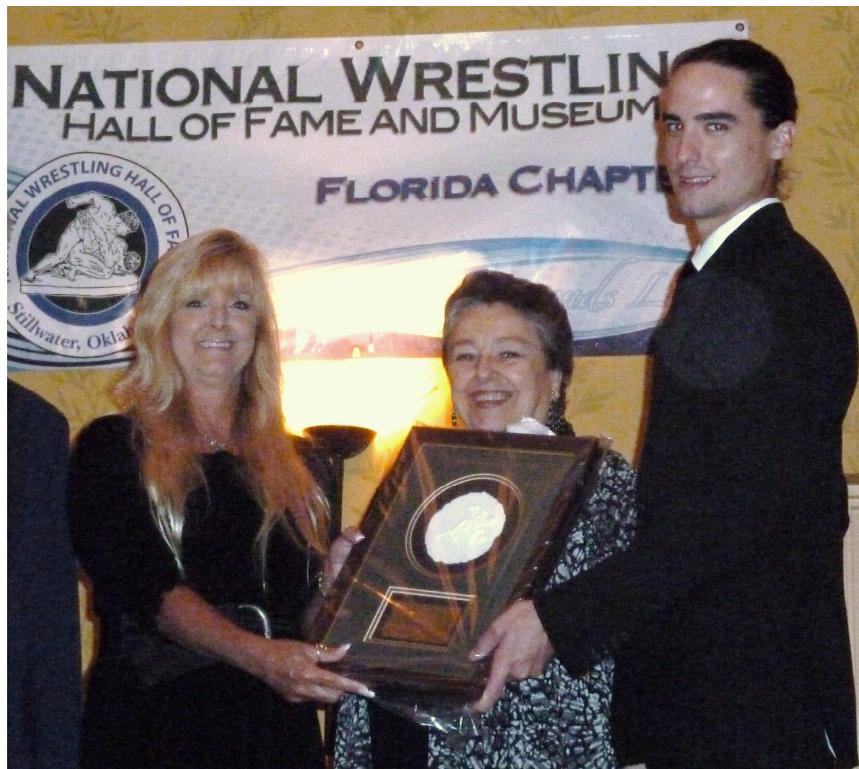


# Arlington Personified

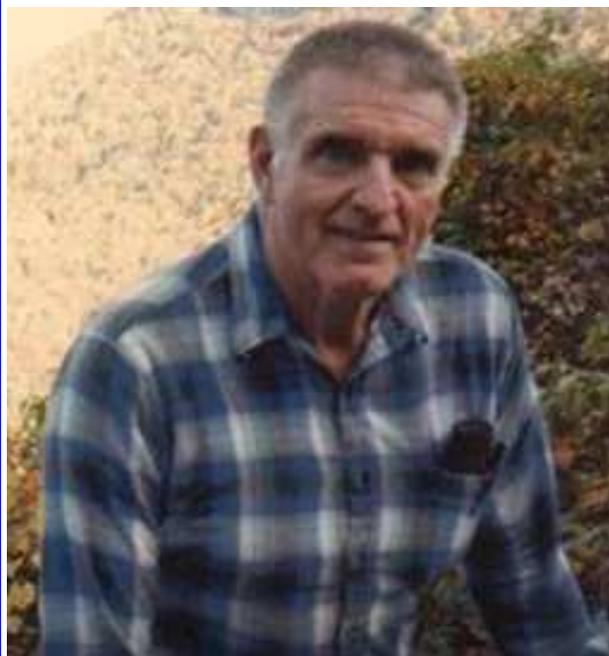
*A Monthly Feature on Those Who Have Shaped Our Community*

## Dotty & Don CURTIS

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, Arlington's beloved Don Curtis, and "his greatest tag-team partner of all times" Dotty Curtis, were inducted into the Florida Chapter of the National Wrestling and Hall of Fame Museum in Stillwater, OK. Don & Dotty's daughter Lisa, & grandson JB, stepped up on their behalf to receive the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award for their commitment to wrestling. They placed Jacksonville on the map promoting wrestling at the Jacksonville Coliseum where Don was Sports Promotion & Facilities Manager. After his wrestling career, Don was inducted into the University of Buffalo Athletic Hall of Fame for wrestling and football in 1980, and the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and Museum in Amsterdam, NY, in 2009, with tag-team partner Mark Lewin, in the "Tag Team" category.



Don & Dotty uniquely shared their love of Family and Community. Revered in the wrestling community and Arlington, they were among the Founders of Old Arlington Inc. and were "gratis" landlords for the group's original home on Clock Street, which had housed *Dotty's Body Emporium* for many years prior. They promoted physical fitness at the Arlington YMCA, the Arlingwood Com-



munity Center, and Dotty hosted a regular segment on WFGA's (Channel 12) TODAY Show. Don was Bishop Kenny's Volunteer Wrestling Assistant Coach, under Coach Bill Spaulding, for the school's first wrestling team in 1974. Don & Dotty assisted numerous charitable and civic activities. Arlington has greatly missed Don since



he passed on March 6, 2008. Dotty still resides in Arlington today.

