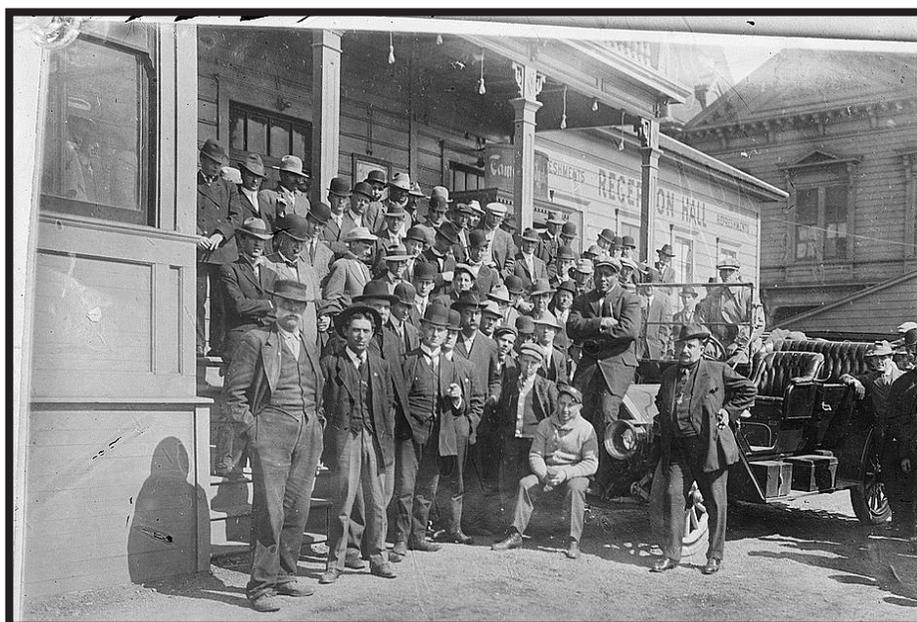
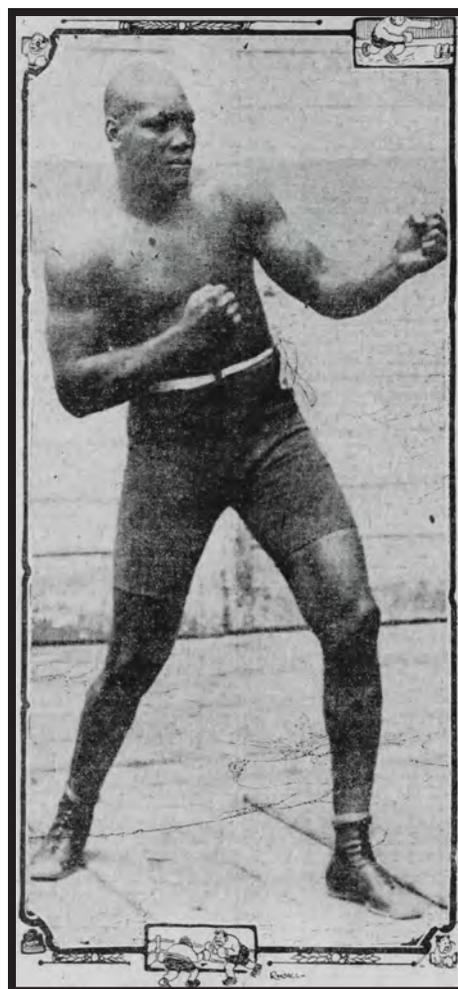


Jack Johnson - the Galveston Giant

Jack Johnson, the first African American World Heavyweight Champion, often stayed at Seal Rock House and trained at the Ocean Beach Pavilion.

His sessions at the Pavilion proceeded some of Johnson's most famous matches against opponents like Stanley Ketchel and Jim "The Great White Hope" Jeffries, who came out of retirement only to throw in the towel in the 15th round.

The fight between Johnson and Jeffries was charged with racial tension. Until the 1890s it was illegal for boxers of color to face white opponents, and many white boxers still refused to fight an African-American competitor in the early 20th century. Johnson's victory was seen by many of his supporters as a victory for the advancement of racial equality.



Clockwise from top left: Seal Rock Hotel postcard featuring Jack Johnson; Johnson poses while training at Ocean Beach, 1910; Johnson and manager George Little with crowd at training camp, 1900.