

SECOND ANNUAL MARK TWAIN DAYS



CARSON CITY &
VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA
MAY 10-12, 2024



Complete a survey to help us improve next year's festival AND for a chance to win 2 round-trip tickets on the V&T Railway from Carson City to Virginia City.



TO JANE LAMPTON CLEMENS 26 OCTOBER 1861 CARSON CITY, NEV. TERR.

DEAR MOTHER:

You ask me in your last to tell you about the country—tell everything just as it is—no better and no worse—and do let nonsense alone. Very well, then, ma, since you wasted a considerable portion of your life in an unprofitable effort to teach me to tell the truth on all occasions, I will repay you by dealing strictly in facts just this once, and by avoiding that “nonsense” for which you seem to entertain a mild sort of horror.

Thus: “Gold Hill” (which is the name of the finest gold bearing quartz ledge in this vicinity,) sells at \$5,000 a foot, cash down; ‘Wildcat’ isn’t worth 10 cents. And thus: Nevada Territory is fabulously rich in gold, silver, copper, lead, coal, iron, quicksilver, marble, granite, chalk, slate, plaster of Paris (gypsum,) thieves, murderers, desperadoes, ladies, children, lawyers, Christians, gamblers, Indians, Chinamen, Spaniards, sharpers, cuyotes, (pronounced ki-yo-ties,) preachers, poets and jackass-rabbits.

Furthermore: it never rains here, and the dew never falls. No flowers grow here, and no green thing gladdens the eye. The birds that fly over the land carry their provisions with them. Only the crow and the raven tarry with us. Our city lies in the midst of a desert of the purest, most unadulterated and uncompromising sand—in which infernal soil nothing but that fag-end of vegetable creation, “sage-brush,” is mean enough to grow. If you will take a liliputian cedar tree for a model, and build a dozen imitations of it with the stiffest article of telegraph wire—set them one foot apart and then try to walk through them—you will understand, (provided the floor is covered twelve inches deep with sand) what it is to travel through a sage-brush desert. When crushed, sage-brush emits an odor which isn’t exactly magnolia, and equally isn’t exactly polecat, but a sort of compromise between the two. It looks a good deal like grease-wood, and is probably the ugliest plant that was ever conceived of. It is gray in color. On the plains sage-brush and grease-wood grow to about

twice the size of common geranium, and, to my thinking, are very good substitutes for that very useless vegetable. Greasewood is a perfect imitation, in miniature, of the live-oak tree, ‘barring’ the color of it. As to the other fruits and flowers of the country, there ain’t any except ‘Tula,’ a species of unpoetical rush, that grows on the banks of the Carson,—a river, ma mere, twenty yards wide, knee-deep, and so villainously rapid and crooked, that it looks like it had wandered into the country without intending it, and had run about in a bewildered way and got lost in its hurry to get out again before some thirsty man came along and drank it up.

I said we are situated in a flat, sandy desert. True. And surrounded on all sides by such prodigious mountains that when you stand at a distance from Carson and gaze at them awhile,—until, by mentally measuring them, and comparing them with things of smaller size, you begin to conceive of their grandeur, and next

SEE ‘LETTER’ ON PAGE 23

FOR NEVADA: TRAIN SONG, LOVE SONG

BY GAILMARIE PAHMEIER

In Nevada, there’s always a train. Do you hear it? The gut rumble, the plangent whistle wail? The conductors are courteous, treat all our cargo as their own, know we respect union, know we respect work. Inside this train, you’ll meet artists, artisans, carpenters and caregivers, linemen and librarians, teachers and taxi drivers, miners, maybe even a milliner, drag queens and dancers, nurses, our angels, plumbers and poets. Surely there are poets, there are always poets, storytellers.

Wander into the warmth of the dining car where the music played soothes on some days, on others urges dancing.

This is where the hungry and cold are welcome, fed soul food, platters of tamales, an iconic shrimp cocktail, pine nuts and fry bread, meat in all its manifestations. Try the world-class buffet, not because it’s classy but because the culinary treasures of the world are bountiful here. Pucker up to a picon punch, sip sweet tea, craft beer, a glass of clean water, served, when available, in conservative amounts. Tip what you can. Be kind to your server, to anyone who brings sustenance. Grant those who serve respect.

