

[Pre-page 1]

[Note: text in rectangular box] VOL. I

[Note: text in rectangular box] JANUARY TO  
JUNE

MY  
DIARY  
OF 1907

[short double rule/dividing line]

WITH EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS  
FULLY CHRONICLED

[short double rule/dividing line]

ALSO MY FINNACIAL AC-  
COUNTS AT ALL TIMES  
RECORDED FROM START TO  
FINISH

[short double rule/dividing line]

by

BENJAMIN EICHBERG

[Page 2]

The first half of the season's checker tourney being held by the Bison City Checker Club came to a close on Saturday night at the home of John Ihde, 315 Purdy Street. John Ihde, showed a good pair of heels; taking the lead at the [--second--] third sitting and maintaing it to the end. He played a masterly game, showing a steady improvement sitting after sitting, and wound up

[short rule/dividing line]

Copyrighted, 1907, by Benjamin Eichberg

[short rule/dividing line]

the first half in a [--great--] fine winning streak. At the rate this player has been increasing his prowess at this game, it will not be long before he can be ranked among [?Chaplain?], Downs and other top notchers of the city, with the possible exception of [?Herr?]. The third sitting found him firmly settled into first place, but by the sixth he was being closely pressed by [?Lancer?], who kept gaining upon him till the fatal eighth, when J. Ihde showed a remarkable

improvement over his already good work, and put a wide margin between him and [?Lancer?]; first place being conceded to him at this juncture. John [?Lancer?] finished second with \_ wins and \_ defeats, giving him a percentage of \_. From the time [?Lancer?] joined the club at the third sitting to the end he held second place [--securely--] continually, but was at all times closed

MY DIARY OF

1907

pressed by Eichberg and Doyle. This popular player is another of the top notchers [--produced--] brought to the [illegible][?light?] by this club. [--, his most notable stronghold being the--] He is a player with stamina and energy and an "all --round-- over the board performer," and the great simplicity and ease with which he contests his games whether certain of victory or defeat has been a most notable feature of his play.

Thomas Doyle, about the best that Black Rock can boast of represented that locality in great style finishing third with \_ victories and \_ defeats. [--He was always--] The dual fight between him and

[Page 4]

Eichberg for this position at all times aroused keen interest. Eichberg started off tied with J. Ihde for first place, but by the time the fifth sitting was reached he was down to fourth, being proceeded by Doyle. [--who--] At the end of the fifth he [--was--] had proceeded Doyle for third, which position he held until the eighth sitting when Doyle again dislodged him from third, having but one point ahead of him at this time. From here on he steadily increased his lead until the finish.

These players did noble work at all stages of the tourney; [--and--] being continually within reach for first, but poor work against the members that finished lower down in the standing put them out of the running.

William Young was the last of the first division players. He would in all probability have been higher up if he had made the start in the same way that he finished. In the last five sittings he was always found [--among the--] in the top ranks.

## – J A N U A R Y –

“HAPPY New Year,” was my greeting as I shook hands with everyone as the dial of the clock pointed at twelve, and received their best wishes in return.

Ah! I thought this was a happy new year, for it was. I was in the best of health, and that is the best one wishes. The evening was like a spring night; the air cool, dry, and invigorating a good omen I thought for the beginning of the year. What made the night seem charming and delightful was the whistles of every conceivable steam engine blowing its sweet and joyous notes through the heretofore still night, listening to small boys blowing horns, adults peeling off shots from revolvers, as the new year was ushered in. After the last strains of the

celebrating left my ears I turned in for the night, hoping that this new year had something in store for me.

In the morning, Tuesday, January 1st, I figured out how my financial condition was. How was it? Not a red cent in my possession, for all that I had I spent for christmas presents, and how happy I was thinking that I made someone else happy. No, not my girl, for I had none, but my mother. Why had I not a girl? For the simple reason that as yet I had not met the girl who aroused more than a passing interest in me.

No capital – and I had an order in with a New York publisher for a set of the New American Dictionary and Encyclopedia and Atlas of the World, which was to come to \$20.50. True, two weeks passed and the

MY RESOLUTION

7.

books had not arrived, and my agreement was to pay him \$1 the first week, which I could easily do the following Saturday and \$1.50 every month thereafter; so that did not worry me in the least.

As I have heretofore made a habit of chewing tobacco I passed this resolution:

Resolved: That on after the first of January, Nineteen Hundred and Seven, I, Benjamin Eichberg, will stop and never again take up the corruptible and dirty habit of chewing tobacco in any form, shape, or manner. Sworn before God, this said first day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Seven.

(Signed) Benjamin Eichberg

My list of "Books in Library," being duly printed was posted this day. A Collection in all of twenty-eight.

8.

JANUARY

Capital, January 1st – none.

Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> nothing of consequence worth while mentioning happened, although I felt a little sick and weary these days.

On January 5<sup>th</sup> I drew my weekly salary which amounted to \$8.24. After deducting the liberal amount which I make a point to supply my mother with for our immediate wants I had a capital of \$1.21. In the evening I went to the theater and invested in a weekly theatrical paper.

Saturday, Jan. 5 – Capital, \$0.86.

Sunday, Jan. 6 – Spent the day at home enjoying the comforts of life as everybody should. My companion to-day being nothing else but a book entitled The Grey Cloak by Harold McGrath. Reading this book I became enraptured with McGrath and decided to buy some of his books in the future for my library.

## WIN MY FIRST CHECKER MATCH

9.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 – Met two opponents this evening at checkers at the residence of Mr. Ihde, defeating Ernest Ihde by a score of 8 to 2 and 2 draws. My other opponent was John Ihde, his brother, being beaten by a score of 4 to 2 and 6 draws. Result on evening's play was: won 10, lost 6, draws 8. Capital this day, \$0.81.

On reaching home Friday evening, January 10th, a postal gave me the information that the books I had ordered arrived on this city. It was about time for it was near upon a month ago when I ordered them. This means that I will have to hand out small amounts of my capital from time to time until the amount of \$20.50 is reached.

Drew a book to-day from the Public Library entitled Count Hannibal by Stanley

10.

JANUARY

J. Weyman. I have one of Weyman's books in my Library entitled the Long Night.

Capital this day, \$0.60.

Saturday, Jan. 12 – With the assistance of a friend of mine I went to the B., R. & P. [?R'y?] freight house at noon to-day and got my books. From here I took them to my place of work; from where I took them home in the evening. The books (New American Encyclopedic Dictionary and Modern Atlas of the World) pleased me very much, being a most valuable reference work, of great value to all class of people and indispensable to professional men. They are bound in half-leather binding and are very substantial in every detail. The Modern Atlas which was sent free with the dictionary is a very elaborate specimen of colored-map printing and gives a wealth of information. They are easily worth

the price paid for them. As yet I have not received a bill from the publishers, and will withhold my first payment until it arrives. They also neglected to sent me a bill of lading, which caused a little difficulty in getting the books from the railroad station agent.

Drew weekly salary which amounted to \$10.

In the evening witnessed a performance of "On Parole," at the Lyric, a dainty and charming play of the south during the Civil War.

Capital, January 12 – \$2.25

Tuesday, Jan. 14 – My challenge to Wilson for a series of checker games was accepted by Mr. Tom Wilson. These games will be for the championship of the M-N Works Composing Room, Mr. Wilson being the present holder; therefore, he will be defending his title against me. The first games took place to-day and

12.

JANUARY

resulted in one game apiece. The series will continue daily until one man wins five games (it being best 5 out of 9), to whom the title will then go.

Tuesday, Jan. 15 – Checker series with Mr. Wilson was continued to-day and resulted in 3 to 0 in my favor, which makes the total now 4 to 1 favoring me. I have one more game to win in order to wrest the championship away from him; while he has to win four straight.

Capital, this day, \$2.15.

My checker series with Mr. Wilson was concluded to-day, January 16th, taking the championship away from him by the final score of 5 to 1. As I now am champion, I will be kept busy playing challengers, my first opponent being Mr. Ernest Ihde. The games with him will commence to-morrow.

Received bill from J. A. Hill & Co. for payment on the Encyclopedic Dictionary. My first payment due them would be \$1, but I will sent \$3.00 on Saturday, in order to get it paid as quick as possible.

Capital, January 16th, \$2.05.

Thursday, Jan. 17 – Defeated Ernest Ihde to-day in defending my championship checker title by 5 to 0. My opponent commencing tomorrow will be Mr. Wm. Round.