Don's wrestling career began at the University of Buffalo where he excelled in wrestling, football, academics and was the Wrestling Team Captain 1949-1950. Before college, Don served in the Submarine Service during WW II. After a 20 minute workout with NWA Champion Lou Thesz, Don chose wrestling as his career and turned down an opportunity to show up for training camp with the Baltimore Colts. [CONTINUED NEXT PAGE]

By spring 1951, Don was wrestling in Canada, and later Australia and New Zealand, under his original name Don Beitelman in matches against American amateur wrestlers at the Wright Cops Arena Mat Shows in Troy, NY and the Playdium in Sheboygan, WI. He wrestled in Chicago, Minnesota, Maryland and traveled on World Tours including France and Egypt. The countless weekly matches advertised

**NOV. 15th WRESTLING AT Thornton High School Gym**  
 150th and BROADWAY HARVEY, ILL. BOUTS START 8:30 P.M.

Don Beitelman vs Ned Taylor  
 Australian Tag Team BILLY GOELZ and GREAT BALBO vs RUDY KAY and AL WILLIAMS

**The MATCH of ALL MATCHES**  
 You Can't Afford to Miss This!

WALTER PALMER vs WILD BILL LONGSON

PRICES \$1.50 \$2.00 \$3.00  
 TAX INCLUDED

SPONSORED BY RIVERDALE - DOLTON - HARVEY LIONS CLUBS

Don as an early favorite. The Troy Record in NY, August 28, 1951 boasts, "Don Beitelman disposed of Wild Bill McDonough in 20 minutes of their one-fall preliminary with a double toe hold and body press." The week before, Don "tossed" Chicago's Benito Gardini "in one minute flat"! At the Schaghticoke Fair, Don was matched against Jim "Bull" Wright September 6, 1951. The Sheboygan, WI Press article, February 12, 1952, advertised the Pro Wrestling Match, "Topping the four bout card will be a wind-up featuring two of the roughest wrestlers in the Midwest, Rudy Kay and Don Beitelman, both favorites in this area".

PLAYDIUM Entertainment Nightly In The Cocktail Lounge PLAYDIUM

**TOMORROW** At 8:30 P.M.

**4 OUTSTANDING WRESTLING MATCHES**

INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN TAG TEAM MATCH

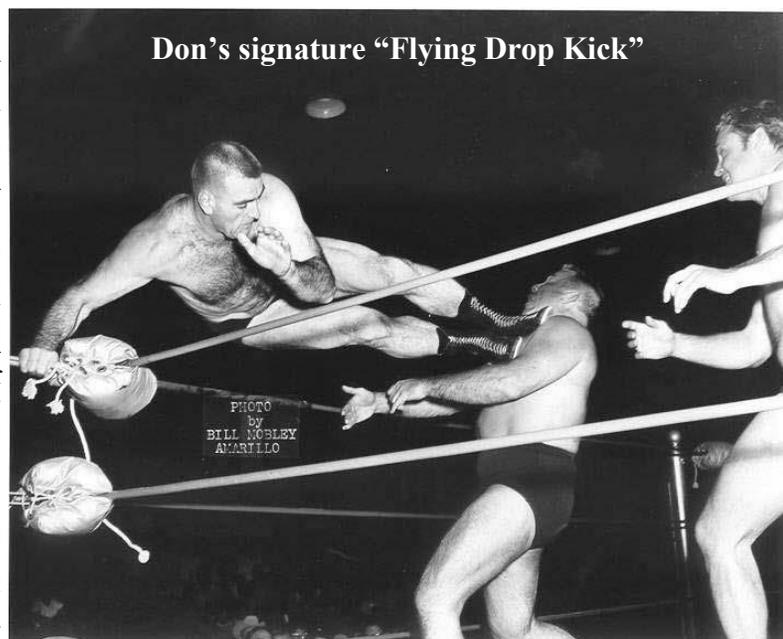
1. KARL GRAY vs. EINAR OLSEN 2. CARL MEYER vs. MILT OLSEN  
 3. AUSTRALIAN TAG TEAM MATCH — WINNERS vs. LOSERS

PLUS MAIN EVENT  
**WALTER PALMER vs. DON BEITELMAN**

DANCE SAT. FEB. 9 NORBIE and GILLIE  
 DANCE SUN. FEB. 10 LE ROY VONDRUSKA

BALCONY 70c  
 RINGSIDE 1.20  
 CHILDREN 50c  
 Tax Incl.

By 1956, Don was living in Buffalo, NY. In 1958, he paired up with Mark Lewin carrying the U.S. Tag Team Title several years enjoying a successful run. Their highly publicized feud with Eddie & Jerry Graham in 1958 intensified all four wrestlers' presence. Don also teamed up with successful tag team partner Abe Jacobs in 1964. Around that time, Gordon Solie suddenly announced Don as "The Buffalo Bomber" for a weekend match that entails an entirely separate tale to be revealed by Dotty's own pen. Don changed his last name to Curtis in 1967. Featured on 1700+ Pro Wrestling Cards, and wrestling in Madison Square Gardens over 50 times rivaling the likes of Gorgeous George and Dick the Bruiser, Don's wrestling debut at the Jacksonville Coliseum in 1961, wrestling Hans Schmidt, transformed him into the City's Favorite Son. Don served on the Wrestling Committee for the Munich Games in 1972. He was well known for his finishing moves, "The Sleeper Hold" & "The Flying Drop Kick".



In 1981, Don was appointed by Mayor Jake Godbold as the Chief of Operations for the City's Recreation & Public Affairs Dept. to oversee the Coliseum, Civic Auditorium, Gator Bowl and Wolfson Baseball Park. Mayor Godbold praised Don stating, "He was a true wrestler, not an actor...I don't know anything that Don took on that he didn't do in a good manner. He had a good business sense and did an excellent job for us and commanded a great deal of respect!"

We join in congratulating Dotty & Don, and are grateful for the many ways they've contributed to the community, and for making Arlington their home.