

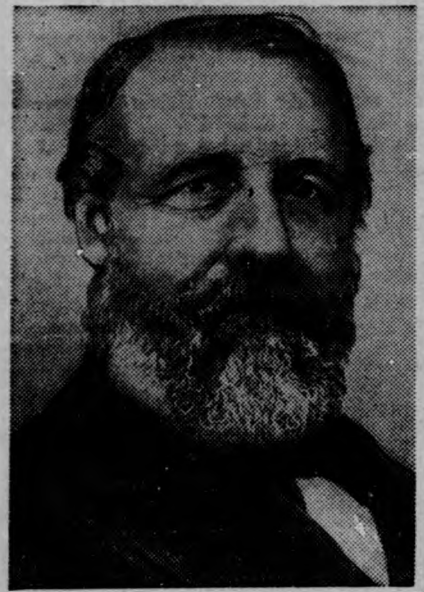
"The True Story of Baseball"

By GRANTLAND RICE
Dean of Sports Writers

BASEBALL is known as our national game. But how many know anything about the real story of baseball, including its origin? Very few among the millions who follow it today.

So I am bringing to you one of baseball's greatest historians, Will Irwin—who also happens to be one of the best writers and one of the top reporters this country has ever known. To me, this is the true story of baseball:

"Dear Grant: This year is the hundredth anniversary of New York's Knickerbocker Baseball club, and I understand that there is to be some kind of celebration this summer. But judging from preliminary notices, we seem likely to celebrate the right event in the wrong way. The Knickerbocker was not the



Henry Chadwick devised the first boxscore and compiled the first official baseball rules book, which was printed in 1857. His efforts did much to promote uniformity of play throughout the country. Some writers call Chadwick "The Father of Baseball" on this account.

first baseball club in the United States, but it was nevertheless the founder of the modern game. And Alexander Cartwright, its first president, may have been the young genius who by one simple improvement transformed a venerable English game, now called "rounders," from a children's sport to a game for hardy young athletes and a national institution. As for Gen. Abner Doubleday, the notices seem to endorse the carefully fostered myth that he invented the game at Cooperstown, N. Y., in 1839; whereas he has no valid claim whatever either as inventor or improver of baseball.

Old Game Called 'Rounders.'
"About 1912, and while many players who went back to baseball's early days were still alive, I investigated the origins of the game for a national weekly and published the conclusions stated above. At that time, Abner Doubleday passed only as a hero of Gettysburg—the myth of Cooperstown had not yet gained its adherents. Then in 1939, Robert W. Henderson, of the New York Public Library, after painstaking research in the old books of that great collection, published a pamphlet which knocked the Doubleday legend higher than one of Babe Ruth's pop floats. By document evidence, he proved that a game called baseball was played in England in the days of Abner Doubleday's great-grandfathers, that it was known in America before the Revolution, that it was identical with what the English have for the last century called 'rounders' and that with a number of minor changes and one major one, it was the game which our big leagues are playing today. I will begin with his data, supplemented by my own.

"One of the earliest known references occurs in the lively letters of Mary Lepell, Lady Hervey. Under date of November 18, 1748, she takes a fling at the frivolous habits of the Prince of Wales and his court, who waste whole days playing 'baseball, a play all who are, or have been, schoolboys, are acquainted with.' Then comes Jane Austen. In the first chapter of 'Northanger Abbey,' composed in 1798 but not published until 1818, she wrote: 'It was not very wonderful that Catherine... should prefer cricket, base ball, riding on horseback, and running about the country at the age of 14, to books.'

Used Soft Ball.
"But the clincher is 'The Boy's Own Book,' which was published in London in 1828 and ran through seven British editions by 1849, a description of 'Rounders' appears in

the second edition, probably issued in 1829. The text notes that this is the name of the game in western England, but that Londoners call it 'feeder,' and goes on to describe it—a feeder or pitcher, two catchers, the second to chase what the first had missed, four bases arranged diamond-form, the home base and the plate beside which the batsman stands being identical, 'three strikes and out,' 'a ball caught on the fly is out,' 'a point scored whenever a man safely circles the bases.'

"But—here comes the all-important point—when a batsman hit a fair grounder or a runner was caught between bases, the fielder put him out by HITTING HIM WITH A THROWN BALL. A missile like our modern baseball would have caused the players to commit mayhem or involuntary homicide at every game. So they had to use a ball of yarn, not wound too tight, or later, the standard hollow, air-inflated rubber ball.

