

# How People Play



The Philippine Slapping Game.

(Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)—WNU Service.

WITH interest in miniature golf waning, enterprising members of the "play industry" in a western city substituted fishing poles for golf clubs, fish for golf balls, and transformed the diminutive golf courses into fishing ponds, thus ushering in the "pee wee fishing grounds."

Play knows neither geographical boundary, nor historical limit. There was a law among the Persians by which all children were to be taught three things: horsemanship, shooting with the bow, and telling the truth.

Carthaginians and Phoenicians owed something of their maritime glory to a love of swimming, the sport by which they first mastered their fear of the sea. One wonders whether the more rapid strides made in England toward the political emancipation of women may not be traceable to the ardor of British women for outdoor exercise and sports.

Climate often determines the way a people play. It is obvious that coasting is popular in a zone where snow falls, and reasonable that those peoples most generally proficient in swimming should be found in the equatorial islands, where blimpid waters invite succor from the scorching sun; but less well known, perhaps, that card and board games developed in southern Asia, where zest for play is just as keen, but temperature dampens the ardor for exertion. To the Netherlands is traced the origin of still and skate which even yet have their work-a-day use in flooded and frozen areas, but to the rest of the world they are playthings. Norway once had a regiment of skaters and Holland's soldiers were taught to drill and play on ice.

Just as the individual adopts games which meet his bodily needs, so national pastimes are modified to foster and fortify the peoples who play them. In the age of personal combat, there were men like Milo of Crotona, a veritable Samson, reputed to have been able to break a cord wound about his head by swelling the muscles; or Polydamas of Thessalia, said to have slain an infuriated lion, and to have been able to hold a chariot in its place while horses tugged at it. Those were the times when boxing and wrestling, most ancient of sports, were in their heyday, though they were not always gentlemen's diversions, reckoned by modern standards.

**Missile-Throwing Games.** When missile-throwing became the technique of warfare the Italian city youth reduced stone-throwing to a fine art, and in winter made use of snowballs on fete days. In Perugia as many as 2,000 would engage in this game. Defensive armor was worn but many fatalities resulted. Old English laws encouraged archery, and Charlemagne sought to popularize the sport. Play and love of competition have often been the mother of invention. The great automobile races have revolutionized the automobile industry. Benjamin Franklin, employing a boy's familiar plaything, "snatched from the clouds a secret that outdoes the pranks of a magic carpet. On the other hand invention made popular certain ways to play. For example the invention of the rubber bladder was a boon to the game of football and the gutta-percha ball added immensely to the popularity of golf.

Theodore Roosevelt's influence is generally accounted in social, political, economic and literary fields; yet time may show that one of the most profound lessons he impressed upon American people was a deeper regard for healthful, vigorous, strenuous outdoor sport.

The story of how the weakling Roosevelt went to the open places of the West and played at broncho-busting and cattle-herding and later relaxed in African jungle from seven years in the hardest job in the world, is an oft-told tale. Such an uprooting of one's life, thanks to our national parks, is not necessary today. More and more it is the habit of young men and old to seek the health-giving recreations to be had in Uncle Sam's matchless play places.

Walking is one of the most healthful and invigorating "games" and is free to everyone. Yet it is much neglected by Americans. Perhaps the automobile is to blame in some degree; but the fact that walking is deliberate and lacking in that element so dear to the American heart, competition, also must be taken into account. To the seasoned pedestrian, "joy riding" cannot compare with "joy walking."

The instinct is universal.

Sports of a nation afford an almost invariable barometer of its progress in civilization. Baseball is one of the most complicated and highly organized pastimes known to any people. It is a veritable instrument of the most delicate precision in the world of sport. A South Sea Islander no more could play it than he could operate a linotype machine or deftly handle the paper money in a bank teller's cage.

