

**MEMBERS OF OLD
FOOTBALL TEAM
HAVE REUNION**

**Boys who Played for Mt. Ver-
non Thirty Years Ago Way
Out in Gilbert's Pasture
Have Meeting.**

OLD NEWSPAPERS REVEAL LIFE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Football Was Rough in the Old Days
(October 10, 1936, *Mt. Vernon Register News*)

In an article about a reunion of the 1906 Mt. Vernon high school football team Edwin Rackaway wrote about playing a rough game in Gilbert's pasture against Nashville. Rules were lax or non-existent in those days. The Nashville team was using a teacher on the team to retaliate against Mt. Vernon's use of a coach the previous year. Here is how Rackaway described what happened in the game:

Let me have the big so and so, said "Pierp" Morgan. "Pierp" wore a head piece that he had made himself out of old harness. It was well studded with nails and brass tacks, and other such hard substances, and I always thought he wore a horseshoe under it. Anyone well hit with that deadly instrument stayed hit.

On the very first down "Pierp" got his man, and we had to carry the Nashville faculty off the field on a shutter. (Those were the good old days.)

They Liked Ice
(July 15, 1859, *Mt. Vernon Star*)

Here is part of an article in the *Star* from the summer of 1859, which tells about a Mr. Verdancy and what he did when he "espied" ice in J. M. Pace's store on the square in Mt. Vernon:

He had never seen the like before in the summer season, and it amused him exceedingly. After cogitating for a few moments, he concluded that he would have a piece. Mr. Verdancy proceeded to break his ice into three pieces, one he gave to the Miss, one he thrust into his pocket, and the other he kept for his own special benefit. Mr. and Miss Verdancy then joined hands and walked down the street, gnawing their chunks of ice as gracefully as baboons gnaw coa-coa nuts.

In a companion article called "Meteorological Observations" the *Star* reported the following:

On Monday it was warm. Tuesday it was quite warm. Wednesday it was hot. Thursday it was exceedingly hot. Today it is mighty hot. Yesterday the mercury in the thermometer tube, in the shade, stood at 118 above zero.

Talk about global warming! Makes you wonder how long that chunk of ice in Mr. Verdancy's pocket lasted.

Indians in the Outfield
(September 9, 1909, *Mt. Vernon News*)

Have you ever heard of an opposing team with players who had names such as: Spotted Tail, White Cloud, Red Horse, Man-Afraid-of-Himself, and Black Eagle? These were names of players on the Cherokee Indian baseball team that played Mt. Vernon at Merchants Park in 1909. The game was a rare night game played under electric lights specifically placed at the park for the game. So there were Indians on the base path as well as in the outfield. No word on the outcome of the contest.

BALL GAME AT NIGHT.

**Cherokee Indians Will Play Here
Thursday Night. Game Also
in Afternoon.**

A baseball game played at night by electric light and with redskins composing the opposing team, is a great innovation in store for Mt. Vernon people. The contest will be pulled off ~~at eight o'clock next Thursday night,~~ when the famous Cherokee Indians appear at Merchants park to play the Merchants. ~~A regulation daylight~~ game will be played by the two teams in the afternoon.

Local News Items
(January 8, 1892, *Mt. Vernon News*)

Reporter Joseph E. Pace presented these local news items in the January 8, 1892 *Mt. Vernon News*:

The roads are too rough for good sleighing.

Indians at the opera house next Monday evening.

Ed Strattan says he already has 150 subscribers to his circulating library.

To Inquirer: No, there will not be a game of base ball this afternoon at the fair ground.

The young folks are having a jolly time at night over on the hills near Col. Evans residence.

Two questions come to mind. Were people obsessed with Indians in the old days? Was the inquirer joking about having a baseball game in the middle of January?

