

## RESEARCH QUARTERLY

Tables I and II (rows 3, 4, and 5) reveal the chronological ages at which: (1) 96 major league baseball players were the batting champions (best-hitters) of their respective leagues, (2) 88 pitchers led their respective leagues at pitching, and (3) 63 players were league champions at base-stealing. Since there are more major league players at ages 25 to 29 inclusive than of any other five-year interval, one would naturally expect that this age group would contribute the most league champions. Table II reveals that this expectation is fulfilled. It will be noted from Table II that the age differences for the three kinds of championship performance are relatively slight and perhaps not statistically significant. With more data available future investigators will be able to determine for these separate performances whether or not significant age differences exist.

### PROFESSIONAL PUGILISTS

The names of the champion boxers of the world and the years during which they won or retained their titles were procured from Menke. The birth dates of the pugilists were found in Romano's *Post Boxing Record*.<sup>4</sup> Figure 3 presents data for 133 world champions (of all weight classifications) who held their various boxing championships for a total of 448 years or fractions of years. Although in Figure 3 the peak of the age curve occurs at age 26, study of the data reveals that the age of maximum success varies somewhat for the different weight classifications.

Except when they are competing for the heavyweight championship, boxing contestants must meet certain specified weight requirements.

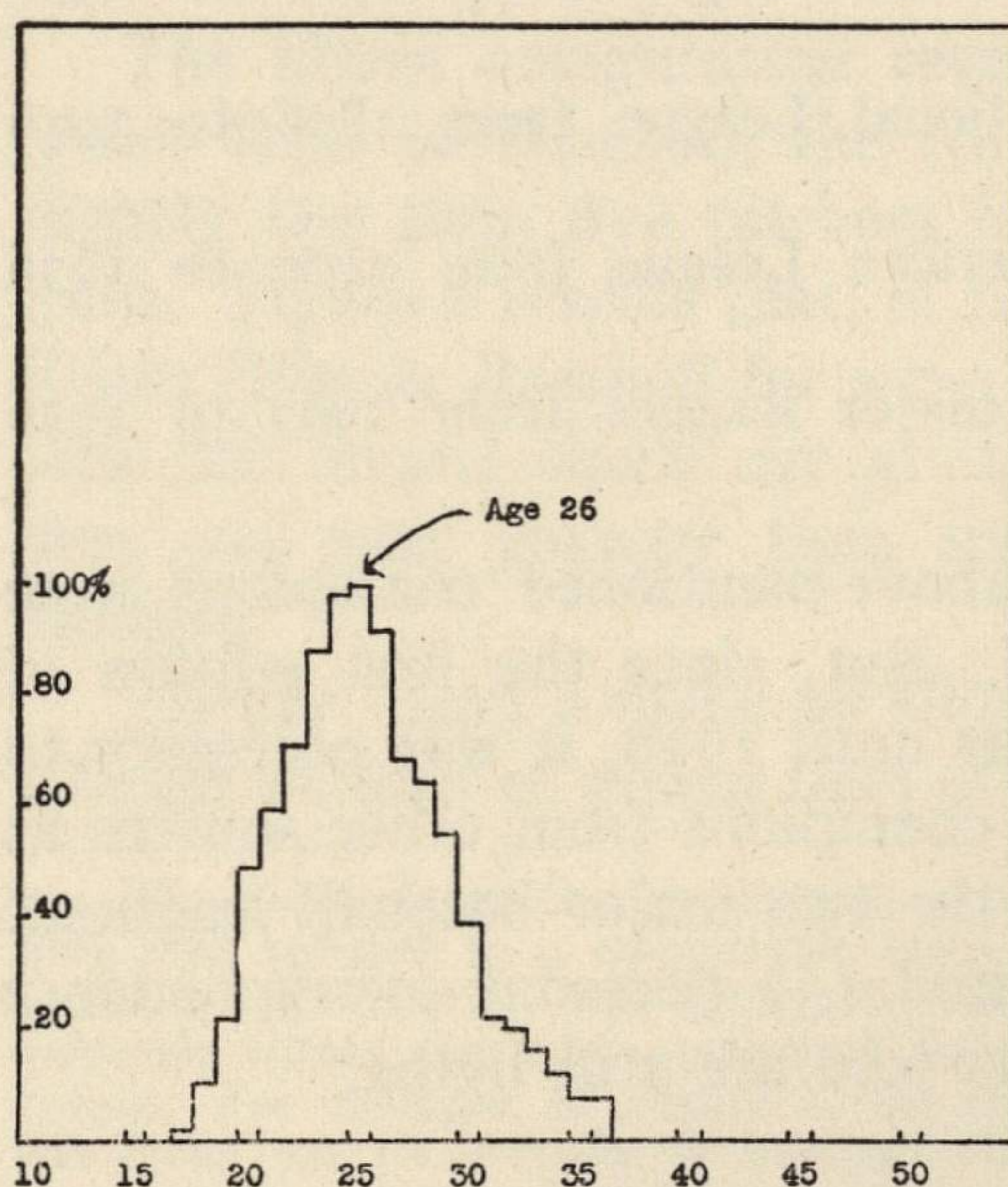


FIGURE 3. Chronological ages at which 133 boxers won or retained 448 world championship titles—all weight classifications.

