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## TO PRESERVE CABIN OCCUPIED BY TWAIN

### Reno Park to Have Abode of Famous Humorist.

It is in the ghost city of Aurora, Nev., that Mark Twain wrote "Roughing It." The cabin that he occupied still stands just about as he left it. "E. N. R." writes in the Kansas City Times. Here and there can be seen the marks of souvenir hunters, but in most respects the cabin is in a good state of preservation. The stove upon which he did his own cooking, covered with rust and grime, is just as it was when he took the stage that carried him on the first lap of his journey to the East and world fame.

In one corner of the cabin is the wooden bunk upon which one can imagine Mark Twain lay weaving in his mind many of his western romances, as he watched the smoke rings from his old pipe floating lazily upward to join the cobwebs on the ceiling. As I sit here on the edge of Mark Twain's old bunk writing these brief notes I have a feeling that his spirit is hovering near.

When word was received recently that citizens of Mono Lake, Cal., were starting a movement to remove the Mark Twain cabin to that place, a few Nevada old-timers suddenly awoke to a realization of the value of this early-day treasure and bestirred themselves to keep it within the borders of the state that has a greater claim on this man who made the whole world smile with his quaint humor and homely philosophy. Arrangements have now been completed to transport the cabin and its historic contents to the Wingfield park at Reno. The surprising thing is that this was not done long ago.

Walking through the streets of this most interesting of Nevada's ghost cities, a vision comes to one of its past hectic days, the days when daytime and nighttime in Aurora were one and the same, when the merry click of the roulette wheels could be heard at all hours of the night or day, when the doors of its many dance halls were never closed, and one can understand whence came the inspiration for Mark Twain's unrivaled tales of those pioneer days, the like of which will never be seen again.

It is truly a deserted village. Not a human being in sight. No sign of animal life. Nothing but empty and deserted buildings. Along the main street stands a three-story brick hotel, several two-story bricks, others of one story, all still in very good condition. Many of these buildings compare favorably with similar structures in such cities as Reno. The doors of most of these buildings are open for all who wish to enter; a few have iron bars across the doors, but with windows broken one can easily see all within. In one of these is a hearse, upon which it is said the absent owner still pays taxes, just why no one knows; it may be he thinks the camp will some day stage a "come-back," a trick that Nevada ghost cities have.

The building once used as a courthouse, where justice was dispensed in the true and easy pioneer style, has its fall doors wide open, swinging back and forth with every breeze that sweeps down the once-busy street. In one of the cells is a chain shackled to the floor, indicating the strenuous character of some of its former occupants. In another cell are four dusty coffin lids, gruesome evidence of the old days when men were wont to shoot first and talk afterward.

In one of the one-story bricks stands a long bar and back of it a bevel glass mirror, and in front the shattered evidence of the familiar brass rail upon which rested the feet of many men who later became prominent in the business and financial affairs of San Francisco and other Pacific coast cities. With feet on this rail, and with the tinkling of glasses, men made deals involving thousands of dollars. Those were free and easy days, as the old-timers will tell you with many a sigh and lonesome look.

It was amidst such scenes and such environment as this that America's foremost humorist spent his young manhood days.

### "Silver" Foxes

The name silver fox, as commonly used by furriers, includes the dark phases of the ordinary red fox, variously called silver gray, silver black, or black. The color of the red fox of the Northeastern states and of its allies of the colder part of North America varies from red to black, and these extremes with the gradations between them form four more or less distinct phases, known respectively as red, cross or patch, silver and black.

### Saw Century Old

Cottonwood Falls, Kan.—A cross-cut saw nearly one hundred years old is being used by E. D. Forney, local blacksmith, to saw wood for fuel. The saw was brought to Chase county from Illinois by the Studebaker family, early pioneers of Staffordville.

## Mean Trick Played on Indian Water Goddess

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the large artificial lakes that have been made in all parts of India, for upon the regular supply of water from them the agriculturists depend for the growth of their crops. Many of these tanks have been built at great expense, and it is not surprising that the protection of some god or goddess is necessary for the peace of mind of the people.

