



I REMEMBER STEVE BELLOISE

by Scoop Gallelo



The Date was March 26, 1940. This date found me with a few pals sitting in choice seats at the Westchester County Center. What drew me and my friends that evening was the talk of a tough hard punching middleweight out of the Bronx, New York. The word was that Steve Belloise carried dynamite in each hand, and I was there to see if these rumors were true. He was in against a good fighter by the name of "Irish" Eddie Dunne, whom Steve defeated in a close eight round bout two months earlier. The first round was barely two minutes old, when Steve unloaded a tremendous left hook, and the fight was over. He instantly became my hero, but it wasn't until his career was over, that I met Steve in person. We became very close friends, and remained that way until the sad day of his passing. Steve would pay me a visit at least twice a week, sometimes walking from his Bronx home to my place of business - a good 10 miles. He was a "Mama Man" dedicated, honest and a joy to be with. He never knocked another boxer, but always spoke well of all of them. When Steve took ill a few years ago, and wound up at Montrose State Hospital I paid him a visit. It was sad to see this once vibrant and fun loving man in the condition he was in. I wept unashamedly, and to this day it pains me to think of his passing.

His ring career reads 110 bouts as a pro, scored 59 knockouts, won 35 by decision, lost 8 decisions, stopped 5 times - boxed 2 draw verdicts and won once on disqualification. He boxed the best in the world from 1938 to 1950, twice against Middleweight King Ken Overlin, dropping two 15 round decisions. He had Overlin down and almost out, but the bell rescued Ken, and saved him the title. Under today's rules the bell cannot save you, and the count continues. By the present day rules, Steve would have been Champion. He is affectionately known as "The Uncrowned Middleweight Champion." To Steve's wonderful family, his wife Fina, his daughters Christina, Stefani, Ginny, and his son Steve Jr. rest assured that Steve Belloise will always be in my prayers and the memory of him, always in my heart.