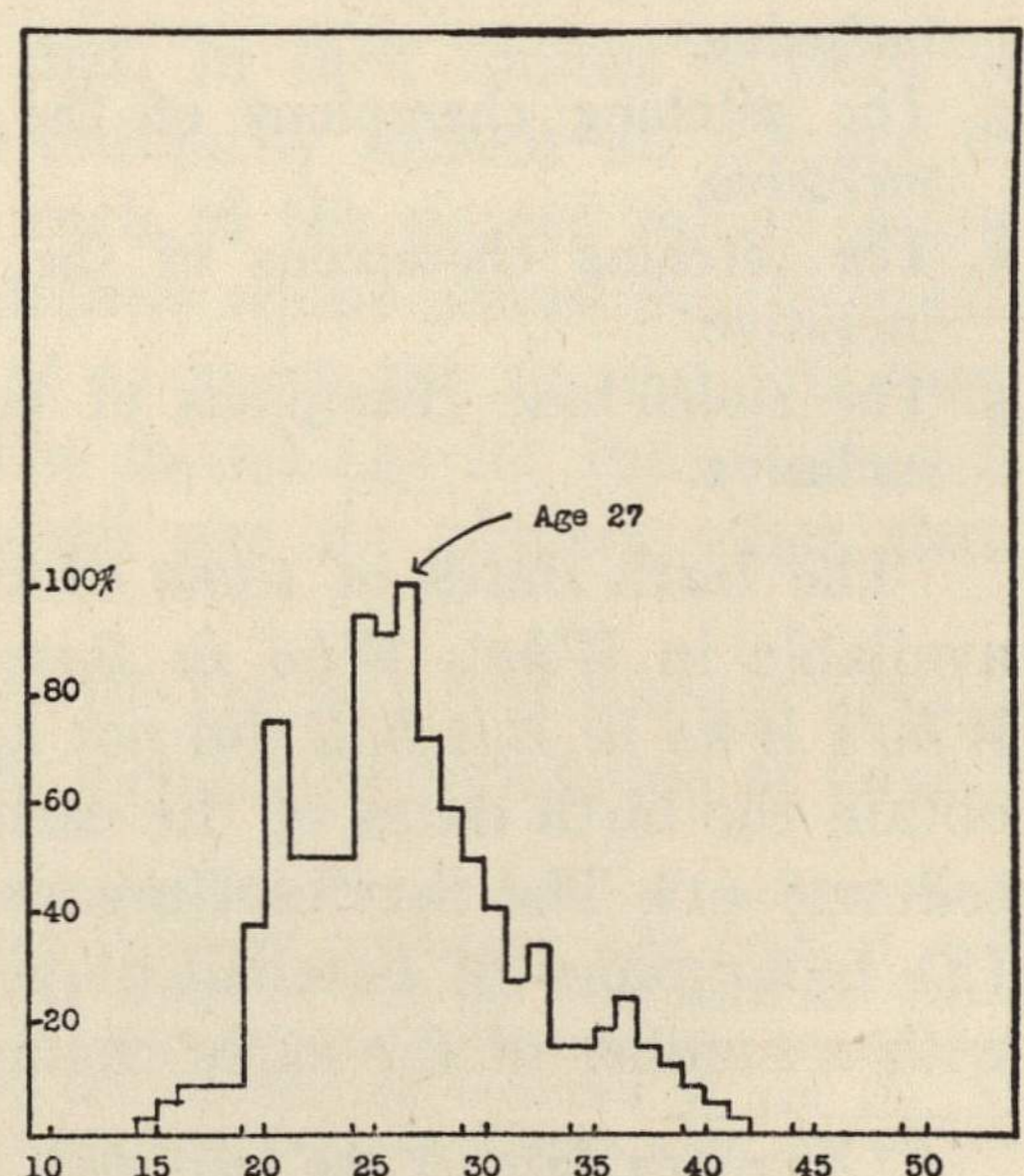


FIGURE 4. Chronological ages at which 317 national tennis championships (English, American, and French) were either first won or retained.