



STRANGE OCCURRENCES,
REMARKABLE PEOPLE &
CURIOUS INFORMATION.
COMPILED & EDITED

by CHRISTINE SCHULTZ



Spring Diet

*Children gobble Easter
candy,
Robins eat whatever's
handy;
April, month of modest
means,
Survives on worms
and jellybeans.*

- D. A. W.



Let Us Now Praise Louis Sockalexis

EVEN IN NEW ENGLAND, where baseball and heartbreak have long gone together, the story of Louis Sockalexis can only be called tragic. A Penobscot Indian from Old Town, Maine, Sockalexis had a brilliant baseball career at Holy Cross College in Worcester before entering the major leagues with the team then known as the Cleveland Spiders. During his rookie season in 1897, he appeared in 66 games, hitting nine doubles, eight triples, and three home runs for a .338 average. He was a favorite of fans, prompting sportswriters to begin referring to the team as the "Indians."

Sadly, that early promise would be cut short. "Sock" had been a problem drinker since his college days, and his dependence on alcohol rapidly worsened. Just how rapidly became evident the following season: He played in 21 games and saw his batting average plummet to .224. In 1899 he appeared in just seven games and never played in the majors thereafter. He returned to Maine, where he died at 42, while working in the woods. But the Cleveland fans proved they hadn't forgotten him; in later years they officially named the team the Indians.

- JON VARA

- Indian Hill Press

- National Baseball Hall of Fame Library