

**Jacks**



**(Knucklebones)**



## GAME OF KNUCKLEBONES

Knucklebones is a very old game that was played in many parts of the world. Players used the joints or bones of animals, such as sheep. These bones were tossed like jacks or dice. Because the bones were knobby, they tended to land on four different identifiable sides that could be assigned point values. There were many variations or rules for the game. Sometimes they were simply tossed and their point values added up. If they were played like jacks are today, they might be tossed and caught in or on a hand or some picked up while one was still in the air. Players became skillful in eye-hand coordination.

Instead of using real bones, some playing pieces were made from clay, horn, or metal. In addition to knucklebones, the game was called by names, such as tali, jackstones, dibs, dibstones, or chuckstones. Hildegard's and Loretta's grandmother told them she had played with knucklebones when she was a child in Germany in the 1870's.