

## Curve Balls

The "Spit Ball," the "Rise Ball," the "Fade Away Ball" and Other Marvels of the National Game. Why a New Curve is a Bonanza.

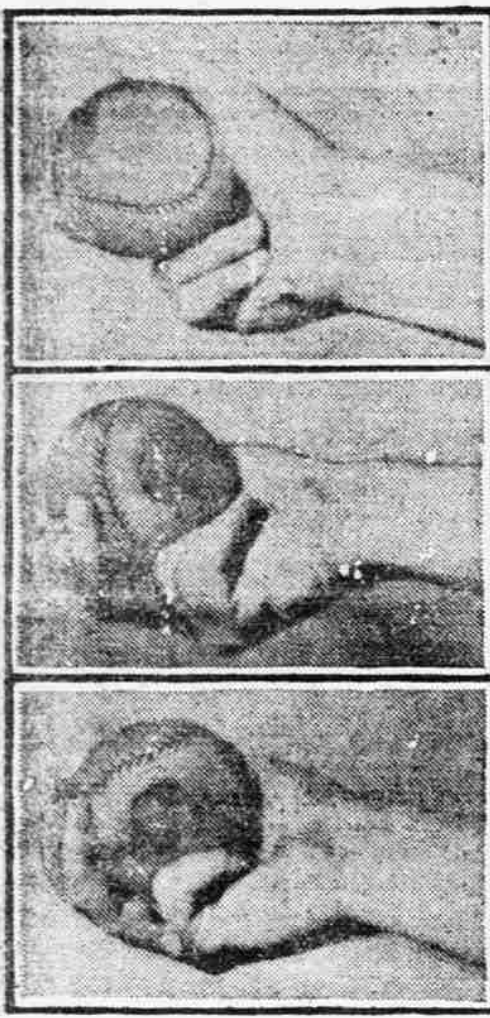
By FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.



HOW THE "SPIT BALL" IS HELD.

BASEBALL pitchers find the study of the phenomena of curve balls a most interesting as well as valuable pursuit. It was the discovery of the curve that gave baseball much of its impetus as a scientific sport, and men spend years in seeking to develop new variations of it and new possibilities. Those who successfully demonstrate a new species of curve find no difficulty in earning \$5,000 to \$8,000 or \$10,000 a year. Considering that almost any major league pitcher can, by careful living and judicious treatment of his so-called "salary wing," succeed in staying in the game for ten years, it is seen that it is almost as profitable to study ball curves as it is to elect yourself president of the United States. And, so far as a corporation presidency is concerned, the clever pitcher for a big league team makes practically as much money and runs far less risk of going to jail.

Among the new curves are what have become known as the "spit ball," the "rise ball" and the "fade away ball." The "spit ball" is probably more disconcerting to batsmen than any other curve because it is said to "break" or curve in at least two different directions and in such a manner that not even the man who delivers it can accurately gauge just how it is going to act. The "spit ball" is grasped in the middle of the pitcher's palm with the



HOW PITCHERS HOLD THE BALL IN THROWING CURVES.

[At the top, ready for an incurve or shoot; in the middle, an out curve or shoot; at the bottom, a drop.]

thumb and all the fingers extended as far around it as they will go. The pitcher moistens with his tongue (hence the name of the curve) one or two of his fingers so that these fingers exert practically no pressure on the ball and then throws it with all the force that he can muster and yet be reasonably accurate. The fingers that were not moistened exert pressure on the sides of the ball so peculiarly as to make the revolutions of the ball vary in direction during its flight, and so the two different curves during one flight of the ball are produced. The "initial" cut in this column shows how the ball is held by the pitcher who delivers the "spit ball." This photograph and the others used in illustrating this article were specially posed for by Joseph McGinnity of the New York National league team.

The "rise ball" is the result of experiments of men who have for years been trying to perfect an "up curve" or "up shoot." While pitchers could produce without much difficulty "incurves," "outs," "drops" and "out-drops," they could not for many years make a ball rise as it went over the home plate.

The inshoot is delivered by sending the ball away over the ends of the index and middle fingers.

It is the revolving of the ball on its axis that makes it curve, or, to be more accurate, that leads to its curving. The ball that revolves swiftly from left to right offers more resistance to the air on its left side than it does on its right, so the ball swerves to the right, or in toward the batsman.

The outshoot is delivered by sending the ball away over the side of the forefinger, and when the ball is released the back of the hand is turned downward. Now the ball revolves from right to left, and so it swerves to the left, or out from the batsman.

## A MODERN MERMAID.

Annette Kellerman, Champion Woman Swimmer, and Her Adventures.

