

By TED CARROLL

NORWAY'S

Golden Bantam

SINCE the appellation was first hung on Jack De Mave, old time heavyweight many years ago, "Golden Boys" have come and gone, although most of them turned out to be of purest brass when assayed in first line competition. Most recent of these is Art Aragon, Pacific Coast nominee for this flattering term, who while his ability was hardly gilt edged, as one of the best attractions in California boxing history, he played a golden tune on the turnstiles of California boxing promoters for many years.

Today all eyes are turning towards the Scandinavian peninsula where Sweden's Ingemar Johansson is the newest prospective "Golden Boy" of the boxing business. If this happens to be so, old time boxing people in and around New York City should undergo some memory stirrings of another "Nordic" import of three decades ago, who although on a limited scale, both in appearance and at the box office, rated the cognomen of "Golden Boy." Perhaps "Golden Bantam" would be more precise, for back in the late Twenties, Pete Sanstol of Norway was a glittering ornament in a division, which even in his time, still rated as one of the most exciting of the boxing classes.

Sanstol was further unique in that fighting to him always seemed to be a joy, an exhilarating experience, which made him a great favorite.

Sanstol first appeared in the States

under the wing of the cosmopolitan Lew Burston, who in his caperings about the European continent came upon the baby-faced blond youngster in Berlin. After a couple of Paris showings, Lew headed back to the U. S. with Sanstol, settled him in a Norwegian colony in Brooklyn, N. Y., and within a year, the boy had established himself as a small-club promoters' treasure.

Making his debut in 1927 at the old Ridgewood Grove, he was an immediate "smash hit." His huge mop of yellow hair, beaming smile, flashy aggressive style, and pleasing personality, packed the Grove, the old Broadway Prospect Hall, and other local clubs of the area after the fans first look at him.

MADE FINE START IN HIS AMERICAN CAMPAIGN

Opposing local talent and neighborhood heroes during the first year of his American campaign, Sanstol won thirteen of his fourteen fights, his only loss coming in a "foul" ending. It was the same story in 1928. Rarely venturing out of Brooklyn, where by this time he had become the darling of the Borough's Norwegian residents, he won twenty-six of twenty-seven bouts.

In 1929 and 1930 Sanstol continued to confine himself to the Brooklyn-New York circuit. He fought fifty times in the Ridgewood Grove alone and years later promoters Flatto and Hamer were quick to admit, "We only needed one fighter to make the club a paying propo-

sition—Pete Sanstol."

In a sense, Sanstol's real ability was somewhat obscured by his great popularity in one particular locality. Because of this, he concentrated the major part of his boxing in the borough of Brooklyn and since the opposition was local in character, his reputation did not become international until the latter part of his career.

This was an indirect result of an illness which sidelined him for several months, sending him up to Nova Scotia for recuperation. There stimulated by the crisp climate and an environment reminiscent of his native Norway, he became so impressed with Canada that he proceeded to Montreal and it was in that city that he showed his true worth as a bantamweight title contender.

CANADIANS PLEASSED BY HIS SPECTACULAR STYLE

The Canadians were carried away by Sanstol's spectacular style and picturesque ring presence. So much so that by some manner of reasoning, following a most impressive victory over cagy Archie Bell of Brooklyn on May 20, 1931, the little Norseman was dubbed "Bantamweight Champion of Canada" since this win had followed a victory over Canada's best bantam, Bobby Leitham, also in Montreal.

A clamor arose in this part of the Dominion for a chance at the world's title for the adopted idol, who had cap-

tivated the Canucks as completely as he had won over Brooklyn's Scandinavians a few years before.

Al Brown, the holder of the bantam title, was also well thought of in Montreal. A long time Paris resident, he favored the French atmosphere of the Canadian city, and the match was made with the title at stake, to take place on August 8, 1931.

Brown was not only a smart boxer and a dangerous hitter, he was a ring oddity who while almost six feet tall, could make 118 pounds. This made the task of his stubby opponents most difficult.

It was in this fight that Sanstol showed the talent so long monopolized by New York's small club circuit, to

**SON OF A FAMILY OF WEALTH;
HAD FINE DRAWING TALENT**

Sanstol was further unusual in that he came of a family of wealth and refinement, which was evident in his courtliness of manner and alert intelligence. Like many other boxers notably,

Georgie Abrams, Jackie Donovan, Primo Carnera, George Araujo, Mickey Crawford, Jimmy Bivins, Joe Welling and Mickey Walker, he had considerable talent for drawing and his family wished him to follow art as a livelihood, but the athletically inclined youngster turned to amateur boxing back in his home town of Moi, Norway. He won the amateur championship and then set out upon the professional career that was to culminate in a world's championship fight far across the seas.

