

# The Mark Twain Centennial



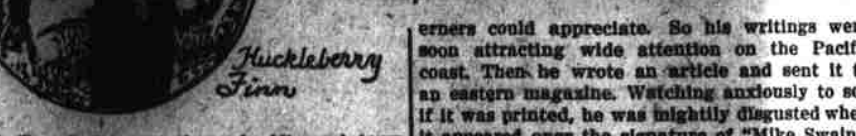
Mark Twain



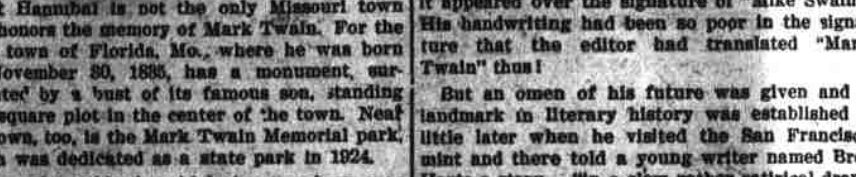
Design for a Mark Twain Memorial



Statue in Hannibal, Mo.



Birthplace in Florida, Mo.



Huckleberry Finn

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

THE other night President Roosevelt touched a golden key in Washington and out in the Middle West from a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi river, a white shaft of light pierced the darkness. For a moment it streamed across the black waters of "Old Man River," then it swung around and flooded the statue of two boys, then passed on to illuminate an old two-story frame house and a board fence near by—perhaps the most famous board fence in the world.

This was inaugurated the beacon service of a memorial lighthouse which will henceforth shed its rays across the "Father of Waters" every night to guide rivermen along its winding, treacherous current past Hannibal, Mo. And thus began a year's celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known to the world as "Mark Twain."

For the bluff on which the memorial lighthouse stands is Cardiff Hill, the scene of many of the escapades of "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," and the statue which it first illuminated was the statue of those two immortal characters which he created. The little house on which its beams next played was his boyhood home and the fence was "Aunt Polly's" board fence, the whitewashing of which was such an inestimable privilege that "Tom Sawyer's" friends were willing to give up such youthful treasures as broken kettles, apple cores and dead rats for that.

When young Sam was twelve years old, his father died, John Marshall Clemens was an improvident storekeeper and lawyer, a dreamer and a chaser of rainbows who had drifted from his birthplace in Virginia to Kentucky where he married Jane Lampton, then to Tennessee and finally to Missouri where he was a failure to the end of his days. So the boy had to go to work to help support the family of eight brothers and sisters. He started to work in a printing office where he stayed for two years. Then he worked for the Hannibal Journal, for several years.

Seeing no future in journalism, young Clemens at the age of nineteen left home to seek his fortune elsewhere. He first went to New York and then to Philadelphia, but, becoming homesick, he started west again. He went to Keokuk, Iowa, where his brother, Orion, was then living and stayed for a while with him. There he read a book which fired him with a desire to visit South America. The only drawback was that he had no money. By some strange chance a vagrant wind dropped a \$50 bill at his feet. He advertised in the paper for its owner. But no one claimed it so, three days later, he left town, as he said, "to take that money out of danger."

Clemens next drifted to Cincinnati and, traveling on a boat down the Ohio, he persuaded the pilot to teach him how to steer it. Continuing on to New Orleans, still with the idea of going to South America, he found that the next boat would not be leaving for that continent for several years. So he decided to make piloting his life-work, an idea which had taken root in his mind when, as a boy in Hannibal, he had played along the banks of the Mississippi and watched the steamers go up and down that stream.

His pilot's license, which is still preserved in the files of the steamboat inspection service of the United States Department of Commerce, was issued to him on April 9, 1859. On an April day two years later occurred an event which was destined to end his career as a pilot. Fort Sumter was fired upon and the War Between the States began. Clemens is said to have been the last pilot to bring his boat up the river after the opening of hostilities. He was shot at and hauled in for examination at St. Louis, after which he went on to Hannibal where he joined a Confederate home guard company whose members called themselves by the imposing name of the "Salt River Tigers." The story of Mark Twain's brief military career as a member of this organization, as told in the book "Absalom Grimes: Confederate Mail Runner" (Yale University Press) is almost as funny a story as any which Clemens himself ever wrote.