A collection of legends connected with such tanks would not be without interest. In the Kadur district of the Mysore state, there is a large artificial reservoir, known as Ayankore, well known to planters who frequently enjoy duck shooting there. The legend connected with this lake is as follows: Though the goddess of the neighborhood permitted the construction of the bund, which held up the waters of the river, she was never really pleased about the matter. After a number of years her patience was exhausted, and when the waterman, in charge of the sluices, visited the place in the early morning, she accosted him, and then informed him that she had determined to destroy the bund, and allow the waters to flow in their usual course. The waterman thought of the king and the royal family, and the thousands of people in the town of Sacrapata below.

Falling down before the goddess he pleaded that he might be permitted to go to the town and inform the people of the impending disaster, so that they, at least, might be saved. The goddess relented, and declared that she would not destroy the dam until the waterman returned to tell her that the necessary warning had been given. Delighted to be able to convey the warning to the king, the waterman ran to the town, and obtained permission to see the king.

On hearing the condition laid down by the goddess, the king quickly saw a way of escape. He immediately gave orders that the waterman's head should be cut off, so that he should not be able to return to the goddess. Hence it is that the dam still holds. The goddess still waits patiently for the coming of the waterman, and holds faithfully to her promise.

## Great Eastern Writer

The name "Voltaire of the East" is applied to Omar Khayyam, whose Rubaiyat is familiar to every reader. Because of his purity of diction, his fine wit, crushing satire and general sympathy with suffering humanity, he strongly resembles the great Frenchman. His poetical renown is based on his quatrains, a collection of about 500 epigrams which Fitzgerald has done into English. But Omar, the Persian tentmaker, was more than a poet; his favorite studies were mathematics and astronomy. His standard work on algebra written in Arabic, together with other treatises of similar character, raised him to the foremost rank of the mathematicians of his time. At the request of the sultan he conducted extensive researches in astronomy which were instrumental in reforming the calendar of his day. He died 1123 A. D.—Kansas City Star.

## Use Radio to Find Mines

That radio methods will come into greater use in prospecting for unknown beds of mineral was the prediction made to the British Association for the Advancement of Science by Prof. Sherwin F. Kelly of the University of Toronto. After reviewing the numerous electrical methods that have been employed more or less successfully in geological work, Professor Kelly described in detail the processes in which an audio-frequency current is introduced into the outcrop of a mineral-bearing vein or rock formation, the mineral body being then traced underground by means of the strength of the audio-frequency field on the surface of the ground. The current tends to follow the more highly conducting layers of rock.

## Did His Best

A young couple, recently married, had been riding with some friends. On reaching home the bride hurried the new husband up to the apartment with orders to start the coffee boiling, while she made a few necessary purchases at a neighboring store. Her consternation at the absent-minded and well-meaning husband was beyond bounds when on hurrying into the kitchen she found the coffee boiling in the new electric percolator on top of the new gas stove, well surrounded by a high flame.—Indianapolis News.

## No Race Suicide

A resident of Indianapolis tells the story of a woman who lives in his neighborhood, who had her first hospital experience recently as a guest of one of the local hospitals on the occasion of the birth of her sixteenth child. One of her friends who called on her before her return to her home, found her very enthusiastic over the treatment given her in the institution. "I'm coming here every time after this," she said.

## Arrange Furniture for Comfort and Coziness

The cozy nook—may it ever be as popular as it is today. Indications are, however, that it will continue to grow into greater popularity because more and more things are being made which can be used to create more comfort and coziness for cozy nooks, several of which should be in every home. A living room should boast of two or three or more, according to its size; each bedroom ought, to have one, and the sun porch one or two.

Of course, says the Kansas City Star, a good grouping in the prime requisite of the cozy nook, and in the living room the largest and most important group is a fireplace. Then the smaller groups should be subordinate to, but just as attractive as the larger one.

For the living room so small that there is not enough space for aavenport even, coziness has to be achieved with groupings of armchairs, one group on one side of the narrow room and the other group on the other side. A big wing chair with a grandfatherly appearance may serve as the nucleus of a charming group. Aided by a little, old-fashioned table and a reading lamp, with a generously proportioned shade, the effect of coziness is accomplished. A much better reading light is always to be had from a spreading shade than from one of straight cylindrical or narrow oval shape.