In the evening I played a match game of checkers with Ernest Ihde at my home. It was a clean runaway for me, wining by 11 to 2 and 2 draws.

Friday, Jan. 18 – As I arose to-day, it was with one more year added to my age, I now being one score years old. This morning held forth a certain indescribable charm that

14.

JANUARY

conquered all others, gave me a feeling of venerable activity, as if my pride had been unrelentlessly wounded and I was to set forth on the path of revenge. I was happy; yes, to think this day a joyous birthday, the same as I have passed many times before. Happy, too, for I felt like some fruit when it goes through maturation.

And how my heart beat and my whole body heaved thinking of the motherly greeting which awaited me. For when I descended the stairs I paused, just for one brief moment to get control of myself and then stepped into the warmly heated room. My mother was there all smiles, with a happy chastity to be found only in one's mother; a chastity for which I could not keep my continence. I kissed her, no, it was she kissed me and, this regained for me my tranquility.

“And now the presents,” she said after she had poured her congratulations upon me. Ah! yes, the presents which she bought for me to remember this day by in the future. There was a handsome umbrella, an article that I long needed and a small box of cigars. It shows that a mother will never forget her son on his birthday, especially when she knows that he has not been delinquent, cynic, or blasphemous in any of his traits of character.

It was with an exuberance of joy when I left home and strolled to work. I further celebrated my birthday at noon when I defeated my opponent, Mr. Round, at checkers at 5 to 0; thereby defending my championship title against him. My adversary commencing tomorrow will be Mr. Dennis.

In the evening, Mr. Blaesing, our boarder,

16.

JANUARY

a kind and generous gentleman with a noble disposition at times presented me with a book and his congratulations, hoping that two score years would find me in as good health as the present time. I thanked him from the bottom of my heart for his wishes. The book he gave me is entitled The Lightning Conductor and the authors are C. N. & A. M. Williamson. It will go into the library as my 40th book in number.

Capital this day, \$1.85.

On Saturday, January 19th, I commenced my checker series with Mr. Dennis defeating him to-day by a score of 2 to 1.

Drew my salary of \$10. After deducting what I give my mother I had a capital of \$3.75. Of this, I sent \$3 to the publishers of the dictionary as my first payment, which leaves \$17.50 yet to be paid.

Witnessed a performance at the Star theatre of "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," a clever comedy-drama of country life at the famous cabbage patch in Kentucky.

Capital, January 19th, \$0.45

Monday, Jan. 21 – My checker match with Mr. Dennis to-day resulted in my favor by 2 to 0, which now makes the total 4 to 1, I agreeing to beat him 7 out of 9 games.

On account of illness, Mr. Dennis asked for a postponement of the games January 22d, which I granted. In his stead I took on Messrs. E. Ihde and F. Schubert for exhibition games, defeating the former by 2 to 0 and 2 draws and the latter by 1 to 0.

Capital, Jan. 22d, none.

Wednesday, Jan. 23 – The clash with Mr. Dennis to-day resulted in one draw,

18.

JANUARY

though I had the best of him when time was called.

In the evening, I met Messrs. Ernest and John Ihde at checkers at their home. In my contests with E. Ihde I came out victorious by 4 to 0 and I draw, but lost to my other antagonist by a score of 9 to 4 and 5 draws. Mr. John Ihde and I are playing a series of 500 games, and with to-night's contests the result thus far stands 122 to 54 and 51 drawn games in his favor.

Thursday, Jan. 24 – A few minutes after noon to-day I witnessed one of the most realistic and spectacular fires that it has ever been my pleasure to see. The fire was that of the Adams Express, Co.'s depot directly across Exchange Street from where I work; caused by a gasoline explosion. By the time the first apparatus arrived the small wooden

structure was one blazing furnace – colossal flames rising, then settling; and, with one gigantic outburst again shooting into the clear sky. The crowd wavered from the intense heat, firemen shrieked orders, bluecoats appeared as if by magic, and soon the street was one pulling, tugging, squirming mass of humanity as it slowly fell back before the ferocious onslaught of the officers with drawn clubs.

Championship checker series with Mr. Dennis to-day resulted in but one game played and that a draw.

Saturday, Jan. 26 – I made a small gain in my championship contest with Mr. Dennis, defeating him to-day by a score of 1 to 0. The total now stands 5 to 1 in my favor.

Drew weekly salary which amounted to \$10.  
This evening I made another new addition

20.

JANUARY

to my library with three books of fiction entitled The Puppett Crown, by Harold McGrath; The Virginian, by Owen Wister; and The Mississippi Bubble, by Emerson Hough. The Puppett Crown; a story of France, will enter as book No. 41; The Mississippi Bubble, depicting romance in the South, as No. 42; and The Virginian, a modern novel depicting ranch life in the West, as No. 43. One of the books was given to me as a present from my mother.

Capital, Jan. 26th, \$0.63.

Monday, Jan. 28 – Checker games postponed to-day on account of a huge fire in the Seneca Building, located at 101-107 Seneca Street, which I went to see. The large eight-story structure was completely gutted, one of the worst fires in years. The picture which it presented to me was like Niagara Falls in winter – the whole wall of the

building facing Seneca Street and that facing Carroll Street, the only parts still standing, the east and west walls and rest of the structure having collapsed, were covered with a thick coating of ice from top to bottom. The zero weather caused the water poured forth from the firemen's nozzles to instantly freeze and as this fell upon the wires which stretched across the streets, they fattened out to several times their natural size, thus causing them to sag. The firemen were a picturesque sight to behold – the dripping water soaking them and the crisp air transformed them into human icicles. Their helmets were heavy with ice. From their belts dangled strings of ice and their collars, mittens, coats, and boots were stiffened. Eyebrows and moustaches were hardly visible to view, being coated with ice. The picture presented to me made me rub my eyes to be sure that

22.

JANUARY

I was not in a dream, but it was there before me, really a burning iceberg if such a thing could be, and the firemen human icicles.

Thirteen firemen were buried under the falling walls and debries. Of these ten were rescued while the other three were found dead, probably instantly crushed to death. The work of the rescuing party of firemen was heroic.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 – Checker series with Mr. Dennis has been postponed indefinitely. Mr. Zobrest and I commenced play for the losing game championship of the M-N Composing room, best 3 out of 5. I came out victorious to-day by a score of 2 to 1. The series will be concluded on Friday.

Capital, this day \$0.31.

Wednesday, Jan. 30 – Defeated Mr. Wilson at checkers to-day by a score of 2 to 0

and 2 draws, being exhibition games only.

A number of friends and I go to the theater to-gether once a year, which we call our theater party. This year was no exception, it being our second annual affair and was held at the Academy Theater. The performance rendered, "A Marked Woman," was one of those cheap variety for which the Academy is noted.

Thursday, Jan. 31 – My February list of "Books in Library" was printed to-day and will be ready to post on the morrow.

I subscribed for Collier's Weekly for 18 months, for which I will have to pay \$1 down and 50 cents a month until the amount of \$7.80 is paid. With the subscription I received free five volumes of the American Short Classic Stories.

Capital, this day, \$0.10.

Suming up my checker record for the

24.

JANUARY

month for January, I find that I won 58 games and lost 19 games with a percentage of .753. This is the best monthly record I have made since June, 1905.

## – F E B R U A R Y –

FEBRUARY is conceded to be the coldest month in the year. I opened this month auspiciously with a good checker victory over the Ihde brothers, defeating Ernest Ihde by 5 to 0 and 2 draws and losing to John Ihde by 6 to 3 and 1 draw. The games took place at my home.

I received the books entitled Short Story Classics by American authors in 5 volumes to-day as the premium for subscribing for Collier's Weekly for 18 months, for which I paid one dollar down. Next payment will be on March 1st, and will be 50cts. The books will enter my library as No. 44 in number.

Saturday, Feb. 2 – Defeated George Watkins at checkers to-day by 3 to 0.

26.

FEBRUARY

Drew weekly salary, amounting this week to \$9.86. Capital, this day, \$0.66.

Sunday, Feb. 3 – I began my career in writing literature to-day, when I started my first story entitled "Her Choice." I will send this story when completed to a newspaper to print if they find it acceptable.

Commenced reading "The Virginian," by Owen Wister, a tale of the West.

Monday, Feb. 4 – My postponed championship checker series with Mr. William Dennis was continued to-day, I meeting defeat by a score of 1 to 0. This makes the total now 5 to 2 in my favor.

