

*In 1940, the Detroit News reported that Louis was riding on his newly purchased farm near Utica. An elderly Indian lived in a shack on the property and was worried that Louis would evict him. Louis rode his horse over and told him not to worry, but to move over to the other side of the hill where there was a frame house that would be more comfortable for winter.*

This story was published in  
*The Detroit News* in 1940

#### LOUIS AT THE MACOMB COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Upon moving to Spring Hill Farm, Joe Louis was advised to purchase a gun for protection. However, once living in Shelby Township, Louis decided he did not need any protection, so he turned his gun over to Macomb County Sheriff Jacob F. Theut (right).



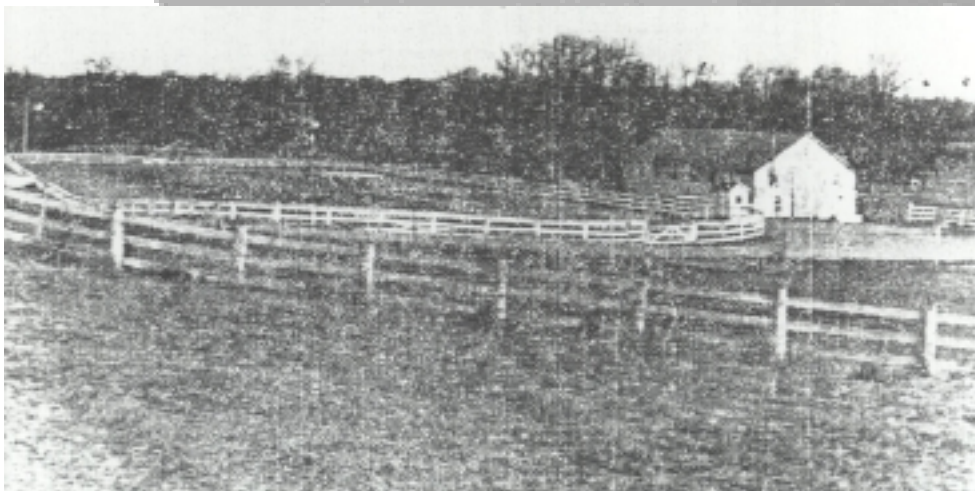
In the late 1930's, world heavyweight boxer Joe Louis bought Spring Hill Farm for \$100,000. The deal was reported in the *Utica Sentinel* in August 1939:

*"Always a popular figure in sports everywhere and the holder of one of the most remarkable records in fight history, Joe Louis has just moved into his new home, the old Spring Hill Farm, just outside of Utica. He has been doing light training and roadwork for two weeks in preparation for his February 9th bout with Arturo Godey in Madison Square Garden and he will stay in Utica until time to go to New York for the final training grind."*

In addition to a training camp, Spring Hill Farm was turned into a riding stable for Louis. The tool shed and cattle barn were converted into horse stables, and a track, bleachers and box seats were built to accommodate horse shows on the property.

The house was renovated and converted into a well-known restaurant and night club for Louis's friends and area residents. However, after Louis lost the property in the early 1940's, the farm began to decline. In January of 1973, Joe Louis's old farmhouse burned to the ground.

*Adapted from materials collected by the Shelby Township Historical Committee.*



**Joe Louis  
purchased  
Spring Hill  
Farm in 1939  
to use as a  
training camp  
and riding  
stable.**

#### STABLE AND RIDING CIRCLE AT SPRING HILL FARM

In February 1953, the *Utica Sentinel* published this photo (left) of Spring Hill Farm's riding circle and horse stable with the following caption:

"Spring Hill Farm has a stable with twelve stalls, and a quarter mile riding circle. Horse shows and rodeos can become a regular community enterprise."



*The material for this display has been provided by  
The Charter Township of Shelby Historical Committee  
[www.shelbyhistory.com](http://www.shelbyhistory.com)*

