Cowboys vs. Indians
Summer of 1937

These clippings are from the Tyler Star News, Middlebourne, WV, during the summer of 1937 when the Cowboys and Indians baseball teams took to the field in a great rivalry, then wound up the season with a camping trip.

Thanks to Donny and Joyce Jemison for taking care to preserve this wonderful piece of Tyler County History.

June 1937

Juvineles Play Baseball Friday
Evening at Six

An old feud has broken out on the plains of Tyler High School. A group of cow-punchers are after the redskins who are trying to protect their happy hunting grounds.

The combat, more specifically, is between two groups of Middlebourne youths with ages ranging from seven to eleven years, who have been training, learning the art of baseball under the direction of Gordon Jemison on the athletic field of the High school for the past three weeks.

The game between the juveniles will be played Friday evening at six o’clock on the High school diamond.

The public is cordially invited to come and see the coming Daz, Cochrane, Mike, Ruth in action,” Mr. Jemison says that the love of the old national game is just as much in the heart of the young cow men and Indians as it was to those back in the days when “Bud”, “Bub”, “Jimmy”, “Smithy”, “Bert”, “Dooley”, and other “Old Timers” were fighting on the same plain.

The following will be in the line-up:

Cowboy Eagles
Jim Riggs, Mascot; Bobby Sellers, 1B; Carl Baker, C; Jack Carpenter, P; Jack Devore, SS; Arvil Dodrill, 2B; Allen Smith, RF; Billy Owens, CF; Tommy Haught, 3B; Carl Huffman, LF;

Billy Elder, Utility man; Billy Edwards, Manager.

Indians
Nile Riggs, Mascot; Jack Haught, SS; Loran Melntyre, 1B; Donny Jemison, 2B; Charles Henderson, LF; Joe Riggs, 3B; Bobby Jemison, CF; David McCoy, C; George Riggs, RF; Billy Jones, P; Jimmy Justice, Utility man.
Cowboys and Indians Baseball Teams—Middlebourne, West Virginia—Summer of 1937

Game of June 18, 1937

Red Skins Scalp Doggie Boys in Battle of Bats and Pitches Here Friday Evening

The first of seven great battles between the Cowboys and Indians ended in a massacre of the doggie boys by the red skins in the first conflict Friday evening on the plain of Tyler High school.

The cowboys were the first to charge into the attack. In short order in first inning they murdered the old ball for five hits and two runs. But then the red skins came right back in the same inning with tomahawks raised and bows bent to score three runs.

Score in Second

The second inning opened with a barrage of shots from the cowboys that gave them five hits and assisted by errors on the part of the redskins which gave them seven runs.

The Indians in this same inning again scored three runs leaving them behind by the count of seven to six. The crowd yelled and whooped!

The next frame of battle three cowboys showed their faces to the red skins and down they went in order. The same inning three red skins faced the cowboys and each of them bit the dust by the way of 1-2-3. Again the cowboys faced the attack but to no avail the Indians were popping up and snaring flies and catching grounders bullets, shooting them to first killing the bullman as they tried to cross the bug.

The Indians at this frame of the battle called a pow wow. Then an outrage seemed to rent the air with yelling, shrieking, blood curdling cries they went after the Cow-boys. Shots were fired from the bats of the savages and before the cow punchers would bring their forces into order the Indians had scored eight runs.

The fifth attack of the cowboys found the Indians voracious in their actions and cunning in their snaring of the ball. The last half of this part of the conflict heavy fighting seemed to cease but the Indians were able to make five more hits and two more runs for a total of 16.

In the sixth inning the Indians had begun to sink away, but enough reserves were left in ambush to quell the cowboys in their last attack and win the battle by the score of 16 to 9.

The juveniles taking part in the affray were:

Cowboy Eagles
Jim Riggs, Mascot; Bobby Sellars, 1 B; Carl Baker, C; Jack Carpenter, P; Jack Devore, SS; Arvil Doolittle, 2B; Allen Smith, RF; Billy Owens, CF; Tommy Haught, LF; Carl Huffman, LF; Billy Eldor, Utility man; Billy Edwards, Manager.

Indians
Nile Riggs, Mascot; Jack Haught, SS; Loran McIntyre, 1B; Donny Jemison, 2B; Charles Henderson, LF; Joe Riggs, 3B; Bobby Jemison, CF; David McCoy, C; George Riggs, RF; Billy Jones, P; Jimmy Justise, Utility man.

Game of June 25, 1937

COWBOYS SHOOT WAY TO WIN; TIE SERIES ONE ALL IN FAST GAME FRIDAY

The scene of the second juvenile conflict between the Cowboys and the Indians at the High School plain Friday evening found the Indians biting the dust to the tune of 19-to-16.

