



Hibernian News



Volume 6 Issue 7

James J. Braddock ~ Happy 100th Birthday Champ

July 2005

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James J. Braddock was born on June 7th, 1905, to Irish immigrant parents in a tiny apartment on West 48th Street in New York City. The Braddock family was growing and with five boys and two girls and relocated across the Hudson River to West New York in Hudson County New Jersey.

Like most kids, Jimmy enjoyed playing marbles and while he dreamt of someday becoming a fireman or a train engineer.

From around the year 1919 to 1923, Jim Braddock worked a series of jobs. It was during this time that Jimmy discovered his passion for boxing.

Braddock spent a few years honing his skills as a successful amateur fighter and in 1926 entered the professional boxing circuit. During his first year, Braddock overwhelmed the competition, knocking out opponent after opponent in the early rounds of most fights.

On the evening of July 18th 1929, Braddock entered the ring in Yankee Stadium to face Tommy Loughran for the coveted light heavyweight championship. Loughran who had studied Braddock's boxing style knew about Jim's powerful right hand and spent the match ducking and dodging Jim's punches. Braddock would never land a clean hard punch and lost the 15 round bout to decision.

On September 3rd 1929, less than two months after the Loughran bout, the stock market crashed and the nation plunged into the "Great Depression". As the banks went under, Braddock lost everything.

With no work available, Jim struggled to win fights so that he could put food on the table for his wife and three young children. However, along with the economy, Jim's fight career hit the skids as well. He lost sixteen out of twenty-two fights during which time he shattered his right hand landing a punch. At the bottom of the barrel, Jim swallowed his pride, hung up his boxing gloves and filed for

government relief to help support his family.

But Jim's luck was about to change. In 1934, due to a last minute cancellation, Braddock was given the opportunity to fight John "Corn" Griffin on the under-card fight for that evening's heavyweight championship fight between Max Baer and Primo Carnera. To the amazement of everyone, he went on to upset Griffin with a third round knockout.

As word of Braddock spread, he was given another chance to fight. This time the opponent was John Henry Lewis. Once again, most predicted that Braddock wouldn't make it through the fight. Jimmy proved the critics wrong with a ten round victory.

In March of 1935, with the nation in his corner, Braddock defeated Art Lasky in 15 rounds. With his win against Lasky, Braddock was now considered to be the top heavyweight contender to go up against Max Baer. Max Baer received the reputation as a dynamite puncher and possibly the hardest hitter of all time killing two fighters in the ring.

On the evening of June 13th 1935 at Madison Square Garden in Long Island City NY, Braddock, a ten-to-one underdog, entered the ring to face Baer. Jim had studied Baer's boxing style just as Tommy Loughran had studied Jim's all those years ago. Jim knew he could beat Baer if he could stay away from his hammering right hand, and that's just what he did. In an amazing feat of courage and determination, Braddock won the 15 round decision to become the new heavyweight champion of the world. During his reign as champ, Jim Braddock fought a series of exhibition fights over the next two years.

On June 22nd 1937, Braddock would defend and lose his title in an eight round KO to Joe Louis. According to Jim, Louis threw far more punches than Baer.

Although Jim never complained, few knew that during the fight for Louis, Braddock actually received



medication for arthritis. Jim barely lifted his left during the fight because the medicine numbed him like a muscle relaxant. Jim's only lucky punch happened in an uppercut, simply since he failed to raise his left over his head. Everyone enjoyed the fight that night, and even though a loss, it was perhaps Braddock's best fight.

Prior to the Louis fight, Jim's manager Joe Gould struck up a deal that would give Braddock 10% of the gross with Louis for the next ten years. From 1937 to 1939, Braddock received over \$150,000, a lot of money in those days (nearly two million now).

Jim Braddock was a man who wanted to go out on top and on January 21, 1938 after beating Tommy Farr after 10 rounds, Jimmy Braddock, the beacon of hope for millions, hung up his gloves and retired from the professional boxing game.

After his retirement, Jim served in WWII. After the war, he worked as a marine equipment surplus supplier. Jim also helped build the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Jim and his wife Mae raised their three children, Jay, Howard and Rosemarie in a house they bought in North Bergen NJ.

On November 29th 1974, after eighty-five fights with fifty-one victories, James J. Braddock died at home in his sleep.

Braddock was inducted into the Ring Boxing Hall of Fame in 1964 and the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2001.

It's too HOT in the kitchen!!! Authentic Irish Breakfasts will resume in September

A Message from the AOH Division 2 President

Dear Brothers and Friends,

July 2005

Hope you are all enjoying your summer. Just because we are in the lazy, hazy days of summer doesn't mean things aren't happening down at the hall. Stop by for a Friday Nite BBQ with the family or a Saturday afternoon game with your friends.

Don't forget to come to the hall for "An Evening With Friends" on July 31st with local Irish favorite Chris Turpin. Chris is hoping to play regularly at our hall so let's show him a great welcome by packing the hall!