Yet the instincts baseball satisfies—the zest of racing to a goal ahead of the ball, the deep satisfaction of diverting a swiftly moving object to serve his own ends, the mere impact of the speeding sphere against the instrument he controls, bagging the spheroid as it flies afield, the suspense of nine men as they await the batter's fate—each and all find their counterpart in play as old as animals that walk on two feet and have enough gray matter atop their spinal columns to control nature's laws for their human purposes.

The foot-race was the most popular of the 24 Olympian events. Romans hatted balls with the forearm swathed with bandages, and the Gilbert Islanders wrap coconut shells with cord so they will rebound to a blow from the open palm; Homer's princess of Phaeacia is represented in the Odyssey as jumping to catch a ball tossed by her maids of honor; and the Chinese had a game in which a suspended ball was kept hurtling to and fro by blows from the players.

Wrestling is much older than Greece, as indicated by bouts pictured on tombs along the Nile. In Greece boxing fell into disfavor among the Spartans for an unusual reason. The Greeks had developed sportsmanlike rules for the game, eliminating kicking, biting and ear pulling, and the bout closed when one boxer admitted his defeat. Lycurgus held it improper for any Spartan to acknowledge defeat, even in a game. Boxing and wrestling have been popular sports in Japan for ages.

Running, throwing, hitting and kicking are the fundamental muscular operations of America's characteristic sports—baseball, football, tennis and golf. The peoples of antiquity manifested all these instincts in cruder form. Luzon hillmen, the Polynesians and the Eskimo and Sumatra Islanders had games played by kicking a ball. Greeks played it, and the Roman game, harpastum, derived its name from the Greek "I seize" which is evidence that carrying a ball was practiced then.

In old England football was even rougher than most sports of those hardy times. James I thought it was "meeter for lanicng than making able the user thereof." Edward II frowned upon it for its interference with archery and also because of the commotion it aroused. In those times it was played in the city streets. A writer of the Sixteenth century called it a "de-fish pastime" and charged it with inciting "envy and sometimes brawling murder and homicide."

**Tennis Goes Far Back.**

One must also go back to the Greeks and Romans for the origin of tennis. In the Twelfth century a game with ball and plaited gut bat was played on horseback. Then came "La boude" in which the horse was abandoned. Louis X died after excessive playing of the game. Henry VIII was a devotee of the game. Until the Sixteenth century the hand was used for batting the ball, but soon the racket came into general use.

If tennis has a royal lineage, golf, which was later regarded as a rich man's game had most plebeian beginnings. Contrary to widespread belief, it seems not to have originated in Scotland, but in northern Europe. Apparently it was first played on ice, being one of the winter sports adapted to the physical geography of the Low countries. By the Fifteenth century golf had attained such vogue in Scotland that it threatened the cherished archery, and it was classed with "fute-ball" and other "unprofitabil sports" by James IV.

America's love of play is a distinct part of her Anglo-Saxon heritage. Where two or more English-speaking people get together, be it in Bagdad or Buenos Aires, their common tongue makes the point of contact, but it generally is their love of active play that forms the tie that binds their comradeship.

## Acquaintance on Train

### Wife's Former Husband

In a smoking compartment of the Twilight Limited, bound from Chicago to Detroit the other day, a Chicagoan and a Detroitier met and speedily became acquainted as people will on trains. Houser Massey, who is authority for the story and vouches for its truth, said the two men soon reached the point where they were trading their opinions on life and living.

The Chicagoan was cynical about women, and said so. "You can't trust 'em," he declared. "I was married once and my wife left me for another guy, a fellow I never saw. An experience like that is enough to teach you 'not to trust women again.'"

"Well, I don't feel that way," said the Detroitier. "I'm married, have been married for several years, and my wife and I get along very well. Of course, she's an exceptional woman. She'll be at the station when we get to Detroit, and I want you to meet her. You'll see your ideas about women are wrong."

Arriving here, the two acquaintances walked up to the waiting room together. The Detroitier's wife rushed up to greet him, stopped suddenly. Her face paled. As she stopped, the Chicagoan flushed, muttered something about seeing a friend across the way, grabbed his bag from the red cap and was off.

