

Roy Harris '56

Roy Harris came to Sam Houston State from Cut 'n' Shoot, Texas. He graduated and was commissioned in 1956. Below are newspaper articles and other information about Roy. If you talk to any of the people that were in ROTC and the Army with Roy...they can tell you some stories.

Boxing legend recalls title bout 50 years ago (with photos)

KIMBERLY STAUFFER,
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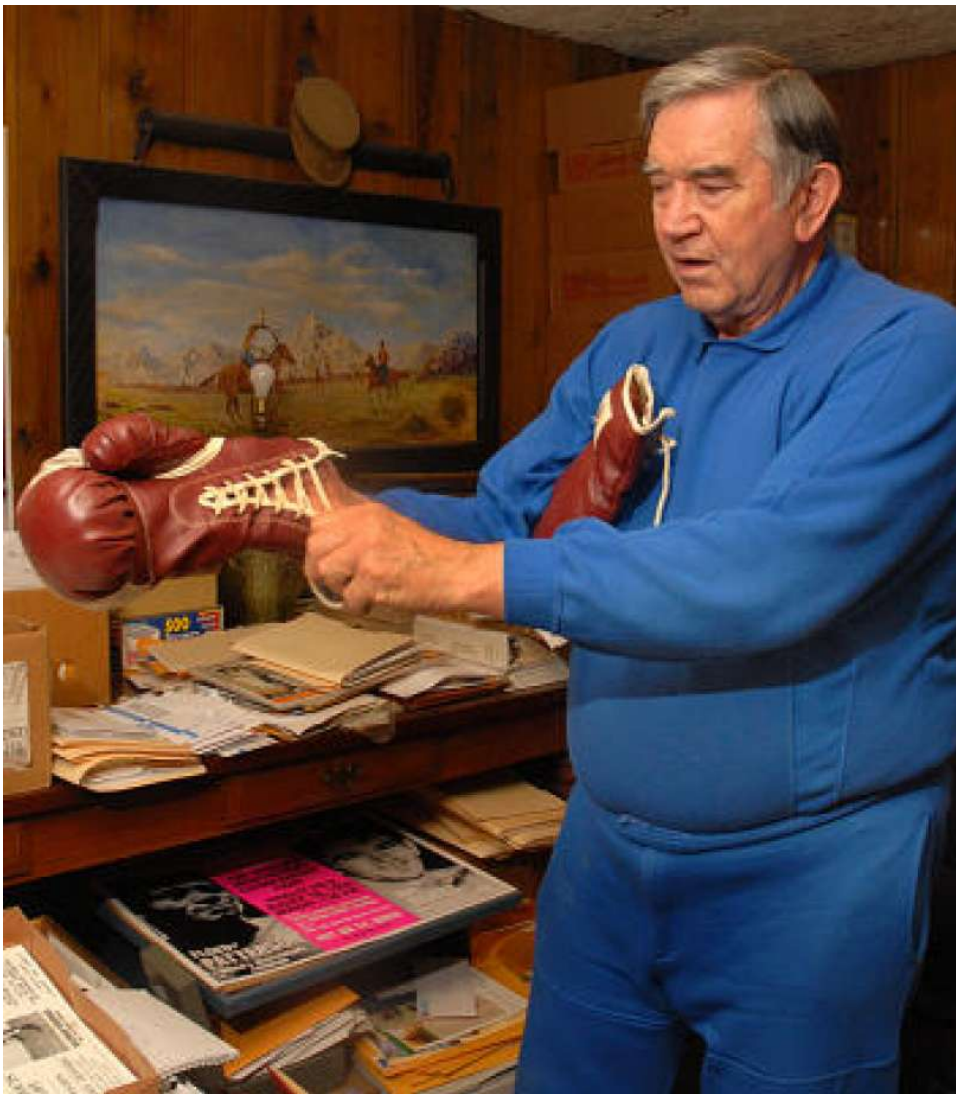


Photo: David Hopper

IMAGE 1 OF 5

Cut and Shoot native Roy Harris tries on an old pair of practice boxing gloves he used during training for one of his professional boxing matches.

The barefoot boxer from Cut and Shoot battled his way from a muddy homemade boxing ring to undefeated national stardom as a heavy weight pugilist with a mean left jab, landing his name in the record books and his town on the map.

