

LOCOMOBILES

INSULATED DEAF MUTES

Adventures of a Basket Ball Team of Fakirs.

SAMPLE OF THE SPORTING LIFE

Made Profitable Trips Through Country with Quiet Quilt and Never Got Caught Talking.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—There used to be a basket ball team which played all over the country and which might have been called the Quiet Quilt, although as a matter of fact the name was a little different. This team was made up of deaf mutes, supposedly, from an institution for those so affected. At the beginning of their activities the Quiet Quilt did really and truly consist entirely of deaf mutes. They were coached by one of the best men who ever played the game.

These deaf mute players naturally gave signals with their hands. By dint of sticking together and studying and playing the same hard the Quiet Quilt, who were physically pretty husky, eventually got together a team that was very much in demand among the regiments and clubs not so very long ago when basket ball was being played in every sort of little box that might be called a hall and would give the home team an undeniable advantage.

As the Quiet Quilt began to travel around, and what with being novel and moreover a first rate team, they began to make a lot of money. This condition was all right as long as the team was legitimately one from the institution represented.

How the Change Came.

But after two or three seasons some of the players had to drop out because of business or for other reasons and then it became a question of filling their places with other players who could keep up the reputation of the team for ability so that it would continue to get the good guarantees and gate receipts. For basket ball, as anyone can tell you, is the most strictly professional amateur game there is.

Here, of course, was the Quiet Quilt team under pressing necessity of getting some good players. To the man who is an amateur in spirit it might seem likely that his coach simply went to work and developed some more men out of the institution. But he didn't. He went out and got two or three of the crack amateur (nearly) players of the day.

At this point the objection naturally is made. How did these men disguise their presence on the team? Weren't they known under their true names to many other players, and how could they cover their ability to hear and to speak? The answers show how great is the influence of sport for self-control.

To be sure there were players a-plenty who faced these men who knew their true names but because most of these players had little private eccentricities which occasionally took them into other fields under assumed names too they didn't start anything about their semi-pro, or rather semi-amateur, that might have been in the nature of a boomerang. They just let it go at that, knowing that they in turn would be safe.

But the other thing the disguising of the fact that these players could speak and hear, was the wonderful part. They just let it go at that, knowing that they in turn would be safe.

"I played against Jim for three years on a club team," said a man who afterward played on the same college team as Jim, "without knowing that he could either speak or hear. You know, he isn't much given to talking anyway."

Trained in Not Talking.

These young men—there were generally at least two on the Quiet Quilt team who didn't belong there—except one season, the last of all—went to work to learn the deaf mute language and learned also to keep a strong hold on themselves.

They played against some pretty tough teams and made long tours with the real deaf mutes, but always were careful not to show that they spoke or heard—that is when any one was around who might bear tales and so spoil their chances for further profitable engagements in the good towns they visited, because these long trips with a team that was a profitable attraction meant money, and often lots of it. In these or four separate seasons about five different men learned the deaf mute alphabet and went out with the Quiet Quilt. In each case these players afterward played on college teams and occasionally invaded the districts where they had been before the districts where they no more.

Occasionally these players would be opposite a man who on the previous occasion when it was club team against club team had made use of the belief that his opponent couldn't hear to use outrageous language about him.

In these cases there was revenge. Sometimes an aghast follower of the game who perhaps the winter before saw some of the college players as deaf mutes would be treated to a line of language that he knew didn't come out of text books from the lips of the supposed deaf mute.

Hard to Keep Still.

The things those hearing and speaking deaf mutes endured were nearly beyond belief. They had to pretend they didn't hear a thing when some opponent called them names that didn't sound pretty, and they had to clamp down their tongues from making a comeback. Also it was mighty hard for a man who is accustomed to yelling, "Over here, Frank," when he wanted the ball merely to stand and wave his hands or else to signal wildly to his team mate when he is ready to take a pass.

That, too, when one night a man might be playing with his deaf mute tribe and the next night with some other club where he was free to talk as much as he pleased—or rather as the officials would let him.

It got so eventually with this team that one season it started out with never a mute on it. This was the highest test of all, because these fellows all learned the language of the fingers and used it on all public occasions. They had to do the real finger work, too, because there always were folks who came to see the game, deaf mutes themselves, who would have detected any fraud and would have made it known that these lads were fakirs.

So they had to pretend from the moment they got into some small town that they were deaf mutes until later on when they were on the train leaving with the money. Obviously their manager, who was also the trainer spoken of, was the only one who could speak. Occasionally he, too, got into the game and became deaf and dumb.