The Detroitier didn't know that his acquaintance of the train was his wife's former husband.—Detroit Free Press.

## Death Adder Fourth in

### List of Deadly Snakes

The Australian death adder is said to have long borne an undeservedly bad name. People said the death adder was the most virulently poisonous of Australian snakes. Now Mr. le Souef, director of the Sydney zoo, states that it is not nearly so fearsome as has been imagined. The average farmer will say emphatically that the death adder is one of the most dangerous reptiles in the bush. At the week-end a man was bitten by one. The fact that the bite had little ill-effect on him prompted inquirers to seek Mr. le Souef's opinion. Mr. le Souef declared that he would have been surprised if the man had died, as he would rank the death adder as only fourth among Australia's poisonous snakes. The most deadly is the tiger snake, capable of killing a healthy man in 70 minutes. Next comes the brown snake, a potential killer in two hours. Then, says Mr. le Souef, the black snake, which can make man desperately sick for 12 to 24 hours, but gives him a chance of life. Then the death adder and other varieties.

**Sports Improve Posture**  
While corrective exercises are important for improving poor posture, sports have been found even more helpful. In the case of students at Harvard, it was found that of the freshmen who were obliged to take corrective exercises for poor posture those who took part in organized athletic sports during the subsequent three years showed much greater improvement in posture than those who did not go in for sports, the latter showing little if any improvement, according to the Boston Herald.

**Traveling Cinemas**  
Traveling moving picture shows are the latest cinematic development in Soviet Russia. At present there are more than 1,200 such units traveling from one village to another. The popularity of the exhibitions may be judged by their rapid growth in number during the past two years. At the end of 1925 there were less than 400 traveling movies. This figure rose in 1926 to 900, and for the present year it is planned to produce 2,000 projects.—Washington Star.

**What Do You Give?**  
A New York vocational guidance expert advises people who are not happy in their jobs to save their money until they can make a change. She might say, too, that if people are not taking happiness out of their jobs they would do well to see that they are putting into those jobs everything they have to give. What you get out of your job is the way of contentment depends upon what you are willing to put into it in a day to day effort.—Grove Patterson, in the Mobile Register.

**Lake's Depth Varies**  
The depth of Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America, in some places reaches 700 feet, but large portions of it are shallow, and the shores, especially in the south, are lined with marshy tracts covered with reeds. The lake receives a number of streams from the surrounding mountains and discharges through the Desaguadero into Lake Aullagas, whose waters finally evaporate in the great salt marshes in the southern part of the closed basin.

**Man's Food Consumption**  
A healthy man, with a normal appetite, who reaches seventy has eaten 700 times his own weight, according to the calculation of experts of the faculty of Paris. They have figured that in his span of seventy years the average man of 140 pounds would have eaten 13 tons of bread, 15 tons of vegetables, 7 tons of meat or 13 whole cows; 7 tons of fruit, 1,000 pounds of candy and sugar, drunk 15,000 quarts of milk and 20,000 quarts of beer, in Europe, or water, in America.

**London's Pall Mall**  
The average American and Canadian tourist may have difficulty in recognizing Pall Mall, as the "Pell Mell," to which the London policeman directs him, when he asks for the famous street. It was named after the French game Paille-mail, which was first played here in the days of Charles I. On this street were the homes of De-foe of Robinson Crusoe fame, Swift of Gulliver's Travels, Sterne of the "Sentimental Journey," and Gibbon, the historian.

**Boiling Water**  
Water boils at 212 degrees F. At 115 degrees a person finds water almost too hot to hold his hand in it. Fabrics that will not be injured by water can be freed of living clothes moth eggs and larvae by being dipped for 10 seconds in water heated to 140 degrees F. Care, however, must be exercised to have and keep the water at this or a greater temperature. Larvae and eggs in flannel dipped for 10 seconds in water heated only to 122 degrees F. remain unaffected.