If you are lucky enough, and you could be, Nevada works to promise that, take

a window seat. Admire the magnetic beauty and beckon of neon, but also see the magic mountains, the car forest, bottle houses and the coffee-can shingles, the community colleges, because they are communities, the universities where students are challenged to change in ways delicate, dramatic and essential. See the libraries, cathedrals of solace and journey, life force and inclusivity.

While at your window, watch for mustang, the Dixie Valley toad, coyote, chukar grouse, cutthroat trout, black bear and bighorn sheep, monarch butterflies, the mountain bluebird.

See sandstone and sage, the Joshua trees, aspens and pinyon pine, playa and lake, river and range, valley and sky. Always sky. When the train rises above a riverbed, you might give thanks, choose grace. Whatever you do, honor choice, a thing hallowed, sacred.

There’s a train coming. Can you hear it? Rumble and wail and urgent tremble, this train can transport all of us, already carries love, hope, dignity, and dream. Let’s meet it at the station. Be ready to board.

Gailmarie will be performing at the Brewery Arts Center on Saturday, May 11th at 2 pm.

BREWERY ARTS CENTER

CARSON CITY, NV | EST. 1976 | BREWERYARTS.ORG



We would like to thank the generous individuals and organizations that donated to our successful \$250,000 capital campaign to purchase our own stage for the summer concerts. **It would not have been possible without the support of:**

Don Kuhl | Visit Carson City | Hawkins Foundation | Tamralane Baxter | Carol Koontz
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 Richard Palmer | Burke & Lee Pease | Catherine Cuccaro | Jeffrey Rodgers
 Charmaine Rickard | Dixie Berning | Elinor Bugli | George & Shelly Young
 High Sierra Swing Dance Club | Cathrine Sheehe | Kenneth Briscoe | Mary Royce
 Merrie Christensen | Russle Law | Sheryl Burrows | Gayle & Daniel Jacquet
 Christina Jackson | Ismael Garza | Judy Welch | Ronald Sutton | Cheryl Rookwood
 Donna Harker | Laura Richards | Michael & Susan Potter | Betsy Enos | Dr. James King
 Franco DiCarlo | Jessica Janusee | Jennifer Pahl | Linda MCGowen | Lynn Supera Smith
 Laurence Marinell & Johanna Foster | Paula Billman | Joyce Smith | Michael Plyler
 Arthur Bullentini | Caren Cafferata Jenkins | Susan McCarthy | Misty Moga

**List of donors as of April 5th, when this newspaper went to print*

2024 Levitt AMP Concerts Begin June 22
 for more information visit breweryarts.org

MEMORIES, AS MOST THINGS, ARE BEST WHEN EMBELLISHED.

As we collectively conjure the grandeur of America's most nefarious folk hero, I would encourage you to use this weekend as inspiration to live your own tall tale. A memory so cherished that it grows a bit bolder with each retelling.

Enjoy a sense of place while exploring the literary arts against our high-desert backdrop steeped, like the finest Ceylonese tea, in tradition. This newspaper will guide you through which vision of the west you'd like to experience. Step into "the way things were" via Virginia City, NV where Samuel Clemens earned his chops as a writer at The Territorial Enterprise. Or stroll through the Capital, Carson City, NV, which found a way to maintain its historic authenticity while becoming a modern mecca for arts, culture, politics, and adventure.

Never mind the riches and rails, the greatest uniter between these two rural communities was

"Letter From Carson City" written January 31, 1863 and published in The Territorial Enterprise, February 3, 1863. It was at this singularly iconic moment in time and space that the name Mark Twain was first forged to paper. Thus, linking the legend, the land, and the lore in a

triumvirate of cultural heritage, rivaling that of the mysterious pyramids of Egypt.

While Twain's time Roughing It in Nevada was only a brief 3 years, historians around the globe, without regard or exception, agree this was the

fundamental period of transcendence in what became the most exalted and illustrious career in literary history.