Roy Harris, a local boxing legend famous for his 1958 fight against world heavyweight champion [Floyd Patterson](#), started his career under the tutelage of his father, [Henry Harris](#), a burly hog farmer who taught Harris and his older brother Tobe how to box and wrestle.

Known as the “bare-knuckled champion of the big thicket,” Henry trained the boys, driving them in a pickup truck to fight in tournaments they found in the newspapers, said [Robin Navarro Montgomery](#), the author of Roy Harris’ biography, *Cut ‘N Shoot Texas: Roy Harris — Battler from the Backwoods*.

Harris, who lives in Conroe within a mile of his childhood home, sparred bare-fisted with Tobe for hours between feeding the almost 500 hogs roaming the woods and tending to the family’s crops of corn, sweet potatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes. Montgomery’s father, Jimmy, was a coach and helped train the brothers.

Roy Harris went on to win the state’s Golden Gloves tournament four consecutive times. Still making headlines for his boxing prowess and country roots, he enrolled at [Sam Houston State University](#), excelling as an honor student, and entered the ROTC program. His participation earned him two scheduled years in the [U.S. Army](#), where he rose to the rank of captain, and another 12 years in the reserves during the Korean War and Cuban Missile Crisis.

But in 1961, at the age of 28, Harris stepped out of the boxing ring. A married man with children, he said he wanted to do more with his life.

“I was a really good boxer. Probably had the best left jab of anybody in the business,” he said. I always enjoyed taking people who thought they could handle me real easy and educating them slowly.”

The real story of Roy Harris’ life was how different he was from his boxing brethren.

After working as a real estate agent in Polk County, he won an election for Montgomery County clerk and served 28 years, retiring in 1995.

“I decided I wanted to live a normal life myself. I was popular with everybody all the time,” he said. “It’s good, but then you can’t enjoy real life. A lot say, you’re Roy Harris? Then they’ll begin to tell how they know me. I enjoy it to a certain extent.”

Harris’ rise to fame started with a Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter who’s article on the backwoods boxing family became the sports article of the year and ended in Los Angeles in his 12-round fight against Floyd Patterson.

Harris landed on the covers of [Sports Illustrated](#) and *The Ring*, and appeared in numerous newspaper articles detailing his fights.

On Aug. 18, 1958, Harris finally faced off against Patterson. Billed the world’s heavyweight championship fight, Harris had 22 undefeated fights under his belt. But a misguided attempt to regulate his diet led to his loss of strength and pounds in the weeks before the big fight.

“It was one of my sorriest fights. I wasn’t ready to fight,” he said. “I had been on a high protein diet for too long. I wanted to do everything right, but I overdid it.”

“It was a good feeling when I hit him and knocked him down,” he said. “I was standing right there looking down at him. But then he got up and whipped me.”

After he lost the fight to Patterson, Harris never fought in another title fight.

At 75, 50 years after the title fight, Harris said he is still approached by fans asking for autographs and a moment to wax nostalgic.

He said the only thing he regrets about his boxing career is not defeating Patterson.

“I really wanted a different kind of life. I wanted to make a good life for my family,” he said, “and not have to stay in shape.”

Roy Harris, The Pride of Cut And Shoot, Texas

[Mike Dunn](#) - July 25, 2016

It is unfortunate that some fighters are remembered more for the fight or fights they lost than for any of the positive accomplishments they had in the ring.

Randall “Tex” Cobb won 43 fights out of 52 and had 36 knockouts to his credit. Not a bad record. But what is he remembered for? His lopsided decision defeat at the hands of heavyweight champion Larry Holmes in November of 1982. He knocked out Earnie Shavers and lost split decisions to Ken Norton and Michael Dokes. But those performances don’t enter into the equation most of the time when people think of Cobb.

Ray Anderson was a pretty good light-heavyweight from Akron, Ohio in the late 1960s and early 1970s. His list of ring victories includes decisions over Jorge Ahumada, Gregoria Peralta, Karl Zurheide and Angel Paez. He also had draws with Jimmy Dupree and Avenamar Peralta. What is he remembered for? His tentative performance in a title shot against champ Bob Foster in April of 1971. It’s as if none of the other fights ever happened.

Pete Rademacher won the gold medal for the U.S. in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne. A sterling achievement. After turning professional, he posted victories over such contenders as George Chuvalo, Bobo Olson and Lamar Clark. Rademacher, however, is remembered almost exclusively for his ill-advised pro debut, a KO defeat at the hands of champion Floyd Patterson in August of 1957.

