paul Robeson, came to the United States in 1865. He was a founder of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School for Nurses in 1895 and served as its superintendent and medical director for 47 years. He was a founder of the Philadelphia branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and co-founder of the Philadelphia Academy of Medicine and Allied Sciences. Funeral services will be held on Thursday.

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