

# DEMPSEY TRAINING HALTED BY TRAGEDY

Death of Former Champion's  
Brother Upsets All Plans  
Temporarily.

FLYNN FEARS REACTION

Uncertain of Effect on Camp  
Routine—Bout Postponement  
Seems Unlikely.

By JAMES P. DAWSON.

*Special to The New York Times.*

SARATOGA LAKE, N. Y., July 2.—Tragedy today threw the training camp of Jack Dempsey into gloom. All activities were suspended after the former world's heavyweight champion received word at his cottage that his brother, John, had killed his wife and committed suicide at their home in Schenectady. The atmosphere of carefree happiness which has surrounded Dempsey's training since coming here disappeared immediately to be replaced by one of grief and apprehension.

Dempsey hurried to the scene of the tragedy and after attending to legal formalities and arranging to have the bodies sent to Salt Lake City and Green Island returned here and went into seclusion in his cottage.

There is fear in the camp tonight that this tragedy will undo all the good that Dempsey's intensive, lengthy campaign of training has accomplished in his attempted comeback.

## Flynn Delays Plans.

Leo P. Flynn, his manager, said immediate plans depend on Dempsey's reaction to the shock.

"When Jack will resume training depends on his state of mind and his reaction to this terrible thing," he declared.

"I know only that something must be done and done quickly to keep his mind off the matter as much as possible. Maybe he will resume training tomorrow afternoon and maybe he will not. It might be that working will keep him from thinking of this tragedy. On the other hand, sending him through a training workout now might have an opposite effect. It might ruin him. We can only await developments and hope for the best. Dempsey's task now is greater than ever it was and ours is increased immeasurably. Such a thing is a terrific blow at any time. To a man in training for one of the most important fights of his life it is a crushing load to have to carry."

It is within the range of possibilities that this unfortunate event will completely upset Dempsey's plans. It might even cause a postponement of the Dempsey-Sharkey bout July 21 or it might lead to an abandonment of the fight entirely. Only the future will decide the extent to which Dempsey has been affected. Right now, however, it appears that Dempsey will be able to resume training within a few days and that he will fight Sharkey as scheduled on July 21.

## Troubles Follow Jack.

Today's tragedy recalls the consistent hard luck and discouraging obstacles which attach themselves to Dempsey as he tries to condition himself for a fight. It seems that he simply cannot dodge them, and they have always had a depressing and harmful influence.

At Great Falls, Mont., when he was training for the Tom Gibbons fight

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in Shelby in 1923, Dempsey faced the task of raising money for the fight and the uncertainty of whether there was to be a fight. And it worried him. At this place later that year while he was training for Firpo, Dempsey had to worry over the difficulties in which Firpo found himself and which threatened for a time to cause a cancellation of that battle.

Last year here and at Atlantic City Dempsey was harried on all sides. While training at Atlantic City for the Georges Carpentier battle in 1921 Dempsey had to contend with several worrisome incidents which never came to public notice.

Dr. Fralick came here today to subject Dempsey to a physical examination, but the examination, like the training, is now dependent upon Dempsey. The former champion has had two days away from boxing and probably will have several others.

## Comes at Critical Time.

The interruption to his training comes at a critical time, for he is a long way, physically, from the Dempsey of old or the Dempsey he will have to be to batter past Sharkey. Seclusion and plenty of it had been prescribed for the former champion. The cottage in which he lives had been carefully guarded since Dempsey established himself there. This protection now will be increased.

Prior to the tragedy there had been every sign that Dempsey's comeback campaign was progressing favorably although Dempsey and all of those associated with him anticipated a strenuous three weeks before he met Sharkey.

Flynn had begun rounding his new charge into shape by slow but careful degrees.

Dempsey's first week here, although lacking in any terrific rejuvenation of the former champion, had been noted for the severity of worshipping crowds. Dempsey liked his work here and he liked his surroundings, but best of all, the ex-champion liked privacy, or that privacy which protected him from rabid fans and gave him the company of his intimates.