And that brings us to the case of a rough-and-tumble cowboy from Cut and Shoot, Texas. When boxing fans hear the name Roy Harris, they usually think of three things. One is the distinctive name of his hometown. One is his 13-round KO loss to champ Floyd Patterson in August of 1958. The third thing they remember is the brutal 1-round KO loss to powerful Sonny Liston in April of 1960 in one of Sonny’s final bouts before winning the crown from Patterson.

It’s too bad because there’s a lot more to the story. Harris was a decent fighter with a stiff left jab and the kind of rawhide toughness that rural Texas breeds in a fellow.

Harris, who turned 83 on June 29 and still practices law, was a Texas sensation as he came up through the amateur ranks, particularly in Montgomery County, where he and his three fighting brothers were local

ring legends. The Harris brothers enjoyed success, but Roy is the one who really stood out. His exploits as a middleweight and light-heavyweight in the annual Golden Gloves tournament in Houston marked him as a young man with a bright future.

In April of 1955, Harris made his pro debut in Houston. He started what would become a 23-fight win streak with his 3-round TKO of Tommie Smith. Along the way, he posted wins over some journeymen fighters and also some pretty good ones. The biggest early win came in his 12th encounter. Just seven months into his career, Harris decisioned rough Buddy Turman in Tyler to win the Texas heavyweight championship.

Decision wins over veterans Alvin Williams in May of 1956 and Charley Norkus in October of 1956 put Harris on the pugilistic map. A KO of promising Claude Chapman in January of 1957 pushed Harris's record to 19-0 and placed him on the outer fringes of the heavyweight rankings.

Harris came through with four impressive victories in a row after that. A decision over experienced journeyman Joey Rowan in February was followed by his toughest battle to date, a majority 12-round decision over highly regarded Bob Baker in Houston in April. Baker, a hard-punching product of western Pennsylvania with a 47-9-1 record, knocked Harris to the canvas in the fourth round, giving the kid from Cut and Shoot his first taste of the canvas as a professional. Harris prevailed, however, to improve to 21-0.

Then came back-to-back decisions over "name" fighters. Future light-heavyweight champion Willie Pastrano bowed to Harris in a June encounter. Pastrano had a 41-4 record coming into the fight. Then in October Harris earned a nod over tough, experienced Germany native Willi Besmanoff.

The victories over Pastrano and Besmanoff officially put Harris on the list of eligible contenders to face champion Floyd Patterson. After serving a short hitch in the U.S. Army, Harris was officially given his shot at the crown. The match was made for August of 1958. Harris would take an unbeaten record and the hope of Texas with him into the ring.

Ironically, the fight was not held in Houston, where it was a natural draw. It was held instead in Los Angeles. The chief reason was Patterson's paranoid manager Cus D'Amato, who spied a conspiracy in every shadow. Cus foresaw a hometown decision for Roy and wouldn't abide any site in Texas. And so the show went to the coast.

Harris became somewhat of an overnight sensation during the media buildup to the fight with Patterson. While in L.A., Roy even recorded a song extolling the virtues of his hometown and the benefits of a fine Texas upbringing. Harris and his hometown of Cut and Shoot captured the imagination of the sporting public; the big question was if Harris could also capture the heavyweight championship.

The answer was no. Harris had the guts and the toughness to hang in with Patterson. He didn't have the speed, the ring generalship, or the experience, though. Harris took a pounding, especially in the later rounds. Roy's father, who was also his trainer, wouldn't allow Roy to come out for the 13th round. Roy had suffered four knockdowns and was badly cut.

Roy's big moment of glory came early in the fight. In the second round, Harris countered one of Patterson's lunging jabs with a right uppercut and sent Floyd to the canvas. Floyd got up and slowly began to take control of things, pretty much dominating the action from the seventh round on. Harris was on the deck once in the seventh and twice in the eighth. He could have rationalized that he had given his best shot and stayed on the canvas after any of those three knockdowns. No one would have blamed him.

That just wasn't in the makeup of this tough Texas kid, though. He got up each time and continued to battle on. He was down again in the 12th before his dad finally called a halt to things.

The pride of Cut and Shoot had suffered his first loss in the ring but wasn't about to retire. He got back on the saddle and posted seven straight victories during the next year-and-a-half. Included in those wins were two successful defenses of the state heavyweight title against Donnie Fleeman and a decision over Charley Powell, who owned a 20-3-2 record.

