

V. U.S. Sport

- V-1 Allen, E. John B. "Values and Sport: The Development of New England Skiing, 1870-1940," *Oral History Review*, 13 (1985), 55-76.

Guttman's seven-point model in *From Ritual to Record* is used to describe the modernization of skiing. The emphasis is upon values rather than external changes, so Allen makes comments about equality, specialization, rule making, the formation of ski organizations, and the quest for records. Based upon secondary sources and 48 oral history interviews at the New England Ski Museum in Franconia, New Hampshire; 76 notes.

—David McComb

- V-2 Benningfield, Damond. "The Boxing Championship That Wasn't," *The American West*, 23, No. 1 (January/February 1986), 63-65.

Fight promoter Dan Stuart planned a "fistic carnival" of five prize fights, along with a bullfight, vaudeville show, football game, and sharp-shooting match for El Paso, Texas, in February, 1896. However, a week before the event, prize fighting was made illegal in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico. All events were cancelled, except the heavyweight title fight between Robert Fitzsimmons and Peter Maher. At the invitation of legendary "Judge" Roy Bean, the fight was moved to a sandbar across the Rio Grande from Langtry, Texas. Safely outside the United States and several days' journey from Mexican authorities, 182 spectators saw Fitzsimmons win in one minute, thirty-five seconds. The only one to profit from the venture was Bean, owner of the saloon in Langtry. No notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

- V-3 Benson, Jack A. "Before Skiing Was Fun," *Western Historical Quarterly*, 8, No. 4 (October 1977), 431-441.

From 1860 to 1920 skiing in Colorado was mainly for transportation, not entertainment. Mailmen, miners, doctors, and others used skis to travel, while in 1899 the entire town of Hunters Pass skied 90 miles to Aspen to escape winter starvation. The article was filled with stories of escape from wild animals and avalanches on the homemade "Norwegian snowshoes," as skis were called until 1900. The skis, made from hickory, ash, or pine, were 8-12 feet long, 1 inch thick, and 4-6 inches wide, curved at the tip, sanded, and waxed. People secured them with a strap fastened near the middle of the ski and guided themselves with a 6-8 foot pole. Based upon primary and secondary sources; 40 notes.

—David McComb

- V-4 Burrows, Jack. "The Greatest Bronc Buster Who Ever Lived," *The American West*, 20, No. 3 (May/June 1983), 54-58.

Manuel "Manny" Airola was born on a California ranch in 1888 and during the first two decades of the twentieth century became a local legend. He won many bronc riding championships, rode horses that no other man could even mount, and thrilled au-

diences by drinking a bottle of strawberry pop in a single pull while astride a violently bucking horse. However, by the 1920s he rarely finished a ride without bleeding from the nose, mouth, or both and he died in 1925 at the age of 37. No one knows the cause of death, but all who saw him know he was the greatest bronc rider who ever lived. Based on oral history; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

V-5 Davidson, Judith. "Sport and Modern Technology: The Rise of Skateboarding, 1963-1978," *Journal of Popular Culture*, 18, No. 4 (Spring 1985), 145-157.

The development of skateboarding illustrates the prominent role played by technology in modern American sports. The popularity of "sidewalk surfing" in the early 1960s was short lived due to injuries, bad publicity, and skateboards incapable of withstanding the performance demands of the riders. The control provided by polyurethane wheels led a second wave of skateboarding in the early 1970s. Technology continued to improve the design and performance capabilities of the board leading to the creation of scientifically constructed skate parks, amateur and professional exhibitions and competitions, and the revival of skateboarding literature like *Skateboarder* magazine. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 63 notes; glossary included.

—Cathy Buell

V-6 Gilbert, Bill. "Big Hawk Chief, A Pawnee Runner," *The American West*, 21, No. 4 (July/August 1984), 36-38.

Frank and Luther North, prominent Nebraska ranchers in the late nineteenth century, moved to the territory as teenagers in the 1850s and often lived with or near Pawnee Indians whose language they learned. Following the Civil War, they organized the Pawnee Scouts, irregular auxiliaries to the federal cavalry. In 1877, Luther bragged that Pawnee messenger Big Hawk Chief had run 120 miles in 24 hours, and after a day's rest, returned in 20 hours. Locals doubted such feats so an exhibition was arranged at a half-mile horse track. According to Luther North's one-fifth-second stopwatch, the Pawnee ran the 2 lap mile in 3:48, 77 years before Roger Bannister "broke" the 4:00 barrier. Based on secondary sources; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

V-7 Harrison, Walter L. "Six-Pointed Diamond: Baseball and American Jews," *Journal of Popular Culture*, 15, No. 3 (Winter 1981), 112-118.