## Birds Killed by Cars on English Highways

Correspondents of a British journal devoted to motorcar matters are writing that many birds are killed by motorists. One man relates: "I am on the road every day and nearly all day, and birds large and small will insist on flying into my front wheels. I have killed several lately." A second says: "I killed three on a week, 7 a. m. and 9 a. m." We probably have in this country more cars running about in any well-populated district than they have in England. Are we killing birds in this fashion? The editor of the Yorkshire Post comments on this matter thus: "We imagine that the casualties in bird-life brought about by motorists depend very much on the season of the year. In late summer great numbers of young birds throng the hedges on the roadsides. They are able to fly, but have not learned wisdom from experience, and may easily fall victims. It takes time for wild creatures to adapt themselves to strange contrivances hurrying through their haunts. At one time express trains were veritable juggernauts, but they are now comparatively harmless."

## England's Area Increasing

A continual war with the sea is being waged around the British coast, the contour of which is continually changing. A start was recently made in Wingham, looking toward the reclamation of 500 acres from the Wash. This was the district where King John made his tragic journey across the sand. At that time the sea, though hemmed somewhat by the Romans, came down to Wisbech; but it has been gradually beaten back. It is estimated that since the Norman conquest some 330,000 acres in Lincolnshire have been reclaimed from the sea, or from the waters of the fen. On no part of the English coast is accretion so predominant as in Lincolnshire. Though erosion caused a loss of 400 acres between 1883-1905, in the same period there was a gain of 9,106 acres, now the richest soil in the country.

## Great Writer's Home

Abbotsford was the name given by Sir Walter Scott to his residence on the banks of the Tweed, from a tradition that the abbots of Melrose forded the river there in times past. The house was begun in 1817 and completed in 1824. It is chiefly interesting as the home of the poet and novelist, and contains several valuable relics. Sir Walter had lived at Abbotsford about a year when financial reverses overtook him through the failure of his publisher. Although liable for about \$300,000, the author asked only for time; and in five years realized for his creditors the sum of nearly \$400,000. To accomplish this he labored from ten to fourteen hours a day at his writing. Scott died at Abbotsford in 1832.—Kansas City Star.

## First "Boucaniers"

The name "boucaniers" was given to practical English, Dutch and French adventurers, united in their opposition to Spain, who maintained themselves chiefly in the Caribbean sea during the Seventeenth century. The first of the class were French settlers, whose occupation originally was hunting the wild cattle on the islands, especially Hispaniola, and preserving the flesh at little establishments called "boucans," they being known as "boucaniers." After being driven from these pursuits by the Spaniards, these boucaniers took to piracy, particularly upon Spanish vessels, and to raiding Spanish settlements on the islands and mainland. Their career closed about 1700.

## Just Like That

Elderly Movie Patron—I can never remember what pictures I have seen. They mostly go in one eye and out of the other.—London Mail.

## Jealousy Common Fault

When two start into the world together, he that is thrown behind, unless his mind proves generous, will be displeased with the other.

## SCENT OF MAN IS A DEATH SENTENCE

### Wild Mothers in Captivity Resent Cubs' Handling.

Lena, the lioness of the zoological gardens in London, is now rearing her second litter of cubs. The secret of success with lion cubs born in captivity seems to lie in this simple rule—no human being must lay a finger on the whelps while they are in their mother's charge. In the past keepers, men of science, and privileged visitors would take a peep at the cubs when the mother had been "fed away" from the nursery. The cuddlesome spotted infants were not moved into the cold air, but who could resist giving them a pat or a caress? asks a writer in the London Chronicle.

Well, that affectionate stroking was their death sentence. It left the dreaded "man scent" on their coats.

For hundreds of thousands of years man has been the arch-enemy of all wild creatures. Some he was obliged to kill off in self-defense and others he hunted for food. It follows that the smell of the destroyer raises an instinctive terror in the mind of an animal.

The tolerance acquired by a captive beast for the smell of man is because the alternative is starvation. The primitive instinct of a nursing mother brings back primitive fears. Therefore, when the lioness returns to the nursery and scents the dreaded taint she either destroys her babies or leaves them to die.

A wolf-mother at the zoo once proved herself unequal to the task of rearing a family. When the next litter arrived the zoo called in a motherly collic. There were four cubs and four puppies.