It is with great honor that Brewery Arts Center takes the mantle, building upon last year's wildly successful festival, and thrusting the literary arts to the prominence they deserve. This year's scope and sprawl of collaborative endeavors is sure to offer a little something to everyone, far and near. We encourage you 'to do something, say something, see something Lifetimes of ecstasy crowded into a single moment.'

Welcome to the West.

Written in a fever,
-Spike McGuire
Executive Director
Brewery Arts Center



APRIL 5 - JUNE 22, 2024
BREWERY ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

THE IGNITING SPIRIT OF MONGOLIA

Featuring Silhouette Fine Artist **STuro**

Tues-Sun | 12-4pm
BAC Exhibition Hall
449 W. King Street
Carson City, NV

BREWERY ARTS CENTER

PROSCENIUM PLAYERS INC. PRESENTS

Fools

by Neil Simon
Winner of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor

DIRECTED BY MICHON CHANDLER PRODUCED BY STEVEN SEGAL

MAY 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2024
FRIDAYS/SATURDAYS @ 7:00PM • SUNDAYS @ 2:00PM

"THE MAIZIE" BLACK BOX THEATRE INSIDE THE BREWERY ARTS CENTER
449 WEST KING STREET, CARSON CITY, NV

FOR TICKETS, VISIT CARSONTHEATER.COM OR BREWERYARTS.ORG

"Fools" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

CARSON CITY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 10

MARK TWAIN MEDALLION MINTING
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Nevada State Museum
Ticketed Event / Kids under 17 Free

NAC'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION - GEOGRAPHICAL DIVIDES: FINDING COMMON GROUND
9 am to 4 pm - Carson City Senior Center

CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - GUIDED TOURS
10 am to 4 pm - Foreman-Roberts House

STORYTIME: TOM SAWYER WITH PADDLEBOAT STEAM ACTIVITY
10:30 am to 12 pm - Children's Museum of Northern Nevada
Free - Does Not Include Museum Admission

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WRITING by the Silver State Storytellers
12 to 2 pm - Comma Coffee
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN'S INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SOCIETY
12 to 1:30 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Ballroom
Ticketed Event

DON KUHL: YOUR LIFE IS A STORY
12:30 to 1:30 pm - Carson City Senior Center

DR. AMY GHILIERI HISTORY OF BOOKS WORKSHOP (Hands On)
3 to 5 pm - Western Nevada College Print Room

CONNECTIONS - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER MCAVOY LAYNE
5:15 to 7 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Ballroom

ELEMENTS OF WRITING WORKSHOP - SUZANNE MORGAN WILLIAMS
5:30 to 8:30 pm - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN PAINT AND SIP
6:30 to 9 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Classroom
Ticketed Event

LITERATURE IN THE DIGITAL AGE WITH SCOTT NEUFFER
7:15 to 9 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Performance Hall

NEIL SIMON'S FOOLS BY PPI
7 to 9 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Maizie Theater - Ticketed Event

THE PLEASURES OF MUSIC BY THE CARSON CITY SYMPHONY
7:30 pm - Shepherd of the Sierras

HARMONIES, WESTERN WIT AND HIGH-YODELING WITH RIDERS IN THE SKY
7:30 to 10:30 pm - Nashville Social Club
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN THEMED CRIME SCENE EXPERIENCE
All Day - Escape 36 - Ticketed Event

SATURDAY MAY 11

MARK TWAIN MEDALLION MINTING
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Nevada State Museum

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM FREE ADMISSION
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Nevada State Museum

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM FREE ADMISSION
9 am to 4:30 pm - Nevada State Railroad Museum

ELEVATING FICTION WITH POETRY BY SILVER STATE STORYTELLERS
9 am to 11 am - Comma Coffee
Ticketed Event

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NORTHERN NEVADA FREE ADMISSION
9:30 am to 4 pm - Children's Museum of Northern Nevada

JUMPING FROG CELEBRATION
9:30 am to 4:30 pm - Children's Museum of Northern Nevada

OPENING DAY FOR HISTORIC NEVADA STATE PRISON TOURS
9/10/11 am, 12 pm - Nevada State Prison
Ticketed Event