Baseball served as a symbol of Jewish identity as Americans. Although it caused dissension between those struggling to maintain traditional Yiddish culture and Jews growing up with "American" freedoms, baseball was played in the streets and cheered in the major league parks. Baseball appealed to Jews as an ethnic group because it enjoyed the reputation of a cerebral game, provided heroes that disproved the allegation that Jews were small men who could not succeed in physical American culture, and provided a dream of success. Several American Jewish authors—Roth, Malamud, and Harris—wrote novels depicting baseball as a microcosm of American life. Baseball was one aspect of American life that quickly assimilated and mixed with Judaism to

form a secular faith that allowed "unity with a larger life of which we are a part" (Cohen). Based on primary sources; 17 notes.

—Cathy Buell

V-8 Hawk, Alan. "Delaware Birdmen: The Wilmington Aero Club and the Delaplane, 1910-1912," *Delaware History*, 21, No. 2 (Fall-Winter, 1984), 117-126.

In 1910, a group of businessmen formed the Wilmington Aero Club in order to build hobbist Robie Seidelinger's airplane and to stage an air meet. The group hoped to promote the city's image and to attract aviation industries to Wilmington, since its traditional industries were in decline. The Wilmington Aero Club was established with much enthusiasm, but its resources could not match its overly ambitious plans, so the Club disbanded two years later with little trace. What Seidelinger and the Club did accomplish was the building and financing of a plane that could actually fly, no small feat. In addition, Wilmington's residents were thrilled by the men in their flying machines. 29 notes.

—June A. Kennard

V-9 Johns, Bud. "Ride and Tie, Hitch and Hike," *The American West*, 23, No. 3 (March/April 1986), 38-42.

Ride and tie enables two people with only one horse to travel many miles; one rides while the other walks. After covering some distance, the rider dismounts, ties the horse, and commences walking. When the original walker reaches the horse, he unties it and repeats the procedure. Alternating this way, nineteenth-century westerners like Charles and William Emery were able to cover approximately forty miles a day. Reading about the Emery's 1873 journey to Mexico, Johns envisioned a great race. When his employer, Levi Strauss, sought a sports promotion, Johns' dream, the Levi Ride and Tie, became reality. Sixty-six teams entered the initial contest, run across California's Mayacamus Mountains on June 5, 1971. The sport has since grown to over 350 events annually in, the United States and abroad as teams now include world class runners, whose skills and strategies enable them to cover the 40 miles in under four hours. Based on personal experience; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

V-10 Kull, Andrew. "Baseball's Greatest Pitcher," *American Heritage*, 36, No. 3 (April-May, 1985) 102-108.

The 1884 baseball season was characterized by an unstable atmosphere in which leagues, owners, and players engaged in power struggles over control of major league baseball. In that season, Charles Radbourn won 60 and lost 12 games for the Providence Grays of the National League. The Grays' two star pitchers, Radbourn and Sweeney, were so hostile toward each other that in a dispute Sweeney quit the team. In 35 days in August and September, Radbourn pitched 22 consecutive games, winning 18 straight within one month. Providence defeated the New York Metropolitan, the American Association champions, as Radbourn won on three consecutive days. In 1939, Radbourn was elected to the Hall of Fame. No notes.

—June A. Kennard

V-11 Leavengood, David. "A Sense of Shelter: Robert C. Reamer in Yellowstone Park," *Pacific Historical Review*, "54, No. 4 (November 1985), 495-513.

The growth of industry in the late 1800s furnished middle-class Americans with increased leisure while the routine of urban life caused many to desire the vigorous

activities associated with taming nature. The National Parks supplied an opportunity for the outdoor life, leading to the construction of large resort hotels. In an effort to provide refuge from increased urbanization and industrialization, architect Robert Reamer was hired by financier H. W. Child to design a hotel in Yellowstone National Park. Reamer utilized natural materials and architectural elements giving the balance between wilderness and refinement necessary to attract people accustomed to the comforts of urban life. Based on primary and secondary works; 9 photographs; 20 notes.

—Lynne Emery

- V-12 Lothrop, Gloria Ricci. "A Trio of Mermaids-Their Impact upon the Southern California Sportswear Industry," *Journal of the West*, 25, No. 1 (January 1986) 73-82.

Esther Williams, the 1939 American 100-meter freestyle champion, turned to the entertainment industry following the cancellation of the 1940 Summer Olympics. Her vast popularity not only boosted the swimsuit industry but also benefitted the sport of synchronized swimming. Helen Rose achieved fame as a major Hollywood costumer of Esther Williams first in "Million Dollar Mermaid" followed by her designer swimsuits for Williams in nine other starring roles. An accomplished Canadian swimmer, Rose Marie Reid drew upon these elegant Metro Goldwyn Mayer swimsuits in designing bathing suits in the 1950s. Among Reid's many awards were the *Sports Illustrated* "Designer of the Year" and *Los Angeles Times*' "Woman of the Year." Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 84 notes; 4 photographs.

—Marybell Avery

- V-13 Miller, Linda E. "San Diego's Early Years as a Health Resort," *Journal of San Diego History*, 28, No. 4 (Fall 1982), 232-247.