In April of 1960, Harris bravely stood opposite Sonny Liston in the Sam Houston Coliseum. The month before, Liston had savagely dispatched of murderous punching Cleveland Williams in a short, brutal nationally televised slugfest. Now it was Roy's turn to take on Sudden Sonny.

Liston wasted little time, using his forceful jab to control the action against Roy. Harris, outweighed by 17 ½ pounds, refused to run, however. He engaged Liston and paid a price for it, though he landed some decent shots on the future champion. Liston had Harris on the deck three times (though the first two knockdowns appeared to be "push downs" by Liston) before referee Jimmy Webb halted matters at the 2:35 mark.

Liston went on to win the heavyweight title from Patterson a year later with another 1-round KO that was very similar to the one that Harris suffered. Harris went into the twilight of his career, losing three of his next four bouts, including two KO defeats against Canadian Bob Cleroux and a decision loss to Britain's Henry Cooper.

After a 5-round KO loss to Cleroux in May of 1961, Harris hung up the gloves. He finished his notable career with a 31-5 record. He had the honor of fighting for the heavyweight title and he also fought future champion Liston.

After his fighting days ended, Harris proved he was not a one-trick pony, as they say in Texas. He earned his law degree and served with distinction in Cut and Shoot, where he remains a local celebrity to this day. The local post office was even named in Roy's honor.

Outside of Montgomery County, though, memories of Roy aren't as vivid or as favorable, and that's too bad. When the name of Roy Harris is brought up it is usually in association with the Patterson and Liston fights. Those are the fights that the typical boxing fan remembers. And those are fights that Harris lost.

The one consolation, of course, is being remembered at all. Harris had his day in the sun and made the most of it, recording a song about the small Texas town of Cut and Shoot while training in L.A. for the Patterson fight. He didn't gain the title but he did gain a national following. He didn't ride off into the sunset with the riches that only a heavyweight championship can bring. He did walk away from the ring with his dignity intact and his toughness unquestioned, though, and for a proud Texas cowboy like Roy that's worth more than all the gold in Fort Knox.

Cut and Shoot's Roy Harris a hometown hero in and out of the boxing ring

Staff Report

Published 5:33 pm CDT, Tuesday, August 29, 2017

On the night of Aug. 18, 1958, it would have been pretty difficult to find a Montgomery County resident who wasn't tuned in to watch the Barefoot Boxer from Cut and Shoot.

The local school teacher and a four-time Golden Glove boxing champion tallied 23 consecutive professional wins in the ring before taking on Floyd Patterson for the heavyweight title on Aug. 18, 1958.

And the sporting event was the talk of the town.

For months and weeks leading up to the big fight The Courier ran stories about the local boxer. Harris' aunt, Dorothy Brown, recalls that reporters from all over the country came to Conroe to file stories about the undefeated heavyweight challenger, according to a 2013 Courier story.

"Dad took my brother, Jay, and me to the drive-in theater to watch the fight on closed circuit," said Mayor Pro Tem Guy Martin. "It was exciting - very exciting."

And today, long-time residents still have fond memories of Harris' boxing career and his accomplishments as a local attorney and long-time County Clerk.

Early life

Harris was born in June 1933 in Cut and Shoot.

He started his career under the tutelage of his father, Henry Harris, a burly hog farmer who taught Harris and his older brother Tobe how to box and wrestle, according to a 2008 Houston Chronicle article.

Known as the "bare-knuckled champion of the big thicket," Henry trained the boys, driving them in a pickup truck to fight in tournaments they found in the newspapers, said Robin Navarro Montgomery, the author of Roy Harris' biography, "Cut 'N Shoot Texas: Roy Harris - Battler from the Backwoods."

Harris, who lives in Conroe within a mile of his childhood home, sparred bare-fisted with Tobe for hours between feeding the almost 500 hogs roaming the woods and tending to the family's crops of corn, sweet potatoes, cucumbers and tomatoes. Montgomery's father, Jimmy, was a coach and helped train the brothers.

Roy Harris went on to win the state's Golden Gloves tournament four consecutive times. Still making headlines for his boxing prowess and country roots, he enrolled at Sam Houston State University, excelling as an honor student, and entered the ROTC program. His participation earned him two scheduled years in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the rank of captain, and another 12 years in the reserves during the Korean War and Cuban Missile Crisis.

In 1955, he married Gloria Jean Groce and they went on to have six children.