A throng of men, women and children were in confusion, yelling and shrieking in each other’s ears for their respective sides.

Hits were numerous and the scoring was done freely.

David McCoy and Billy Jones were the batters for the Indians. On the mound for the Cowboys we found Jack Carpenter starting and being relieved by Jack Devore in the third inning behind the plate was Carl Baker.

On Friday evening at 6:00 the third game will be staged of the seven game series. Don’t forget to see this next battle.

REDSKINS WIN AGAIN OVER COWBOYS TEAM

On Friday, July 2, a party of Indians crossed home plate enough times to beat the Cowboys by the score of 15-13 in the third struggle of the juvenile baseball series.

The Cowboys were to a great disadvantage with Allen Smith their right field puncher laid up with poison.

Others of the round-up gang failed to show for battle.

The Indians took advantage of the cowboy injuries and swooped down in an attack which netted 15 scalps.

Hits were numerous with home runs being clouted by Joe Riggs and Jack Jacobs.

The Cowboys are gathering their forces together and will try this Friday evening to avenge this last defeat and even up the series. The game now stands 2 to 1 in favor of the Red Skins.

David McCoy, who received an arrow from a foul tip off a Cowboy bat in a previous game was missing from the lineup but will be back in the fray for the Indians again this coming game.

“Come and see the hostilities renewed again 6:00 P. M. Friday” Gordon Jemison, director of the juveniles, has invited.

Game of July 2, 1937
Cowboys and Indians Baseball Teams—Middlebourne, West Virginia—Summer of 1937

Cowboys Win Fourth By Only One Scalp

The fourth of a series of seven games of baseball was played Friday evening between the Cowboys and Indians on the Tyler field as members of the two juvenile teams fought gamely to win. Many fans witnessed the conflict.

There was much enthusiasm as the band of roving Indians again invaded the ball field to be repulsed by the the whooping Cowboys. The warring tribesmen were met and defeated by the band of doggie boys who were hot and determined to even up the series two all.

The battle was hard fought with neither side retreating or giving up— a rapid firing order was held until the end. At the last crack of a bat the Cow-Punchers were found winning the fray by the count of 10 to 9. Bill Owens played a bang-up game for the Cowboys—every time he fired a "redskin hit the dust."—While Bobby Nemison starred for the Redskins.

These battles being staged for the past few weeks as the two factions squabble for supremacy in baseball and poker runners of mightier contests to come, is the opinion of Gorden Nemison, trainer and coach of the two camps, as the last three games of the series come up and the clubs tighten down to real baseball.

"If you want to see history and baseball players in the making," Mr. Nemison says, "come out Friday evening at six o'clock and see this fifth battle."

Game of July 19, 1937

INDIANS TAKE FIFTH GAME IN SERIES HERE MONDAY

The Indians beat the cowboys to the ford and got away with another win here Monday evening in the fifth of the juvenile baseball games to be played between the two clubs of youths under the age of 16.

The regular Sunday evening game was called because of rain and played on Monday. The score was 17 to 16. This makes the Indians one game ahead. Charles Hendliner was the star for the redskins with Bobby Sellers playing stellar ball for the yodeling cowboys.

The next game in the series will be played Friday evening.

July 1937

Sheriff Will Toss Ball To Open Last Series Game

The seven-series battle for juvenile baseball honors between the camp of the Indians and the range of the cowboys comes to an end Friday evening with the last game of the series promising to be a hotly contested tilt. Gordon Nemison, coach for both outfits, is getting both camps into their best forms. The game opens on the Tyler Athletic field at 6:30.

Sheriff C. D. Eastman will be present to toss out the first ball for the event and arrangements have been made with Assessor Chauncey D. Twyford to catch the sphere and present it to the pitcher on the mound. Harry Jackson will referee the game.

A boxing match will be held just before the game between Nile and Jim Riggs. Battery will be: Indians—Billy Jones, pitcher, with David McCoy, catcher; cowboys—Dave Devore, pitcher, with Carl Baker, catcher. To date each club has won three games over the other—it will be play-off for all honors by the youths. A small admission will be charged.

Final Game, July or August, 1937

Indians Take Championship

Game from Cowboys Friday

In the seven-game series of juvenile baseball between the Indians and Cowboys ended Friday evening with the Indians carrying away the championship as they took the final game 19 to 18.

The championship seven-inning game was played before a crowd estimated around 200 persons who thoroughly enjoyed the game as they rooted for this or that player as they rooted for the Indians with Billy O'Blue catching. Stars for the winners were Jack Haught, s. s., Donny Nemison, s. b. and Lorn McIntryre, f.b. The members of the club includes:

Cowboy Eagles

Jim Riggs, Mascot; Bobby Sellers, 1 b; Carl Baker, f.; Jack Carpenter, p.; Jack Devore, ss; Arvil Doddrill, 2 b Allen Smith, rf; Billy Owens, cf; Tommy Haught, 2 b; Carl Huffman, f.; Billy Edles, Utility man.