CARSON CITY: THEN AND NOW WITH JED BLOCK
10 am - Brewery Arts Center - Ballroom
Ticketed Event

RARE BOOK AND AUTHOR FAIR
10 am to 3 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Performance Hall

NEVADA INSPIRED SHORTS HOSTED BY JESSE JAMES ZIEGLER
10 am to 3 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Performance Hall

WAGON RIDES Featuring the Mule Stylings of Valkyrie, Svana, and Freydis
10 am to 3 pm - Brewery Arts Center
Ticketed Event

TWAIN DAYS ART FAIR
10 am to 3 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Parking Lot

FAMILY FUN SATURDAY - GRATITUDE CARDS
10 am to 3 pm - Nevada State Museum

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING TOURS FREE ADMISSION
10 am to 3 pm - Nevada State Capitol Building

CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GUIDED TOURS
10 am to 4 pm - Foreman-Roberts House

TREASURE HUNT PRESENTED BY DBA
10 am to 4 pm - Downtown Carson

PRINT MAKING WORKSHOP (Hands On)
10 to 11:30 am - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event

DBA PASSPORT ADVENTURE
11 am to 2 pm - Midtown Marketplace start

GHOST WALK: THE FABULISTS
11 am to 12:30 pm - Bob McFadden Plaza
Ticketed Event

NEWSPAPER WORKSHOP
11 am to 2 pm - Children's Museum of Northern Nevada

WRITING FOR THE SILVER SCREEN BY SILVER STATE STORYTELLERS
12 to 2 pm - Comma Coffee
Ticketed Event

FAMILY FRIENDLY LITERARY WORKSHOP
12 to 1:30 pm - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event


OGRES-HOLM POTTERY MAKE YOUR OWN CALAVERAS FROG
12 to 6 pm - Ogres-Holm Pottery Studio

THE WIND: LIVE WITH FIL CORBETT AND MICHAEL BRANCH
12 to 2 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Ballroom
Ticketed Event

FAMILY STORYTIME - THE TAIL OF TIKKI THE QUAIL
1 to 1:30 pm - Nevada State Museum

STURO ARTIST TALK AND DEMONSTRATION
1:30 to 2:30 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Exhibition Hall

FAMILY STORYTIME - THE TAIL OF TIKKI THE QUAIL
2 to 2:30 pm - Nevada State Museum

 **WE MUST-ACHE YOU TO JOIN US FOR A MUSTACHE PHOTO OP WITH MARK TWAIN**
2:30 to 3 pm - Brewery Arts Center

RIVER AND BRIDGES: THE WAYS WE MOVE THROUGH AND TOWARD WITH GAILMARIE PAHMEIER AND COURTNEY CLIFTEN
2 to 4 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Ballroom
Ticketed Event

CARSON STREET RAGTIME BAND
4 to 6 pm - The White House

SPOKEN VIEWS COLLECTIVE
7 to 9 pm - Western Nevada College

BOW TIE BALL
6 to 9 pm - Nevada State Museum
Ticketed Event

SNOWSHOE THOMPSON: SUPER HERO OF THE SIERRA NEVADA CHAUTAUQUA PERFORMANCE BY DAVID AND GAYLE WOODRUFF
6:30 to 7:30 pm - Foreman-Roberts House
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN PAINT AND SIP
6:30 to 9 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Classroom
Ticketed Event

NEIL SIMON'S FOOLS BY PPI
7 to 9 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Maizie Theater
Ticketed Event

AN EVENING OF BLUES WITH COCO MONTOYA
7:30 to 10:30 pm - Nashville Social Club
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN THEMED CRIME SCENE EXPERIENCE
All Day - Escape 36

SUNDAY MAY 12

MARK TWAIN MEDALLION MINTING
8:30 am to 4:30 pm - Nevada State Museum
Paid Admission

HISTORIC NEVADA STATE PRISON TOURS
9/10/11 am and 12 pm - Nevada State Prison
Ticketed Event

CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GUIDED TOURS
10 am to 4 pm - Foreman-Roberts House

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP CREATE POETRY AND CARDS
10 to 10:45 am - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event

GHOST WALK: THE FABULISTS
11 am to 12:30 pm - Bob McFadden Plaza
Ticketed Event

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP CREATE POETRY AND CARDS
11 to 11:45 am - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event

FAMILY ART WORKSHOP CREATE POETRY AND CARDS
12 to 12:45 pm - Community Arts Building
Ticketed Event

NEIL SIMON'S FOOLS BY PPI
2 to 4 pm - Brewery Arts Center - Maizie Theater - Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN THEMED CRIME SCENE EXPERIENCE
Open at 12 to 9 pm - Escape 36 - Ticketed Event

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED AS A TICKETED EVENT.

