

## Angelo Radano



**A**ngelo Radano had some great fights in his boxing career, cut short by battle wounds received with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II, but his greatest victory was defeating Willie Pep, later a World's champion, in an amateur bout at the old Norwalk Armory on November 3, 1938.

As an amateur, Angelo had a record of 39 wins, one loss, and three draws including 24 knockout victories. He started his fistic career at the age of 16 by taking a decision from Harry Remson, a local lad, in June 1938 at Stack Arena.

The late Art Roman and Jack Vigilio, who became the state boxing inspector for Norwalk, were Radano's first managers. Then James "Gaspipie" Voccola of Bridgeport, a renowned boxing figure as a manager and promoter, took charge of the Norwalk fighter. Voccola took Radano into the professional ranks to post a record of 30 wins,

four defeats, and three draws.

In his first fight as a pro, Angelo defeated Larry Carlini of New Haven by gaining the decision in a four-round bout on November 14, 1939. His lone loss by a technical knockout came at the hands of Red Moffett of Milford when the referee stopped the bout in the sixth round due to cuts on Radano's face. After his fistic days were over, Moffett became a boxing referee and then a policeman. Most of Radano's fights were in the Fairfield County area from Greenwich to Bridgeport and up to Danbury. In Norwalk he fought in the State St. Arena, Stack Arena, and the Norwalk Armory. He took a six-round decision from Tony Vallon of New York in his lone bout in NYC at the Coliseum, then staging weekly boxing shows.

Angelo's boxing career was interrupted by World War II and it was with a field artillery regiment near Cassino, Italy that he was severely wounded in 1943. He tried to return to the ring after a year in military hospitals in Europe, but his battle injuries slowed him down and he went into retirement. After further hospital treatment in the U.S., Angelo was given a medical discharge from the Army.

In 1947 he opened his liquor store at 15½ Tierney Street and he has been in business at this location for the past 34 years. He married Katherine Lombardo, a fashion artist of New York City, in 1947. They first met at a softball game when Angelo was the catcher for the Kingsbridge U.S. Veterans Home softball team in the Bronx. Mr. & Mrs. Radano reside at 15 Tierney Street. They have four children: Joseph, a former Central Catholic High football player, is studying engineering; Debra is a learning disabilities specialist at Greenwich High School; Angelo Jr. is a mechanical engineer; Frank is in the engineering department of NBC-TV in New York City.