Indians

Nile Riggs, Mascot; Jack Haught, ss; Lorn McIntryre, 1 b; Donny Nemison, 2 b; Charles Hendliner, f.; Joe Riggs, 3 b; Bobby Nemison, cf; David McCoy, c; George Riggs, rf; Billy Jones, f.; Jimmy Justice, Utility man.
SCORE OF BOYS UNDER 11 CAMPING ON JACK SMITH FARM ABOVE THE "JUG"

More than a score of boys under the age of 11 marched down Main street Tuesday morning on their way to their camp on the Jack Smith Farm across the creek from the County Home. The boys are under the leadership of Gordon Jemison who has held a play and instruction period each morning for several weeks for them as he coached two clubs known as the Indians and cowboys in baseball.

The boys will return Friday evening. Tents have been pitched to house the youths. The camp will be divided up and run along military lines, Mr. Jemison said. Grady Mann and Roy Owens will assist the leader during the outing.

Activities of the camp will include a treasure hunt, first aid instructions, games, hiking and study and collection of insects, military drill under the direction of Robert Jackson, and camp fires.

JEUNIERS TO PLAY OLDER MEN AT BASEBALL

A novel entertainment will be presented to the public in the near future, it was announced by Gordon Jemison yesterday, when a team picked from the two juvenile Cowboy and Indians groups, ages from 7 to 11, play a game of baseball with men past 60 as opponents.

The "Young Men" over 60 will be headed by Rev. J. J. Kelly as pitcher with Herman Wheeler catching, it was said.

OLDSTERS WILL PLAY YOUNGSTERS HERE NEXT TUESDAY EVENING

A novel game of baseball is scheduled for Tuesday evening when Oldsters, over 50, meet Youngsters, under 11, on the Tyler Ball field, Gordon Jemison announced.

The Oldsters club will include well known stars as John Starkey, Reverend Kelly, Sheriff T. D. Proctor, Herman Wheeler, Dave Spencer, C. C. Woodburn, Lloyd Way and others.

The Youngsters crew will be picked from the Indians and Cowboys club, juvenile clubs which have held the interest here this summer.

Boys who last summer divided into two baseball clubs, the Indians and Cowboys, and played a series of games under the coaching of Gordon Jemison are shown in the above group picture which was released recently by Mr. Jemison. The picture was taken while the boys were in camp held for a few days on the farm of James Tustin who appears in the picture.

The two clubs presented some interesting juvenile baseball and played each time before an enthusiastic crowd. A team picked from the two clubs won over an oldsters team late in the season by 9 to 6.

The ones in the group are: Nile Riggs, Billy Jones, Ralph Devore, Donny Jemison, Jack Height, Allen Smith, Loren McIntyre, Bobby Jemison, Tommy Haught, Bobby Sellers, Jack Carpenter, Joe Riggs, Carl Baker, Charles Henderson, Jack Jacob, Billy Owens, Arvil Dodrill, Mr. James Tustin and Gordon Jemison.

Scouts Assist with Camp for Younger Boys, All Enjoy Outing

(By GORDON JEMISON)

Last week twenty local boys between the ages of nine and eleven marched proudly down Main street, beginning a trip which was to end at their camp, and were they a happy bunch! However, their joy was nothing to their regret when the time came to break camp three days later.

Now, just which fairy waved her magic wand and said "let there be a camp?? As a matter of fact, no fairy appeared, so the project entailed a lot of hard work.

Who set up the two large tents? Where did the supply tent come from? Whose pick and shovel dug the cellar to keep the perishables. The garbage pit? The airhole? Where did the rocks come from that made up the large fireplace? Who carried the many gallons of water from the well on the hill? Who took care of the youngsters in their tents, taught them to make beds, army style, and to keep the camp clean? Who did the cooking? Roy Owens swimming a pick on the cellar..... Lester Doak and Willard Smith struggling with a tent that should have had four working on it (they forget to ditch it).... Leo Ripley cooking.

No one but the boys themselves know how much work they did, how much calculating, how much things had to be set up, voted, moved and tried again, but the Good Turn done by these boys will be remembered by the twenty who had probably the most enjoyable time of their lives in that small cabin which was partly made possible by the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ryner and Mr. and Mrs. James Tustin in furnishing the campsite and other things.

Some of the other scouts who took part in this work were: Ralph starke, Howard Creamer, Griff Mann, Billy Ryner, Stanley Owen, LeRoy Fletcher, Billy White, Bobby Wildman and Bob Virden, all doing their good turns from set up to break up.