As an experiment it was decided to leave one cub with the wolf-mother, and, in addition, to give her three of the puppies to see if she would rear them. She was shut out of her dark sleeping box while the change was made and the puppies were given more than an hour to snuggle in the cub's nest of hay and get thoroughly "wolfy" in scene. Then the wolf-mother was re-admitted.

There were four sniffs and three snaps—and only the wolf-cub lived.

Another case in point. While the usual keeper of the zoo deer was away a substitute found a baby fawn tottering in an open paddock during bad weather. The man picked it up and carried it into shelter. From that moment the mother refused to go near her baby, and the milks had to be reared by hand.

Even the tame domestic rabbit will kill or abandon her young should the owner handle them in the nest and leave a trace of the fatal "man scent."

Leave all baby animals to their mothers, and do not touch them unless you mean to take them away for good.

## School of Fisheries

A school of fisheries to be established at Halifax, Nova Scotia, by W. Henry Robertson, American consul general at Halifax, is described in a late number of School Life. A portion of King's wharf will be transferred to the biological board and a large building remodelled and converted into a school building and biological station.

A staff of scientists will be appointed by the biological board of Canada, and the school will function in co-operation with Dalhousie university and with the Nova Scotia Technical college. A scientific station will be maintained at St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

It is expected that the school will be valuable as an experiment station, providing information and advice for the fishing industry.

## His Way

"Old Riley Rezsides was in here a spell ago, growling about a lost letter," said the landlord of the Petunia tavern.

"Lost another letter he was given to mail, eh?" returned Squire Ramsbottom.

"Ye-ah! He wasn't certain he had been in the hotel here, but he was trying to visit all the places he had been, and was probably going to some he hadn't visited and passing by several he had visited. Somewhere around town he had lost the letter, and the last I knew he hadn't found it. As he conducts all of his business in just about that fashion, he has all the time in the world to denounce the post office for the foolish way they run their business."—Kansas City Star.

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## Iron Rust Drives Fish From River in Siberia

Can you imagine a river that gets rusty? There is one which is subject to this phenomenon—the River Ob, which falls into the Arctic ocean and runs through the north of Siberia.

The Ob contains a great amount of iron. Every year when it freezes over the iron is cut off from the air. The result is that the metal precipitates, or, in other words, instead of being dissolved in the water, becomes a solid.

The whole underside of the ice is covered thickly with rust, and even the fish and other creatures become rusty. In the lower reaches, where ice does not form, the water, ordinarily quite clear, becomes cloudy and discolored. The whole river, 2,300 miles long, becomes poisonous.

People living near it have to quench their thirst with melted snow, and most of the fish leave the river and seek safety in the sea. They are told by instinct when the time arrives for their annual exodus.

In the spring the ice thaws and the air renders the river free from poison. The fish immediately return. They swim up the stream in such vast numbers that they are packed tightly together. Any boat that tries to navigate the river at this time forces thousands of fish onto the flat banks, where the natives kill them with sticks.

## All Men of Unusual Strength Are Samsons

The story of Sampson is found in Judges 13, and the three following chapters. This man takes his place in Scripture as a judge or ruler, an office which he held for 20 years; as a Nazirite, that is, one bound by a vow of a peculiar kind to be set apart from others for the service of the Almighty. The obligation was really for a definite time, and during that time the Nazirite was bound to abstain from wine and every production of the vine, and from every kind of intoxicating drink. He was forbidden to cut the hair of his head, or to approach any dead body. In the third place Sampson appears as a man endowed with supernatural physical strength. It is this latter quality that first comes to one's mind when he is mentioned, and it is because of that wonderful quality that any man of unusual strength is called a Samson. For instance, a London carpenter, named Thomas Topham, has been called "the British Samson." It is related that in Cold Bath fields, London, on May 28, 1741, in the presence of thousands of spectators Topham lifted three horseheads of water, weighing 1,888 pounds. Topham was born in 1710, and died in 1758. It is related that he was driven to suicide by domestic troubles.

## Eggactly!

"Herman Finck, whose only fault is that he is always witty, happened to be walking up Baker street with Page and, stopping in front of Elliott & Fry's, the well-known photographers, they noticed that there was an exhibition of country-life photographs in the window, and that in a basket in the center of the window were a couple of dozen of the best new-laid eggs! This being somewhat unusual for an establishment of this kind, Page said: 'Eggs! Why on earth should a photographer put eggs in his window? To which Finck replied: 'I really don't know; I can only suppose that a hen has gone in for a sitting; which is an example of quick wit I can hardly imagine has ever been excelled.'—From 'Chestnuts Re-Roasted' by Seymour Hicks.