Fighting career

Harris' rise to fame started with a Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter who's article on the backwoods boxing family became the sports article of the year and ended in Los Angeles in his 12-round fight against Floyd Patterson.

Harris landed on the covers of Sports Illustrated and The Ring, and appeared in numerous newspaper articles detailing his fights.

He racked up wins against Willi Besmanoff, Bob Baker and Willie Pastrano.

The date of Aug. 18, 1958 was proclaimed "Roy Harris Day" in Conroe according to The Courier on Aug. 8, 1958. The proclamation was presented by Mayor Pro-Tem Sam Hailey Jr.

On Aug. 18, 1958, Harris finally faced off against Patterson. The fight took place at Los Angeles' Wrigley Field and was broadcast at the local Hi-Y Drive In theater in Conroe. Harris also recorded a song, "Cut & Shoot, Texas, USA," in 1958.

Billed the world's heavyweight championship fight, Harris had 22 undefeated fights under his belt. But a misguided attempt to regulate his diet led to his loss of strength and pounds in the weeks before the big fight.

"It was one of my sorriest fights. I wasn't ready to fight," he said in a previous Chronicle article. "I had been on a high protein diet for too long. I wanted to do everything right, but I overdid it."

"It was a good feeling when I hit him and knocked him down," he said. "I was standing right there looking down at him. But then he got up and whipped me."

Patterson won the bout in the 12th round with a TKO.

After he lost the fight to Patterson, Harris never fought in another title fight.

He returned to Conroe a hero though and just after his return, was presented a "Key to the City" by Conroe Mayor W.F. "Bill" Newton. The ceremony took place at the grand opening of the Hotel Conroe.

Following fighting

In 1961, at the age of 28, Harris stepped out of the boxing ring. A married man with children, he said he wanted to do more with his life.

"I was a really good boxer. Probably had the best left jab of anybody in the business," he said. "I always enjoyed taking people who thought they could handle me real easy and educating them slowly."

After working as a real estate agent in Polk County, he won an election for Montgomery County clerk and served 28 years, retiring in 1995.

"I decided I wanted to live a normal life myself. I was popular with everybody all the time," he said. "It's good, but then you can't enjoy real life. A lot say, you're Roy Harris? Then they'll begin to tell how they know me. I enjoy it to a certain extent."

In 2008, 50 years after the fight, Harris told the Chronicle he was still approached by fans asking for autographs and a moment to wax nostalgic.

He said the only thing he regrets about his boxing career is not defeating Patterson.

Recognition in recent years

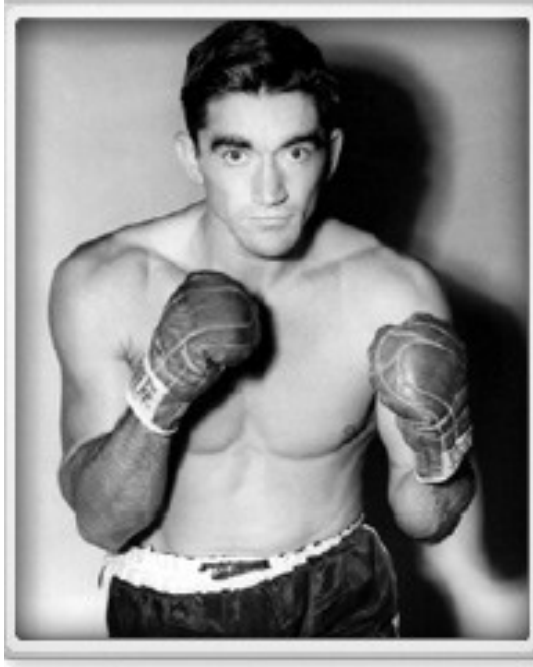
In 2014, Harris was the second person to be recognized with a Conroe Legends mural by the Greater Conroe Arts Alliance, celebrating his prominence as a heavyweight boxer as well as his ongoing contributions as a civic leader later in life.

The nearly 10-foot mural in downtown Conroe on Metcalf street depicts Harris as he appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1958. Harris joins Texas broadcasting legend Mary McCoy, who was the first to be honored by the Conroe Legends program in recognition of her 2010 induction into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

In recent years, Harris' life was also the subject of a book, "Roy Harris of Cut and Shoot: Texas Backwoods Battler" written by Harris and historian and Courier columnist Robin Montgomery.