In the evening I was a contestant in a sort of checker conclave at the residence of Mr. Doy[---]le on Congress Street. The players who participated besides myself were: Messrs. Thomas

Doyle, John Ihde, Ernest Ihde and Shea. I came out best man, winning by 14 to 5 and 6 draws, with a percentage of .737, 17 points better than John Ihde, the second man. My record with each man follows: with Shea – won 2, lost 0; Ernest Ihde – won 8, lost 1, draws 2; John Ihde – won 2, lost 2, draws 2; Thomas Doyle – won 2, lost 2, draws 2. Mr. Doyle finished third, Shea fourth, and E. Ihde last. The best piece of work I have done in sometime occurred in a game with Mr. Doyle. After he had me 5 to 4, I game him three men on three separate jumps and then I jumped four of his, cornering his other man; thus turning certain defeat into victory in a sensational finish.

Tuesday, Feb. 5 – Defeated Dennis in championship series to-day by 1 to 0, making the total now 6 to 2 in my favor.

28.

FEBRUARY

My championship checker series with Wm. Dennis was concluded to-day, when I defeated him by 2 to 0, making the total 8 to 2 in my favor. As I agreed to defeat him 7 out of 9, it can be seen I succeeded. My adversary commencing to-morrow, Thursday, Feb. 7, will be by Mr. Geo. Watkins.

In the evening I met the worst defeat I have received this year, being defeated by John Ihde by a score of 12 to 4 and 6 draws. The games took place at his home.

Capital, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, \$0.07.

Thursday, Feb. 7 – My checker series with challenger George Watkins, which commenced to-day resulted in one draw.

Friday, Feb. 8 – I fared much better with George Watkins to-day, winning by 2 to 0.

Draw a book in public Library entitled "The Last Days of Pompeii," by Edward Bulwer Lytton.

Received the first issue of Collier's Weekly.  
Capital, this day, none.

Saturday, Feb. 9 – Defeated Geo. Watkins to-day by a score of 1 to 0, making the total now 3 to 0 in my favor.

My weekly salary to-day amounted to \$9.86.

In the evening I met Mr. Hoffman at "66" at his home, defeating him by 5 to 1, the scores being: 10 to 7, 10 to 4, 8 to 10, 10-9, 10-6, 10-9.

Capital, this day, \$1.81.

Sunday, Feb. 10 – Worked diligently at my story entitled "Her Answer." It is now all ready for final reading and will soon be submitted to a publisher.

Monday, Feb. 11 – Championship checker series with Geo. Watkins postponed until to-morrow. In his stead I took on Ernest Ihde for exhibition games, I winning by 2 to 1, and 3 draws.

30.

FEBRUARY

Witnessed a performance this evening at the Lyric of "Hamlet" with Mr. John E. Kellerd in the role of the Danish prince.

Capital, this day, \$1.51.

Tuesday, Feb. 12 – Championship checker series which was continued to-day resulted in one drawn game. Preceding the championship game, I played Ernest Ihde an exhibition game which I lost.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 – The championship game with Mr. Watkins again resulted in a drawn game.

Commenced writing another story, which I have named "The Prize." When completed it will go through the same process as "Her Answer" before being submitted to a publisher.

Capital, February 13th, \$1.21.

Thursday, Feb. 14 – Made another small gain in my championship checker contest with George Watkins, defeating him to-day by a score of 1 to 0,

which now brings the total up to 4 to 0 in my favor.

In the evening I played Ernest Ihde at checkers and chess at his home. In checkers I defeated him by 5 to 2 and 2 draws. In chess I lost by 4 to 0, it being the first time I have played this game in six months.

Friday, Feb. 15 – My championship checker series with Geo. Watkins was concluded to-day, the day's play being a tie at 1 to 1, while I beat him on the total by a score of 5 to 1, thus retaining my championship title against him. I will play no more challengers, but will enter a tournament which will start on Monday next. The winner of this tourney will be declared the champion, thus if I win, I will retain the title but if someone else wins the title will revert to him.

In the evening at my home I met Mr.

32.

FEBRUARY

John Ihde, the crack checker player of Cold Spring, being defeated by a score of 14 to 10 and 4 draws. Though I lost I felt very exultant with the good showing I made against this widely known artist.

Saturday, Feb. 16 – Met Tom Wilson at checkers this noon, the result being one game apiece.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$10.10.

Finished my story entitled "The Prize."

Capital, Feb. 16th, \$2.96.

Monday, Feb. 18 – Played my first game in the M-N Compositors' Checker Tourney to-day, defeating Mr. Wm. Round. Defeated him three exhibition games after the championship contest.

Sent away \$1.50 to a New York publisher for a book on gardening entitled "Gardening for Pleasure."

Capital, this day, \$1.41.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 – Flashed in the lead in the M-N Compositors' Checker Tourney to-day by defeating Ernest Ihde after a hard fought and masterly played game.

In the evening I met and defeated two crack players of South Buffalo at the residence of Mr. Tom Wilson, 85 Unger Ave., defeating Mike Hughes by a score of 11 to 5 and 3 draws and Mr. Nile by 5 to 4 and 3 draws.

Capital, Feb. 20th, \$1.31.

Wednesday, Feb. 20 – Did not play in shop tourney to-day, but George Watkins tied me for first honors by him scoring a victory.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Thursday, Feb. 21 – Played a draw with Mr. Dennis in the shop tourney to-day.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 22d – Defeated Mr. Dennis in

34.

FEBRUARY

shop checker tournament to-day. Mr. Watkins is tie with me for first place.

Saturday, Feb. 23 – I defeated Mr. Wilson to-day in M-N Compositors' checker tourney, while Watkins lost, which gives me full possession of first place.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$11.67.

Sent away \$2 to J. A. Hill & Co. as my second installment on the dictionary, which now makes \$5 paid and \$15.50 yet to be paid.

Made a new addition to my library to-night when I purchased two fiction books, namely: The Pit, by Frank Norris; and Graustark by G. B. McCutcheon. The Pit will enter my library as book No. 45 and Graustark as No. 46.

Capital, at start of day, \$3.98; at night, \$0.80.

Sunday, Feb. 24 – Result of the first week's

play in the Matthews- Northrup Checker Tournament appeared in this morning's Express. I am leading with 4 games won and none lost.

Monday, Feb. 25 – Defeated Mr. Mixer in the Compositors' Checker Tourney to-day.

In the evening I worked until 8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, Feb. 26 – Worked again this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, Feb. 27 – Played John Ihde at checkers to-night at his residence; I tasting defeat by a score of 8 to 3 and 7 draws. The games were closely fought and very interesting.

Thursday, Feb. 28 – Worked this evening for the third time this week until 8:30 P.M.

Suming up my checker record for the month, I find I won 88 games and lost 62, a percentage of .587.

P.S. – On Monday evening, Feb. 25th, met and was defeated at checkers by Mr. Mehl by 1 to 0 and 1 draw.

36.

– M A R C H –

This month is really considered as the advent to spring, in which the snow usually loses its thick coating to that of a more finer one. I opened this month at checkers with a draw with Geo. Watkins in the Compositors' Tourney.

In the evening I witnessed a performance of David Warfield in "The Music Master." It was never been my pleasure to witness such fine character acting as that presented by Mr. Warfield in his role of the German professor, Herr Anton Von Barwig.

Saturday, March 2 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in checker tourney to-day.

Drew a salary this week of \$12.36, due to working a few nights. Capital, \$2.76.

In the evening I joined the Shakespeare

Club of the Wm. Hengerer Co. The object is if I purchase 29 of the 39 Shakespearean books my May 1st I am to get the other ten free. The books are small cloth-bound and the price is 15 cts. apiece. As my first purchase I took Romeo and Juliet, King Richard III, Hamlet and Othello.

Also bought a book entitled "The Leavenworth Case," by Anna Catherine Green, which I will put up as the first prize in the checker tournament which is to be held by me at my home on the evening of Saturday, March 9th and in which a number of the crack players of the city will participate.

Received the receipt from J. A. Hill & Co. for the two dollars I sent them last Saturday.

Capital, March 2d, \$1.51.

Sunday, March 3 – Result in the second week's play in the Matthews- Northrup Compositors'

38.

