

'Noname,' Author Of Famed Nickel Novels, Is Dead

Luis P. Senarens Was the Creator of Fabulous Frank Reade Jr.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

RECENTLY the newspapers throughout the country printed a brief press association dispatch which said:

NEW YORK.—Luis P. Senarens, seventy-six years old, often called the "American Jules Verne," who wrote 1,500 dime novels under 27 pseudonyms between 1876 and 1910, died from heart trouble yesterday in Kings county hospital. Senarens, who began his extraordinary career at the age of fourteen, created the fabulous Frank Reade and forecast in fiction many modern mechanical developments.

Son of an immigrant Cuban tobacco merchant, Senarens got his inspiration as a boy from visiting the Philadelphia Centennial exposition in 1876. At sixteen he was earning \$300 a week and at thirty he became president of the Frank Tousey Publication company, which published all his works.

Thus was revealed, for the first time perhaps, to thou-



The "Air" was a cigar-shaped balloon that resembled a modern Zeppelin. Suspended below it by slings was the hull of a ship, complete with a rudder at the stern and a searchlight at the bow. Thus it was a combined ship of the air and ship of the sea, or in other words a sort of

driven by two propellers, below which is suspended a land-boat with a hull similar to that on the "Monitor of the Air" but equipped with four wheels on which it could "taxi" along the ground in landing or taking off.

Perhaps the most extraordinary invention of this ingenious youth was his "Clipper of the Prairie," which was a sort of a cross between a war tank and a trailer home on wheels and which Frank used for "fighting the Apaches in the Far Southwest." Above the cabin, or living quarters, was an observation platform on which were built two turrets and in front of the cabin was mounted a good-sized cannon.

If the "red devils" escaped destruction by the shots from this cannon, they could be impaled upon a sharp ram-like projection from the front of the "clipper." This ram was also useful in getting a supply of fresh meat for Frank and his friends, for the picture on the cover of this particular volume indicates that it was used also for impaling buffalo! Incidentally the "clipper" was propelled by steam on caterpillar-tread wheels which indicates that our "modern" caterpillar tractors are "old stuff."

According to Edmund Pearson in his "Dime Novels; or, Following an Old Trail in Popular Literature" (published by Little, Brown and Company in 1929), the Frank Tousey firm of which Senarens was president in addition to the Frank Reade Weekly, also issued "Work and Win" with its hero, Fred Farnot; the "Wild West Weekly" with Young Wild West and his sweetheart, Arletta; "Secret Service" with Old King Brady and Young King Brady; and "Pluck and Luck." The Old King Brady stories, he says, "are attributed to Francis Worcester Doughty, who, curiously, was the author of works on numismatics and archeology."

Pearson does not give the authorship of the other Frank Tousey publications but it is not unlikely that Senarens, who was the "Noname" of the Frank Reade Jr. yarns, also wrote most of the others under one of the 27 pseudonyms mentioned in the obituary story quoted at the beginning of this article.

Ten years ago there died in Orlando, Fla., a man whose writing career paralleled that of Luis P. Senarens and the other writers of the nickel libraries and boys' weeklies but whose literary product differed greatly from theirs. He was Kirk Munroe and during the period from 1890 to 1910 one of the biggest events of the year for Young America was the appearance of a new book which had come from his industrious pen.

Munroe was a descendant of Col. William Munroe, who was an orderly sergeant in the Minute Men of Lexington, Mass., when they fired the opening guns of the Revolution. He was born on April 15, 1850, at Prairie du Chien, Wis., where his father and mother, both New Englanders, were living in a mission. He was educated in the common schools of Appleton, Wis., and later in the schools at Cambridge, Mass., where his parents returned for a brief time.

To the Frontier.

When he was sixteen he persuaded his father to allow him to spend his vacation in Kansas City, Mo., which was then a frontier town. He reached that place just as a surveying party under Gen. W. J. Palmer was preparing to explore the vast region west of Kansas City. By making himself useful about the camp of this exploring and surveying party, young Munroe secured a job as a "tape man." Thereafter, for nearly a year, the boy traveled and camped through the wilds. He saw much of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and California.