Cut and Shoot” Roy Harris: Small town Fighter to Heavyweight Championship Bout!

Interview By Ken Hissner, Doghouse Boxing (March 9, 2011) Doghouse Boxing



Who ever heard of the town of Cut and Shoot, TX, population 1,300 (today, maybe 300 then), before their hometown hero Roy Harris fought for the heavyweight title in August of 1958? There were more people in attendance, 21, 680, at the fight than the population of Cut and Shoot. Harris put his town on the map!

It took over 3 years and 22 fights for Harris to earn the title bout against former Olympic Gold medalist and then world heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson. “I had between 400- 500 amateur fights starting at the age of 12. I won the regional’s 6 times, the state’s 4 times and the nationals once” said Harris. You can’t say he didn’t pay his dues when he finally turned professional at 21. “I made \$75.00 for my first fight against Tommie Smith in April of 1954,” said Harris. It was at the Sam Houston Coliseum, in Houston, TX. Harris open the card under 4 ten rounders. His trainer was Bill Gore who would train lightweight champion Joe Brown and be inducted into the IBHF in 2008. His manager was Lou Viscusi.

Harris won 10 fights in 7 months when he won a split decision over Buddy Turman, 11-1, for the vacant USA Texas State heavyweight title, in Tyler. “It was a good fight. Buddy would eventually become a world traveler,” said Harris. Turman fought in 7 different countries including losing back to back 10 round decisions to Archie Moore in Texas and then the Philippines.

In his fourteenth fight Harris defeated Alvin Williams, 49-13-6, in 1956. “That was a rough fight,” said Harris. Several fights later he defeated the first man to defeat Turman in Oscar Pharo, 27-4. This gave him the chance to fight a top ten contender in Charley Norkus, 26-13, whom he defeated in October of 1956 to earn a rating.

Norkus had defeated Cesar Brion, 43-9 of Argentina, unbeaten ex-pro footballer Charlie Powell, top contender Roland LaStarza, 53-5 and lost to former champion Ezzard Charles, 83-12-1, all in his last 4 fights. Harris deserved to be in the ratings after that win.

Harris started 1957 off on a good note defeating Claude Chapman, 25-4-1, who had defeated the Cuban Julio Mederos and the following month former contender Joey Rowan, 28-12-1, whom this writer knew personally. "He had a good personality," said Harris. This was the year he would ready himself for the following year's title bout. He would fight one contender after another.

After Rowan, Harris took on big Bob Baker, 47-9-1, who had almost 30 pounds on him. He had Harris down in the fourth round. Harris won a majority decision. "He was one dangerous fighter," said Harris. Baker had wins over Cuban Nino Valdez, Rex Layne (3x), Jimmy Slade, Coley Wallace and Joe Baski, all contenders at one time or another. Wallace was the only man to defeat Rocky Marciano in the amateurs.

Willie Pastrano brought in a 20-1-1 record in his last 22 fights and a 40-4-5 overall record in June. Harris took the decision. Pastrano would later drop down in weight and win the WBC/WBA light heavyweight championship. "He was one of the best," said Harris.

In October Harris defeated the German Willi Besmanoff, 37-9-7, over 10 rounds in Houston. This would be the fight that put him in line to fight Patterson who last fought in August in an unusual contest coming off the canvas to stop the 1956 Olympic Gold medalist Pete Rademacher who was making his debut. It would be a year before Patterson met Harris who went 10 months without a fight.

Harris joined the Army. "It put me out of circulation a year before I fought Patterson," said Harris. He also cut a record called "Cut 'N Shoot, TX". Maybe there were too many distractions but it was an accomplishment anyway you look at it for Harris. "My biggest mistake was going on a high protein diet (baked potato) before the fight. I had no strength by fight time," said Harris.

Patterson was 33-1 and Harris 23-0 when they finally met. Patterson's only loss was to former light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim. This would be his third title defense. Harris trained at the Arrow Springs Hotel which was near San Bernadino, CA. Actor Anthony Quinn was one of the visitors who would later play in "the Harder they Fall" with a cameo by Cassius Clay aka Muhammad Ali. Harris dropped Patterson in the second round. "I swung a left hook and ended up hitting him with my forearm and he went down," said Harris. Patterson had a way of ducking low and jumping in with his left hook. That is why Ali called him "the rabbit". Either way it was an official knockdown and Harris didn't capitalize on it.