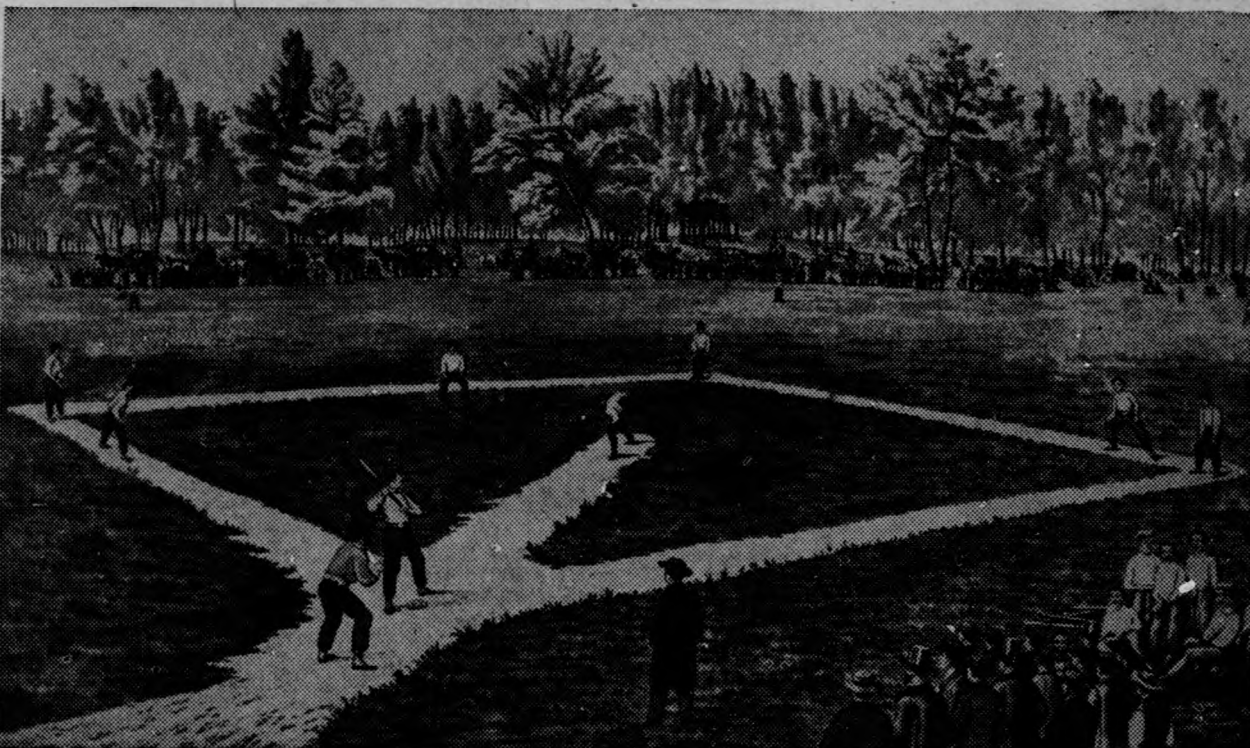
"Following the cheerfully unimpractical practice of the time, a Boston publisher pirated that book, verbatim, in the early 1830s. In 1835, a pirate of Providence, R. I., republished it as 'The Boys and Girls' Book of Sports.' He had probably played the game here, for he revised the rules slightly and changed the chapter-heading from 'Rounders' to 'Base, or Goal Ball.' That was four years before Doubleday's alleged stroke of genius at Cooperstown.

"Both Lady Hervey and Jane Austen spent most of their lives in southern England. And the greater part of our English immigrants came in Colonial times from that district. It seems probable that the boys of Sussex and Hampshire and Dorset called it 'baseball,' as those of west England called it 'rounders' and of London, 'feeder' and that along with the game they brought the name to America.

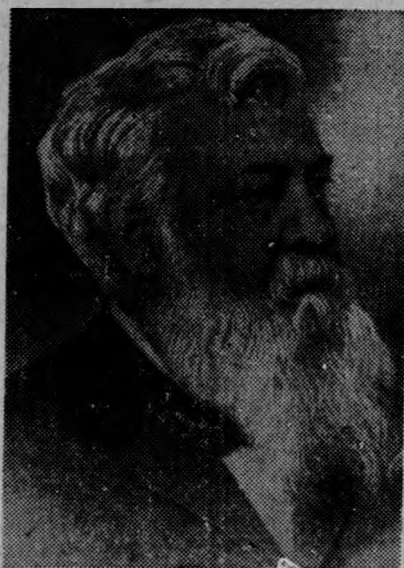
Popular in Early 1800s.
"That game, then at least a century old, is what Abner Doubleday taught the boys of Cooperstown in 1839—if he taught them anything. Even that is doubtful. In 1839, he was a cadet at West Point and it was not the year of his leave. The main testimony in his favor came from a very old man named Abner Graves. A commission, working not to establish the truth but to prove that no English hand had ever sullied our national game, made a fatal slip when it let him testify that in the game revealed to Cooperstown, the fielder put a runner out by hitting him with the ball!

