

FREDDIE GUINYARD

I met Joe Louis in Sunday School--Calvary Baptist Church. We were both young fellows, 13 years old.

We used to go to Eastern Market to work before we went to school during the week. They had tissue paper on the apples and oranges. You take the tissue paper off and set 'em up so you could see the quality of the oranges.

When we were in intermediate school we worked on an ice wagon together--a horse and wagon. At first we used to go and get a job with somebody else. A man would give us a dollar a day to work for him. Then we said, we'll go get us an ice wagon ourselves and try it. We bought our ice at Stroh's. Our mothers would give us enough money to buy a 300 lb. block of ice. They'd slide the ice onto the wagon right out of the chute. You'd take an ice pick and pick it down to the size you wanted--25 to 100 lbs. The ice was marked when it came out of the chute. There was a line on it, like a scratch. You could break it with a plain ice pick. The lines went a quarter inch deep. Joe's much larger than myself, and everytime somebody would say, "Oh, 25 lbs," I says, "Your turn, buddy." We would buy four 300 lb. pieces of ice, then on Saturdays you'd get more because people would buy more ice on Saturdays because they churned ice cream on Sunday.

We rented the horse and wagon for \$3.00 a day. We went to St. Aubin and Antietam. We dragged the horse and wagon from the barn to the ice house, load your ice, and then pick your route that you think that you could sell more ice on.

You couldn't go on Jefferson Avenue. You couldn't go on the Boulevard. You couldn't go on Gratiot Avenue, but all the side streets you could go on.

Other people who were selling ice tried to get territories, but you would say a few things that would make him know you were gonna be there that I wouldn't say in front of you. But you had a license on your wagon that said you could go anywhere.

This was '29, '30 and '31.

I was secretary to the trainer of Joe Louis in training camp with Joe. I worked with him for 15 years when he was fighting. He and I were friends. We went all over everywhere together, all over the world, even when he was going on fighting for the Army, Navy Relief, we were together then.

One time they asked Joe Louis what did he think of managers and Joe said, "Well, I think of managers the same as I think of my buddy, Freddie Guinyard." He said, "He hauled ice, and I carried it."

Joe Louis was much smarter than people gave him to be. During the army, when we were travelling to different army camps, he would

never say what he would do for somebody. Somebody would ask him, "Joe, can you give me this or loan me this."

He'd say, "I'll see what my buddy can do for you."

I had the hardest time explaining to people that this is Joe Louis doing this, not me. He just didn't want to take any bows for a lot of things.