He was engaged in numerous skirmishes with hostile Indians, was wounded, frequently went hungry and thirsty and suffered in the biting cold of those western plains and mountains. Once he was the guest of Kit Carson at Fort Garland, Colo. He associated with pioneers, soldiers, western bad men and Indians. He was well acquainted with Buffalo Bill Cody.

In California he found a job as a transit man, and after he had saved sufficient money he took passage for South America, where he traveled extensively before returning to Cambridge-



Once home he entered Harvard, taking an engineering course, but this proved rather slow and he left college at the end of his first year.

He was then nineteen. Once more he went West to Kansas City, but this time he was not so successful in finding work, since the labor of surveying was temporarily suspended, and he came back East.

A Star Reporter.

Then was to occur the incident that largely determined his future career. His familiarity with the Big Horn country, where Custer's force had just been killed, gave him a chance to land a job as a reporter on the New York Sun. Here he found a congenial field for his talents. He soon moved to the New York Times, and there he became a star reporter. A brilliant career in journalism was fairly opening before him when, again, he was diverted into another field.

Harper's started a magazine called Harper's Young People, designed for the youth of the nation, and the editorship of this magazine was offered to Munroe at a salary of \$30 a week, about one-third of the pay he had been receiving. Nevertheless, he accepted this offer and began his duties. The magazine was immediately successful. Munroe, two years after he had been made editor, began to write stories for boys. His first book, "Walkulla," was published in 1886.

From that time on his books multiplied with amazing rapidity, until in all he had published 35 volumes. After publishing the first few of these books Munroe gave up his editorial duties to devote himself entirely to writing. He had married Miss Mary Barr, daughter of Amelia Barr, the novelist, and a contributor to the magazine, and together they traveled extensively, both for pleasure and to collect the material for stories. After the death of his wife, he moved to Coconut Grove, Fla., a suburb of Miami, a place which he had visited as a youth in a canoe and had become one of the pioneers and founders of that community before Miami was a town. He lived in seclusion in Coconut Grove for many years and in 1924 married again, this time to Miss Mabel Stearns, daughter of William F. Stearns of Amherst, Mass.

Cold Job Taking Alaska Census

Nose-Counters Use Dog Sled And Snowshoes in Making Rounds.

WASHINGTON.—They are taking the census in Alaska this winter by dog sled and on snowshoes to catch the hunters and fishermen at home. And after they get their man, "My name is Attu," the Eskimo tells the census enumerator, "but to the white man I am known as Jim Smith. Take your choice."

Alaska is no longer a pioneer settlement. In the southern part cities as populous as Annapolis, Md., or East Aurora, N. Y., boast of factories and markets. Mining is largely a company job, with big machines replacing the panning prospector. The fishing fleets and fox farms ship their products to Seattle and San Francisco.

But up north men live alone or cluster together in small native settlements, fishing and trapping. Only an occasional trader or Indian service nurse brings word of the outside world.

Winter Weather Best.

The census bureau says the winter weather is better for the job in Alaska. Railroads and automobiles do not penetrate the back-country regions, but dog sleds cross frozen land that is dangerous marsh in summer, and every level snow-covered space is a landing field for airplanes on runners. Then, too, the Indians and Eskimos stay home in winter, while in spring and summer they scatter along the rivers and shallow bays to fish and hunt.

Although the Alaskan census got under way in October, it will not be finished until after the returns are in for the rest of the United States next April. The easiest part of the job is on the southern strip of land that cuts between British Columbia and the Pacific ocean. There half the people live in cities like Juneau, Ketchikan, Petersburg, and Sitka. But even there men will go out in boats to poll the islands of the "Inside Passage."

Coast Is Problem.

The long, treacherous coast from the Bering sea up to the northernmost tip of land, Point Barrow, is a problem. Through much of the year this district is inaccessible except by airplane or dogsled. The interior department's supply ship Boxer carried the census supplies along the coast to Nome. An early freeze kept the ship out of Point Barrow and an airplane had to fly the questionnaires there.