"There is evidence to show that this form of the game—some times called "Town ball"—became popular in and about Boston during the 1820s and 1830s. Then, in the early 1840s, the modern game made a dramatic appearance in New York City. An early tradition of the old-time baseball players tells the story about as follows: In that period, Madison Square was a pleasant, level field at the edge of town. There the adolescent boys and the young men used to kick footballs or play such games as 'crack the whip.' Then one day in the early 1840s Alexander Cartwright said to some of them:

"'Fellows, I've got a new game to show you. Help me lay it out.' At his direction, they laid out a diamond with bases at the corner, of about the dimensions of our modern infield. He produced a round ball and a hard but elastic, leather-covered ball, and taught them rounders, town-ball or early-day baseball



A tense moment in the "Grant Match for the Championship" between the Knickerbockers and the New York Nine played in Hoboken, N. J. in 1846, is captured in this Currier and Ives print. The quaint uniforms, underhand pitching, awkward stances of batter, catcher, basemen and fielders seem laughable today.



Alexander Cartwright, first president of New York's Knickerbocker Baseball club is credited with being the real originator of modern baseball. He introduced one revolutionary change—the putout by tagging with the ball. Previously the basemen threw the ball at the runner. Cartwright's innovation permitted the use of the hard ball.

or whatever you wish to call it, with one great, vital exception. The fielder put out a runner between bases not by 'burning him' with a thrown ball but by HOLDING THE BALL IN HIS OWN HAND AND TOUCHING HIM WITH IT. The variation of this play, in the case of a batsman making for first base or of a force play, came later. That was the stroke which transformed baseball. Henceforth, the players could use a hard ball. The boys liked it. The slap and sting on their hands was a challenge to their fortitude, and the smack of the bat on this solid but elastic ball a most satisfactory sensation. Further they could throw it with the speed of a bullet. The game had grown up, become one of the 'manly' sports.

"And even if this story about Cartwright is only false tradition, the fact is that by 1845, when those same boys founded the Knickerbocker Baseball club, the boys of New York City and the nearby New Jersey towns were playing the game in the new way. Here, let me mention two links with the parent game. At that time, the modern method of scoring—nine innings with the team making the most runs the winner—had not yet come in. The first team making 21 runs won the game, as in handball. And this, I found by correspondence in 1912, was the time-honored rule in English rounders. The pitcher, in 1845 and for some years afterward, had to throw underhand without bending his elbow. And the pictures in the old books cited above show the pitcher or 'feeder' doing exactly that.

'New York Game' was Rugged.
"The game spread to upstate New York and to Pennsylvania. New England, however, continued to play baseball in the old way. By the time of the Civil War the newspapers and certain rudimentary sporting weeklies were publishing items about it, including scores of the important matches. Always they distinguished, a little contemptuously in New York, between the 'Boston game' where no one took chances with damaging his pretty hands and the 'New York game' where knotty fingers were scars of glorious wounds—for it was a point of honor not to wear gloves. During the war, the New York regiments played it in camp and taught it to men of other states, even to Confederate prisoners on parole. These novices carried it home; and the Boston game went back to the

"GAY GADGETS"

Associated Newspapers—WNU Features.

By NANCY PEPPER
DO AND DYE

What's your favorite color? You'll find it in a package of dye and you can spread it through your wardrobe just by following the directions on the box. We've seen lots of keen teens lately dressed all in one color from head to foot and we've been wondering. Now, the mystery's solved. One of our soda fountain sleuths reports that it all comes out of a package of dye.

Skirt and Sweater Harmonies.—You're burnt to a crisp if you have a sweater and skirt that exactly match. Take any old sweater and dye it to pair up with the skirt. Monotone—but not monotonous.

Hot Feet.—Dye your Robert socks any color to match sweaters or complete outfits. It's easy.

Colored Cords.—Even the boys are dyeing! Have you seen those T.D. & G's with two tone corduroy-slacks? They dye one leg red, the other green. Perish forbid is what we always say in a case like this.