## Bloom of Rice Plant

### Varies in Localities

Temperature plays an important part in the flowering of the rice plant. Rice flowers are relatively inconspicuous, but an official of the United States Department of Agriculture, who works on the improvement of the rice crop, has studied the blooming habits of the plant in connection with the cross-breeding of varieties.

The rice plant blooms suddenly and for only a short time. One observer noted a complete opening of the flower in thirty seconds. The blooming continued for only about two hours. Rice flowers are rarely open before the sun has warmed the earth and air, and they close before the sun is far down. In the United States and in Japan the rice blooms later than in warmer areas, such as Java, India and the Philippine Islands. In India, observers say, rice will not bloom until the temperature has reached 77 degrees Fahrenheit. But there the temperature runs high as a rule and rice blooms most freely in the early morning hours soon after the dew evaporates, and the flowers close before the heat of noon. In California the maximum period of bloom is the two hours after noon.

Rice has a complete flower, and usually fertilizes itself. It "breeds true," and there is little cross-fertilization. The pollen from the stamens fertilizes the stigma in the same plant, usually before or at the time the flower opens.

## Easy Way of Inducing

### Bees to Change Abode

Bees often take up their abode where they are not wanted, as in a cavity in a wall. A good way to get them out is to put a bee "escape" over the entrance to the cavity, so the bees can get out but not in. A cone of wire cloth about 8 inches high with a hole at the apex just large enough for one bee to pass through will serve as an escape. A regular hive should be placed beside the entrance for the return of the escaped bees. The queen remains in the old cavity and goes on laying eggs, but as the colony is quickly reduced in size the quantity of the brood decreases. The younger bees leave the cavity and join the bees in the hive. A new queen should be given to the bees in the hive as soon as possible.

After about four weeks, remove the bee escape and make as large a hole as possible at the entrance of the cavity. The bees will go in for the honey and carry it to the hive. For this method to work successfully it is necessary that the bees have only one exit from the cavity.—United States Department of Agriculture.

**First American Flag**  
A standard with 13 alternate blue and silver stripes, carried by the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse in 1775, is the first known attempt to provide a national flag. At Cambridge, Mass., on January 2, 1776, General Washington, acting on his own initiative, raised a flag consisting of 13 alternate white and red stripes with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew in a blue field in the upper left-hand corner. Under various designations, this was employed until displaced by the Stars and Stripes, adopted by the Continental congress, June 14, 1777.

**His Way**  
"Don't you sometimes get lost in the woods when you go out possum hunting and get separated from your brothers?" asked a motorist in the Rumpus Ridge region.  
"Nope!" replied young Banty, son of Gap Johnson. "When I don't know whur I'm at and there ain't nobody around to ask I just pick out the way I know leads toward home and turn right around and go the other way; that always fetches me home by the shortest trail."—Kansas City Star.

**Canadian Timber**  
It is estimated by the Dominion forest service that the only economic use for three-eighths of the land area of Canada lies in the growing of trees. This vast area of territory, while incapable of successful agricultural production, is, if permanently dedicated, protected and managed, suited to the production of a timber crop which would guarantee for all the supply of raw material for Canada's wood-using industries.—Natural Resources Bulletin.

—Along about the middle of last July two men, T. H. Andrews and S. A. Whorley, of York, visited State College and collected various sums of money from merchants for printing their advertisements on menus they were going to print for use in that town. Time passed but the menus never showed up and the merchants finally got tired waiting and made information against the men. Andrews was located in

York and brought back to Centre county last week. Three cases had been entered against him through justice of the peace I. J. Dreese. On Friday Andrews settled all the cases against him, paying the costs, a total of over \$100, and making restitution of the money collected. He was then discharged.

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# SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Reports show a large increase in sales of merchandise, which shows that the American people do not deny themselves what they want.

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