There are no mermaids now except in variety shows and fairy stories, but Annette Kellerman, the champion woman swimmer of the world, comes pretty near to being one. She is almost as much at home in the water as on dry land. Miss Kellerman recently came to this country from England to meet the expert swimmers of the United States. She is of practically perfect physique, with tapering wrists and ankles, olive complexion and gray eyes, which light up a winsome face. She is of Australian birth, but her mother was born in America of French parents. Miss Kellerman is twenty-one



MISS KELLERMAN AND A SNAPSHOT AT HER WHILE SWIMMING.

and has been an expert swimmer from childhood. Last year she made a new record on the Danube, swimming twenty-three miles in 3 hours, 11 minutes and 20 seconds. She has had some amusing experiences in the water, but the most unique was when, during her attempt to swim the English channel in 1905, a man proposed to her. In relating the story Miss Kellerman said: "Rather a unique place for an offer of marriage? I call it my 'channel proposal.' A well known swimmer, and a very fine one, too, paced me during my swim. After a half hour or so of silence, to my great amusement, he turned suddenly and said: "We go very well together in double harness, don't you think? and forthwith made me a proposal of marriage. Surprised? Yes, but more amused, I think. I told him I preferred waiting until I saw him out of the water, as I would never marry a little man. I met him after at the supper given in my honor and found he was of short stature, so I declined his flattering offer."

## A WELCOME BOY.

Queen Victoria of Spain and Her Gift to Alfonso of an Heir.

Great preparations were made for the heir to the Spanish throne who has just arrived. Queen Victoria made King Alfonso a very proud papa when she presented him with a bouncing boy. Although a girl would have been welcomed, a boy in this particular instance was much more desired. If the little prince lives to succeed his father on the Spanish throne it will be the fulfillment of the present young monarch's most ardent wish. In consequence of the importance of the birth of an heir the king himself issued an official proclamation shortly before the event was expected, giving explicit directions as to all ceremonies connected therewith. The decree began thus:

In order that the ceremonies which must take place in connection with the approaching accouchement of my dear and beloved spouse, when the Almighty per-



QUEEN VICTORIA OF SPAIN.

mits that so happy an event shall be realized, may be carried out with all the customary solemnity, I make this decree.

Then followed directions as to the dignitaries who should attend the presentation of the heir. Article 5 read:

In order that the inhabitants of the most heroic town of Madrid may know without delay whether the newly born child is a prince or an infant, there shall be hoisted in the first case the Spanish flag over that part of the royal palace known as the Punta del Diamante, and there shall be fired a salute of twenty-one guns at the customary places; in the second case the flag shall be white, and the salute shall be fifteen guns. Should the birth take place at night, a light of the appropriate color shall be placed beneath the flag.

## Wit and Humor

of BEN TILLMAN.



UNDER the old idea of Tillman as the typical fire eater he is about the last man that would be suspected of anything so genial as humor. That conception of him is now becoming somewhat modified, or possibly he is becoming mellowed himself. At any rate, a rich vein of wit has been found in the South Carolina senator, though his thrusts are somewhat rough and savage, like the man.

When Tillman was governor there was a revolt against his famous liquor dispensary law. He called out the militia, and the members of one company tendered their resignations. The governor dismissed them in a characteristic letter, closing as follows: "You can depart to your homes. You do not deserve it, but I will pay your hotel bill and trust that I may never be bothered with any more such band-box and holiday soldiers."

In his first speech in the senate the South Carolina man paid his respects to President Cleveland in rather savage fashion. He recounted how he had come to Washington as governor to attend Cleveland's inauguration, standing out for several hours in a drizzling rain to see the first Democratic executive since the war. Then Tillman raised a laugh by vehemently exclaiming: "God forgive me for being such a fool."

It was some time before this that Tillman had made the thrust at the president which fastened on the South Carolinian the sobriquet of "Pitchfork Ben." It was as follows: "But if I go to the senate I promise that I will use a pitchfork in the president's fat old ribs."

At another time Senator Tillman exclaimed: "I would rather go to hell with my followers than to heaven with the other crowd."

To a Columbia audience in his own state he said: "This is the fifth time I've tried to poke some sense into the heads of you people, but I suppose you don't want it, and I think you had better beat your drums and stampede like a lot of cowards, as you did the second time I came here."

Later at the same meeting: "You are a set of old fossils, and you can go to the devil in your own way. I don't want your votes."

This is rather grim humor, it must be admitted. Of a somewhat gentler quality is the following, given at the time of his row with his colleague, Senator McLaurin: A young reporter was gathering statistics as to the favorite recreations and books of Washington notables. When the South Carolinian man was approached he looked at the reporter over quizzically and replied: "Every one knows my favorite recreation—having fun with McLaurin. My favorite book is 'If Christ Came to Congress.'"

The reporter thanked him and asked where Senator Depew might be found. "Why," said Tillman, "Chauncey is in Europe, but," he continued, with a sly gleam in his one eye, "I can give you the information you seek. Depew's favorite recreation is playing penuche, and his favorite author is E. P. Roe."