Singin' in the Rain.—That's what you'll be doing if you dye your old tan raincoat a bright color. Don't envy those slick chicks with their new purple, green or what-have-you rain coats. Just do and dye.

Fugitives.
We sink around the corner,
We rush into the show;
We're praying that we don't meet
Anyone we know.

What are we girls ashamed of?
Oh, anyone can see
It's Friday night and we are
W. A. D.
**"W. A. D." means "without a date."

Minute Make-Ups

By GABRIELLE



Use fresh, crushed strawberries, beaten into your big jar of cold cream. Strawberries have a gentle bleaching effect on the skin. The fresh fruit has a wonderful fragrance and if you will keep your crushed strawberry cold cream in the ice box it will last and last!
Leder Syndicate.—WNU Features.

children, who are playing it yet. "The Baseball museum and Hall of Fame is a worthy institution. But it is in the wrong place. It should stand on Madison Square, New York. Most of the pioneer baseball players whom I knew in the early 1910s revered that spot as the cradle of the game. Whenever Sam Crane passed it, he took off his hat and said, 'There was planted the little acorn from which the great oak grew.' "Will Irwin."

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

By VIRGINIA VALE

LISTENERS to a recent "John-Lyn Presents" broadcast never even suspected that in the studio the sort of thing was happening that speeds radio performers and producers toward nervous breakdowns. Ginny Simms was singing when a man walked up on the stage and headed toward her. Since, when a big show like that one is produced, there are so many people on stage, no one realized just at first that the man didn't belong there. Then Ken Roberts, the announcer, spotted him. Just before the man reached Ginny, Roberts reached him; he took the stranger by the arm and led him off stage, whispering in his ear very confidentially all the while. Credit Ginny with never missing a note!

In more than six years in pictures, Geraldine Fitzgerald practically always lost out romantically, with the other girl getting the man. In "Wilson" she won out, and decided to leave Warner Bros. and strike out



GERALDINE FITZGERALD

for herself. So they let her win John Garfield in "Nobody Lives Forever," as a parting gift. On her own, she went into "Uncle Henry," for Universal—doesn't get her man, but goes to the gallows for trying!

All of one day Hollywood was filled with rumors that RKO and Paramount had merged—a big gate was opened between the two studios, and that was enough for the gossips. The fact of the matter was that Leo McCarey was shooting exteriors with Ingrid Bergman, Henry Travers and several extras on a Paramount lot for Rainbow Productions' "The Bells of St. Mary's," being made at RKO.

Eddie Cantor's still untitled Western Comedy at RKO will retain for Cantor and Joan Davis the same character names they used in "Show Business," though there's no similarity between the pictures; they'll keep the same names just for luck.

Oliver Wallace, who composed "Hundstun" during the last war and "Der Fuehrer's Face" during this one, provides the score for Walt Disney's new short, "African Diary," which RKO is releasing. This time Goofy is starred.

Lauren Bacall has a difficult task ahead of her; she's finished "The Big Sleep," her second picture, in which she appears opposite Humphrey Bogart; for her third assignment she'll have the feminine lead in "Confidential Agent," which play an English woman. A different accent, a different male lead,—she'll have to work hard.

Fred MacMurray and Leslie Fenton launched their new enterprise, Mutual Productions, recently, beginning work on "Pardon My Past." It's a comedy, and MacMurray plays twin brothers who never meet, but whose effect on each other's existence is disastrous. Marguerite Chapman is Fred's leading lady; Akim Tamiroff, William Demarest, Harry Davenport and Douglas Dumbrille have strong roles.

An air-force friend is responsible for Abbott and Costello's signing Bob Mathews as a vocalist on their Thursday night NBC programs. The friend, on furlough, was asked to Costello's one Sunday for a swim; he took along a record of Mathews' and played it for Lou.

A special concert made up of requests from our troops overseas will be broadcast by the New York Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra, Artur Dodzinski conducting, over CBS on Sunday, July 1. Requests are being cleared by the Armed Forces Radio Service.

ODDS AND ENDS.—On his Sunday radio program Ozzie Nelson recently urged people to take servicemen into their homes—and when he got home found that his children had filled the house with soldiers and sailors. . . . In "Masquerade in Mexico" Dorothy Lamour wears a streamlined silver bathing suit. . . . Joan Bennett will start in "Woman in the Window" on the Radio Theater June 18. . . . Republic's Sunset Carson, 6'4" Western star, dropped into the studio's hospital for an aspirin; on the way out he hit his head on a sign, and had to go back for treatment. . . . Amos 'n' Andy plan to leave on a tour of foreign military installations in June.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERNS

Two-Piecer to Wear All Summer Party Frock for a Little Girl



1350
2-6 yrs.