In the concentrated effort of his advisers to provide this seclusion Dempsey's camp is a reminder of the now famous Manhasset, L. I. camp of Georges Carpentier when that gallant son of France was training for the debacle of Boyle's Thirty Acres six years ago. Even the barbed wire is here as a reminder of the strict privacy which is insisted upon.

## Training Camp Ideal.

Dempsey is located in the cottage he occupied last year up to the time process servers started the crusade which had its climax in the attachment of the Dempsey car, forcing the then champion out of the State and to Atlantic City.

His abode is ideal for purposes of privacy. Half a mile up the road from the cottage Dempsey occupied on the lake shore four years ago, when he was training for the Firpo battle, the ex-champion enjoys the privacy of a hermit. His cottage is a five-room affair, colored a dark green, containing three bedrooms, a dining room and a kitchen. In this house lives Dempsey, Manager Flynn and Jerry Luvadis, or Jerry the Greek, as he is called.

The building is reached by a walk across an open field, but is situated so far back from the road which

winds up the hill, that it cannot be seen. Surrounded by a clump of pines, the cottage is invisible from the roadway and guards and padlocks have been supplied to keep away the inquisitive and idly curious. A barbed wire protection, thrown up on a fence last year when Sheriffs and their deputies were snapping at Dempsey's heels, still is conspicuous.

Dempsey's life here has been well regulated. He retires every night between 9 and 10 o'clock and has been arising each morning at 6:30 o'clock. He has Paul Lahaye, French-Canadian, here as his special cook. Lahaye is a friend of Dempsey's, the acquaintance dating back to a meeting in Montreal nearly three years ago, when Lahaye sparred with the man who then held the ring's highest title.

In addition to cooking—and they do say at the camp that the French-Canadian is one of the best kitchen mechanics available—Lahaye also is available as sparring partner for Dempsey and accompanies the former champion at times on his morning road jaunts.

## Hits Road Each Morning.

Dempsey has no strict diet. His breakfast consists generally of orange juice, bacon, toast and coffee, and his luncheon is a light meal. For dinner he eats a hearty meal of beef, fowl, lamb or whatever meat he desires.

After breakfast each morning Dempsey has been taking to the road for an hour or more. Returning to the cottage he has a shower bath and gets a vigorous rub down from Jerry. Then he has been lolling about the cottage or taking a whirl at rowing the lake boats. A rest after luncheon and at 3 o'clock Dempsey has been clambering into the familiar ring to exhibit himself before prying eyes and paid customers.

He has with him here as sparring partners, in addition to Shade, Martin Burke, New Orleans light heavyweight; Eddie McMullen, New York's Irish middleweight; Johnny Saxon, Bridgeport welterweight; Carl Carter, New York negro heavyweight, and Allentown Joe Gans, negro middleweight. Jack Renault, Canadian heavyweight, who was reported on his way to camp the other day, is not to be on Dempsey's sparring staff. Renault now is in the Middle West where he is signed to resume ring activity.

