

WHEN I GOT TOM ABAIR'S EMAIL ABOUT A SPECIAL PERSON FROM RIVER ROUGE FOR THE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER, THE FIRST PERSON THAT CAME TO MY MIND WAS: CLARENCE "GENOY" MONTROY.

AS LITTLE CHILDREN BACK IN THE 50'S, WALKING TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL WE WOULD PASS THE "WAR MONUMENT" AND POINT TO HIS NAME, WE WERE SO PROUD, FOR YOU SEE, HE WAS OUR BROTHER- IN- LAW AND WE LOVED HIM. HE WAS ONE OF THOSE WORLD WAR II " HEROS" KNOWN AS "THE GREATEST GENERATION". HE SERVED HIS COUNTRY AND ALMIGHTY GOD. HE CAME BACK FROM THE WAR AND SET UP AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SIX YOUNG BOYS THAT WOULD FOREVER CHANGE THEIR LIVES BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE WANTED THEM TO LEARN RESPECT FOR OTHERS, HAVE HEALTHY BODIES AND TO HAVE A GOAL FOR A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT. GENOY WAS AN AVID BOXER AND BOXING FAN. HE FELT SPORTS WERE A WAY FOR POOR KIDS TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR HARD WORK. HE STARTED THE "RIVER ROUGE BOXING CLUB" IN 1946. THE SIX BOYS WERE AGED ELEVEN TO FOURTEEN. ALL SIX WOULD BECOME "GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPIONS", A GREAT RECORD, SIX OF SIX.

PHOTOS OF THE CHAMPIONS TAKEN BY LEO CUMMINGS WERE ALWAYS ON DISPLAY AT THE MUSSILLS SPORT CENTER ON WEST JEFFERSON, ANOTHER GREAT TRADITION BY TWO BROTHERS THAT GAVE RECOGNITION TO MANY YOUNG KIDS IN RIVER ROUGE.

FINLAY BEATON, RODERICK BEATON, MALCOLM BEATON, JOHN MONTROY, KENNY MONTROY AND RUSSELL DIONNE. THE ENCLOSED PICTURE HAS ALL BUT ONE OF THE "CHAMPS" AND GENOY IS IN BLACK ON THE TOP LEFT. RUSSELL DIONNE IS MISSING IN THE PICTURE. THE "GYM" WAS IN THE BEATON'S GARAGE AT 313 RICHTER. GENOY WOULD MARRY KATHRYN BEATON AND BECOME THE BEATON BOYS' BROTHER -IN -LAW AND THE MONTROY BOYS WERE GENOY'S NEPHEWS, DIONNE WAS THEIR CLOSEST FRIEND. BEATON, MONTROY, DIONNE, NAMES SYNONYMOUS WITH RIVER ROUGE. THE CURRENT CITY ATTORNEY DAVID BOWER IS FROM THE DIONNE FAMILY.

ALL OF US THAT WERE BLESSED TO GROW UP IN RIVER ROUGE HAVE A GREAT SENSE OF PRIDE FOR A SMALL CITY WHERE PEOPLE LOOKED OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER. WE FEEL A STRONG KINSHIP TOWARDS EACH OTHER. WE HAD IT THEN AND WE HAVE IT TODAY. WE LOVED RIVER ROUGE AND STILL DO.

CLARENCE "GENOY" MONTROY

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