MARCH

Checker Tourney appeared in to-day's Express. The heading of the article read: "Ben Eichberg holds Lead in the Checker Tourney," and found me in the lead with 6 games won and none lost, the second man, Ernest Ihde, having 5 won and 2 lost.

Monday, Mar. 4 – Defeated E. Ihde, the second man in the checker tourney to-day.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, Mar. 5 – Scored an easy victory over Mixer in the composers' checker tourney.

Worked again this evening until 8:30 o'clock.

Wednesday, Mar. 6 – Played a draw with Wm. Dennis in the tournament, though I had him 4 to 3 when time was called.

Thursday, Mar. 7 – Defeated [--Ernes--] Wm. Dennis in the shop tourney.

In the evening I scored a grand victory over John Ihde, defeating him by a score of

8 to 5 and 3 draws. This is the first time I defeated this crack player in nearly two years, which clearly shows I am steadily improving. I also defeated his brother, Ernest, by a score of 5 to 1 and 1 draw.

Friday, Mar. 8 – Defeated Thomas Wilson in the Matthews- Northrup Compositors' checker tourney to-day by a close margin.

Saturday, Mar. 9 – A big checker tournament was held by me this evening at my home, and in which some of the best players in the city participated. They were: Thomas Nihill, Thomas Wilson, Thomas Doyle, Frank Maloney, George Watkins, John Ihde, Ernest Ihde and myself. I won the tourney in handsome style, having a record of 12 games won to 1 lost and 8 draws, while the nearest man to me was Thomas Doyle with 11 wins, 5 defeats and 5 draws. The

40.

MARCH

games were all close and sharply fought. I put up three handsome prizes for this occasion, a first, second and bubby prize. As I won first place, the first prize went to the second man, Thomas Doyle, the second prize went by mistake to Thomas Nihill through an error made by John Ihde in totaling up the score, to whom (John Ihde) the prize should have gone. Frank Maloney took the bubby prize. My record with each player follows: Thomas Doyle – won 1, lost 0, draws 2; John Ihde – won 1, lost 0, draws 2; Thomas Nihill – won 0, lost 1, draws 2; Thomas Wilson – won 2, lost 0, draws 1; E. Ihde – won 2, lost 0, draws 1; George Watkins – won 3, lost 0, draws 0; Frank Maloney – won 3, lost 0, draws 0. A satisfactory record to me.

Received weekly salary amounting to \$13.95, having received an increase in salary to \$2, which

now gives me \$12 a week instead of ten dollars.

Capital, Mar. 4, \$6.67. After deducting \$2.29 that the holding of the tourney cost me, I have \$3.38.

Sunday, Mar. 1[--5--]0 – Third week's play in the Matthews- Northrup Compositors' checker tourney appeared in this morning's Express. I am still leading the race with a clean score, having ten games won and none lost.

Monday, Mar. 11 – Big article on the checker tournament held by me Saturday night appeared in this morning's Express.

Played draw game in shop tourney to-day, my adversary being Geo. Watkins.

Tuesday, Mar. 12 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in shop checker tourney.

Wednesday, Mar. 13 – After being challenged several times by Mr. Hoolihan of 4th Street

42.

MARCH

to play him a series of checker games, I finally accepted and arranged for the games to take place this evening. I found out that he did not know as much about the game as he claimed he knew and consequently I won easily by a score of 9 to 1, thus vanquishing another aspirant for checker laurels.

Thursday, Mar. 14 – Easily defeated Jake Zobrest in Matthews- Northrup Compositors' checker tourney. Zobrest has taken the place of Bill Rounds.

In the evening I had an easy time, defeating Ernest Ihde at his home by a score of 13 to 2 and 1 draw at checkers. I am playing him a series of 200 games, every games he wins he gets 5 cents and every game I win I get 2 ½ cents. The series thus far stands 36 to 6 and 10 draws and 60 cents in my favor.

Friday, Mar. 15 – Spent this evening at

home reading "The Mississippi Bubble."

Saturday, Mar. 16 – Drew weekly salary amounting to \$11.83.

Defeated Ernest Ihde, the second man in the shop tourney after a hard fight.

Purchased eight more of the Shakespearan books this evening, making 12 in all that I now have possession of. The books that I purchased were: King Lear, A Midsummer Night's Dream, As You Like It, The Taming of the Shrew, Cymbeline, The Merchant of Venice, Macbeth and King Henry VI, Part I. At the J. N. Adam store I bought the Complete Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow for \$1.50.

I have allotted my recent purchases to enter my Library as follows: As I gave Graustark as the first prize in the recent checker tourney instead of "The Leavenworth Case," the latter will

44.

MARCH

take the place of the former as Book No. 46.

The Shakespearan books will be numbered as follows:

Hamlet, No. 47; Romeo and Juliet, No. 48, King Richard III, No. 49; Othello, No. 50; The Merchant of Venice, No. 51; Macbeth, No. 52; A Midsummer Night's Dream, No. 53; Cymbeline, No. 54; King Lear, No. 55; As You Like It, No. 56; The Taming of the Shrew, No. 57; and King Henry VI., Part I., No. 58. The Complete Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow will enter as No. 59.

Capital, March 16, at start – \$5.07; at finish – \$2.12.

Sunday, March 17 – Article pertaining to the Matthews- Northrup Compositors' Checker Tourney appeared in this morning's Express. I am still leading with 13 victories and no defeats while the nearest man to me, E. Ihde, has but nine wins and five defeats.

Took the preliminary steps in getting my bicycle in readiness for the season.

Monday, March 18 – The book that on ordered on gardening from a New York publisher a month ago reached me to-day. They made the horrible mistake of sending “Gardening for Profit” instead of “Gardening for Pleasure” that I sent for. The difference between these two books is that one covers the field of vegetables and the other flowers, it being the latter I wanted. I have decided to keep it. That is what one gets for ordering through another person as I did.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Tuesday, March, 19 – Defeated Jake Zobrest in Compositors’ Checker Tourney to-day.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Wednesday, March 20 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in shop checker tourney to-day.

In the evening I met the Ihde Brothers at checkers at their home, defeating Ernest Ihde by a score of 5 to 2 and losing to my other opponent, John Ihde, by 5 to 4 and 1 draw.

Thursday, March 21 – Met my first defeat[--ed--] in the Matthews- Northrup Compositors' Checker Tourney to-day at the hands of Wm. Dennis, the fifth man. The game was characterized by exceptionally good play on my opponent's part.

In the evening I scored a decisive victory over John Ihde in our 500 series, defeating him by a score of 13 to 4 and 6 draws, the worst defeat I ever administered to this crack player.

Friday, March 22 – Played my last game in the M-N Compositors' Checker tourney, defeating Tom Wilson after one draw game had been played.

In the evening witnessed a performance of "Hamlet" at the Star Theater with Mr. Forbes-

Robertson in the role of the Danish prince. His portrayal of this hard part was truly great.

Saturday, March 23 – The M-N Compositors' Checker Tourney ended to-day, I winning first place with a record of 16 games won and 1 lost. The second man, Tom Wilson, had 11 wins and 6 losses. My record with each player was as follows: Tom Wilson – won 3, lost 0, draw 1; E. Ihde – won 3, lost 0, Geo. Watkins – won 3, lost 0, draws 2; William Dennis – won 2, lost 1, draws 2; Jake Zobrest, won 2, lost 0, draw 1, H. Mixer – won 2, lost 0; Round – won 1, lost 0.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$13.89.

In the evening I played two crack players around the vicinity of Maryland and Fourth Streets, defeating Capt. Kirby, considered a player of high repute in that district, by a score of 4 to 1 and 1 drawn game. My other adversary was Mr. Hoolihan, my conflict with him resulting in two drawn games.

48.

MARCH

Capital, March 23, \$6.44.

Sent away \$3.00 to J. A. Hill & Co., to apply on my contract with them for the dictionary. This makes \$8 I have paid today and leaves \$12.50 yet to be paid for.

Sunday, March 24 – A big article on the Matthews- Northrup Compositors' Checker Tourney appeared in this morning's Express. Over the article in bold type was this headline: "Checker Tourney" and the sub-head read: "Ben Eichberg lost but one game in the Matthews- Northrup competition."

This afternoon I defeated Ernest Ihde at checkers by a score of 7 to 0 and 6 draws. This makes the total in our series of 200 games read: Ben 48, Ihde 8, draws 16 with 80 cents coming to me thus far.

With the exception of a      to be[--i--] fixed, my bicycle is in readiness for the initial trip of the season.