"Can you tell me his favorite work?" "Certainly. Senator Depew's favorite work is 'Opening a Chestnut Burr.'"

Senator Tillman dropped into the war department one day to see Secretary Taft.

"See here," exclaimed the secretary, who had just assumed spectacles—"see here what you have driven me to with your attacks on my character and motives. You have forced me to take to glasses."

"Well," responded Senator Tillman, "I hope sincerely it will enable you to see the constitution now."

The South Carolina man got dry fun out of the rate bill fight. When Aldrich accused him of abandoning his own measure when the Hepburn bill was placed in his charge, Tillman responded:

"I never deserted my baby, but the senator from Rhode Island insisted upon putting his own dress upon it. That was distasteful to me, and the bantling is sleeping peacefully. Then some one dropped another kid in my house, and I am holding it. I won't deny that I am suspicious of the paternity of the brat and of the brat itself."

During one of the daily colloquies that occurred between the two Senator Spooner said:

"The last cartoon I saw of the senator from South Carolina represented him as down in the straw and being kicked by the Democratic donkey."

"The last one I saw," said Tillman, "represented me as riding the donkey, with the Republican elephant tied to its tail."

"What's before the senate anyway, Mr. President?" demanded a senator during a lull one day.

"I am before the senate," Senator Tillman declared without a smile.

## BARTLEY.

Rev. and Mrs. Hageman, W. F. Miller and daughters Maud and Blanch, left on No. 12 Tuesday morning to the Epworth assembly at Lincoln.

Tuesday morning George Light and wife of Trenton left on 12 for Bethany, Neb., to attend the ministerial institute of the Christian church.

Many Bartley people visited the Chautauqua at Cambridge Sunday and greatly enjoyed the address of Col. Harn of Georgia.

A. J. DeArmond was a McCook visitor Sunday. Albert Price of Ash Creek and sister Minnie of Canada visited Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Charles McKnight.

New wheat is coming to the elevators every day. Fine grain testing 60 to 63 pounds per bushel.

The lumber yard is the busiest place in town and the elevators a close second. Several barns, granaries and new farm houses will be built within the next six weeks.

Dr. Arbogast returned to Bartley Saturday and resumed practice Monday—to the satisfaction of his large patronage.

Dr. McKechnie of Indianola has been attending Bert Young for several days following an operation for strangulated hernia.

Harvey Athey of Wauneta was a Sunday visitor in Bartley.

The new boxes for the postoffice have arrived and will be in place in a short time.

The Star route from Bartley to Lebanon was discontinued Aug. 1, and a rural route will begin soon.

W. E. McKillip took out a bill of paint and oil Wednesday to repaint Lyman Jennings property he recently purchased.

James Greswell living north of Bartley had two horses killed and another injured Wednesday by freight No. 76. Mr. Greswell had just unloaded at the Farmer's Elevator and left his team stand without being tied, as No. 76 came along, the horses became frightened and ran around the crossing where one was killed, the other went down the track seven hundred yards and then was killed.

Bartley elevators are paying 40c for corn and 75c for new wheat this week.

Mr. H. A. Gaarde of Minden and Mr. C. Sorgenfrey of Durant, Iowa, were here this week visiting Mr. Sorgenfrey's son Harry, who is assistant cashier of the Bartley bank.

The Farmer's Elevator shipped 15,100 bushels of corn and five car loads of hogs this month.

Mr. Salleck of Albion, Neb., is here to look after his farm interests.

## DANBURY.

The Haskell Indians played ball with the Danbury nine, last Monday. The score stood 8 to 0 in favor of the Indians.

W. J. Stillebouer was a Kanowa visitor, Wednesday evening.

Misses Dora, Mary and Katie Greenway, Alma Noe and Alta Morgan are attending institute at McCook, this week.

The Western Comedy Co. gave a play in the hall, Monday evening. It was considered a pretty good play by the most of the people. It was a home talent company from Atwood.

Clifford Burbridge of McCook was a Danbury visitor, Monday.

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Hall were McCook visitors, Sunday and Monday.

Rev. Hawkes of McCook filled the pulpit in the Congregational church, last Sunday.

Miss Sofia Lord of Indianola visited relatives in this place, last week.

Miss Nina Jones of Indianola was a guest of Alma Noe a few days, last week.

Mrs. Bert Toley was a guest of Mrs. Daisy Robinson, Monday.

Grandma Vanvleet is still very poorly.

J. L. Sims shipped two car loads of hogs, Sunday night.

## BANKSVILLE.

C. G. Towle returned to Broomfield, Saturday on No. 1.

John H. Wesch finished harvesting, Saturday.

Walt Blunck was recently thrown from his pony into the barb wire fence and badly cut up about legs and breast. He is getting along nicely at this writing.