Dainty Party Frock
SHE'LL look as bright as a new penny in this dainty party frock. Gay little ruffles and novelty buttons on an all-over floral print make it as pretty a dress as you'll see.

Simple Two-Piecer
PERFECT answer for every summer need—a simple two-piecer with a crisp, clean-cut air. Use bright checked or striped fabrics, trimmed with the boldest of ric rac.

Pattern No. 1350 is designed for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Size 14, short or three-quarter sleeves, requires 3½ yards of 35 or 39-inch fabric; 2 yards machine-made ruffling to trim.

Due to an unusually large demand and current war conditions, slightly more time is required in filling orders for a few of the most popular pattern numbers.

Send your order to:

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

1. Was Beau Brummel a real or fictitious character?
2. What is the tactile sense?
3. When Noah sailed in the Ark how many women were aboard?
4. What coat of arms suggested the use of stars and stripes in the American flag?
5. What one thing remained in Pandora's box?
6. What Biblical characters went to heaven without dying?
7. Is the army man of today taller than the army man of World War I?
8. When it's 6 p. m. in London, what time is it in Chicago?

The Answers

1. Real (George B. Brummel).
2. The sense of touch.
3. Four—Noah's wife, Shem's wife, Japheth's wife, and Ham's wife.
4. The coat of arms of the Washington family.
5. Hope.
6. Elijah and Enoch.
7. Yes, soldiers of this war are two-thirds of an inch taller.
8. Noon.

Shifting Sand Raises Town 150 Feet in 500 Years

The shifting sand in and around Skagen, the chief fishing port of Denmark, has raised the level of the town about 150 feet in the last 500 years, says Collier's. Consequently, the 2,400 inhabitants have been obliged to raise their homes and other buildings from time to time to keep them on the surface.

The only structure to be abandoned, because its great weight prevented its removal, is a large 15th century stone church which is now buried so completely that the only part visible is the top of the tower.

IS GETTING UP NIGHTS GETTING YOU DOWN?

Thousands say famous doctor's discovery gives blessed relief from irritation of the bladder caused by excess acidity in the urine

Why suffer needlessly from backaches, run-down feeling from excess acidity in the urine? Just try DR. KILMER'S SWAMP ROOT, the renowned herbal medicine. SWAMP ROOT acts fast on the kidneys to promote the flow of urine and relieve troublesome excess acidity. Originally created by a practicing physician, Dr. Kilmer's is a carefully blended combination of 18 herbs, roots, vegetables, balsams. Absolutely nothing harsh or habit-forming in this pure, scientific preparation. Just good ingredients that quickly act on the kidneys to increase the flow of urine and ease the uncomfortable symptoms of bladder irritation.



For the cause of many disorders

This package contains a combination of minerals produced and compounded by Nature's stone, with no artificial ingredients nor man-made drugs. When you mix it with your drinking water, according to directions and drink Crazy Water day after day, you join millions who have attacked the cause of their troubles. Gently but surely Crazy Water stimulates three main cleansing channels—the kidney, the intestinal elimination. Crazy Water brings positive benefits in faulty elimination, the cause and aggravating factor of rheumatic pains, digestive orders, constipation, excess acidity, etc. Get a package of Crazy Water Crystals at your drug store today.



FOR QUICK RELIEF FROM
TIRED, ACHY MUSCLES
Sprains • Strains • Bruises • Stiff Joints
What you NEED is
SLOAN'S LINIMENT

Wealth Goes to Things He Never Cared About
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND. — Arthur W. Keep, wealthy exporter, who died last November, left the bulk of his fortune of more than \$600,000 to the city of Birmingham for sports fields, swimming pools, and bus and trolley shelters. Associates said he never had shown any interest in sports, never learned to swim.

TELEFACT
MORE MODERATE-PRICED CLOTHING FOR U. S. CIVILIANS IN 1945
WFB AND OPA PLAN NEW GARMENT QUOTAS
NEEDED LOW-PRICED CLOTHING 75%
OTHER ITEMS 25%

U. S. Infantry Outfit In Line for 500 Days
ROME. — The veteran United States 34th infantry division claimed a record for American forces in this war recently when it completed 500 days of actual combat. As a matter of fact, 5th army headquarters announced, there were some Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota national guardsmen, who made up the original 34th, in the division who had been in line more than 600 days and were still going strong.