MORE DETAILS AT MARKTWAINDAYS.COM



MARK TWAIN
 CARSON CITY NEVADA DAYS
EVENTS MAP

VISIT
CARSON CITY NV

To RENO

NORTH

To VIRGINIA CIT

50 EAST

580

5th St.

3rd St.

4th St.

Musser St.

Telegraph St.

Robinson St.

Washington St.

W. William St.

E. William St.

W. College Parkway

Mountain St.

King St.

Minnesota St.

Division St.

Nevada St.

Curry St.

Carson St.

Stewart St.








Roop St.

Stewart St.

To LAKE TAHOE

To CARSON VALLEY

50 WEST

-  **Ghost Walk**
McFadden Plaza
223 W. 3rd St.
-  **Historical Foreman Roberts House**
1207 North Carson St
-  **Children's Museum of Northern Nevada**
813 N Carson St
-  **Nevada State Museum**
600 N Carson St
-  **Brewery Arts Center**
449 W King St.
Multiple Events
-  **Mark Twain Mural**
Robinson St.
-  **Comma Coffee**
312 S Carson St

-  **Nashville Social Club**
1105 S Carson St
-  **Carson City Senior Center**
911 Beverly Dr
-  **Twain Train Departure Point**
V&T Eastgate Depot
Eastgate Siding Road
-  **Vendor Fair**
Brewery Arts Center
449 W King St.
-  **Nevada State Railroad Museum**
2180 S Carson St
-  **Capitol Building**
101 N Carson St
-  **Western Nevada College**
2201 West College Parkway
-  **Fox Brewery & Pub**
310 S Carson St
-  **Ogres-Holm Pottery**
1215 S Carson St
-  **Carson City Community Center**
851 E William St

VIRGINIA CITY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY MAY 10

MARK TWAIN PHOTO OP AND MERCHANDISE
All Day - Mark Twain Casino

PAM BREKAS SPRING ART EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center

MARK TWAIN EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center

LOUISE CURRAN THEATER: MARK TWAIN AND THE ARTS SLIDESHOW
St. Mary's Art Center

TWAIN TRAIN TO VIRGINIA CITY
2:30 to 8:45 pm - V&T Railroad
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN DAYS ART AFTER DARK
3:30 to 7:30 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event - \$20.00/Members \$15.00

ART LAB: CREATE MINIATURE PAINTINGS
3:45 to 7:30 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event

VIRGINIA CITY SHUTTLES
3:30 to 7:30 pm

LIVE MUSIC BY THE OTHERS BROTHERS
4 to 7 pm - St. Mary's Art Center

TOURS OF TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE
4:30 to 7 pm - Territorial Enterprise
Ticketed Event

LEARN ABOUT MARK TWAIN'S FORMATIVE TIME IN VIRGINIA CITY FROM HISTORIAN JOE CURTIS
5 to 7 pm - Fourth Ward School and Museum
Ticketed Event - Members Free

PRINTING PRESS DEMONSTRATION
Fourth Ward School and Museum

"BUCK FANSHAW'S FUNERAL" BY MARK TWAIN
READING BY MARTIN A. DAVID
5:30 pm - St. Mary's Art Center

SATURDAY MAY 11

MARK TWAIN PHOTO OP AND MERCHANDISE
All Day - Mark Twain Casino

V&T MOTHER'S DAY TRAIN
10 am to 4:15 pm - V&T Railroad
Ticketed Event

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND ON THE COMSTOCK
10 am to 4 pm - Gallery of the West