Monday, March 25 – I began a series of

12 games at checkers with Mr. Geo. Watkins, I agreeing to defeat him 10 out of the 12. Bet 25 cents with Tom Wilson that I would succeed. The game to-day resulted in a draw.

Capital, this day, \$1.33.

Took my bicycle to a repairer at Spruce and Genesee streets to get a plug put in the tire on the back wheel. Other from this there is nothing wrong with it; being in perfect running order.

Tuesday, March 26 – Result in my handicap checker match with Geo. Watkins was 2 to 0 in my favor.

Have listed the book "Gardening for Profit" as No. 60.

I am preparing a complete list of books in my library, giving the date when bought or presented to me and the price (estimated when presented), besides the author and the number of the book.

50.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 27 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in our handicap match to-day by 1 to 0. This brings the total now up to 3 to 0 in my favor.

Thursday, Mar. 28 – My handicap checker series with Geo. Watkins to-day resulted in one draw game.

Tried my hand at poetry to-day, the result of my labors being four verses on Spring entitled "For this is Spring." I have always taken a great interest in poetry and whenever I have spare moments at my disposal see me diligently writing at this line of literature, though the work I turn out is not highly satisfactorily. My patience is such that I can receive the most stinging rebukes and not lose courage, but they will make me work the harder.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Finished reading "The Mississippi Bubble."

Friday, Mar. 29 – My handicap checker series with Geo. Watkins to-day again resulted in one draw game.

Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

Got my wheel from the repairer this evening. The puncture that I had fixed came to 20 cents. This with the oil that I bought for 5 cents to clean the wheel with is all the capital I required to put it in condition for the coming season. Let me go still further and say that it is in perfect running order and ready for the initial trip.

Capital, this day, 55 cents.

Saturday, March 30 – Met defeat at the hands of Geo. Watkins in our handicap checker match by a score of 1 to 0, making the total now 3 to 1 and 3 draws in my favor. In order the win the match now I will have to win 7 out of the next 8 games.

52.

MARCH

Received weekly salary amounting to \$13.00. From this amount was subtracted \$2 for which I am to be, in case of injury or sickness other than contagious diseases, receive free surgical or medicinal treatment at the Frontier Hospital for the term of one year from date (March 25), when my contract expires.

"One continuous buying of books," is my [--?--]motto. This I further proved by buying four for Shakespearean books, namely: King Henry VI., Part II., Comedy of Errors, Timon of Athens, and Titus Andronicus, making 16 in all that I now am in possession of and 13 more to be bought before I receive the ten remaining books free. Also bought "Brewster's Millions," by George Barr McCutcheon. These books will enter my library as Nos. 62, 63, 64, 65, and 61 respectively.

Bought my mother an elegant Easter flower, the price of which was \$1. The name of the plant I do not know.

In the evening I met my rival, John Ihde, at checkers at his residence in our 500 series. Met defeat by a score of 6 to 4 and 4 draws. Played for a side bet of 25 cents on who would win the evening's settoo. Our series now stands in his favor by a score of 188 to 105 and 86 draws, while to be is coming 85 cents.

In going to Mr. Ihde's residence, I made the trip on the bicycle, it being the inaugural trip for the year 1907. On my way there I stopped in at my brother's residence to bid him and his wife a good Easter and give my nephew something to celebrate it by.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter started in to-day with a bright sunshine, which did not

54.

MARCH

continue long, for in the afternoon a light snow was falling and the day was raw and cold.

Capital, this day, \$0.66

Suming up my checker record for the month of March, I find I won 91 games and lost 32 games, giving me a percentage of .740, a very creditable record according to my judgment.

– A P R I L –

“Sweet April! Many a thought  
Is wedded unto thee, as hearts are wed :  
Nor shall they fail, till, to its autumn brought,  
Life’s golden fruit is shed.”

–Longfellow: An April Day.

APRIL – The commencement of love – the  
spring-tide of affection – with its ever glorious  
sun is with us again, bringing fresh impressions  
of the warmthful summer with its many flowering  
beauties – both in life and nature. But for me  
it brings not love, for I have as yet no love – but  
happiness.

April 1 – Worked this evening until 8:30 P.M.

April 2 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in our  
handicap checker match to-day by 1 to 0.

56.

A P R I L .

Evening: Worked till 8:30 P.M.

April 3 – Defeated Geo. Watkins in our handicap checker by a score of 1 to 0. The total score now stands 5 to 1 and 3 draws in my favor.

Evening: I was invited to go to a wedding, but declined for reasons of my own. My mother and Mr. Blaesing (whose daughter it was) attended the ceremony. I contented myself in getting our garden ready for the season.

April 4 – Defeated Geo. Watkins to-day by the score of 1 to 0.

April 5 – Lost to Geo. Watkins in our handicap match by 1 to 0.

In the evening attended a performance of Charley's Aunt at the Lyric with Etienne Girardot in his original role of Charley's Aunt.

April 6 – Lost to Geo. Watkins to-day by 1 to 0, consequently losing my handicap match with

him, in which I agreed to defeat him 10 out of 12 games. The final standing was 6 to 3 and 3 draws in my favor.

Evening: Bought five more of the Shakespearean books, namely : The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Venus and Adonis – Lucrece, Antony and Cleopatra, The Tempest, and Conolanus. This makes 21 now in my possession and eight more that I have yet to buy. Also bought at the Wm. Hengerer store one of H. de Balzac's novels entitled the "Wild Ass' Skin" for 75 cents.

At the Otto Ulbrich store I bought "A History of England," by H. O. Arnold Forster for \$1.60.

The above books will enter my library as Nos. 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72 respectively.

Capital, April 6th, \$1.60.

Drew weekly salary of \$14.89.

58.

A P R I L

April 7 – I got an opportunity to congratulate the bridal couple of last Wednesday evening when they came to us on a visit this afternoon. Played and defeated Mr. Bernfield at checkers by a score of 4 to 0.

P.S. – Forgot to mention that on Tuesday, April 2d I commenced riding [--b--]my bicycle to work.

Monday, April 8 – Through the noteworthy persuasion brought about by Mr. Bassett, I decided to join the Y.M.C.A. I will make my payment on the 20th of the month.

Through foolish baiting for big jumps, I lost my checker game with Mr. Jake Zobrest, a game that I ought to have won easily. I made an offer to him after the contest to defeat him 15 straight games for \$1 a side, which he refused.

Tuesday, April 9 – I got revenge on Mr. Jake Zobrest for the defeat he game me yesterday,

by defeating him 8 straight games, of which 3 were as nice skunks as could be manipulated.

In the evening at the residence of Mr. Ihde I defeated Mr. Ernest Ihde by a score of 6 to 2 and 4 draws. The games, with the possible exception of one or two, were loosely played.

Wednesday, April 10 – At noon to-day I defeated Mr. Ernest Ihde by a score of 4 to 1.

Evening: Having received an invitation from Mr. Geo. Watkins to visit him at his home, No. 199 Laurel Street, to play checkers, I could not refuse. Besides myself, Messrs. E. and J. Ihde were present. After John Ihde had rendered us a few musical selections, business was the object uppermost in our minds. On the evening's play I won 4 and lost 3 games, besides two draws, giving me a tie with Ernest Ihde for second place; John Ihde winning first place.

60.

A P R I L.

I won two games from both Mr. Watkins and Ernest Ihde – also played a draw with each; and losing to John Ihde by 3 to 0. John Ihde sprung a new game on me, called the Laird and the Lady; a game to which I fell a helpless victim.

Winter is giving us one good parting kick, for to-day it snowed all day.

Another subject which I wish to mention is this: At the gathering to-night I proposed the idea of forming a sort of checker league in which each player will meet the others in the league at his home once and once at their homes. Seven games to be played during the evening. Into this they all voiced their unanimous consent. The League will open on May 1st, with the following players thus far entered : George Watkins, John Ihde, Ernest Ihde and myself.

Also made a bet of 25¢ with Ernest Ihde

to play him a series of checker games, it to be a handicap match, in which I agree to defeat him five straight games.

Thursday, April 11 – Mr. Thomas Wilson entered the checker league to-day.

Capital, this day, \$0.75.

Friday, April 12 – Began my two day's play with Mr. Wilson to-day, defeating him three straight and playing one draw. The series will be concluded to-morrow.