After three or four weeks' service with the "Tigers," Clemens went on to Keokuk to visit his brother again. Orion had just been appointed secretary of Nevada territory and was starting for his new post. He took Sam along with him to be his secretary and this trip overland from Hannibal to Nevada furnished the material for one of Twain's most famous books, "Roughing It." Offered a job as city editor of the Daily Territorial Enterprise in Virginia City, Mark Twain again took up the pen which he was not again to lay down for long.

But Hannibal is not the only Missouri town that honors the memory of Mark Twain. For the little town of Florida, Mo., where he was born on November 30, 1834, has a monument, surmounted by a bust of its famous son, standing in a square plot in the center of the town. Near the town, too, is the Mark Twain Memorial park, which was dedicated as a state park in 1924.

Later the cabin in which he was born was moved from the village to this park and a permanent shelter house was built for it. Restored to its original condition, it contains furniture of an early day and other mementoes of the time when it was occupied by the Clemens family. Another reminder of Mark Twain in Florida is the old cemetery which contains the graves of two of his sisters and of John Quaries, his uncle, at whose farm home a few miles from the village the youthful Sam Clemens spent his summers.

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erners could appreciate. So his writings were soon attracting wide attention on the Pacific coast. Then he wrote an article and sent it to an eastern magazine. Watching anxiously to see if it was printed, he was mightily disgusted when it appeared over the signature of "Mike Swain." His handwriting had been so poor in the signature that the editor had translated "Mark Twain" thus!

But an omen of his future was given and a landmark in literary history was established a little later when he visited the San Francisco mint and there told a young writer named Bret Harte a story—"In a slow rather satirical draw which was irresistible," so says Harte. That story, which appeared later in a New York newspaper, was "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County."

While in San Francisco Twain had a chance to go to Hawaii, then known as the Sandwich Islands, and he went, sending back such vivid dispatches that the world for the first time realized that a new literary genius had appeared above the western horizon. Soon afterwards he came back to visit his mother in Keokuk and, later going on to the scene of his boyhood days in Hannibal, he was made to realize that for once the old saying about a prophet being without honor in his own country was far from true.

Hearing of an excursion to the Holy Land, Mark decided to go if he could do it as the correspondent for some paper. The Alta California of San Francisco was the lucky journal that secured his services and its publication of his travel sketches met with instantaneous success. Later his stories of this trip were published in book form and, according to one biographer, a short time later "salesmen might have been seen offering a book with the recommendation that it was as funny as Artemus Ward. It was, but it was more serious, too. 'The Innocents Abroad' was akin to 'The Jumping Frog' in solemn sincerity of manner, but in this book, the quick-eyed, blunt-speaking westerner had a subject. No one had ever written about Europe in this way. No one had inquired of the stunned guide: 'Is Columbus dead?' Or wept at the tomb of Adam. Mark Twain had donned his suit of motley. From now on he turned out page after page of this nonsense. Thus . . . the beginning of his long career as a prominent journalist, lecturer, humorist and, it may be added, philosopher. . . Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D. C. L.—strange largesse to the boy who had thrilled to 'S-t-a-m-boat-a-conda!' and whose 'permanent ambition' had been to stride his deck as captain."

Another result of the European tour which produced "Innocents Abroad" was that it won him a wife as well as literary fame. On the trip Clemens met Charles J. Langdon of Elmira, N. Y., who showed him a picture of his sister, Olivia Langdon. Twain promptly fell in love with the pictured face. Later he eagerly accepted an invitation to visit the Langdon home and the same of romance ignited by the picture burned higher when he looked upon the girl herself.

Love had passed Mark Twain by during his bachelorhood and there was but one romance in his whole life—that with Olivia Langdon. They were married in 1870 and went to Hartford, Conn., to live. On the morning of his wedding Twain received a check for \$4,000 from his publishers—a promising beginning for a young married couple. After his marriage he began to write steadily. "Tom Sawyer" was published when he was forty, and seven years later "Huckleberry Finn" appeared. Both were financially very successful, as were all of his later books.

