

GENERAL SPORTING.

A VETERAN CYCLIST TELLS OF THE OLD TIMES.

Will Pitman's Unique Career on the Wheel—He Wins the First Race Held in This Country and Also Century Run.



The ordinary or high bicycle was first shown in this country at the Centennial exhibition in Philadelphia.

While the style of wheel is today almost obsolete, some of its early riders now use the modern style of manufacture and take an active interest in cycling matters.

Will R. Pitman, of this city, who was one of the wheelmen pioneers, is today an active rider and brimful of interesting reminiscences of the early history of the bicycle.

Pitman, who has been christened the "Old Vet," won the first bicycle race in this country.

In chatting with the writer the other evening, he said that Alfred D. Chandler, of Boston, was the first rider in this country.

Chandler, he says, rode an English wheel, and his bicycle and its usefulness were matters of great curiosity to the public.

In the fall of 1877, Chandler indulged in the first long-distance ride ever taken in America, peddling from Fitchburg, Mass., to Boston, a distance of forty-four miles.

This feat was only accomplished after two trials. Pitman ascertains that while the ordinary novice of today thinks nothing of venturing on a thirty-mile ride, such a feat would have excited great wonderment when the bicycle was first introduced.

To appreciate thoroughly the wonderful progress that has been made in bicycle construction and racing, he says that it is essential to go over the days when he raced to make comparisons of the cycling situation of today.

In the fall of 1878 Pitman came from Boston to New York to exhibit his bicycle, one of the few then in existence. His experiences were amusing.

He says that he would start to ride the wheel through the street, when the police would compel him to dismount and threaten him with arrest if found riding on the public thoroughfares.

Probably Lost His Rabbit's Foot. A colored drum major sustained a succession of accidents in Prescott, Ariz., the other day.

While in a state of intoxication he pulled a crap table over on his chest, injured himself internally. To help him out he took five pints of whisky.

This created nausea, and in attempting to vomit he brought on hemorrhage of the lungs.

Saved His Life. A young man in Hunterdon county, New York, has succeeded in winning the hickorynut-eating championship by devouring a peck of nuts at one sitting.

Fortunately the doctors saved his life, after several hours of hard labor, so that he stands ready now to defend his title against all comers.

Corbett's Actor Pictures. The above is one of the latest portraits of Pugilist-Actor Corbett.

On May 15 the ex-champion will leave America for England, where he hopes to meet Fitzsimmons in the roped arena before a London sporting club.

The Ring. Nicholas Gorman, of Houtzdale, Pa., and Thos. Edwards, of Danville, Pa., met in a fight with skin tight gloves.

London prize ring rules prevailing, near Shamokin, the former winning in the sixth round.

Danny Daly, a featherweight pugilist of repute in St. Louis, Mo., was run over and instantly killed by a freight train at De Soto, Mo., recently.

Colored races never have blue eyes. Their eyes are always dark brown, brownish yellow, or black.

All moths produce some form of silk.

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HE PROVED THE OMEN. Sailer's Superstitious Prediction of Disaster Followed by His Own Death.

"Speaking of sailors' superstitions," remarked the veteran Hawthorneskipper, Josh Reeves, of Sea Isle City, to a New York Herald man, "reminds me of an incident that happened half a century ago at the Five Points Bank lightsip, in which a sailor's prediction, based on an omen, resulted fatally to the prophet himself."

"A bright winter morning had caused the crew of the lightsip to row a short distance away in a small boat in search of codfish, which are very abundant off the capes in winter time. A few hours' fishing resulted in a goodly catch and a return was made to the lightsip. The fish were cleaned and the refuse thrown overboard, but a calm sea, with not a breath of air to disturb it, caused the refuse to drift in a circle around the ship. Toward noon a large flock of geese came in sight and settled under the lightsip's very bows and commenced to feed. The water folk became very tame and swam chattering and hissing close to the ship's sides.

"John Crowell, a grizzled old member of the crew, shook his head and predicted death to some one on board within twenty-four hours. He said that whenever geese became so tame as to feed around a vessel's bow or stern, it was an unfailing omen of impending death on board. Crowell's companions laughed at his fear, but he told them to bide their time.

"Toward noon a strong gale came out of the northeast and kicked up a heavy sea. Crowell was on the forward or bow watch.

"Many of the crew were in the main cabin below, enjoying a social game of euchre, checkers or dominoes, when suddenly they heard the sound of a chain running rapidly through the starboard bow scupper. We rushed on deck in dismay, thinking the windlass gearing had given way. The slight witness will never be forgotten. Crowell had been caught in the relief chain and ground around the rapidly revolving windlass. His death was instant. His omen came true."

An Egyptian Bride. At the marriage in Egypt of Princess Minet Hanen, sister of the Khedive, the bride came in preceded by a woman musician all dressed in white satin. She was supported by two bridesmaids. Her gown was of white satin, but one could scarcely see the material because of the heavy gold embroidery. Her neck and arms were simply covered with diamonds, and on her head she wore a high crown of precious stones, to which was attached her veil of silk and gold. On either side of her head were ornaments of gold and jewels, with threads of gold reaching to the ground, of such weight that the bridesmaids had to carry them. She was one of the most beautiful women ever seen, and when she was seated on the throne it was a picture. She and her surroundings were beautiful beyond description. When she retired the Khedive stood on the throne and threw newly-coined money among the ladies for luck.

Comparative Cost of Freight by Water and Rail. It has been proved by actual test that a single tow-boat can transport at one trip from the Ohio to New Orleans 25,000 tons of coal, loaded in barges. Estimating in this way, the boat and its tow, worked by a few men, carries as much freight to its destination as 2,000 cars and 100 locomotives, manned by 600 men, could transport.

There Was No Violence. "Bigland has been thrown out of work, hasn't he?" "Well, his pay has been stopped, if that is what you mean."—Detroit News.

A Costly Stamp Sold. St. Louis, Mo., May 4.—A postage stamp called the "10-cent Baltimore provisional," the only one of the kind known to exist, was sold