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Alice Ivers: A Gambling Phenomenon in the American West

Introducing Alice Ivers, known as "Poker Alice"

Alice Ivers, known as Poker Alice, was an English poker and faro player who gained fame in the American West. She was born in Devon, England in 1851 and later moved to Virginia with her family. Poker Alice became well-known for her gun-carrying, cigar-smoking, and poker-playing in gambling halls. A widow from Deadwood, she turned to card games as a means of supporting herself. Although born in England, Poker Alice quickly adapted to life in the Wild West and became a gambling icon.

A Career Fueled by Gambling and a Life Led in the Black Hills

Poker Alice made a living by gambling and working as a dealer in gold rush towns of the Rockies and Black Hills. She would often win sizable sums from her poker games, resulting in her becoming a prominent and admired figure. Her gambling prowess made her a target, leading to instances of jail time, following accusations of cheating at cards. However, this could not deter Poker Alice from her passion nor her financial success, with her death in 1930 at the age of 79.

The Legacy of Alice Ivers: A Pioneer for Women in Gaming

Poker Alice's legacy as one of the best-known female poker players in the Old West demonstrates her incredible impact on gambling and gaming. As recognition of her cultural relevance, "Poker Alice" has been memorialized in the naming of articles of clothing, jewelry, and music. Her groundbreaking career in poker opens the door for future generations of women to embark on their paths as gamblers in what was traditionally a man's world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Alice Ivers?

Alice Ivers, also known as Poker Alice, was an English poker and faro player who gained fame in the American West.

What is Alice Ivers known for?

Alice Ivers, better known as Poker Alice, was legendary in the West for her big black cigar and her dramatic, high-stakes life in gold rush towns of the Rockies and the Black Hills.

What was Poker Alice's impact on the gambling world?

Poker Alice paved the way for future generations of women to embark on their paths as skilled female gamblers who could hold their own in the man's world of gaming.
