

Boxing Day Recalled

The Weekend Post

R. Pryor Launched In Movies

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A few weeks ago the Illinois Boxing Convention was held in Peoria and many of the present and former pugilists were talking fight talk. Dick Cook, Jimmy Sheppard, Chuck Burroughs, Chuck and Eddie Betson, etc.

A few minutes later Buck Carter, former boxer and father of Richard Pryor arrived. Chuck Betson recalled Buck's heyday in the ring and also recalled 1958 when Richard fought in the Springfield Golden Gloves winning his first bout by knockout. Chuck said, "I

think Richard won that fight when he clinched his opponent, told him a joke, got him laughing, and then KO'ed him." Comedian Richard Pryor was the life of the party even then at 16.

(Richard Pryor)
After the convention broke up Buck Carter, his wife, and several others went to see Pryor's first movie role which was playing in our town that week. All of us were concerned for Richard because of the stature of the many actors in the picture; Robert Ryan, Ann Baxter, Sid Caesar, Bill Dana,

Geoffrey Cambridge; just a part of the all star cast.

The movie was hilarious and Pryor was a major factor in its success. His role as the exuberant police lieutenant surpassed many of the veteran actors and gave him a choice lead part. His success in this movie placed him in demand for more motion pictures plus his huge television attractions. Today Richard Pryor has one big problem. Finding time to take his money to the bank between commitments. — Peoria.