## A Good Bag

The old country mansion had been turned into a clubhouse and the surrounding sylvan park into a golf course. The members were extraordinarily proud of the luxurious club with the previous owner's hunting trophies still adorning the walls.

One day a player was showing a visitor round the place.

"I say, this is fine," said the stranger, as he stepped into the oak-paneled hall. He waved his hand in the direction of the mounted heads of stags, caribou and moose. "Tell me, did they kill all these fellows with golf balls?"

## Useful Glue

Here is a glue any housewife can make. It's so simple and will serve many household purposes. Just dissolve one tablespoonful of ordinary cooking gelatin in from two to two and a half tablespoonfuls of boiling water. Boil a few seconds and add a little sugar while still hot.

A woman who uses it says it will effectively stick paper or cloth to metal, wood or glass and do this without leaving a stain.

## Just So

"How did the accident happen?"

"Why, I dimmed my lights and was hugging the curve."

"Yeah, that's how most accidents happen."—Judge.

## Few Realize Great Pressure Under Sea

When you drop something into two or three miles of ocean, you immediately invite hard usage. First, there is the pressure of the water. The weight of the sea at 1,000 fathoms (approximately one mile) is one ton to the square inch, or 150 times as great as the air which we breathe. Go down 2,500 fathoms and there is a pressure many times more powerful than that of the steam in a locomotive boiler.

Captain De Carteret told me of a test that was made on the cable ship Colonia in mid-ocean, writes George W. Gray in the American Magazine. An empty soda water bottle—one of the kind that has a conical bottom—was fitted with a long stopper of hard wood trimmed to fit the neck of the bottle snugly, and cut so as to make it barely touch the bottom of the bottle. The bottle was weighted and let down to a depth of 2,000 fathoms. When it was brought up, the point of the wooden stopper was protruding through the thick glass bottom. The pressure of the water had converted the stopper into a hydraulic ram, and had driven it so neatly through the bottom of the bottle that there wasn't even a star fracture in the glass.

Another cable seaman told of lowering a piece of meat, properly weighted to make it sink, in the mid-Atlantic. After being exposed to the near-freezing temperature and the squeezing weight of a thousand fathoms of ocean, that tough roast beef came up as tender as veal.

## Mother Had to Wait for "Engagement" Ring

I married a young man not greatly blessed with worldly goods; says a writer in the Washington Star. It taxed his financial resources to the uttermost to start even our modest housekeeping, so our engagement was not sealed with the customary ring, although I did have a small wedding ring.

During our early married life we had to work and plan to make just a poor living for our three little girls, for although John's salary increased, so did living expenses, and luxuries were unknown.

Soon after our eldest daughter became engaged, John made quite a sum of money on a business deal. One evening he came home with an expensive looking ring box, and, opening it, showed us a beautiful diamond ring. We all supposed it to be an engagement present for daughter. She looked complacent, while the younger girls were frankly envious.

My heart fluttered when John interrupted with: "Here, wait a minute. That's mother's engagement ring. Goodness knows she's waited long enough for it, but now's the first time I've been able to afford the kind she deserves."

## Ancient Pleasure Spot

At Scarborough, known throughout Great Britain as the "Queen of Watering Places," after 200 years of service, the once popular mineral springs, have been closed. Scarborough has long been a place of recreation. The mineral springs are said to have been discovered in 1620, and towards the end of that century, the place was becoming fashionable, and a building was erected over the springs. Then came the earthquake, following which the springs were lost for some years, but they were found again, and the place was a great resort of fashion in the eighteenth century. In 1777, for instance, Sheridan could take Lord Fopplington and the rest on a trip to Scarborough, to taste the "noise and folly of the place."