In April, when the heavy winter snows have packed down, a reindeer agent will set out from Point Barrow with his dogs, to search out the 400 or so isolated trappers and Eskimo families who populate America's farthest-north outposts. The people living on islands like Little Diomed in Bering strait—cut off from the world by the freeze-up—have all winter to answer the government's questions. The Boxer left their questionnaires on its last trip in early fall; she will pick up the answers on the first trip next spring.

Men on dog sleds and snowshoes will canvass the people living back in the Wrangell and Talkeetna mountains. And Ivan Skarland, Harvard anthropology graduate, will set out from Fairbanks to look up miners who work their claims far back in the mountains.

Teen Age Tipplers Become Inebriates in Later Life

DWIGHT, ILL.—A survey made public here discloses that 74 per cent of a male patient group at the Keeley institute admitted drinking before they were 21.

Eighteen per cent said they took their first drinks after reaching majority. Eight per cent did not remember at what age they began to imbibe.

Of those who began drinking as minors, 10 per cent more said they began drinking in high school. Another 21 per cent began alcoholic indulgence at the age of 18.

City dwellers predominated among the chronic alcoholics, the survey showed, with 84 per cent reporting urban residences.

Salesmen led the occupational list with 16 per cent. Business executives scored a close second with 12 per cent. Bar tenders represented only 6 per cent of the total.

Of youthful drinking, Martin Nelson, secretary of the institute declared:

"Whether a predisposition to alcohol, or a constant application to the bottle over a period of years causes the adolescent drinker to become a chronic alcoholic later on, could not be determined."

Ninety per cent included in the survey were native Americans. The average age of patients studied was 40 years. Individual ages ranged all the way from 22 to 60 years.

Coffee 30 Cents a Cup BUDAPEST.—A cup of coffee now costs from 20 to 30 cents in Budapest cafes. The price was increased after a government order which raised the price of coffee to \$3 a pound.

Owens Musical Coin LOCK HAVEN, PA.—F. L. Sabato owns a piece of money which was issued in 1825 in Connecticut by Jerry Church, founder of Lock Haven.

Lights of New York

By L. L. STEVENSON

Though repeal is six years old, vivid memories of prohibition days have been revived within the last few weeks in this vicinity. While no armed boats speed up and down the Hudson looking for law violators, there is much activity along the river front. The watch is not kept for rum runners, however. In this instance, cigarette runners are the prey. Because the state and city impose taxes totaling three cents on each package of gaspers sold in the city, there is a difference of about 30 cents a carton in the New York and New Jersey price. So the city department of finance has 18 agents and six detectives on the lookout at tunnel and bridge terminals and at ferry landings. Also the city is reported to have snoopers over on the New Jersey side who keep vigilant lookout for purchasers of large quantities and trail them across the river.

Culprits are taken into custody on the ground that possession of cigarettes without the local tax stamps is a law violation. In the beginning, only those who brought over cigarettes in the hope of turning a more or less honest penny were taken into custody, fined and placed under bail for trial under the state law. Then the city's tax-free prohibition forces cracked down on any one they happened to catch with cartons. There were those who argued that such interpretation wouldn't pass a higher court. They maintained that under it the New Jersey resident who forgot to dump his smokes when he reached the middle of the Hudson, or the motorist who in all innocence had bought a couple of packs when he had run out, would be malefactors. But those arrested preferred to pay fines and go on their way rather than hire lawyers and stand trial.

It was different with Kenneth C. Crain, an advertising man, however. When he was arrested for having in his possession three cartons, which he had imported for use of himself and his family, instead of paying a fine, he announced that he wanted a trial. A lawyer himself, he was ready to proceed but the magistrate wasn't, so the case went over a few days. When it was called, Mr. Crain showed up with an imposing battery of legal talent, including Mitchell B. Carroll, international tax lawyer. Mr. Crain explained that he was not attacking the tax law as a law but believed that the method of enforcement was wrong. Magistrate Richard F. McKiniry, because of its importance, put the case over until January 15.