The Grant boys went down to Hendley to cross bats, Wednesday on No. 5. Score, 9 to 14 in favor of Hendley.

There is some magic that draws Ed Towle to August Wesch's about once a week.

Gust Blunck is a new pitcher for the Grant ball team nine.

## COURT HOUSE NEWS.

COUNTY COURT. Marriage licenses since last report: William C. Vogt (20) and Johanna Clamp (20), both of McCook. Married July 31 by county judge.

Emory C. Metheny (26) and Winona Kelley (19), both of Cambridge. Married August 1 by county judge.

# One Thing

We distinctly aim at in this business is, that every man who knows us, or who reads our ads shall get the idea that this is the store for—

## Quality In Merchandise

We'd a good deal rather be known as the right place for good stuff, than as a place where you get low goods for high prices.

We have a few "Left-Overs," to sell at LOW price, but we have

New Goods coming in every day at standard prices.

It is always easy to quote CUT prices, but it is what the price buys that COUNTS.

# J. H. Grannis

## INDIANOLA.

Weather still very warm.

Mrs. J. R. Neal is very sick.

The sick folks at Elmer Thompson's are better.

Doctor Minnick was called to Cambridge, Thursday, to attend his brother who is seriously ill.

Mrs. Green of McCook visited with Mrs. Baxter from Saturday morning to Sunday evening.

Calvin Rollins left for Denver and other points in the west to be absent a week or two.

Mrs. Gockley of McCook was the guest of Mrs. Kerns and sister, last Sunday.

Quite a number went from this place to Cambridge to attend the Chautauqua during the week.

Miss Lou Jaynes is reported as being very sick at her home south of town.

Bernard Hiller's baby was quite sick for a few days last week, but is getting along all right now.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sargent have a brand new baby at their house.

W. A. Dolan is the owner of an automobile purchased this week.

Quite a crowd from Indianola went to Cambridge, Saturday night, to hear the Kilties.

The infant child of Fred Hughes is slowly improving from its late illness.

J. C. Puckett drove out to his farm southeast of town, Friday, and spent the day looking over his bountiful crops.

C. S. Quick shipped three carloads of cattle, Saturday night. Mr. King shipped one.

Mrs. Reasoner of David City was a recent guest of her sister Mrs. J. W. Welborn.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Noe of Danbury were Indianola visitors, a few days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ireland of eastern Nebraska, who have been visiting friends north of town, passed through this place, Tuesday, on their way to Kansas.

Andy Barber, wife and son left, Wednesday evening, for a visit with relatives in Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Bird Mather of Iowa stopped off a few days, last week, for a visit with old time friends while enroute to California.

Harry Lyons left, Wednesday evening, for Iowa on a visit to his grandparents.

Hot weather? Yes, but we don't mention the weather in these parts. It wouldn't be polite.

## RED WILLOW.

From stumbling against a kettle of hot water, little Blossom Longnecker has a very badly scalded foot.

Mr. Hatcher still suffers with his foot, where his horse hurt him, about four weeks ago. He will go to McCook, to take treatments of Dr. Finch, accompanied by his daughter Mrs. Kreider.

Mrs. Jacob Longnecker and children returned to their home in Colorado, after making a visit of four weeks with her sister Nellie.

Dr. Finch was called professionally to see Mr. Hatcher on Sunday. He also called on friends, with Mr. and Mrs. Moyer of McCook.

Mrs. Bellair's sister of Indiana is making a visit here.

Threshing grain is on hand now, making busy housewives. Scarcity of garden stuff causes getting meals to be almost like the making of bricks without straw of ancient days.

## R. F. D. No. 1.

Walter Blunck, who was so seriously injured, recently, is improving satisfactorily. He was thrown from his horse, stepped on and dragged and severely injured about the legs.

Rev. E. Pleudemann of School Creek was the guest of Rev. A. Ramelow of Ash Creek, Sunday and Monday.

Mrs. Jacob Harsch was a visitor with her folks Joseph Downs, Sunday and Monday.

Alfred Kennedy is home during the illness of his father F. M. Kennedy.

John Breitting's little boy is very sick with typhoid fever.

Mrs. Harry Lorenz of Canada is visiting her brother Al Price.

A fine shower in this locality, Tuesday night.

## BOX ELDER.

A good rain would be very acceptable just now.

Nearly everyone is busy now hunting up hands and getting ready to thresh.

J. A. Kerr is attending the Chautauqua at Cambridge, this week.

Mrs. W. A. Stone returned, last Friday, from a week's visit with her sister at Stockville.

Mrs. Lydia Wray has been entertaining a daughter and her husband from near Marengo, Hayes county.

Mrs. D. H. Montgomery was happily surprised, last Saturday, when her mother and brother drove in from near Guthrie, Oklahoma.