Among those holding fond memories of Sanstol is veteran Jimmy Bronson, a longtime associate of Burston. The essence of "eclat" himself, Bronson speaks in glowing terms of Sanstol's pleasant demeanor and cultured ways.

"He was a little gentleman, a warm and friendly little fellow, who everyone liked a great deal. As a fighter, well, the Brown fight was the tipoff on how good

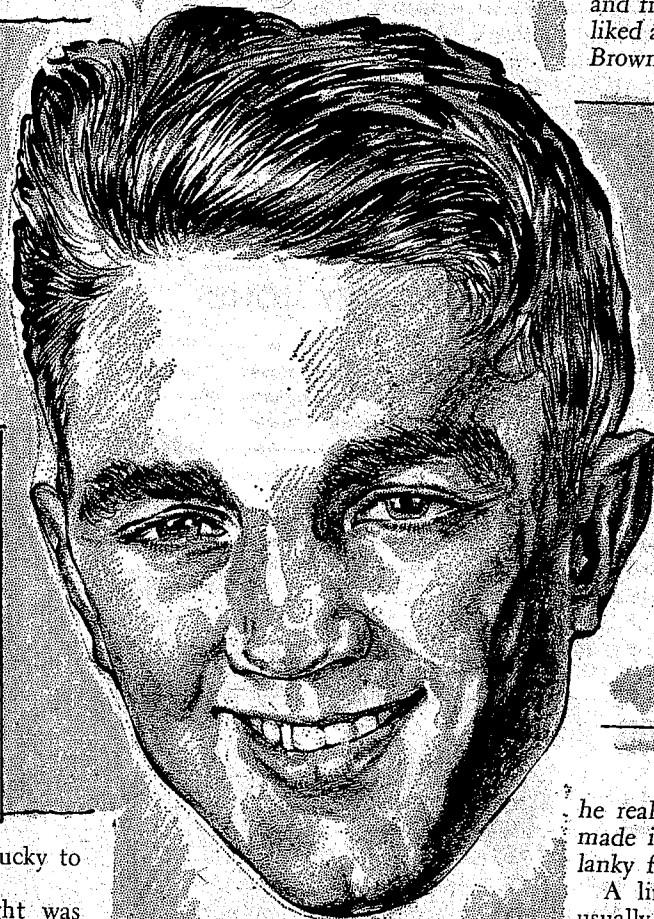
NORWAY'S
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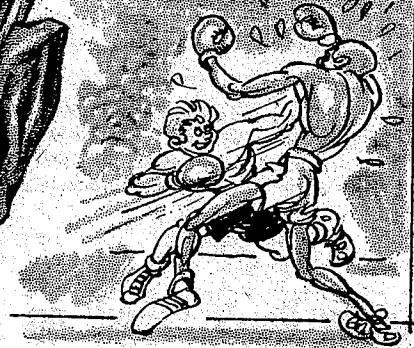
ART WAS HIS FIRST MOVE!!



A HIGHLY COLORFUL STYLE MADE HIM A "SMALL CLUB" HERO!!



HE BARELY MISSED WINNING THE BANTAM TITLE FROM AL BROWN!!



the boxing world. Brown was lucky to win.

The consensus after the fight was that Sanstol who put on a rousing finish in the fifteen round setto, had won six rounds to six for Brown with three even. However, most observers seemed to feel that the contest was too close for a title to change hands. By such a microscopic margin did Pete Sanstol miss the bantamweight championship of the world.

He continued fighting for two more years, with considerable success but never got another chance at the title. In seven years of battling from 1927 through 1933 his record shows but six losses in eighty-nine engagements.

Pete SANSTOL

MANY VETS CALL HIM BEST OF THE SCANDINAVIAN BOXERS!!

BEST OF ALL THE "NORDICS"



TELEMAN BOB BURSTON

he really was. How many people ever made it that close with that long and lanky fellow?"

A linguist, whose English was unusually fluent, Sanstol lived for some years in Alaska, married there, and now after years of wandering, is back home in his native Norway.

While Danish-born Kid Williams and Battling Nelson won world championships, they were American bred boxers, unlike Sanstol who is considered an important rather than a U. S. product. Few Scandinavians have fought for world boxing titles although it is highly probable that Johansson will eventually gain this objective thereby becoming the first since Sanstol in twenty-seven years.