The case of Mr. Crain, however, will not be the first to reach the appellate division of the Supreme court, though he was the first to demand a trial. Miss Ruth Anderson was arrested November 28 with 16 cartons of cigarettes and spent nine hours in prison before she was convicted and given her choice of paying \$25 or spending 10 days in jail. Miss Anderson paid the fine but announced her intention of appealing. So her case will be the first to reach the higher courts. Meanwhile, the city is still arresting cigarette bootleggers.

While doing a bit of writing the other evening, I used a line that has a familiar ring though I could not recall where I had read or heard it. Whether it was original is beside the point. But it did remind me of an experience of Ernest Hemingway. His novel "Fifty Grand" was written five or six years before it was published as a serial. In the story he had the manager of a prize fighter advising his protegee to watch a certain opponent because when he was in the ring he was thinking. The pug came right back with the declaration, "While he's thinking, I'll be punching."

Shortly after the line had appeared in a magazine, F. Scott Fitzgerald informed Hemingway that though he couldn't recall where he had read it he was certain he had seen somewhere exactly the same line. So Hemingway promptly cut it out of the book manuscript. Not until the book had been out some time did Hemingway remember where Fitzgerald had seen that line. Five years before it was published, he had sent the manuscript of "Fifty Grand" to Fitzgerald to read. (Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

Policeman Errs at Lunch BURLINGTON, VT.—A policeman was suspended for "going out to lunch without leaving a forwarding address." Whether this meant he forgot to punch the timeclock was not recorded.

Twins Are Old Story To Father of 5 Pairs

LOGAN, W. VA.—The fifth set of twins in six years was born recently to 24-year-old Mrs. Bud Chafin and her miner-husband, 41.

"I've gotten so I expected it," said the husband upon hearing of the arrival of the six-pound boy and girl, Don and Lola Mae. Altogether, 11 children have been born to the couple. One set of twins died, then one each from two of the other sets died.

Make an Heirloom Crazypatch Quilt

By NUTH WYETH SPEARS

THE oldest of quilt designs is the crazypatch, yet there is something amazingly modern in its angular lines. A variety of embroidery stitches join the pieces, of plain and figured silks. Several colors of silk embroidery thread are generally used. When a number of patches have been basted in place, sew them down to the foundation with the embroid-



ery stitches and then remove the bastings. The backing is tied to the front with silk embroidery thread as comforters are tied. Little or no padding may be used.

NOTE: Mrs. Spears has prepared patterns and directions for making three of her favorite Early American Quilt Blocks which she will mail upon receipt of name and address and 10 cents coin to cover cost. Her Sewing Booklet No. 2 contains illustrations for 42 embroidery stitches suitable for patch work quilts; also pattern with directions for making the framed picture embroidery sketched on the wall in illustration above. Also numerous gift items: mittens, neck ties; bags; table decorations; and 5 ways to repair fabrics. To get this book, send 10 cents in coin to Mrs. Spears, Drawer 10, Bedford Hills, New York.

Ask Me Another

A General Quiz

- ### The Questions
1. Why is Arizona known as the 3-C state?
 2. What is a bon mot?
 3. What is a boar; a bore; a boor?
 4. How many squares in one month of the calendar?
 5. Whose signature is most prominent on the Declaration of Independence?
 6. When water runs down a drain, does it revolve clockwise or not?
 7. What domestic beast of burden cannot reproduce its own kind?

- ### The Answers
1. It is outstanding in the production of copper, cotton and cattle.
 2. A witty repartee.
 3. A male swine; an uninteresting person; a peasant or rustic, respectively.
 4. Usually 35.
 5. John Hancock's.
 6. Usually clockwise.
 7. The mule.

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by helping nature build up your cold-fighting resistance

If you suffer one cold after another, here's sensational news! Mrs. Elizabeth Vickery writes: "I used to catch colds every week. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery helped to strengthen me just splendidly. I feel better, have more stamina, and overcame every little cold."

This great medicine, formulated by a practicing physician, helps combat colds this way: (1) It stimulates the appetite. (2) It promotes flow of gastric juices. Thus you eat more; your digestion improves; your body gets greater nourishment which helps nature build up your cold-fighting resistance.

So successful has Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery been that over 30,000,000 bottles have already been used. Proof of its remarkable benefits. Get Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery from your druggist today. Don't suffer unnecessarily from colds.