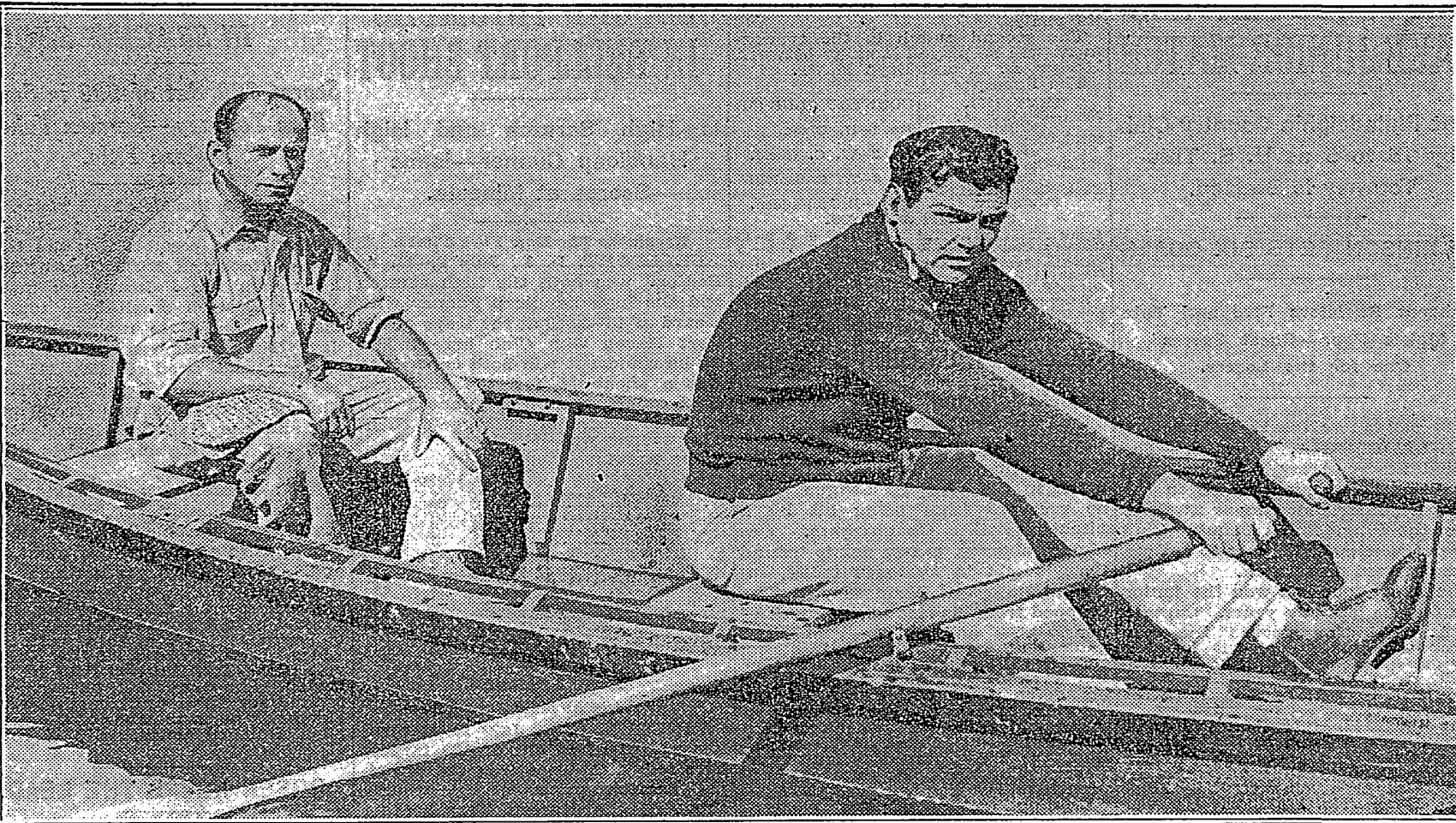
## Rickard Fears No Interruption.

Promoter Tex Rickard expressed deep sympathy for Dempsey when he heard of the tragedy yesterday afternoon. He telephoned at once to the Saratoga camp of the former champion and talked to Manager Flynn, asking him to convey his condolences to Dempsey, whom Rickard did not wish to disturb in his grief.

Rickard said that Flynn had told him Dempsey would probably be ready to resume training tomorrow, and that there was no likelihood at present that there would be any further interruption of the plans for the bout at the Yankee Stadium with Jack Sharkey on July 21.

If a postponement of the bout should become necessary, the next available date would be Aug. 11, which at present is listed for the Jack Delaney-Mike McTigue light-heavyweight championship. July 21, allowing for the possibility of a day's delay owing to bad weather, is the last date on which the Yankee Stadium is free. The Yankees then start a home stand which continues until Aug. 9.

Such a postponement also would cause a clash with the proposed bout in which the Dempsey-Sharkey winner is slated to meet Gene Tunney. This encounter has been tentatively set between Sept. 5 and 10 by Rickard. If Dempsey and Sharkey did not fight until Aug. 11 there would hardly be sufficient time between the dates.



Jack Dempsey Out for a Row on Saratoga Lake With Jerry the Greek.

Times Wide World Photo.