

# HANNIBAL, MO., TO HONOR HUMORIST MARK TWAIN

Missouri Will Join With City Where He Passed His Boyhood to Add to Nation's Tributes.

Park, Which Embraces Cave, Made Famous by Tom Sawyer and Injun Jo, Will Be Memorial.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

It was Jesus of Nazareth who said in an age when prophets were many, "A prophet is not without honor save in his own country and in his own house." In all reverence it may be averred that the reservation contained in the last clause of this saying is not applicable to Mark Twain. Here was a prophet with honor not only throughout the world, but to a far more intensified degree in his own country and in his own house. Even in the house where he lived in boyhood and in the town and state which may be called "his own country" Mark Twain was not without honor during his lifetime, and now that he has passed from earth as a living presence his memory is to be honored and perpetuated in tangible form.

The state of Missouri and the city of Hannibal, which lies upon the Missouri bank of the mighty Mississippi, are joining hands just now to do honor to their prophet, who once good naturedly resented the characterization of "the first Missourian" on the ground that he was "not so old as all that." Even without such tangible evidences of the former residence of Mark Twain in Hannibal's midst, the city where he spent his boyhood, which is the scene of many episodes in his most famous books and which he loved as a father loves a child, will be always a Mecca for the pilgrims who elect to worship at the shrine of the creator of Tom Sawyer, Injun Jo, Huckleberry Finn and other fictional characters who are almost as much alive as is little Tommy Tucker around the corner from your home or the boy who delivers your beefsteak at the back door.

### State May Build Monument.

Frank Sosey, member of the Missouri legislature from Marion county, in which Mark Twain was born, has introduced a bill to appropriate \$10,000

same Mississippi river and others abutting other American streams. But to the Hannibal resident there is only one Lovers' Leap, and that is the ragged, jagged, rocky, but precipitous and picturesque bluff that rises sharp and sheer 265 feet above the level of the river, with railroad trains thundering and factory machines whirring in the narrow strip below on the very bank of the stream.

This Hannibal Lovers' Leap is distinct from all the others. Each has its legend of the pretty Indian maiden and her dusky lover who hurled themselves from the edge of the bluff because pater or mater or both forbade the bans. Hannibal's leap is different because it is associated with Mark Twain's early life and with some of his most popular works.

### Shrunk With Age.

The present writer well remembers, the very last time Mark Twain visited his home, how the humorist lay in bed at his hotel in his white nightgown, smoking a black cigar and looking from his southern window through the matchless glory of a June morning down across the gorge of Bear creek to a certain bluff that jutted up from the river's edge. He gazed and gazed and was silent. Finally he said, slowly and with perfect pathos:

"I'm looking for Lovers' Leap, and I reckon that must be it; but, oh, how much smaller it is than it was when I was a boy."

Then he smoked and smoked and was silent. I stole softly out of his room. That was the only thing I ever stole in Hannibal, but I felt that I was justified.

And so it is this Lovers' Leap, the one that was beloved by Mark Twain through more than threescore years of his wandering life, which is to be the arch and acme of the new Mark Twain park. This world man, who

with her 22,642 inhabitants—10,000 more than she had in 1900—wants the cave to be named for Mark Twain, so we might just as well yield to the inevitable.

As a matter of fact, Hannibal is becoming more and more Mark Twained as the years pass. The shanty house where lived the original of Huckleberry Finn was burned down shortly after the June of 1902, when Mark Twain made his final pilgrimage thereto. But there remain still several claimants to the honor—if it be that of being the original of Huck. Hannibal also is full of the original Tom Sawyer, though Mark Twain himself once guardedly admitted that he was Tom. There is also, or was a few years ago, one "original" of Injun Jo, who charged me 50 cents for the privilege of photographing him with



© by Robertus Love.

MARK TWAIN AT OLD HANNIBAL HOME.

his hat on and a dollar with his hat off. He made a handsome income for many years as the original of Injun Jo. It was not Mark Twain, but another great American humorist, who remarked that the American people like to be humbugged.

### Mark Twain's Narrow Escape.

On that last visit to Hannibal Mark Twain was nearly killed by the people—with kindness. Living on one square meal a day to ward off his ancient enemy, dyspepsia, he was invited to about twenty breakfasts, luncheons and dinners daily during the week he spent there. He found it necessary, in order to preserve his life a few years longer, to appoint several gastronomical proxies. One of his understudies in this line, I can assure the good housewives of Hannibal, was founded for ten days afterward and really never yet has quite regained the joyful appetite he possessed in earlier youth.

Hannibal, in truth, is the home of good cooks and generous hospitality. Judge Sydney J. Roy, secretary and literary light of the Commercial club, has written: "It is a city of 'homes.' People 'live' rather than reside or board in this river metropolis." Commercially growing by leaps and bounds, proud of her shoe factories and her cement works and railroad shops, Hannibal's champion leap always will be Lovers' Leap, and her bounds will be set only by the fame of her most famous citizen, who moved in as a boy and went back as an old man after he had made himself world noted under an assumed name. It was something worth while to hear those old fellows calling him Sam, and I verily believe that until that last pathetic visit "home" he had forgotten that his real name was Clemens.

