

Rumble on the Rio Grande

Written by Kelsey McCarson
Tuesday, 08 January 2013 00:00



It was a fistic carnival like none before it. More than three hundred souls stood with mouths wide while Judge Roy Bean readied the trains for a return. The trek had been far. The bulk of them had travelled over sixteen hours on dust-filled, rocky terrain from El Paso, which was hard going in 1896 even for wondrous steam engines.

This cult of punchers was hoping to see heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons and Peter Maher etch another torrid brawl into the marbled halls of *Fistiana*. Instead, the rough and tumble men, who had paid roughly thirty-two dollars apiece (train ride plus fight ticket) for the *privilege* of becoming lawfully lawless hobos, bore witness to one of the fastest ending prizefights in heavyweight boxing history.

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A sharp left hook by Ruby Robert Fitzsimmons had spun poor Peter Maher down to the hard canvas at just one minute thirty-five seconds of round number one. Oh miserable brood of oddities, thy name is boxing.

This is the story of how it came to be.

“Law West of the Pecos”

Law in Texas (especially the sparsely populated western parts of Texas) was different back then. This was particularly true of the law handed down by Justice of the Peace, Roy Bean of Val Verde County. Bean, proclaiming himself the “Law West of the Pecos,” doled out a myriad of unorthodox sentences from his very own saloon, The Jersey Lilly.

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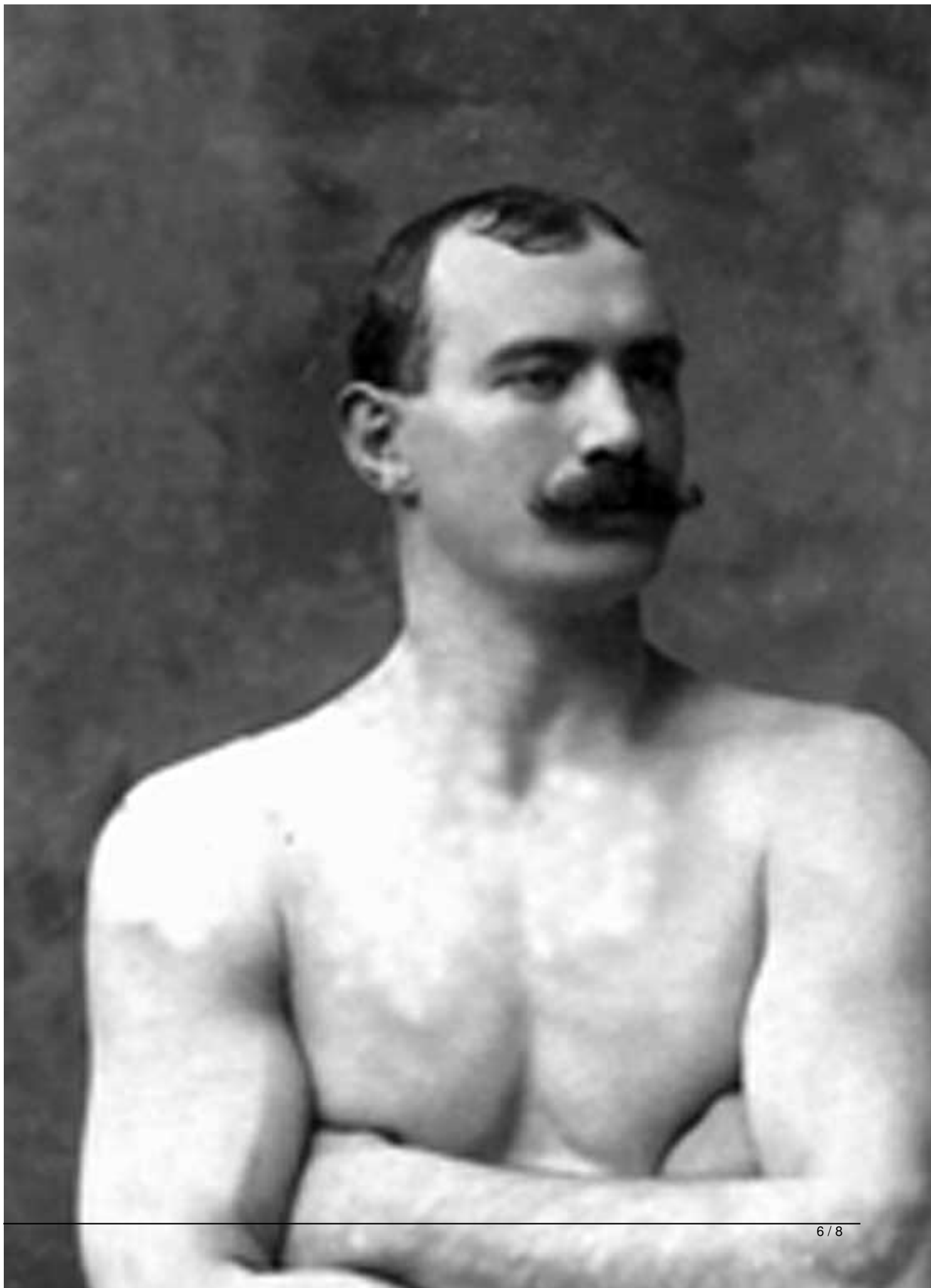
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[Common Article 1](#) of the Geneva Convention prohibits the use of poison or poisoned weapons. It also prohibits the use of weapons that cause unnecessary suffering or superfluous injury. The use of chemical and biological weapons is also prohibited. The use of nuclear weapons is prohibited under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The use of landmines is prohibited under the Ottawa Treaty. The use of cluster munitions is prohibited under the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The use of incendiary weapons is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of blinding weapons is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum psychological harm is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum physical harm is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum environmental damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum economic damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum social damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum cultural damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum religious damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum political damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum legal damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum moral damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum ethical damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum humanitarian damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum human rights damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum international law damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum global damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum universal damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum common damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum public damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum private damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum individual damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum personal damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum family damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum community damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum society damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum nation damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum world damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum universe damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The use of weapons that are specifically designed to cause maximum everything damage is prohibited under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.