

OGDEN CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1914.

The White Hope Triplets

William, Jennings and Bryan Taylor, 13 Years Old, Named in Honor of Peace Promoting Secretary of State, Believes One of Trio Will Be World's Champion



The morning of August 7, 1909, the doctor in the home of F. L. Taylor, salesman for a Chicago publishing house, announced to him he was the father of a new born son.

"Good," said the father. "We shall call him William Jennings Bryan in honor of the candidate for President."

Shortly after, the doctor gravely announced that Taylor was the father of a second son and a little while after that brought the tidings that a third son had been born.

"Fine," said the father. "We will call the first one William, the second Jennings, and the third Bryan; William, Jennings and Bryan Taylor."

Bryan was too busy running for President at the time to take more than a passing notice of the event. However, when he read that the triplets named in his honor were born he wrote a letter to the father thanking him for the recognition. Since then he has had opportunity to hear about the triplets repeatedly, as the boys are fighting their way to fame. They are the fightingest trio ever born wholesome and it is their fondest ambition to whip every other would-be champion in the prize ring.

At the age of six these youthful white hopes first put on gloves and they have not neglected them since.

F. L. Taylor had no idea of bringing up a bunch of fighters when his sons first began to toddle. Taylor is a man of peace himself, and in naming the boys for the peace-treaty making Secretary of State he believed they would eventually become presidents or at least candidates for that high office. It was the family doctor who first gave them their taste for fighting. The three boys were often ill. When any contagious disease came near their home all three would get it. Several times it seemed they would die of their various ailments. One day when the boys were six years old the doctor took the father and mother aside and spoke in this manner:

"You are treating your children too fine. You cannot lock your boys up in a band box and expect to grow healthy children. You do not allow them to tumble around enough. Let them pull hair and play outdoors more. Give them a pair of boxing gloves each and let them fight."

Christmas was near and the father decided to give each a pair of boxing gloves for Christmas. They were delighted with the choice of a gift. In a few minutes after they had emptied their stockings they squared themselves out for a real three-cornered fight. They have been fighting ever since with varying fortunes. Within a few weeks they could whip anyone in the out-

UPPER left—Jennings Taylor. Upper right—William Taylor. Center—William leading with a straight left. Below—Bryan counting Jennings out, after a knockout.

side world, their own age. The only question as to supremacy lay with the boys themselves. William and Jennings are now so nearly equal that neither can claim the championship over the other. Bryan is not up to their standard in boxing, but he is a wrestler, and says he will be champion wrestler of the world in case his brothers take the boxing championship away from him.

FIGHT PROMOTER PREDICTS BRIGHT FUTURE.

Since the boys have grown older they have been in demand for exhibitions at professional bouts. At first they entered little bouts in their own neighborhood, fighting only with each other. Several other boys in the vicinity took up boxing and challenged the triplets. Each triplet demonstrated he could beat anyone else his size. Bigger boys were then pitted against the youngsters until finally their father objected.

A boxing instructor heard of the three fighters and taught them many fancy things. He advertised them at local exhibitions until big fight promoters all over the United States wanted to see the youngsters fight. At first the proud father was perfectly willing to take the boys anywhere to show off. William and Jennings were so nearly equal that they usually were pitted against

each other and Bryan acted as referee.

Among the promoters who wanted to see the boys perform was Jimmy Coffroth, the Pacific Coast fight promoter. He had the boys come to one of his fights in the Mission Street arena at San Francisco when he was giving a bout there. The boys went into the ring and fought a half dozen one-minute rounds in better form than the real prize fighters who followed.

"I like those boys," said Coffroth. "I am going to keep my eyes on them. When they grow up I am going to try them out for some real fighting."

From San Francisco they were called to show their skill before boxing instructors and fighters in the City Athletic Club, New York. There they won the applause of the best fighting men in America. So insistent were the demands for the boys to perform at various

points that the father finally had to refuse to let them do any exhibition work, believing they were too young.

"I'm afraid they will get big headed," said Taylor. "There is plenty of time for their heads to grow. Just now I want them to go to school and learn something."

In school the lads keep up with their classes. Their strong point is geography. Each succeeds equally well in that study. Their father says he believes it is because they have traveled a great deal. They have visited all the important cities of the United States and have studied their geography carefully in hopes of visiting other spots on the map which are marked with a big black spot.