Saturday, April 13 – Concluded my two day's play with Mr. Wilson to-day. The games to-day stood one apiece and the total was 4 to 1 and 1 draw in my favor. My opponent for two days, Monday and Tuesday, will be Dave Flinn.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$12.

Bought the remaining Shakespearean books (eight in all) that my contract with the William

Hengerer Co. calls for and with them received the other ten books to complete the set free, making a total of eighteen. The books were; and the number they will take in my library as follows: All's Well that Ends Well, No. 73; Troilus and Cressida, No. 74; Twelfth Night, No. 75; Sonnets, Passionate Pilgrim, etc., No 76; King Richard II., No. 77; The Winter's Tale, No. 78; King Henry VI., Part III., No. 79; The Merry Wives of Windsor, No. 80; Much Ado About Nothing, No. 81; King Henry IV., Part I., No. 82; King Henry IV., Part II., No. 83; King Henry V., No. 84; Pericles, No. 85; Julius Caesar, No. 86; Love's Labor Lost, No. 87; Measure for Measure, No. 88; King Henry VIII., No. 89; and King John, No. 90.

Capital, April 13th, \$2.25.

I am at present hard pressed for funds, a position that I have never been in

since the first of the year, for next Saturday I am due to pay out exactly \$5 besides my other current expenses. With \$2.25 now in my possession and \$3 to be added next Saturday will give me \$5.25. Of this, I will be conditioned to pay \$3 for membership in the Y.M.C.A., and \$2 as my monthly payment on the dictionary. This will leave me 25¢ which I will have to pay as rental for my bicycle at Winship's on Exchange Street for this month. What is left for my every-day expenses? Practically nothing. But, if I win my checker bet with Ernest Ihde the coming week, that will give me 50 cents, enough to last me on a squeeze till the 27<sup>th</sup>, when I again will be on a sound financial basis. "All's Well that Ends Well."

Sunday, April 14 – To-day I made out my first quarterly report on the salaries I

64.

A P R I L

received during the months of January, February and March, also my investments in books for the months referred to. Following is my report:

SALARY

Salary received each month as follows :

January – (4 weeks) --- \$ 38.24. Average, per week,  
\$ 9.56.

February – (4 weeks) ---- \$ 41.49. Average, per week,  
\$ 10.37.

March – (5 weeks) ---- \$ 65.03. Average, per week,  
\$ 13.01.

Total salary received in three months, \$ 144.76.

Average, per week, for three months, \$ 11.14.

[short double rule/dividing line]

B O O K S.

Amount invested for books each month as follows :

January – \$ 4.32.            February,– \$ 5.38.

March – \$ 7.88.

Total for three months, \$ 17.58.

[short double rule/dividing line]

Monday, April 15 – Scored a grand victory over Wm. Dennis to-day at checkers by defeating him by a score of 5 to 0.

In the evening at my home my opponent was Ernest Ihde. The final score was 5 to 4 and 1 draw in my favor. This is the best showing he has made against me thus far in our “200” series.

Tuesday, April 16 – Defeated Ernest Ihde at noon by 2 to 0 and 2 draws.

Evening: Met three opponents at the residence of Michael Hughes of South Buffalo. Scored victories over Michael Hughes and Thomas Wilson by the scores of 10 to 3 and 5 draws and

2 to 0 respectively. Lost to Thomas Nihill by the score of 4 to 2 and 1 draw. Total on evening's play was : won 14, lost 7, draws 6; favoring me.

Wednesday, April 17 – Defeated Tom Wilson at noon by a score of 2 to 1.

John Ihde made his appearance at my home to-night, taking me into camp in handsome style by a score of 12 to 2 and 2 draws.

Thursday, April 18 – At noon I met another defeat. This time at the hands of Tom Wilson, the score standing 3 to 1 in his favor.

My adversary this evening was Ernest Ihde, I winning by a handsome margin – the score being 5 to 1 and 1 draw. The games took place at his home on Purdy Street. The standing up-to-date in our "200" series stands 66 to 15 and 23 draws in my favor.

Capital, this day, \$1.80.

Friday, April 19 – Scored a victory over Tom Wilson this noon by 1 to 0 and 1 draw.

Saturday, April 20 – Scored another victory over Tom Wilson to-day by a score of 2 to 1.

Drew \$12 as my salary for the week.

Paid over to Mr. Bassett \$3 for him to hand in as my membership fee in the Buffalo Central Y. M. C. A. for one year.

Bought two rose bushes – Madam Plantier, pure white flowers and Anne de Diesbach, brilliant crimson – for our garden at 15cts. apiece or 30 cts. for both. Also both one quart of lawn grass seed for 25 cts. and one box of plant food for 10 cts.

Sunday, April 21 – Have decided an experiment in gardening – that of keeping the bulbs of our Easter flowers t[---]ill next year to again be planted. Will my first venture in the handling of bulbs prove a success? That is to

be seen later. I will go into gardening now with greater interest than I have hitherto shown in this line, simply for the reason that our present locality with its yard of large size can be cultivated to a great extent. I do not have great predictions for the first year – but can safely say that I will make it compare favorably with other gardens in our immediate vicinity, if not excelling them. My motto in gardening from now on is “Excelsior.”

The greater portion of to-day I spent reading *The Pit*, by Frank Norris. Also read a few chapters from the *History of England*. This evening I contented myself with dividing the time in reading *The Pit* and Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*.

For the coming week I have planned regular sessions for the reading of different

works. The following schedule which I arranged to-day I will try to strictly adhere to :

Monday – 8.30 to 9.00, History of England; 9 to 9.30, Twelfth Night; 9.30 to 10.00, Longfellow's Hiawatha; 10.00 to 11.00, The Pit.

Tuesday – 8.30 to 9.00, Longfellow's Hiawatha; 9.00 to 9.30, Twelfth Night; 9.30 to 10.00, The Pit.

Wednesday – 8.30 to 9.00, History of England; 9.00 to 9.30, Twelfth Night; 9.30 to indefinite – will finish The Pit.

Thursday – Missionary meeting at Y.M.C.A. Capital, April 21st, \$1.75.

Monday, April 22 – I had another brush with Tom Wilson at checkers, putting him cleanly to rout by the score of 4 to 0; thus, getting sweet revenge for the one defeat he gave me last week.

In the evening I worked at our garden

spading the flower bed along the fence. I worked incessantly till near 8 o'clock. After my labors, during which I planted one of the rose bushes – the Anne de Diesbach, I was completely fatigued and glad to have the rest of the evening to myself. In planting the rose bush I mixed some of the ground with the lawn fertilizer I bought, then watered it and covered it up with thick paper for the night.

Tuesday, April 23 – Again cleaned up Mr. Wilson at checkers like chaff before the wind – he succumbing to defeat by a score of 3 to 0. For two days now I have held him from scoring, the score of which stands 7 to 0 in my favor.

Planted the other rose bush – the Madam Plantier, pure white flowers – this evening. According to my idea there is not much promise in the growth of this one. But time will tell

better than the best of prophesies. Also got the land along the church in preparation for the sowing of grass seed.

Wednesday, April 24 – Ended the third day's play with Tom Wilson, defeating him on the day by 2 to 1 and on the total three day's play by 9 to 1 and 1 draw.

Mixed the ground bordering along the church and as far back as the peach tree with lawn fertilizer. Will sow the seed on this plot to-morrow night.

Sent to J. A. Hill & Co. \$ 2 to apply on my contract with them in payment of the dictionary. This brings my total payments up to \$10 and leaves \$11.50 yet to be paid.

Capital, this day, \$0.15.

Thursday, April 25 – Tom Wilson sprung a surprise on me to-day by scoring an

unexpected victory by the close score of 2 to 1. This is the first time he defeated me in a week.

On account of rain I was unable to sow any of the grass seed this evening.

Friday, April 26 – Turned the tables on Tom Wilson to-day by scoring an easy victory by the score of 3 to 1.

Sowed the narrow strip along the church with grass seed this evening, but on account of the muddy condition of the ground I was compelled to cease further work.

At the residence of the Ihde brothers, 315 Purdy Street I met and defeated Ernest Ihde by a score of 6 to 0 and 5 draws, giving him a shut-out. Lost to John Ihde by 5 to 4 and 1 draw.

Saturday, April 27 – Went at Tom Wilson with a vengeance, consequently winding up a triumphal week with him, winning by the score

of 5 to 1. The score on the week's plays stood 20 to 5 in my favor, a very creditable record considering that Mr. Wilson is conceded to be a player of high repute by his adherents.

