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## George S. Araujo [Biography]

George

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## George S. Araujo

George was the third child of eleven born to Flora and Antonio Araujo in Providence Rhode Island on May 26,1931. His father came from the Cape Verdean Islands settled in Fox Point and worked there as a longshoreman.

One day George was being chased by older and larger boys that wanted to fight and to his great fortune he ran into The Fox Point Boy's Club. It was at this Boy's Club he learned how to box.

He still had troubles and got caught stealing. As a requirement of his probation The Providence Police Department had him box for The Police Athletic League. It was through this community program he would learn to take boxing seriously and where he would eventually be groomed for the Lightweight Championship of the World.

His boxing career was successful but, he was to lose the title fight in Madison Square Garden in 1952 at the tender age of 21. He then entered the service and traveled the world as the boxing coach for the Army Olympic Team

After his athletic career, he realized he owed his life to the many people that had helped him. He wanted to return something to the community and went on to spend most of his adult life working with and reaching out to abandoned children in Rhode Island and New York City.

A constant in George's life was his real love and talent, his painting and the private study of painters. When he was not with his children, he spent part of his free time reading about his heroes, DaVinci, Picasso, and Van Gogh. The rest of his time he produced paintings. Due to his lack of formal academic training he is considered one of the last true primitives,

George became ill with Pugilistic Dementia in 1987 and has finally found himself unable to paint. The works exhibited here at the AS220 gallery are the last he will produce.

George was joyously married to Frances Murphy in 1963. They have two children, Elizabeth and Michael and the latest addition, a grandchild Sara. These paintings are not for sale because they are his family's tangible evidence of his memory and a life well lived.