All the best!

Kevin Cummings,
Division President

Upcoming Events

(subject to change)

- July 9** **Black '47 at the Drydock-Newburgh—10 pm.**
- July 20** **Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm**
- July 27** **New Windsor Concert-7 pm-
HVR Police Pipes & Drums**
- July 30** **"An Evening With Friends"
with Chris Turpin-7 pm.**
- July 31** **AOH-DJW Corp Meeting &
General Elections—2 pm**
- Aug 12** **Great Irish American Pub
Quiz -7 pm \$5 per team of 4**
- Aug 17** **Monthly Meeting - Hall: 7 pm**
- Aug 20-21** **Int'l Celtic Festival—Hunter
Mtn. Bus Trip \$35 p/p**

A Message from the AOH-Corp President

Brothers, you are hereby notified that there will be an AOH-DJW Corp. meeting held on **SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2005 at 2:00 pm in Hibernian Hall**. This is the annual membership meeting (required by bylaws) and at this year's meeting there will also be the election of new officers to lead the corporation for the next 2 years. Brothers make an extra effort to attend this meeting, I promise to keep it short. We need 20 members for a quorum (this does not include the present officers).

There is a deal for the soil and plans for the hall's future—all facts will be presented at this meeting.

John Greehy,
AOH-DJW Corporation President

The legendary Irish Rock Group

Black '47

Will be performing Saturday, July 9, 2005
The Drydock
90 Broadway, Newburgh
\$10.00 Admission
Call 565-9388 for tickets and information



Pray for all our deceased brothers
May they rest in peace +

Next Monthly Meeting

July 20, 2005 at 7:00 pm—try to make it!

"An Evening With Friends"



with
Chris Turpin



**Saturday, July 30, 2005
Hibernian Hall
7:00 pm**

**Tickets are \$20 p/p which includes
entertainment and food. Cash bar with drink
specials available.**

New Windsor Summer Concert Series

Free concerts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 P.M. in the Bandstand at Town Hall Complex. Please bring a chair or blanket! For more information, call the New Windsor Recreation Department at 565-7750. Come see friends of AOH Division 2 perform:

- **July 27** - Hudson Valley Regional Police Pipes and Drums - Irish/patriotic favorites

Hunter Mountain International Celtic Festival Bus Trip



Sunday, August 21, 2005

\$35.00 per person-prepaid



Price includes bus trip, onboard beer, soda, sandwich and festival admission.
Bus leaves Destinta Theater Parking lot at 10 am.

Sign-up sheet at the hall.

List is now opened to the public—sign up soon! Don't be disappointed. A great time is guaranteed!

Thanks and More Thanks! To Mabel McGowan and Kathleen Demar for the great time everyone had at the Hawaiian Luau. The food, music and company was spectacular! If you didn't make it there, you missed some interesting costumes!!! **Thanks** to all the helpers at our last Irish Breakfast of the season—they helped when help was needed. **Thanks** to our Friday night cooks especially Keith Broderick, a new member along with his lovely wife for stepping up to help out. **More Thanks** to Joe Kelly and Tom Whelan for their donation of the kids swing set out behind the hall. **Thanks** also to Dennis Malone and Pat Healey for taking care of our drain problem out in the parking area. Thanks to the Step and Set Dance Teachers, Jim Early and Brian Reynolds—they kept us hopping! As always, **Thanks** to Jim Ryan for running the bar on Fridays, Saturdays and at other functions.

Friendly Reminder - Dues in the amount of \$50 for calendar year 2005 are now very past due. In order to remain a member in good standing, you must pay your dues immediately. Please make your check payable to AOH Div. 2 and get it to Pat Healey, Division 2 Financial Secretary either by mail or drop it off at the hall.

Division 2 Embroidered Clothing-Wear it with Pride!! Division 2 clothing is available for purchase. Each item proudly displays the A.O.H emblem and the words "Division 2". A parade uniform package is available and includes a personalized embroidered jacket, balmoral hat (tam) and white dress gloves all for only \$70. Also available are Division 2 golf shirts which are \$22 (\$24 FOR XXL). A list is posted in the hall and the order will be placed in July. All orders must be prepaid. Other shirt styles are also available with the AOH logo.

Calling all Friday Nite Cooks - We are always looking for a few good cooks to show off their special talents. You don't have to be trained at the Culinary Institute of America to do it...just be able to flip a few burgers on the BBQ grill. The cook's sign-up calendar is on the wall behind the bar. Put your name down and leave a list of what extras you need and we will do the rest.

Help Needed in the Hall - Jim Ryan is planning on stripping and waxing the hall floors. Tentative date is Monday, July 11th at 4:30—8:30 pm. If you can spare some time call the hall at 534-2528 and leave a message for Jim. Any time you can spare would be appreciated.



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