One Nearly Caught.

Along Auto Row

New Garage for Auto Row—Dealers Visit the Country and Report Prospects as Bright.

Ernest Sweet of the Sweet-Edwards Automobile company spent several days last week in the western section of the state he was on business connected with his agency. "I think the prospects are bright," he said. "The people are going to have automobiles. They have the money."

The Jackson Automobile company of Jackson, Mich., gave a reception Wednesday evening which was attended by over 2,000 of its employees and their friends. The occasion of the hilarity was the completion of four big new factory buildings which the company has been erecting. The largest building, a three-story structure, 27x30, will be used entirely in the construction of automobile bodies; another, 16x20, with three stories and a basement, will give added space to the painting and finishing department; the third, two stories and a basement, 28x30, will be a much needed addition to the motor works. The Jackson company will make all its own motors this year. The fourth building, a one-story affair, 10x20, will be used as a testing room for automobile chassis. The new buildings will give the factory an increased floor space of 120,000 square feet, in addition to the large factory already in use.

Fifty Years of Business Success

Why the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Company is Celebrating Its Present Position.

Fifty years continuity in business is what the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Co. is now celebrating.

In the year 1859, the late Mr. Joseph Mueller engaged in the piano business at Council Bluffs, Iowa, which at that time was larger than Omaha. Mr. Mueller brought with him a thorough, practical knowledge of the construction of pianos. Being a musician, his business soon sprang into prominence and became the prime factor in the piano business of the west.

Mr. Mueller was a sturdy personage, whose ambition was to found a piano house that would stand as a monument to his efforts and successfully survive him. To aid in this project his eldest son, Arthur, was placed in eastern piano factories for several years, where he learned the piano makers' trade.

Mr. Mueller was established at Omaha and shortly afterwards there became identified with the business Mr. William H. Schmolter, a practical piano builder and also an accomplished musician. With increased capital and renewed energy the business grew rapidly. On the demise of the elder Mr. Mueller, the former "Mueller Piano Co." was absorbed by what is now the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Co., whose success is accentuated by its occupancy of the fine building at 1311-1313 Farnam street, Omaha, and by the continued increasing volume of its business.

With the incorporation of the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Co., still more capital was available and better facilities furnished with which to meet the growing demands. About this time the piano factory of the C. Sommer Piano Co., which had been building pianos in Omaha for several years, was purchased, together with its patterns, tools and machinery, thus placing the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Co. in a position to manufacture pianos and at the same time providing it with a fully equipped piano repair shop capable of doing the very best work.

The success of a business house is not due to accident, but to earnest, honest and conscientious effort backed up by a practical knowledge of the business. It can be said that the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Co., since its inception up to the present time, has been owned, controlled and managed by men who had had practical experience and who had learned their trade from the ground up. Furthermore, these men were educated musicians. Being practical workmen they could judge the merits and demerits of pianos, and being musicians they could discern the delicate gradations of one which has established since the establishment of the house, fifty years ago, together under its roof such pianos as are representative of the highest type in the art of piano construction.

Ability to judge—ability to buy properly—ability to meet the demands of the public are the factors which bring success to a business concern. The ability to judge means the best goods, the ability to buy properly means getting the lowest market prices; these facilities mean an increase of sales. It is these points wherein can be found the reason why the Schmolter & Mueller Piano Company has reached its present high standard. When it is further considered that this concern has extensive branches at Council Bluffs, Sioux City, Atlantic, Ia., and at South Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., and ninety-seven distributing agencies throughout the states of Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming and Iowa, it will be readily seen that the company has enjoyed an enormous growth.

The company expends its entire energies and talents on pianos and their adjuncts, such as piano players, player pianos and organs—no other line. With ample capital behind it, it is capable of entering the market on a cash basis, buying the best instruments at a minimum of price, which in turn enables it to give its patrons the advantage of every possible discount, and last, but not least, of giving such easy terms as will enable every home to have an instrument without any appreciable inconveniences.

The success of the Schmolter & Mueller Piano company is due to its persistent endeavor to please and its intelligent catering to the public's desires, and the courtesy and leniency extended the public.

FRATILE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

"Please, teacher!" "Well, Gwendoline?" "I told my ma I was in noins and she says I may learn the proper nouns, but she don't want me to have anything to do with the common ones."

It was little Eva's first day at school, and upon her return home she was asked how she liked her teacher. "Oh, I like her, all right," replied Eva, "but I don't think she knows so very much. She don't do anything but ask questions."

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