

Entertaining Ideas

Women Invading Cyberspace

(NAPSA)—There's been a surprising twist in an old game.

The game of bingo can be traced back to 1530, to an Italian lottery called "Lo Giuoco del Lotto D'Italia," which is still played every Saturday in Italy. From Italy, the game was introduced to France in the late 1770s, where it was called "Le Lotto," a game played among wealthy Frenchmen. The Germans also played a version of the game in the 1800s, but they used it as a child's game to help students learn math, spelling and history.

When the game reached North America in 1929, it became known as "beano." It was a country fair game in which a dealer would select numbered discs from a cigar box and players would mark their cards with beans. They yelled "beano" if they won.

It was first played at a carnival near Atlanta, Georgia. New York toy salesman Edwin S. Lowe renamed it "bingo" after he overheard someone accidentally yell that instead of "beano." He hired a Columbia University math professor, Carl Leffler, to help him increase the number of combinations in bingo cards. By 1930, Leffler had invented 6,000 different bingo cards.

Pretty soon, bingo halls became social gathering places, where players could meet with friends, exchange gossip and generally go out and have a good time.

Now the game is entering the



More and more adult women are playing games online.

21st century and going online. At online gaming rooms such as InterBingo.com, you can play Bingo and much more. In fact, the InterBingo community puts out the welcome mat for new players and offers to tutor them in "Bingo Lingo." Players even swap recipes, pin up their profiles, create cyber friendships, gossip and chat, all while trying their luck at the game.

Surprisingly, most of these players are women ages 26 to 54. When it comes to playing games online, these women are registering more hours online than teenage boys, according to the Casual Gaming Report. Formerly the turf of computer geeks and the "Star Trek" fanatics, the Internet is fast becoming a place for women to unwind, exchange recipes, news and opinions and score points.

Learn more at www.interbingo.com.