PAM BREKAS SPRING ART EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center

MARK TWAIN EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center

LOUISE CURRAN THEATER: MARK TWAIN AND THE ARTS SLIDESHOW
St. Mary's Art Center

VICTORIAN TEA AND BRUNCH
12 to 2 pm - Fourth Ward School and Museum
Ticketed Event

VICTORIAN HAT FASHION AND HISTORY PRESENTATIONS
12 to 2 pm - Fourth Ward School and Museum
Ticketed Event

ART LAB: CREATE MINIATURE PAINTINGS
3:45 to 7:30 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event

VIRGINIA CITY SHUTTLES
3:30 to 7:30 pm - Virginia City

TOURS OF TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE
10 am to 4 pm - Territorial Enterprise
Ticketed Event

ART & HISTORY EXPERIENCE
11 to 4 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event - Members Free

SUNDAY MAY 12

MARK TWAIN PHOTO OP AND MERCHANDISE
All Day - Mark Twain Casino

V&T MOTHER'S DAY TRAIN
10 am to 4:15 pm - Ticketed Event

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND ON THE COMSTOCK
10 am to 4 pm - Gallery of the West

MARK TWAIN EXHIBITION - Learn more about other iconic Virginia City writers and newspapers
10 am to 5 pm - Fourth Ward School and Museum
Ticketed Event

PAM BREKAS SPRING ART EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event

MARK TWAIN EXHIBITION
St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event

LOUISE CURRAN THEATER: MARK TWAIN AND THE ARTS SLIDESHOW
St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event

ART & HISTORY EXPERIENCE
11 to 4 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event - Members Free
VIRGINIA CITY SHUTTLES
3:30 to 7:30 pm - Virginia City

ART LAB: CREATE MINIATURE PAINTINGS
3:45 to 7:30 pm - St. Mary's Art Center
Ticketed Event







TOURS OF TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE
10 am to 4 pm - Territorial Enterprise
Ticketed Event





MARK TWAIN
 CARSON CITY NEVADA DAYS
 + VIRGINIA CITY



-  **V&T Depot**
116 F St
-  **St. Mary's Art Center**
55 R St
-  **Fourth Ward School & Museum**
537 C St
-  **Gallery of the West**
334 South B St
-  **Territorial Enterprise**
53 South C St
-  **Mark Twain Saloon & Casino**
62 South C St

DOWNTOWN PASSPORT & TREASURE HUNT



SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

11am to 2pm - FREE Event

Pick up your FREE Passport on event day at Brewery Arts Center or MidTown Marketplace

Travel the Carson City streets where Mark Twain strolled & have your passport stamped at Downtown businesses. Turn in your passport to be entered in a prize drawing.



MARK TWAIN DAYS TREASURE HUNT 10am to 4pm - FREE
 Explore Downtown Carson City while solving riddles and completing challenges on this family-friendly adventure. ➔

PLEASE VISIT OUR DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES DURING THE MARK TWAIN DAYS FESTIVAL

- A+ Documents
- Adams Hub
- Agency 36
- American Family Insurance
- Aunt B's
- Bank Saloon
- Berkshire Hathaway
- HomeServices Drysdale Properties
- Big Horn Plumbing
- Bliss Realty LLC
- Blue Bull
- Bookkeeping Services LLC
- Brewery Arts Center
- Brick and Pine Studio
- Cactus Jack's Casino
- Capital Tax Solutions LLC
- Carson City Elks Lodge #2177
- Carson City Historical Society
- Carson City Sheriff's Office
- Carson City Symphony Association
- Carson Jewelry & Loan
- Carson Victory Rollers
- Children's Museum of Northern Nevada
- Cipriani's Downtown Barbershop
- Coldwell Banker Residential
- Coldwell Banker Select
- Prime Locations Nevada LLC
- Comma Coffee
- Country Financial
- CRME Exploring Watercolor
- Cucina Lupo
- East to West Embroidery & Design
- Edward Jones - Michael Haakinson
- Escape 36
- Eve's Eatery

