

VI. U.S. Sport

VI-1 Conley, Frances R. " 'We All Lived Together in the Presidio,' " *The Californians*, 5, No. 1 (January/February 1987), 21-23, 26-27, 29-30.

Born in Monterey, California, in 1809, Juan Bautista Alvarado witnessed the festivities surrounding the inauguration of a new Spanish governor in 1815. Following

religious services and speeches, a fiesta was held which included fancy riding, bull and bearing fighting, playing bulls on horseback and on foot, music, and dancing. During the bull fights, several bandilleros tied themselves on bulls and rode wherever the animals wished to go. Based on primary and secondary sources; no notes; bibliography; 4 illustrations.

—Lynne Emery

VI-2 Gair, Chris and Baker, William J. "The Manhood Game: American Football in Critical Perspective," *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, 82 (1983), 145-153.

Although many people believe that participation in sport, football in particular, develops character and manliness, there are some who do not share that view. To them, participation in sport not only does not develop maturity, but, to the contrary, maintains a situation in which independent thinking is not permitted. The participant is chattel to as well as a servant of the coach. Rather than treating players as adults, coaches often perpetuate authoritarian systems of control and reward athletes with acceptable accolades. Changes in the game(s) cannot occur until the culture in which the game thrives changes its value system. Based on primary sources, magazine articles and secondary sources; 31 notes.

—Ralph B. Ballou

VI-3 LeCompte, Mary Lou. "German-American Turnvereins in Frontier Texas, 1851-1880," *Journal of the West*, 26, No. 1 (January 1987), 18-25.

Texas turnvereins established by German immigrants during the difficult frontier years were characterized by hardships and isolation, lack of affiliation with national bunds, and the absence of long-range goals. These clubs evolved into organizations which were different from other turnvereins. Texas turnvereins were founded in cities such as Galveston, Houston, San Antonio, and also such small towns as Comfort and New Braunfels. Though divided by the Civil War, turnvereins still remained strong in the 1870s. Difficult travel conditions, which caused lack of participation in the state bunds, coupled with ideological problems contributed to the demise of most Texas turnvereins by the 1880s. The original purpose of promoting gymnastics had been replaced by the sociability of social gatherings and other amusements. Based on primary and secondary sources; 41 notes; 4 photographs.

—Marybell Avery

VI-4 Randolph, Charles F. (ed.). "Old Tascosa. Selected Items from the Tascosa Pioneer, 1886-1888," *Panhandle Plains Review*, 36 (1966), 1-180.

The Texas Panhandle town of Tascosa was established by Hispanics in 1876 as a buffalo hunting center. By the 1880s it was surrounded by some of the largest cattle ranches in Texas and had a reputation as a wild and lawless cowtown. Yet, many citizens were concerned with education and the arrival of the first railroad. For sporting events, Anglos flocked to the race track especially on Christmas day, the most popular date during the three-month season. The most detailed accounts described the equestrian games of such Hispanic holidays as *Dia de San Juan*, and *Dia de San Diego*,

when young men brought their best horses and a rooster was buried neck deep in the sand for the popular “chicken pulling.” Based on the *Tascosa Pioneer*; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

VI-5 Valek, Wesley. “Czech-Moravian Pioneers of Ellis County, Texas: 1873-1917,” *Panhandle Plains Historical Review*, 46 (1983), 49-64.

Between 1878 and 1929, over three hundred Czech-Moravian immigrants arrived in Ellis county, Texas. Although life was quite difficult during the 1870s when Indian attacks and malaria epidemics ravaged the settlements, Moravian farmers soon established markets in Ennis. Weddings were the social center of the community, which also sported several bands and numerous benevolent societies. Of all the organizations found among these Ennisites, none had a greater impact than the *Sokol* (falcon), which was concerned with physical fitness, physical education, and perpetuating the Czech heritage. The first Ennis Sokol was founded in 1908, with the first gym constructed four years later at a cost of \$4500. Since its founding, the Ennis Sokol has sponsored programs for all ages and been an active participant in the national *Slets* (gymnastics festivals). Based on primary sources; 46 notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

VI-6 West, Mark Irwin. “Nineteenth-Century Toys and their Role in the Socialization of Imagination,” *The Journal of Popular Culture*, 17, No. 4 (Spring 1984), 107-115.

Prior to the nineteenth century, play for children was discouraged for promoting wicked and idle behavior, a view held largely by the Puritans and other colonists. As time progressed and economic conditions improved, leisure time for children increased with some forms of play recognized as necessary ingredients for optimum growth. Initially, children were expected to create their own toys, which reinforced creative and imaginative play. As the demand for toys increased, toy manufacturing companies appeared and toys became more mechanical and less imaginative. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 41 notes.

—Stephen I. St. Clair