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# **Dempsey in Nevada**

Guy Clifton



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Jack Dempsey's first trip to Nevada came as he clung to the underbelly of a train, a dangerous practice known as riding the rods and utilized by those too poor to purchase a ticket for one of the passenger cars. In later years, Dempsey, the heavyweight boxing champion from 1919 to 1926, returned to a hero s welcome with newspapermen, children and divorcees following his every move. Many people are surprised to learn that Dempsey once called Nevada home. Little remains to commemorate that time other than the yellowed archives of Nevada newspapers and the memories of a handful of old-timers. The fact is, Dempsey left footprints all over the Silver State. A new book by writer Guy Clifton, Dempsey In Nevada is an untold chapter in Nevada s history and an untold story in the life of one of the great sports figures of the 20th Century. Dempsey helped usher in the era referred to as The Golden Age of Sport. Along with baseball's Babe Ruth, football's Red Grange, golf's Bobby Jones and tennis' Bill Tilden, Dempsey was a giant of the era and made more money in a single fight than all the others combined. Babe Ruth s largest salary with the Yankees was \$85,000. Dempsey made \$717,000 for his first fight with Gene Tunney. He lost his fortune in the stock market crash of 1929 and set about reclaiming it with Reno as his base in the early 1930s, first as a fight promoter and then, once again, as a fighter as he set out to reclaim the heavyweight championship. Guy Clifton s meticulously researched and wonderfully illustrated volume captures virtually everything you wanted to know about boxing great Jack Dempsey in Nevada, said Nevada State Archivist Guy Rocha.

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