- Feisty Goat Pub
- Fig Financial Group
- Great Basin Brewing Company
- High Desert Home Care
- High Desert Pine
- I Am Oils
- Interior Collective
- It's a Girl Thang
- Jimmy G's Cigar Bar
- Just Brew It
- Kaleidoscope
- Kilpatrick Bullentini Law
- KNVC 95.1 FM
- Le Visage Skincare & Massage
- Ma's Soapery & Designs
- Mangia Tutto
- Mayer Family Wines
- MidTown Marketplace
- Mile High Jazz Band Association
- Monarch Direct
- Movement Mortgage
- Neo Design
- Nevada Artists Association
- Nevada Gift Shop/Nevada Day
- Old World Coffee
- Piazza
- Primary Residential Mortgage (PRMI)

- Prodigy Massage and Wellness
- Puff's Smoke Shop
- Pure Platinum Salon and Spa
- Quick Space
- Rango Broadband
- Remax Realty Affiliates
- Scoups Ice Cream & Soup Bar
- Sierra Le Bone
- Sierra Nevada Realtors
- SL8 Home Services
- So Juicy
- Squeeze In
- State Agent and Transfer
- Stephen Lincoln
- RE/MAX Realty Affiliates
- Sumi Sushi
- The Bike Smith
- The Firm Cryo Spa
- & Wellness Center
- The Purple Avocado
- The Tap Shack
- Triarii Group LLC
- U.S. Sub Base
- Visit Carson City
- Westside Pour House
- Westwall Militaria
- Yaple's Ballroom Dance Studio



THE TOM AND BECKY PROGRAM

BY MELISSA CUMMINS

In 1956, Hannibal, Missouri was greeting 1,200 children from St Louis who would be touring Mark Twain's boyhood home and other Twain Highlights in Hannibal. The Hannibal Chamber of Commerce decided to hold a contest amongst seventh-grade students in Hannibal to portray Twain's famous couple, Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher. Tom and Becky were to greet and help lead the tours for the St Louis youth. On May 5, 1956, Hannibal crowned its first Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher, Chris Winkler, and Perva Lou Smith, in front of 1,200 St. Louis children. Thus began a program designed to have young people from Hannibal serve as ambassadors for Hannibal and the tourist industry.

The program became a yearly event. As word of the program spread, so did the opportunities to be ambassadors grow. Tom and Becky have participated in parades not only locally, but nationally as well. They have made appearances in California, Washington, D.C., Florida, New York, Minnesota, Iowa, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arizona, Kansas, Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, and of course the state of Missouri over the years. They have visited Japan (twice), Canada (twice), and Mexico. They

have made appearances at schools, libraries, groundbreaking ceremonies, conventions, tour buses, ribbon cuttings, festivals, riverboat dockings, local functions, civic groups, state fairs, county fairs, etc. During the summer on Friday and Saturday, you can see Tom and Becky strolling in the Mark Twain Historic District. They have had their pictures in magazines and newspapers around the world. They have been in movies, travel films, and on TV news programs throughout the United States. Over the years the selection process has changed by opening the contest to ALL Hannibal area 7th graders and the addition of speeches, personal interviews, test, and an orientation before a panels of judges.

Orientation was added to the program in 1981. The two Saturdays before the 4th of July announcement, the contestants toured the historic district and attractions. Also added was a 20-question written test on Hannibal and Mark Twain. Final judging was held on July 3rd and the announcement followed the Hannibal Chamber-sponsored frog jump.

In 1987 the contestants' test format was changed to 20 questions with written answers and 10 questions with true or false answers.

1992 brought more changes to the contest,

some of which are still being used today. The contest was opened to all 7th-grade students who lived in the Hannibal Public School District. 100 students applied that year. Teachers then narrowed the field to 40 students who prepared a speech. These speeches were performed before a panel of judges who again narrowed it to 20. Contestants took a written test on Mark Twain and Hannibal and had personal interviews before a panel of judges. This panel narrowed the field to 5 boys and 5 girls. An orientation period and final judging followed this selection. The final judges selected the official Tom and Becky.

