

Missed Connections from Days Gone By

By Hap Hansen

Years ago, the heavyweight boxing world was about to witness another embarrassment and a huge missed connection. The undefeated champion had destroyed all the contenders but one. The one remaining was an aging pug with a so-so record. His 260-pound body was layered with fat instead of muscle and his face looked as though it had been hammered by countless two-by-fours.

In a television interview, the contender's wife was asked about her husband's chances against the Heavyweight Boxing Champion of the World. She said, "If you're going to drive a Volkswagen in the Indianapolis 500, you had better know a helluva shortcut!"

It would be fun to report that the contender won the fight. He didn't! He never had the opportunity to connect his fist with the champion's jaw. It was a knockout missed connection. He was mercifully knocked out with fifteen seconds gone in the second round. When asked later if he would demand a rematch, the fallen warrior said, "As long as I am a contender, I will fight for the champion's belt."

We have all missed many connections from days gone by. Many words and phrases that were common then are no longer in use. As an example, a Gay Blade was a happy bachelor and homosexuality had nothing to do with it. When was the last time you invited someone to 'supper' and you discussed fender skirts, curb feelers or steering knobs on your new car? Did your car also have a Continental Kit? When did we stop using the words, 'foot feed' and now say accelerator? The word brassiere is no longer in our connected conversations. It is now called a 'bra.' Years ago, it was also called an 'unmentionable.' How long ago was a new TV program shown in 'Spectravisation'? Remember the telethons with commercials that guaranteed you would no longer have 'lumbago'? What was lumbago anyway? Finally, those of us who are 'of a certain age' recall when in days of our youth and had stomach problems, our mothers gave us a good dose of Castor Oil? There's a missed connection that I will never miss.