Sowed another little plot of ground with grass seed this evening.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$ 11.83.

In the evening I made another small, but satisfactory, addition to my library in the purchase of "The Port of Missing Men," by Meredith Nicholson. Bought at the Wm. Hengerer store for \$1.08. Will enter my library as book No. 91.

Bought a small red geranium for the house for 15 cents.

Capital, April 27th, \$ 0.80.

Sunday, April 28th – Spent the day at home – a real hot summer's day – reading a few chapters from the History of England in the

morning and finishing Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Mrs. Bernfield was amongst the numerous number of our visitors in the afternoon. In the evening I felt supremely content in reading "Brewster's Millions."

Let me add that the schedule I arranged last week for the reading of literature was strictly adhered to in every particular. This week's schedule follows:

Monday – 8.30 to 9.00, History of England; 9.00 to 9.30, Longfellow's Hiawatha; 9.30 to 11.00, Brewster's Millions.

Tuesday – 8.30 to 9.00, History of England; 9.00 to indefinite, will finish Brewster's Millions.

Wednesday – 8.30 to 9.30, Will commence Shakespeare's Othello; 9.30 to 10.30, Longfellow's Hiawatha.

Thursday – 8.30 to 9.00, History of England;

9 to 9.30, Longfellow's Hiawatha; 9.30 to 10.30, Will commence The Wild Ass' Skin by Balzac.

Monday, April 29 – Defeated by Tom Wilson this noon by the score of 2 to 1.

Made a little more progress in sowing the grass seed this evening.

Tuesday, April 30 – Turned the tables on Tom Wilson to-day by shutting him out by the score of 2 to 0.

Got a haircut and shave this evening.

Rain prevented further work on the garden this evening.

Summing up my checker record for the month of April I find I won 105 games and lost 53, giving me a percentage of .664. Though I fell down considerably in percentage of .740 for the preceding month[---], this is the first time in my career that I reached the century mark.

76.

– M A Y –

*“His May of youth, and bloom of lustihood.”*

–Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing.

–

READ the above quotation carefully and see for yourself how it covers the month of May. It says: “His May of youth,” – that is that young people with the coming of May take on a fresh hold of life with the summer amusements and the shady continuance of their love and gives them ambitions. So much for that. Now we have “and bloom of lustihood.” What does this mean? Consult your vocabulary and you will see that it means simply this : It makes them lusty, that is gives them strength and vigor which gradually blooms out like plants, trees and others of the horticultural

world with the commencement of the glorious May. May itself covers this meaning, for it we remember it is derived from the Latin word maia, which means "The goddess of increase or growth."

Wednesday, May 1 – Defeated Tom Wilson to-day by a score of 2 to 1.

Sowed another small piece of land with grass seed this evening.

Thursday, May 2 – Recorded another victory over Tom Wilson this noon of a 3 to 1 score.

Evening: Attended the missionary study on India at the Y. M. C. A.

Friday, May 3 – Gave Tom Wilson another defeat by shutting him out to the tune of 4 to 0.

Completed sowing the grass seed on the land bordering along the church from the front fence to the flower bed along the back fence.

78.

M A Y

In the evening I met the Ihde brothers at checkers at their home, defeating Ernest Ihde by a score of 2 to 1 and 4 draws and losing to John Ihde by 5 to 1 and 1 draw.

Saturday, May 4 – Gave Tom Wilson another shut-out this noon, the third this week, when I easily defeated him by 2 to 0 and 2 draws.

Received the receipt for [note: ro written above]m J. A. Hill & Co. for the two dollars I sent them recently as payment on the dictionary.

Received weekly salary amounting to \$ 12.

Bought of J. N. Adam & Co. a fiction book entitled "The Return of Sherlock Holmes," by A. Conan Doyle for 44 cents. It will enter my library as book No. 92.

Sunday, May 5 – Spent the day at home reading, dividing the time between the History of England, Shakespeare's Othello and The

Wild Ass' Skin by Balzac. Reading Balzac's introduction to his book I must frankly say that I do not hold some of his opinions.

Capital, this day, \$1.65.

Monday, May 6 – Scored an easy victory over Tom Wilson by the score of 3 to 1.

Evening: Began making the flower bed on front of the house.

Tuesday, May 7 – Shut-out Tom Wilson today by a score of 3 to 0 and 1 draw.

I was unable to do any gardening this evening on account of the wet condition of the ground.

Wednesday, May 8 – Played a draw game with Geo. Watkins this noon at checkers.

In the evening I finished the flower bed on the front of the house. With its oyster shells around the border it is very attractive.

80.

M A Y

Thursday, May 9 – Shut-out Tom Wilson for the second time this week, defeating him to-day by the score of 4 to 0.

Evening: Attended the Missionary Study Class meeting at the Y. M. C. A. on that very interesting country India. For the next meeting I am scheduled to report all I know or read about the Hinduism religion ; its origin, development, its standard to-day, weak points and strong, and how it compares to christianity.

Capital, May 9th, \$ 1.05.

Friday, May 10 – Defeated Tom Wilson at checkers by a score of 2 to 1.

Winter gave the inhabitants of this city [--by--] an unwelcomed surprise by showing its head in decided dimensions, a heavy snow falling all afternoon and the early part of evening.

Evening: Through a May snow storm I

traveled to 315 Purdy to receive a decided checker defeat, my opponents being the Ihde brothers. Although I defeated Ernest Ihde by 3 to 1 and 2 draws, the defeat of 10 to 3 and 4 draws that I received at the hands of John Ihde more than off-set my victory.

Saturday, May 11 – The same old story – defeated Tom Wilson by the score of 2 to 0 and 1 draw.

Drew weekly salary amounting to \$11.89.

Evening: Cut the grass on front of the house.

Bought of the Wm. Hengerer Co. Mark Twain's latest book entitled "Christian Science," for \$1.35. Will enter my library as book No. 93.

Capital, this day, \$ 2.45.

Sunday, May 12 – At home reading from Shakespeare's Othello and Balzac's Wild Ass' Skin. In the evening I wrote my essay on Hinduism that I will present at the class next Thursday.

82.

M A Y

Monday, May 13 – Played a draw game at checkers this noon with Wm. Dennis.

Evening: Ernest Ihde and I have had a long dispute as who is the best bowler between us. After much wrangling we decided to settle the question and set this evening for the occasion, the contest to be best 2 out of 3 games, the loser to pay expenses. The first game he won rather easily accomplishing a lead in the first four frames that I could never from then on come within hailing distance of, the score being 105 to 81. I started off in whirlwind fashion with strikes and spares in the second setto getting a big lead in the first three frames and it looked as if I would win easily, but at the end I fell off badly, I being then (frame nine) but two pins ahead, due to a good spurt made by him. I got the best of him in the tenth frame, winning the game by 132 to 121, thus putting the score one game

apiece. In the last and final game he made a cleane runaway of it winning by 39 pins and taking the match. After this we played an exhibition game which I won. On the evening I made the high score of 132 and sorry to say the low score of 81. Following are the scores :

	1.	2.	3.	4.	Total	Average
Ernest Ihde ...	105	121	126	112	— 464	per 116
Ben .....	81	132	87	132	— 432	108

Tuesday, May 14 – Defeated Wm. Dennis at checkers by the score of 2 to 0 and 1 draw.

In the evening [--a--]I worked at the garden making the flower bed in the back yard, leveling the ground and sowing some grass seed.

Wednesday, May 15 – Again defeated Wm. Dennis by a score of 2 to 0 at checkers.

Rain to-day prevented work on the garden.  
Capital, May 15th, \$1.50.

84.

M A Y

Thursday, May 16 – Shut-out Wm. Dennis at checkers for the third successive time by 3 to 0.

Got a hair cut and shave after work.

Attended the Missionary Study meeting on India at the Y. M. C. A. I was not called upon to read my essay on Hinduism on account of the other essays that were read taking up all the time.

Friday, May 17 – This noon at checkers I took Wm. Round into camp by the score of 1 to 0.