"You can visit all those places when you win the world's championship," said Coffroth in talking to the boys. "Just now get a lot of knowledge in your heads and

get a lot of science in your arms and feet. Then come to me and I'll take you to all the cities marked with a big black spot and circle."

Secretary William Jennings Bryan has kept in close touch with the triplets since they were four years old, when he first met them. Since that time he has written them many letters. Their first meeting was in the midst of the Democratic campaign in 1904, when he passed through their native city. The father and mother of the boys took them to visit the 'Commoner.'

"What's your name?" he asked as the first boy marched up to him. "My name's William," piped the boy.

"And yours," he said to the second, after shaking hands with the first.

"Jim Jennings," said the boy.

"And who are you?" he asked the third.

"I'm Bryan," said the com-

Measurements of the Triplets

	William	Jennings	Bryan
Weight	110	110	107
Height, feet and inches	4-8	4-8 1/2	4-8 1/2
Waist, inches	28	28 1/2	28 1/2
Chest, inches	29 1/2	31	30 1/2
Length of arms, inches	25 1/2	24 1/2	25 1/2
Right biceps, inches	11	10 1/2	10 1/2
Left biceps, inches	11	10 1/2	10 1/2
Reach, inches	58 1/2	59	59

wrestler.

Bryan laughed heartily at the trio. Turning to F. L. Taylor, he said:

"You have your boys trained better than a woman I met in Cleveland. She brought a boy to me and introduced him as William Jennings Bryan Jones. The boy looked rather large to be named for me, as I did not break into public print very prominently until 1896. I shook hands, however, and said nothing about the boy's size. After the woman had passed on, a committee-man from Cleveland laughed and said that Mrs. Jones' boy had been Grover Cleveland Jones for eight years prior to 1896. But your boys speak for themselves. I am glad to meet 'em."

BRYAN WRITES LETTER TO TRIO.

One of Bryan's letters after he became Secretary of State, written on their last birthday, follows:

"Masters, William, Jennings and Bryan Taylor—My dear young friends: I am glad to hear from you. I saw you in St. Louis in 1904. I believe I have a photograph of you hanging in my home at Lincoln, Neb. Accept congratulations. I wish you a delightful anniversary and many happy returns. I am

American boys and that you will continue in school until you have secured the best education the generation affords. May you be a comfort to your parents and a source of pride to the one whom you have honored by taking his name. Yours truly,

"W. J. BRYAN."

"And he didn't say anything about us being fighters," said Jennings after reading the letter. "Oh, well."

Bryan's hope that his namesakes become sturdy is already fulfilled. They are very near the same size in every way. Jennings is the heaviest. He weighs 111 pounds, William weighs 110 pounds and Bryan 107. Jennings and Bryan are tied in height. Each is 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches tall. William is a half inch shorter. Jennings' waist measure is 28 1/2 inches. The other two each measure 28 inches.

Chest measurements show Jennings is the most chesty. He measures around the chest 31 inches. The other two each measure 29 1/2 inches. Bryan and Jennings have a reach of 59 inches. William's reach is 58 1/2 inches. Bryan has a long arm. His right arm measures 26 inches. William's arm measures 25 1/2 inches and Jennings' arm measures 24 1/2 inches. Bryan's right biceps measures 11 1/2 inches. His left is one inch smaller. William's right and left biceps each measure 11 inches. Jennings' left biceps measures almost 11 inches. His right biceps measures 10 1/2 inches.

The triplets are all fond of outdoor sports. They are not quarrelsome, but at the same time no other school children run over them. They are able to defend themselves at any time.

"I don't want them to be mean fighters," said their father. "I believe every boy should learn to box so as to be able to defend himself when in trouble or to help others in trouble. Chivalry is based on just that idea. In ancient times men learned to fight with lance and spear so as to be able to defend the weak. That is what I want my boys to do. I don't want them to use their ability to bully others."

BOXING RECOMMENDED AS HEALTH RESTORER.

As a health restorer there is nothing better than boxing to the elder Taylor. He knows something about boxing himself and puts on the gloves with friends sometimes just for sport.

"It certainly put the roses in the cheeks of my boys," said Taylor. "In a few weeks after they had the gloves they had smashed a good deal of furniture and at the same time had given the knockout blow to their enemies in their own way."