His career ended April 21, 1910, and when the word was flashed from Redding, Conn., that Sam Clemens had left this "d-d human race" to struggle along as best it could without having his flashing wit to help it bear its burden, millions of its members felt as did Robert Underwood Johnson—"The world has seemed to me very strange without Mark Twain in it." That is why the stories of the various centennial celebrations which will be held this year will be news that is certain to win a place in the columns of our newspapers, even in those times when history-making events are taking place almost daily. For it is somehow reassuring to feel that, although Mark Twain is gone from our midst, something of him still remains with us. The memory of solemn men may grow dim, but we cannot so easily forget a man who makes it easy for us to laugh.

## NEW ASSORTMENT IN PERFORATED QUILT PATTERNS

By GRANDMOTHER CLARK



Here are some more and different perforated patterns for quilting designs. We have shown some of the other patterns in these columns, but realizing how interested quilters are in obtaining perforated patterns of as many designs as possible, know that these will be welcomed by them. The transfer of the design is so easy, with stamping powder, that once used, you will want no other kind, unless we haven't the design you want.

The above assortment consists of the following:  
E-14 Feather Border 6 inch, E-15 Tulip Border and Corner 8 inches, E-16 Border 1 1/2 inches, E-17 Tulip Motif 3 inches, E-18 Border and Corner 2 1/2 inches, F-19 Scroll Corner 4 1/2 inches, F-20 Scroll Border 4 1/2 inches, F-21 Feather Border Motif 4 inches.

This package No. 33C contains the above eight patterns already perforated on bond paper and good for many stampings, also some blue stamping powder and instructions.

If you want to do neater quilting, send 15c for this package No. 33C to our Quilt department and receive this by mail postpaid.

ADDRESS—HOME CRAFT CO.—DEPT. D—Nineteenth and St. Louis avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply, when writing for any information.

## Jefferson's Tribute

Let the farmer forevermore be honored in his calling; for they who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God.—Thomas Jefferson.

## DESERT TERROR LIFTED

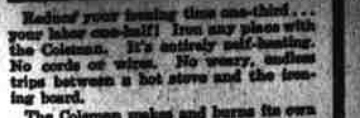
This year for the first time the road across the Mohave desert in California, linking Baker on the west with Shoshone and Lone Pine on the east, will have an oiled surface. National park improvements, made possible through PWA funds and CCC labor, have minimized the inconveniences incident to travel into the primitive wilderness of Death valley. To the Argonauts of 1846, without maps or knowledge of where water might be found, it was a place of terror.—Literary Digest.

To keep clean and healthy take Dr. Flosser's Pleasant Pilelets. They regulate liver, bowels and stomach.—Adv.

No Surprise to Him  
"I was surprised to hear your wife make such an emphatic and convincing speech."  
"I wasn't," answered Mr. Meekton. "I have always known that Henrietta could do just that."

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Reduce your heating time one-third . . . your labor one-half! Heat any space with the Coleman. It's actively self-heating. No coils of wires. No weary, endless trips between a hot stove and the heating board.

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See your local hardware or home-furnishing dealer. If he does not handle, write us.

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Amalgam. Healthful, energizing. Mc-Trans-Aton plays radio through body. Agent's sample \$1.55. Mc-Trans-Aton Co., 26 W. 37th St., N.Y.

## Scientists Find Fast Way to Relieve a Cold

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1. Take 2 BAYER Aspirin Tablets. Make sure you get the BAYER Tablets you ask for.



2. Drink a full glass of water. Repeat treatment in 3 hours.



3. If throat is sore, crush and stir 3 BAYER Aspirin Tablets in a third of a glass of water. Gargle twice. This eases throat soreness almost instantly.

NOTE "DIRECTIONS PICTURES"

The simple method pictured here is the way many doctors now treat colds and the aches and pains colds bring with them!

It is recognized as a safe, sure, QUICK way. For it will relieve an ordinary cold almost as fast as you can get it.