Evening: Met the Ihde brothers at checkers at their residence, defeating Ernest Ihde by a score of 3 to 2 and losing to John Ihde by the score of 10 to 6 and 4 draws. My "200" series with Ernest Ihde which began on February 1st. now stands 80 to 19 and 34 draws in my favor, with 95 cents coming to me. This would leave 67 games yet to be played,

but on account of the coming warm weather we have decided to end it up thus: We will bowl a match series of three games for 50 cents a side and the loser to pay for the games. If he wins all I will lose is 15 cents and that is cheap bowling for three games. If I win I will receive \$1.45 in cash and he will also have to pay for the games. I will put up every energy to win in order to get revenge over the recent defeat I received at his hands. The games will take place at the Palace on Monday evening, the 27th inst.

Saturday, May 18 – On account of the work being is dull where I work, we closed down this afternoon.

Drew weekly salary of \$ 11.79.

I spent part of the afternoon on our garden; picking all the dandelion plants and weeds out

of the grass in the front yard. Also planted the geraniums in the flower bed and cut the grass. Things are becoming more beautiful now as each day sets in, the whole scene will be complete with the coming of the new grass which has now started to rise.

After this labor I journeyed to Olympic Park where I watched for the first time this year a ball game. The contending clubs were Baltimore and Buffalo, the latter winning by the score of 6 to 1. Milligan who pitched for the home team was in great form holding the visitors down to four hits, their only run being scored in the first ining on an error by White.

Evening: Purchased for 44 cents at J. N. Adam & Co. "The Man on the Box," by Harold MacGrath. This book will enter my library as No. 94.

Sunday, May 19 – Spent the day at home reading the History of England, Shakespeare's Othello and Balzac's Wild Ass' Skin.

Capital, this day, \$2.81.

Monday, May 20 – Defeated Wm. Round at checkers this noon by the score of 2 to 0.

Evening: Commenced reading "The Port of Missing Men," by Meredith Nicholson.

Tuesday, May 21 – Arranged a bowling match with Jake Zobrest to take place on Saturday afternoon of this week. He agrees to give me 100 pins handicap and beat me out in the total number of pins in three games or lose the match. The loser pays. This will give me good practice in anticipation of my coming contest with Ernest Ihde on Monday evening.

Capital, this day, \$2.76.

Wednesday, May 22 – My bowling contest with Jake Zobrest has been put-over from Saturday afternoon till Saturday evening by mutual consent.

Did not work this afternoon. After doing a little gardening I went out to Olympic Park to see the ball game between Buffalo and Jersey City. The contending pitchers were Milligan and Pfanmillen. Jersey City won after a hard fought contest by 4 to 2, their victory being made certain in the seventh inning by outfield errors which practically allowed the visitors to score twice.

Thursday, May 23 – Defeated Wm. Dennis at checkers this noon by the score of 3 to 0.

Evening: After getting a shave, I attended the Missionary Study Class on India at the Y. M. C. A. On account of Decoration Day falling on Thursday no meeting will be held next week.

Friday, May 24 – Scored another victory over Wm. Dennis at checkers by the score of 2 to 1, he actually springing a surprise on me by taking the first game.

Evening: Having finished reading “The Port of Missing Men” last night, I commenced reading “The Return of Sherlock Holmes,” by A. Conan Doyle.

Capital, May 24th, \$2.10.

Saturday, May 25 – Drew weekly salary amounting to \$9.94. This was due to have two afternoons off during the week.

Sent away \$2.00 to J. A. Hill & Co. as payment on the dictionary. This brings the total amount paid up to \$12, which leaves a balance of \$8.50 yet to be paid.

Afternoon: Cut all the grass on our land, besides sowing grass seed in the back yard on

the plot of ground south of the flower bed – putting in a good afternoon’s work. Of the grass seed I have already sowed, the Shady Nook was the first to make its appearance. This variety I sowed on May 3d, while the first of the Queen City that I sowed on April 26th has not made its appearance.

Evening: Met Jake Zobrest at bowling in our handicap match at the foot of [--Georgia--] Hudson Street. He agreed to give me 100 pins in three games and beat me out, which he did rather easily. My poor score[--s--] was mainly due to the strange alleys, their poor condition and the bad balls. All told I expected to make a better showing than I did; but what’s the use of crying. In the first two games he gained a lead of 103 pins; so to win the match I would have to beat him out in the third game

by 4 pins. This I started most auspiciously in to do, having him at the even score of 80 at the end of the sixth with a strike on my side to roll off, while he had broken. Here was my golden opportunity to redeem myself. A spare would without doubt have given victory to me – but lo! I only succeeded in making 1 pin on the strike, my chance of victory was now hopelessly lost. Anyway it was good practise and put me right on edge for my match with Ernest Ihde on next Monday evening. The scores:

	1	2.	3.	Total	Average
Zobrest, Jake ....	146	169	129	– 444	148
Ben .....	108	104	105	– 317	105 $\frac{2}{3}$

Sunday, May 26 – Made another try at writing a short story by starting the commencement of it to-day. I have lost the manuscript of the last story I wrote which I wanted to change as it was criticised.

Capital, May 26th, \$0.24.

Monday, May 27 – Broke even with Wm. Dennis at checkers this noon, each gaining a victory.

After work to-day I planted a few wild cucumbers which I received from Mr. Derby of East Aurora and which he was kind enough to bring me.

Evening: My bowling contest with Ernest Ihde, best two out of three, took place at the Palace, corner Washington and Mohawk streets.

In the first game, after a poor start in the first three frames, I gradually picked up and finished strong; putting them down for strikes right and left, ending up with 163 as my first score. My adversary did some stunts himself – bowling a strong steady game throughout, but could not come up to the pace I set in the last five frames, consequently losing the game

in which he made his highest score of the evening, 146. In the second game Ihde started off fair while I made a poor start, he gaining a lead of 20 pins at the end of the fourth frame. Here he fell down badly allowing me to put the score at 83 to 79 in his favor at the end of the eighth frame. In the ninth and tenth frames we both made strikes. Rolling off Ihde made his third strike, bringing his score to 113 and on his last ball made 6 pins, winding up the game with 139. In my roll-up I duplicated his feat of making a third strike, bringing my score up to 109. Another strike and I would put victory on my side, but this was not to be, for on my one ball I only made 7 pins, ending the game with 136. In the final and deciding game of the series, he accomplished a great lead at the start – a lead which he held

on to till the seventh frame. But victory for him was out of the question, for my great finishes that I made in the previous games, I again duplicated to his discontent, having him beaten without a doubt at the end of the ninth frame. My score here was 150 to his 126. After these championship struggles we played an exhibition game which he won handily. This victory, besides giving me ample revenge for the defeat I received at his hands two weeks ago, gave me \$1.45 and my bowling free. The score follows:

	1	2.	3.	4.	Total.	Average.
Ernest Ihde .....	146	138	126	143	— 553	138 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ben .....	163	136	150	118	— 567	141 $\frac{3}{4}$

The first three game were the championship contest and decided the money matter. A comparison of these scores with those we made on May 13<sup>th</sup> will show a great improvement on both sides.

Tuesday, May 28 – Began writing my first detective story entitled “The Adventure of the Haunted House.” Gave up writing the one I started on Sunday.

Wednesday, May 29 – Met the Ihde brothers at checkers this evening at their residence, defeating Ernest Ihde by 3 to 2 and losing to John Ihde by 3 to 2 and 1 draw. After these games I played Ernest Ihde five games of “66” he winning three of the five. The first and second games I won [--and--] by the scores of 10 to 4 and 11 to 3 respectively. He won the last three games by 10 to 3, 10 to 1, and 10 to 3.

Thursday, May 30 – In the afternoon I witnessed the ball game between Buffalo and Rochester, the latter winning easily by 9 to 2. Greene who started to pitch for Buffalo was knocked out of the box in the seventh ining and Currie who succeeded

him fared little better. Bannister for Rochester pitched a good game holding Buffalo to six hits.

Friday, May 31 – Won 50 cents from a fell workman to-day on a baseball wager.

Capital, this day, \$ 1.10.

Suming up my checker record for the month of May I find I won 64 games and lost 40, which gives me a percentage of .615 ; a very creditable showing considering the good men I had as opponents.

This is the first month in which I record a bowling record. My initial debut shows 4 games won and 7 lost. Here is my record in full :

[--WON-- ]	WON	LOST	.PCT	H. S.	Total	Average
Ben _____	4	7	.364	163	1,463	133
Opponents__	7	4	.636	169	1,316	120

(Continued in Vol. II.)

July 2 – 17.81  
July 9 – 13.43  
July 16 – 16.66

[post-page, 97]  
[RBR  
WNYO  
1907  
E3]