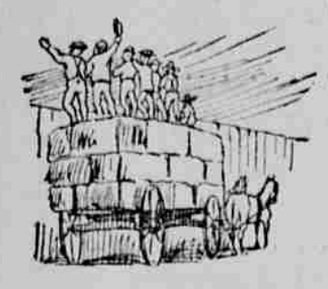
How true it is that one-half the world does not know how the other half lives! It is also true that one-half of those who attend the ball games do not know how the other half sees the game.

The Houston Baseball association was organized, the promoters put up their money to pay salaries, traveling expenses, for buildings and grounds. To reimburse themselves and make the business self-sustaining, admission is charged at the gate, and an additional fee for the grand stand, which has comfortable seats, is covered, and a wire netting prevents a foul ball from striking occupants of the stand. In addition to this is a long line of "bleachers" for those who do not care to sit in the grand stand.

And the association has been liberal.

They have been exceedingly courteous to ladies in allowing them free admission to the grounds almost every day, and on occasions free seats in the grand stand. However, there are many who witness the game and never pay a cent. It would be a surprise to a great many to know the number of those who watch the sport free of charge. In a large number of cases the association is not a loser by this, as some of the urchins have nothing to pay, and it would be no loss to the club if they were admitted free, but it would be a bad practice to start such an arrangement, as there would be too many demands and then, again, they would never know where to stop the charity.



I have often noticed heads above the high fence which enclosed the diamond—faces of boys not under 15 years of age, fearless youths, and many men of mature age, seemingly comfortably seated, umbrellas above them to shade them from the sun, enjoying the game and occasionally applauding. During the week past I decided to take a trip around the park and learn how they see this game and the various methods employed.

The story will probably be surprising to the game who does not care to pay. Would amuse many of those who sit in the grand stand and grow enthusiastic over the many good plays on the diamond.

Along the Milam street fence there is a motley crowd. I counted no less than a dozen actuaus, the owners standing on the saddles and looking over the fence being given an opportunity to see what transpires within. Some of the horses had as many as two to carry. Boys ranging in age from 8 to 18 were seen all along the fence peeking through convenient cracks or holes that have been whittled. They watch through these cracks for a foul ball, and when one happens over the high fence as is often the case there is a scramble, whites and blacks joining in the rush to receive the spoils, the possession of which gives them free entry into the park.

Turning the corner at Dennis avenue, I found the entire length of the fence lined with vehicles and people. Here is where the inventive genius has gotten in his work. The first seen is a number of buggies—old ones, new ones, dilapidated ones, some with tops and some without, each having from three to a half dozen occupants who are perched about on the wheels and are anxiously watching each successive play of the game. In between these vehicles can be seen boys and men looking through the holes in the fence. Now and then a horse is standing patiently supporting its owner who is straining every nerve to secure his countenance within. Next is seen a delivery wagon carrying upon the side the familiar sign of a well known Houston business house. Upon the roof of this wagon, which stands by itself for the more laudable purpose of distributing the range of dry goods, laces and dress goods, is placed the driver and his family, all of whom are looking to the movements of the various members of the ball team.

Further on can be seen the inventive genius. There are two structures which might be called portable grand stands, having a seating capacity of two each. The portable grand stand is an arrangement of planks in the form of a stepladder, surmounted by a seat on the top of which and on large moving wagons, with a footboard adding to the comfort of the occupant. This affair is placed upon the vacant lot several blocks, and for a nickel apiece the owner allows the entire Dennis and Washington each play of the Indians's game. As I said before, there are two of these. They are occupied by gamey men, who perch themselves on the top of the structure and are able to see and hear what the game is. Some of them have brought their opera glasses with them, and they are able to see the game and hear what the umpire says