## Animal Life on Everest

Animal life, it appears, is to be found on high mountains far beyond plant growth. The highest growing plant that the Mount Everest expedition of 1924 observed was the blue vetch, at 18,000 feet, but animals live at as great a height as 22,000 feet. "A minute and inconspicuous black spider," says a member of the expedition, "hops about on rocky cliffs and hides beneath stones in those bare places that happen to be swept clear of snow by the wind. I cannot think on what it lives at such a height. In these altitudes there is no other living thing—nothing but rock and ice." This little spider is worthy of note as being the highest permanent inhabitant of the earth.

## Kidd's Treasure Again

When the Westchester county park commission opened bids at White Plains, N. Y., for the removal of Croton, it inserted a clause in the contract that if any of Captain Kidd's treasure was unearthed from the hill it was to be turned over to the commission. Money hill was so named owing to a legend that Captain Kidd buried some of his treasure there. Residents thereabout have frequently reported finding Spanish pieces of eight and other coins of ancient mintage.

## TOYS DO MUCH TO SHAPE BOYS' LIVES

### No Doubt That Playthings Have Great Influence.

Have you ever watched parents and fond relatives wandering about aimlessly in the toy department of big stores? They finger this toy and that, worriedly, and finally end by buying something—anything—at the counter that is least crowded.

Such parents lose a great opportunity by neglecting a chance to help their children. A toy is part of a child's education. Just as educators choose textbooks, considering carefully the needs of the child, so should the parent choose toys, writes Ferdinand Strauss, toy manufacturer, in the Popular Science Monthly. For toys should be chosen that will encourage children to think and develop their latent powers.

"America makes toys that teach something, because it has advanced further in the field of child psychology than any other country in the world, and the psychologists have demonstrated that children learn while they play.

"Not long ago I read a story about Orville and Wilbur Wright. When they were little boys in Ohio, their favorite toys were kites and balloons. In playing with them, though, they never dreamed that they would be the men to accomplish through their airplanes the conquest of the air.

"Again and again I find, in reading of the childhood of famous men or in speaking with them, that they spent their play hours with toys that had some definite connection with their later occupation.

"If Lindenthal or Modjeski, the great bridge builders of today, were to tell you of their childhood, you would learn that as boys they spent most of their time making toy bridges.

"Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, chief of the bureau of aeronautics, United States navy, himself told me that as a boy his principal interest was flying kites.

"Carl E. Akeley, the inventor and big-game hunter, the man who raised taxidermy to the level of the arts, spent his playtime as a boy with tools. The gift of a folding pocket footrule, he says, gave him a big thrill, and with his tools he made toys and useful articles for the house. In the heart of a jungle, hundreds of miles from any source of supplies, a man without ability for construction is almost helpless. Carl Akeley is not, for as a boy he possessed a tool chest."

## Dogs Mate With Wolves

A story reminiscent of Jack London's "Call of the Wild," has come to the bureau of biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Last winter a number of wolves, including three black ones, were reported by different stockmen east of Lodgegrass in the Wolf mountains in Montana. A government hunter, assigned to clear them out, trapped an almost black animal that was obviously part dog, and a short time afterward, in the same vicinity, he killed a vicious dog similar to an alreidale, probably the sire of the half-blood. It is believed that most of the wolves in this pack are half-breeds.

## Too Patriotic

"Mother, make Jane quit singing."

This gentle command came for the second time from upstairs, where Jimmy and Jane were supposed to have been asleep.

"Jimmy, pay no attention to Jane. Be a little man and go to sleep," answered mother.

"I am a man, mother. Jane keeps singing 'Star Spangled Banner,' and every time I have to stand up."—Indianapolis News.

## Modern Buses for Moscow

Moscow, which from time immemorial has depended upon the horse-drawn carriage and the conventional trolley car for its transportation, will soon have its own motorbuses. Eight omnibuses of the London type will make their appearance soon, and it is the intention of the municipal authorities eventually to obtain sufficient additional vehicles to establish connection with suburban districts. This will do much, the officials say, to relieve the fearful congestion on trolley cars and trains, and will also encourage part of the population to move to the suburbs.

## Seasoning Paper

In the paper industry, as in the lumber industry, seasoning of the newly manufactured product is essential. Papers seasoned or dried in the old-fashioned way by being hung on cords in a drying loft are better than those dried by mechanical means. There is less shrinkage in this way. Before a paper is good as writing paper it has to be sized. Blotting paper is the only unsized paper. China clay is used for sizing the better grades.