

INDIAN BASE-BALL

It Isn't Much Like the National Game, but It Is a Lively Sport.

Ball playing has been a general source of amusement among all the American Indian tribes, but writes Henry Inman in the Kansas City Star...

It is played with two bats or sticks, and in every house I visited in the west of five buckskin thongs strung across them to prevent the ball from falling out when tossed or caught.

Each player carries two of these bats, one in each hand, and they catch the ball by jumping into the air, and throw it from the bats, and never are allowed to strike it once it is with their hands.

In their primitive days it was an invariable law of the game that no player should wear moccasins on his feet, and he could make his appearance on the ball grounds only in the prescribed dress.

He had to wear his breech-clout and a beautiful head band, and a pair of moccasins, which he wore on his feet before the day agreed upon for the playing of the game, and was led by two clowns, or captains, as we would call them.

These were accompanied by two other men, who were to go through the trile, from village to village, and alternately choose the men for their respective sides.

The men who were generally elected by proxy; two "runners" were sent, armed with a pair of "ball-sticks," these were elaborately ornamented with paint, ribbons and any thing that had a gaudy appearance, and were touched by the players as they passed.

Each side erected on the ground a small stake, about thirty feet high and six feet apart, across the top of which another pole was fastened. These were called the goals or "hays," and the distance between them, one representing one side and one the other, was some 500 to 600 feet.

At a point exactly half way from each goal a small stake was driven where the ball was to be thrown into the air at a certain time.

All the preliminaries for the game were attended to by an old man, who was also the judge or umpire. First a line was drawn across the field, and across which all bats were made and placed in possession of the respective appointed catchers, and all things were made the night before the game was to be called.

Every conceivable thing was done that day to make the game as perfect as possible, for there is no such inveterate gambler as poor Lou. The women of the tribe, too, were as earnest to watch what the judges contained, even to the last blanket.

The night before the game, all the players assembled around their respective stakes, by the light of the moon, and the "ball-dances" indicated in all the players of both sides, in their full game dress, rattling their hats together and joining their arms in a circle.

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M. D. KITTELL, Attorney-at-Law, EBENSBURG, PA.

A NEBRASKA HEROINE.

How a Woman with Nerve Governed a Western Community.

"Talk about being women," said the man, the recorder here, who was conducting the insurance agent and a tree traveler, "there ain't nothin' under the sun a little woman can't do if she sets her mind on it."

"It reminds me of an incident which happened when I was the postmaster," says Mrs. M. L. Rayne, the recorder of this incident, in the Detroit Free Press.

"I'll take it, my dear," says I, "it's yours, and your aunt's omelet is made by 'spos' with no kind of direction on it. Now I'd just had a queer 'sperience with a trunk that got left here, no name or nothin', but a young woman come in for it, and I said, 'see I identify it, my dear, if it is yours, while I open it.'"

"You'll please tell me what's in this here valise, ma'am," says I, in my official voice.

"Oh, yes," says she, gettin' up on tip-toe, "there's a navy revolver, an ascension shooter, and an English bulldog that weighs one hundred and thirty pounds."

"There they are, ma'am," are they're yours? If you don't dispute your word in the next five minutes, you're obliged if you'll just take the hull aversal of my hands."

"What was she doing here?" asked the insurance man.

"Gentlemen, she was a victim! her cousin, that poor, sighin', cryin' widow. It were the year that the bad Ag Indians were down here, and she was obliged to make life a burden to us, till that little woman come up here loaded for bear. That cousin of hers didn't have no notion enough to keep her from stealing the roof over her head."

"As a Chicago girl," says she, she kinder played with the shooter in her hand, and she was all the time making the shortest courtship on record.

"That little woman stayed there till she cooked the widow up the farm for her, and she was all the time making the shortest courtship on record."

"What became of the widow?"

"Married her myself," said the man who was conducting the insurance agent and a tree traveler, "and she was all the time making the shortest courtship on record."

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HYSTERICAL INVENTIONS.

A Wonderful Sweeping Machine and an Automatic Sucking Chair.

This idea, which is chronic and as an invention in the Patent Office at Washington, is on a par with the rocking chair which came out eight months ago.

EXPELLING A FROG.

How a French Duchess Was Cured of a Painful Hysterical Condition.

The Duchess of Tris-Etoile, one of the most aristocratic ladies of the French Empire, says Rickett, had long possessed of the idea that she had swallowed a frog.

On seeing the frog, a loud was removed from the Duchess's heart. The next instant she turned pale, and her eyes rolled back in her head.

On her writing table are always a large silver box of response work filled with cigarettes, a match-box of Chinese jade, and a capacious ash receiver.

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Christina, Queen Regent of Spain, is a great advocate of tobacco. She consumes a large quantity of Egyptian cigarettes, and there is nothing that her little "Bibi," his Majesty, King Alfonso XIII, enjoys more than when his mother permits him to strike a match and apply the flame to the end of her cigarette.

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DEPOSITS

See "The Rochester."

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See "The Rochester."

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THE COUNTRY GROCERY

How Surprisingly our Country Grocers "assemble and analyze" their goods.

"The notion" came along with a museum. Among other articles of vertu tooth-brushes, combs, razors, and safety razors, watch keys, and spectacles, shirt studs, rubber keys for babies' bottles, crocheted neckties, and a host of other things.

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