Climate-caused or -cured health problems were commonly-held beliefs by physicians in the late nineteenth century, and the sleepy town of San Diego capitalized on this belief by advertising its climate and quality of life. Since many with tuberculosis, asthma, and rheumatism came seeking cures, these health seekers impacted the city by increasing the population and furthering economic development. Besides climate, treatments included hot salt-water bathing, massage, inoculation with "Koch's lymph," Swedish movements, rectal administration of gases, electrical treatments, herb baths, walking barefooted, drinking Coronado Mineral Water, and the "open-air treatment." Hospitals, sanitariums, and hotels were built to house the sick and those promoting San Diego for its climate set both the tone and pace for the future. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 10 photographs; 44 notes.

—Lynne Emery

- V-14 Newton, E. James. "William (Judy) Johnson: Delaware's Folk Hero of the Diamond," *Negro History Bulletin*, 143, No. 4 (October-November 1980), 91, 94.

William (Judy) Johnson, born on the eastern shore of Maryland (Snow Hill) on October 26, 1900, at an early age moved with his family to Wilmington, Delaware, where he learned his outstanding baseball playing and managerial skills. His baseball excellence and expertise were recognized by his employment as an assistant coach in the Philadelphia Athletics organization in February, 1954, the first Black baseball

player to serve in this capacity for a white major league baseball team. Johnson received the most coveted professional recognition of his baseball expertise by being elected into Baseball's Hall of Fame in 1975. Based on primary and secondary sources; 12 notes.

—Leon N. Coursey

V-15 Orsi, Richard J. "'Wilderness Saint' and 'Robber Baron': The Anomalous Partnership of John Muir and the Southern Pacific Company for Preservation of Yosemite National Park," *Pacific Historian*, 29, Nos. 2-3 (Summer-Fall 1985), 136-156.

One of the great achievements of the turn of the century conservation movement was the creation of Yosemite National Park, which occurred only through the joint efforts of John Muir and the Southern Pacific railway. While an alliance between preservationist Muir and the "robber baron" magnates of the infamous "Octopus" might appear incongruous, both were motivated by an interest in retaining the scenic wilderness and forest watersheds. Both also were involved in promoting tourism in Yosemite Valley: the railroad to build passenger traffic and Muir to advance his idea of wilderness preservation. Muir began the battle to create Yosemite National Park in the late 1880s but only because of his friendships with E. H. Harriman, owner of the Southern Pacific, and other powerful railroad men who saw federal legislation finally enacted in 1906. Based on primary and secondary works; 7 photographs; 63 notes.

—Lynne Emery

V-16 Porter, Willard H. "The American Rodeo," *The American West*, 8, No. 4 (July 1971), 40-47.

Today's rodeo is both sport and spectacle, the product of a slow and often violent evolution. No one knows when or where the first rodeo occurred, but forerunners included contests between rival cowboy outfits during roundups, Wild West shows, and Texas picnics. The first contest to charge admission and to award cash prizes was held at Prescott, Arizona, in 1888, and the first indoor rodeo was at Fort Worth, Texas, in 1918. Early events like bronc riding and steer roping derived from ranch work, while the twentieth-century additions of bull riding and steer wrestling, have more theatrical origins. Early ranch hands earned \$40 a month, while the top All Around Cowboy of 1970 earned over \$40,000. No notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

V-17 Park, Roberta. "British Sports and Pastimes in San Francisco 1848-1900," *British Journal of Sports History*, 1, No. 3 (December 1984), 300-317.

Recreational and sporting activities served as one of several ways in which early San Francisco immigrants from the British Isles, as well as other ethnic populations, maintained cultural identity. Until the turn of the century, when more broadly-based sporting events gained prominence, annual gatherings of organizations such as the Scottish Caledonian and Thistle Clubs, the Bay area cricket clubs, and the Irish St. Patrick's Day celebrations attracted numerous participants and spectators and received media coverage. Yachting, the hunt, cricket, highland and Gaelic games, boxing, and picnics and excursions, including novelty sporting activities, were sponsored by vari-

ous Scottish, English, and Irish groups. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 54 notes.

—Cathy Buell

V-18 Rudat, Wolfgang E. H. "Cohn and Romero in the Ring: Sports and Religion in *The Sun Also Rises*," *Arizona Quarterly*, 41, No. 4 (Winter 1985), 311-318.

This article analyzed the characters of Robert Cohn, a former Princeton boxer, and Pedro Romero, a bullfighter. The author interrelated the sports images with Jewishness and the characters' love for the woman, Brett. Based upon analysis of the book; 11 notes.

—David McComb

V-19 Thomas, David and Thomas, Marc. "Leander Burnett: Saga of an Athlete," *Michigan History*, (January/February 1986), 12-15.

This article described the life and career of an early, collegiate athletic hero, Leander Burnett, an extraordinary competitor between 1888-1892 at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University). A talented baseball player, he also displayed outstanding ability in track and field in winning 37 first places while competing in 4 annual Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association spring field days. Unfortunately, the life of this 'half-and-half Indian,' a direct descendant of an Ottawa chief, was of short duration. Leander Burnett died in 1906. Based on primary sources and secondary works: 14 notes; 6 photographs; 2 tables.

—Phyllis Ocker