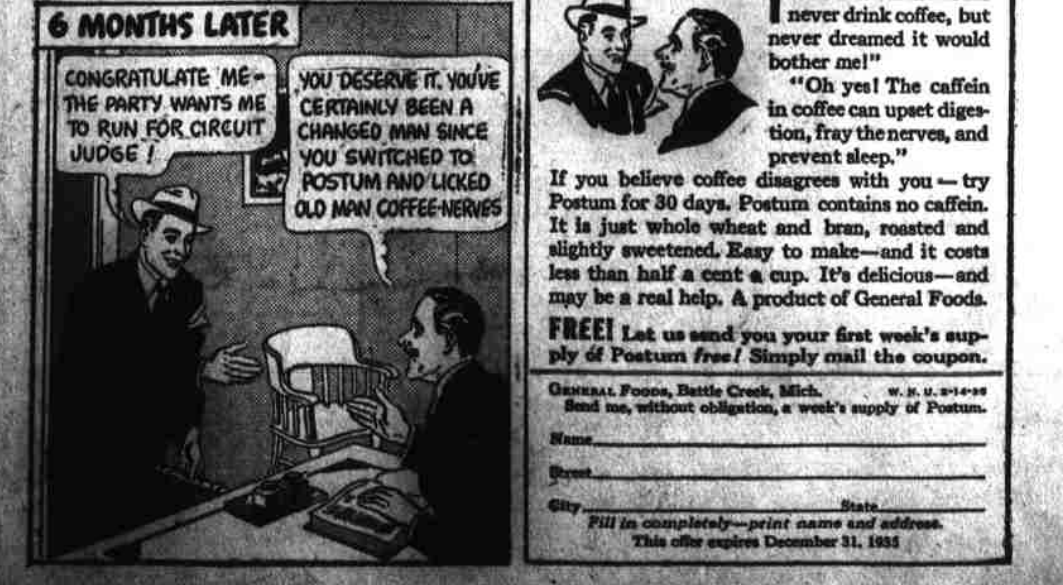
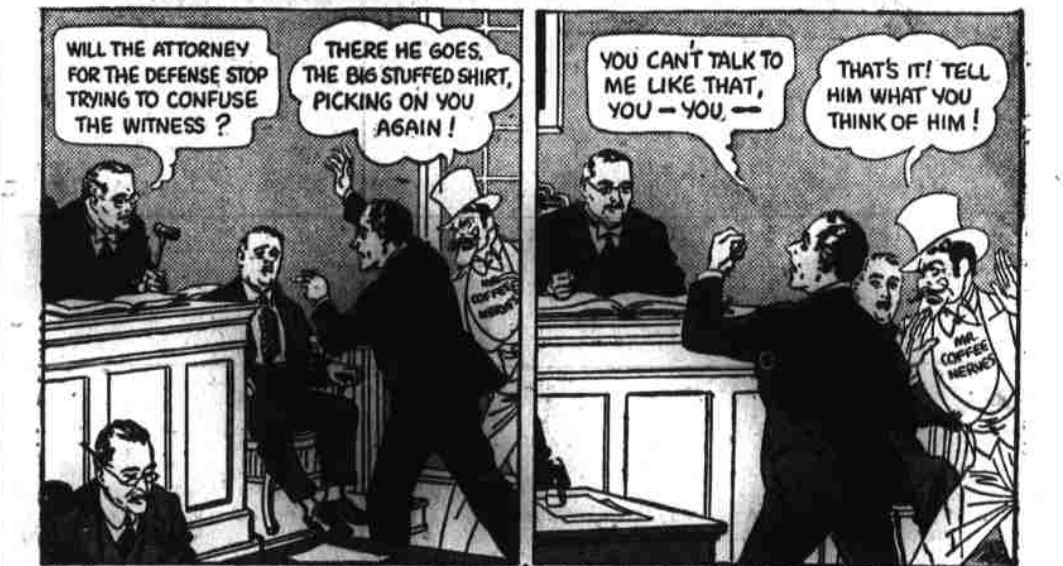
Ask your doctor about this. And when you buy, be sure that you get the real BAYER Aspirin Tablets. They dissolve (disintegrate) almost instantly when you take them. And for a gargle, Genuine Bayer Aspirin Tablets disintegrate with speed and completeness, leaving no irritating particles or grittiness.

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