WNU-4 4-40

Kindness Done

You have done a kindness, another has received it. Why be as the foolish and banker after something more—the credit for the kindness or the recompense?—Marcus Aurelius.

Watch Your Kidneys!

Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste

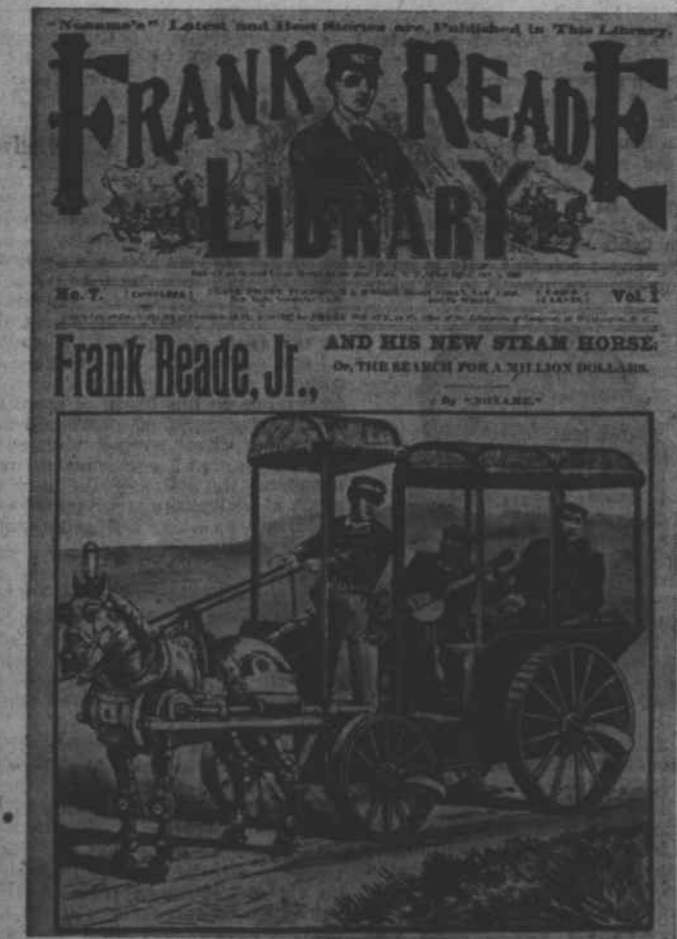
Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.

Symptoms may be nagging headache, persistent headache, stiffness of muscles, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eye—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength.

Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Act your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS



sands of Americans the identity of one of their favorite authors back in the days of their youth when they tasted of forbidden fruit by revelling in the adventures of Fred Farnot, Young Wild West, Old King Brady and especially Frank Reade Jr. For this brief obituary item unmasked, at last, the mysterious, tantalizing "Noname" whose imagination conjured up for the use of the ingenious Frank a host of mechanical marvels which seemed weirdly improbable then but are commonplace enough today.

We are greatly impressed when modern science and inventive skill produces a "mechanical man" who can speak and give the correct answer to problems propounded to him when the right buttons are pressed. But back in 1890 Frank Reade Jr. had an "electrical man" who could do most of those things. If Henry Ford and the other motor car makers had read more of "Noname's" nickel novels, the course of automobile design might have been far different. For Frank Reade Jr. had a horse made of steel with jointed legs, driven by a steam engine inside. This animal was attached to a solid-tired vehicle in the same location where the automakers attached an engine covered with a "hood" of steel.

Four years later Frank Reade was staging a race around the world for a purse of \$10,000. He was piloting his flying boat, which is amazingly like a modern autogiro, and his opponent in the race was Jack Wright, diving through the seas in his submarine which had a seat, glass-enclosed conning tower. In fact, Frank was a most versatile designer of flying machines. His "Monitor of

forecast of our modern seaplanes. By the next year, 1895, Frank had had another idea for air travel. "Noname" called it "Frank Reade Jr.'s Greatest Flying Machine" in which he set out for a bit of "fighting the Terror of the Coast." The picture on the front cover of this nickel thriller shows a large biplane,

