

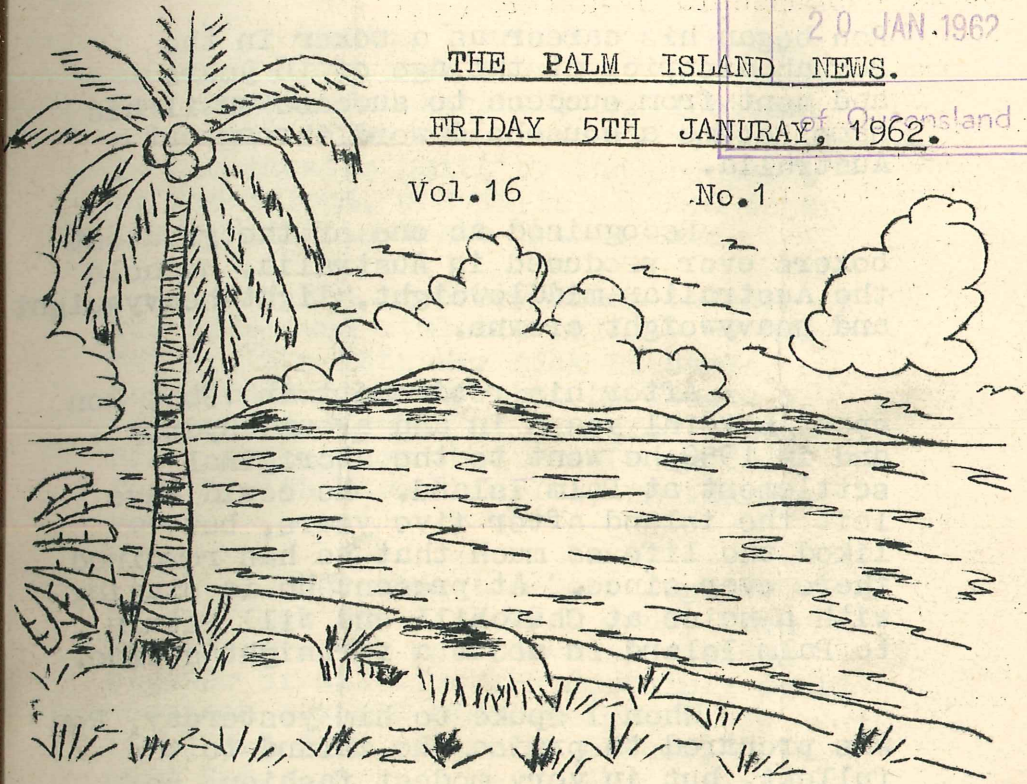
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RON RICHARDS REPORT

The Queensland Times, Ipswich has something to say about our Ron Richards and Palm Island.

In their Sportograph Column of 30th December, they recorded an interview with Ron as under.

Ron Richards Tells of Life on Palm Island.

Ron Richards, former triple Australian boxing titleholder is holidaying in Ipswich at the present time.

Born at Leichhardt 49 years ago,

Ron began his career as a boxer in the Boonah district at the age of 16 years and went from success to success until his name became a household word throughout Australia.

Recognised as one of the greatest boxers ever produced in Australia, he held the Australian middleweight, light-heavyweight and heavyweight crowns.

After his retirement in 1945, Ron spent several years in and around Sydney and in 1950 he went to the aboriginal settlement at Palm Island. He could have left the island after five years, but liked the life so much that he has remained there ever since. At present he is staying with a neice at Churchill and will return to Palm Island in about a fortnight's time.

When I spoke to him yesterday, Ron was prepared to praise the island to the fullest, but in very modest fashion, he tried to avoid answering questions about his boxing prowess.

Ron is loud in his praises of the present superintendent, Mr. Bartlam, who took charge of the settlement in 1953, and according to Ron has turned it into an island Paradise.

He claims that the Government has done a great deal for the coloured people.

Ron spends his time managing the single men's quarters on the island, which is self supporting. The settlement has its own cattle, vegetable farms and piggery.

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Boxing tournaments are run  
on the island each fortnight and there  
are organised basketball and football  
matches. Films are shown twice a week  
in the theatre built by the occupants  
of the island, and it is claimed to be  
the largest in North Queensland.

Ron is every-ready to talk of  
the all-round athletic ability of his  
father, the late Mr. Dick Richards,  
and recalls the day when he fought a  
15-round bout against "Darkie" Jones.  
Ron's father won the bout (which was  
fought with bare knuckles) in the last  
round.

Ron says the best fighter  
he ever met was without a doubt Fred  
Henneberry. "He was the most vicious  
fighter of all time and certainly would  
have won a world middleweight title  
if he had been given the chance,"  
said Ron.

Henneberry and Richards  
met no fewer than eight times during  
their stormy careers and each time  
drew capacity crowds.

It is interesting to note that  
Ron fought the present light heavyweight  
champion of the world, Arch Moore twice  
in Australia. Ron lost one bout on a  
T.K.O. with a cut eye and lost the other  
on points (though he thought he had won).

Ron began his professional  
career at the old Bohemia Stadium in  
Brisbane in a main bout, and in fact

never fought a preliminary fight in his life.

He classes Jack Carroll as the greatest welter-weight of all time; Ambrose Palmer as the top class light heavy weight (he was as quick on his feet as any lightweight); and Fred Henneberry as the best middleweight, and the greatest of them all, AND Ron should know, he fought them all.

The Richards family has earned a place in the history of Australian boxing. Ron's brother Max, won the Queensland bantamweight title in the early 1930s and was the only Australian to "go the distance" with Chinese sensation Kui Kon Young.

With a flashing smile, displaying a perfect set of teeth, despite all his ring battles, Ron says it is good to be back among the people of Ipswich, who are the friendliest he has ever met.

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#### FEEDING BABY

Don't feed baby every time he cries -- instead try to find the reason he is crying. And don't overclothe your child when the weather turns cold. Instead of preventing coughs and sneezes, this makes him more susceptible.

(From the Queensland Health Education Council.)

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