

Tim Bevins

Batson

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for him only the things that he couldn't do himself. "For the rest, I could use my eyes and brain and enjoy myself. I could make plans and get back into the world or I could sit around depressed until I died. It was up to me."

Bevins took over the store in August. He does the buying, advises customers, makes the decisions. And he discovered, he said, that a lot of people want to help a man help himself.

John Berg has "done an unbelievable amount of work arranging financing and getting papers in order for a small business loan." Dave Harnish, from the bank where Bevins worked, "is helpful every time I have a question on business management, taxes or whatever problem comes up."

Business people around the corner "got acquainted with Tim," said Ty Abel, who has run a service station there since 1940, the first business on the corner. "We want to see him make it."

Arnie Palmer used to own the liquor store. He sold it several years ago to a man who didn't do well. When Bevins took over, Palmer watched his progress. Out of all this neighborly interest plans for an opening celebration "sort of grew," Abel said.

So on Saturday there will be coffee and cider and cookies. All the merchants around the corner will be reminding their own customers that Tim Bevins is in business. Shriners will be cavorting. Boxer Scott LeDoux will be there and has challenged Abel to three rounds.



Larry Batson

Ty Abel says it's "just a neighborhood thing, sort of a welcome and best wishes." John Berg of Wayzata Bank and Trust, who has been working his bankerly tail off, will tell you it's strictly business. Dave Harnish, vice-president of Northwestern National Bank in Hopkins, says the same. Grandma Rose Straus is baking cookies and will bring them down from Valley City, N.D., Saturday for Tim Bevins Day on the corner in Minnetonka.

Bevins says he wouldn't want anybody to get sloppily emotional over the affair.

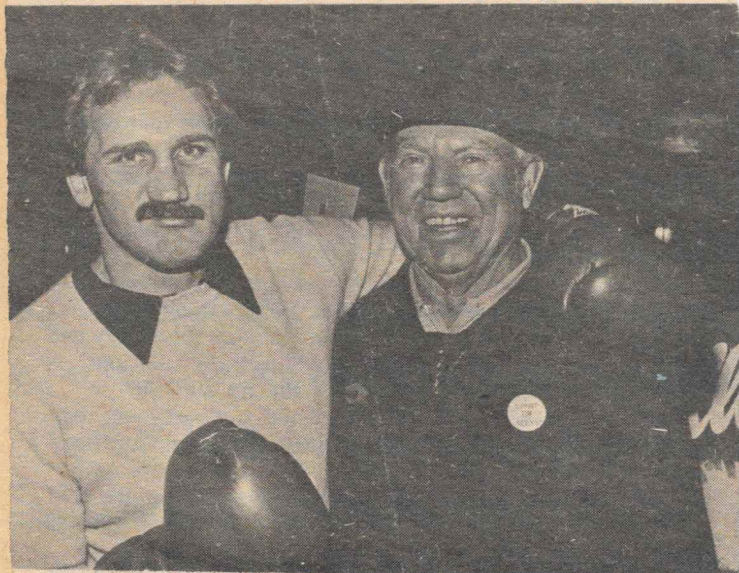
So all right. It's a straight commercial proposition except for Grandma Straus. Friends and neighbors are getting together to launch Bevins in business, for a grand opening of his liquor store at Hwy. 101 and Minnetonka Blvd. Sentiment is strictly coincidental.

Bevins, 23, is a quadriplegic. He suffered a broken neck in an auto accident Sept. 8, 1974. Now, though he can't use his legs or arms, he can get around in an electric wheelchair. And he wants to make a life for himself and a living.

"I was kind of gun-shy about going out into the world again," Bevins said Wednesday. "The main thing that turned it around for me was my friends. They wouldn't feel sorry for me, so I couldn't feel sorry for myself."

Bevins was a good high school athlete, captain of the wrestling and football teams at Hopkins Eisenhower. After graduation he went to work for Northwestern National Bank in Hopkins, played amateur football and softball and helped coach the wrestling team at Harley grade school. Then the accident.

He spent about five months in a hospital then began rehabilitation therapy at University of Minnesota Hospitals. Karl Kassulke, the former Vikings football player whose career was ended by a motorcycle accident, helped lift Bevins's spirits as they worked out together.



Scott LeDoux, local boxer who will be fighting Mohammed Ali in December, put on the gloves with Ty Abel in fun--and for a good cause, helping Tim Bevins at his Tonka Bottle Shop grand opening. Abel is seriously crippled from an auto accident.