

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

July 11, 1896

There may be a few denizens of this neck o' woods who are not familiar with the festive "bloomer girl". Friday night locals were afforded the opportunity to behold great, lovely chunks of them when an aggregation of female baseball players played an exhibition game at the baseball field at the horse racing track north of the cemetery. The Boston Belles team arrived in their special palatial railroad car said to have cost \$12,000. The visiting team billed as "great" ballplayers, demonstrated to the assembled crowd, who paid 25 cents for admission, how little actual baseball skills they possessed. There were nine girls in all, that is nine females that once were girls, with only seven of them who attempted to play while the remaining pair served as statuary. The two teams were evenly matched until the umpire gave a gratuitous favor of a free pass to one of the Belles who transported her 250 pounds in her mammoth bloomers around the bases. The highlight of the contest was when the male catcher for the females, having partaken freely of swamp water, "debated" a host of local citizens behind home plate. The final score was in favor of the Boston squad (13-8).