The rest of the fight Patterson who was 10 pounds lighter proved to me too fast scoring knockdowns in the seventh, twice in the eighth and once in the twelfth. During the fight Harris received a bad cut over his eyes. He was game until the final round when he wasn't allowed out for the thirteenth.

Harris would fight thirteen more times including a no-contest over the next 3 years. His first fight back was not an easy one as he took on Donnie Fleeman, 25-2, and had scaled over 200 for the first and last time. Fleeman had just stopped former world champion Ezzard Charles in his previous fight. This was a defense of Harris' USA Texas State title with Fleeman being from Midlothian, TX. Harris won almost every round to retain his title. This was at the end of 1958. The following June Patterson would lose his title to Ingemar Johansson.

Trying to stay in the ratings Harris wanted to keep busy and took a small fight with John Hunt that ended in a "no contest" in 5 rounds. Fleeman asked for a rematch and like they say "watch what you ask for".

Once again Harris would all but shut him out. "Fleeman said I wish you would let me hit you just once," said Harris.

Next up was the former football player Charlie Powell who was now 20-3-2. Harris won every round. Jamaican and former British Empire champion Joe Bygraves, 38-14-1, was brought in for Harris won the decision. An interesting opponent was next in Argentina's Alejandro Lavorante, 4-0, who hadn't fought over 6 rounds. Harris won all but a round or two. In Lavorante's fourteenth fight he stopped contender Zora Folley.

"I was supposed to fight Ezzard Charles and even had the posters up. He pulled out 6 days before the fight," said Harris. He would decision Henry Hall, 58-25-7, over 7 rounds being cut short due to screening of the Sonny Liston-Cleveland Williams fight. It would be Hall's last fight. "My toughest opponent and most dangerous was when I sparred with Cleveland Williams," said Harris.

A little over a month later after Liston stopped Williams for the second time he would meet Harris. Liston, 28-1, and Harris met in April of 1960 in Houston. "I wasn't able to warm-up," said Harris. In the first round a looping left hook knocked Harris to the canvas and under the bottom strand. Harris landed some jabs and though he said "I rattled him with a good right", I never saw one land.

In a clinch Liston threw Harris to the canvas and another time pushed him down. It didn't seem like either was considered a knockdown by the referee. A lead right dropped Harris and the referee stopped it at 2:35 of the first round. To this point the only fight out of TX was with Patterson. In all reality this was the end of Harris competing for another title shot. Harris decided to go to Montreal to fight Bob Cleroux, 20-1-1, 3 months after the Liston fight. To this point the only loss Cleroux had was in NY to Buddy Turman with a win over Willi Besmanoff his biggest win. Harris was stopped in 5. "I wasn't in shape," said Harris.

Just 2 months later Harris went to London to fight Henry Cooper, 20-7-1, the British and Empire champion. "I busted him up but found out as long as he was still standing and breathing at the end he would get the decision and he did," said Harris.

It would be 5 months before Harris fought again and he was back in Houston defeating Dave Rent, 13-5, who was disqualified in 5 rounds. Cleroux was brought into Houston for a rematch. Harris was the lightest in 4 years at 191. He was knocked down 3 times in the fourth round and carried to his corner where the fight was halted. This would be the end of the career for Harris with a 30-5 record with 9 knockouts. He was 27. He ended his career in the same stadium he made his debut.

Harris' nephew Trey Harris fought from 1993 to 2001 before retiring with a 14-0 record with 6 knockouts. His father Henry trained him and 1976 Olympian Chuck Walker for part of his career. Today Trey is the manager and Henry the trainer for unbeaten super middleweight Alfonso Lopez, who is 21-0 with 16 knockouts.

"I had an interesting career. I remember talking with Ali for 2 hours at the Jack Johnson monument in Galveston, TX. My brother Henry boxed Ali in the Chicago Golden Gloves," said Harris. In 1972 Harris would receive his law degree and got a real estate license. "I believe I'm the only boxer who retired and got a law degree. I served as a Montgomery County Clerk for 28 years," said Harris.

"Cut and Shoot" Roy Harris from the small town of his same nickname of 1300 people or less who started boxing at the age of 12 having 400-500 fights in the amateurs lived his dream some 9 years after first putting on the gloves. Before over 21,000 people he had the world champion Floyd Patterson on the canvas in the second round! It doesn't get much better than that!

If you have further information or would like to share a memory, please send to shsumsac@gmail.com