### KAISER SPOILED HIS TRADE.

Wanted Only Auto Horn in Existence Like Sample.

An orchestral instrument maker of Markneukirchen, in Saxony, has discovered that the patronage of the German emperor is not an unmixed blessing. Three years ago he invented an automobile horn which sounded four notes. The first one he finished in pure silver and presented to the kaiser.

The kaiser was so delighted with the new instrument that he gave immediate orders forbidding anybody else to have one like it. The inventor found this compliment too much of a business drawback to enjoy for more than a very brief spell.

For the last three years he has been doing his utmost to get permission to manufacture the instrument for the general public. He has just succeeded in securing a special decree from the federal council of the empire whereby motor horns of four notes may be employed by motorists when touring in the country, but it continues to constitute a misdemeanor to use such a horn in towns or cities, where it will remain the exclusive privilege of the kaiser.

The king of Saxony recently outbid the emperor by ordering the Markneukirchen manufacturer to construct for him a horn with six notes. Princess August Wilhelm, one of the kaiser's daughters-in-law, has a motor horn which performs a melodious theme.

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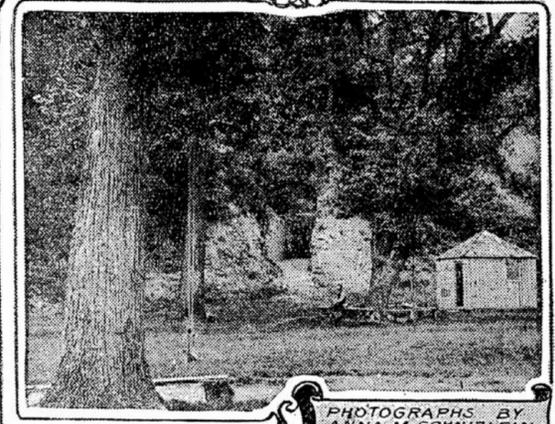
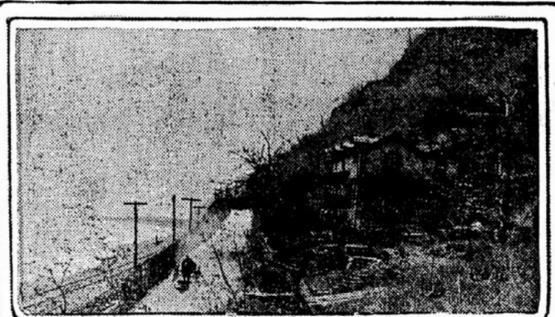
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNA M. SCHNIZLEIN

ROAD LEADING ALONG MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO MARK TWAIN'S CAVE--ENTRANCE TO MARK TWAIN'S CAVE, BELOW HANNIBAL, MO.

for the erection of a monument to the humorist and philosopher in Hannibal. There was also on foot until recently a movement to have the state purchase the boyhood home of Mark Twain on Hill street, Hannibal, but the local committee having that matter in charge has decided that, inasmuch as the house is not a property of any considerable real estate value, the people of Hannibal themselves should take care of that and preserve it, letting the state's share be the memorial provided for in Mr. Sosey's bill.

Just what form this memorial will take is as yet a matter to be considered, though the sentiment seems to favor a monument, with a statue of the white haired author, to be placed either in the small city park in Hannibal or in the new Mark Twain park which is to be created by the city.

The Commercial club of Hannibal has just acquired by purchase eighteen acres of land, which includes the famous Lovers' Leap and about half a mile of the picturesque bluffs rising above the Mississippi just south of the city. This tract is to be deeded to the city and to be held perpetually for park purposes. Now, there are lovers' leaps and lovers' leaps. Personally I know of several along this

had sailed every sea and steambated every river of consequence, said that in his opinion there is no finer river view in the world than that which is to be enjoyed from the top of Lovers' Leap or from Inspiration point, a similar height just north of Hannibal. While no doubt the Hannibal people have their own preference as to the location of the Mark Twain monument, may not one suggest that it be placed on the summit of Lovers' Leap, facing the river he knew and loved so well and whose fame he has made immortal in his book which may be called the biography of the Mississippi?

### Down to Mark Twain's Cave.

You pass beneath Lovers' Leap when you drive or trudge down the yellow, dusty road to Mark Twain's cave. People used to call it Tom Sawyer's cave, because it was in that remarkable freak of nature, a narrow passage a mile long underground, with "pockets" where one easily might get lost, that Tom Sawyer and his tiny sweetheart were imprisoned for days, while all of Hannibal, at that time only a matter of a thousand population or so, hunted high and low for them. Hannibal of today, however,