Present day the contest runs from February to July 4th each year. Invitations are still sent to all seventh-grade students residing in the Hannibal Public School District and homeschool students are also encouraged to participate. Interested students sign up through their school or at the Mark Twain Museum. Students then present to a panel of 9 judges a short speech on why they would like to be a Tom or Becky. Judges select 12 boys and 12 girls to move on to the semi-finals. The contestants then take a written test on Mark Twain and Hannibal and have personal interviews before a panel of 5 judges. Scores are tabulated for the test and interviews which narrows the field to 5 boys and 5 girls who will

represent Hannibal as ambassadors. The 10 finalists prepare their costumes and participate in a 2-day orientation period where three judges observe them to see how they interact with each other and visiting tourists, their aptitude for the job, manners, and their ability to portray the character, items in their bags, the engagement scene, and costume. On July 3rd, three out-of-town judges observe the contestants in the historic district during the morning and in the afternoon, they conduct personal interviews of all 10 finalists in character as Tom or Becky. The cumulative score from the test, orientation, and final judging is combined to select the official Tom and Becky.

In 2015, stewardship of the Tom and Becky Program was transferred to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum where the program has found its current home. This year's Official Tom Sawyer is Kael Viehmann, an 8th grade student at Hannibal High School, and Natalie Vandiver is the Official Becky Thatcher. Natalie is an 8th grader from St. John's Lutheran School.

Come and meet Tom and Becky Friday on the Twain Train and Saturday at the Brewery Arts Center.

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OLD 395

BY GRIFFIN PERALTA

The house I grew up in was right off the freeway.
 What they now call "old 395"
 That asphalt tributary heaved and snaked just a stone's throw away
 at hours, spitting off a sort of road silt which,
 when intermingled with the blowing dirt of the nearby field,
 becomes a paint the color of pinion pine bark at sunrise. It paints
 over all my memories like a photoshop filter,
 So that everything we did there feels in my mind like it was taken
 in an Old West costume montage.

Memories like how the summer sun would make the aluminum
 siding hot enough to burn you
 and how it did
 on several occasions-
 hands and shoulders,
 Sizzling.

Or how I smashed a mortar brick in a flourish of misplaced
 frustration and convinced my mother for 20 YEARS that the
 damage had been caused by the falling of
THE LARGEST ICICLE EITHER OF US HAD EVER SEEN
 In my memory, I can see it now,
 Frozen inside it with the asphalt silt,

there's a clear reflection,
 of
 the freeway,
 loud as a truck horn,
 reminding me when I wake up in a panic from
 a nightmare
 that the world had not ended while I was sleepless,
 I could hear it still thrumming out there,

Or the time I told my now wife that I loved her,
 So soon in our relationship that I could still have counted the
 number of times I had said it.
 We watched the sunset on the mountains
 behind my childhood home and told each other that
 someday,
 we wanted a place just like this.
 Someday.
 Right in the shadow of a mountain.

Or the time my best friend crashed his new go cart in to the back
 of my first car,
 Screaming and laughing

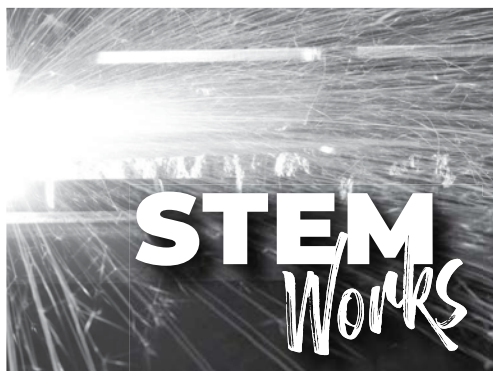
in an oily cloud exactly the color of freeway asphalt.
 He didn't learn it didn't have brakes
 until he got it from his house to ours-
 We were that close.

I drove by this house the other day.
 The new owners have knocked several of the walls out,
 knocked the fence down,
 torn out the flooring,
 just,
 dug out the foundation
 right back to the bedrock
 and I thought:

Damn.

It's just like me.

Griffin will be performing with Spoken Views Collective at
 Western Nevada College on Saturday, May 11th at 7 pm.



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 or the free PBS app.

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IN THE HEART OF
DOWNTOWN CARSON CITY

Find History at the Bank Saloon

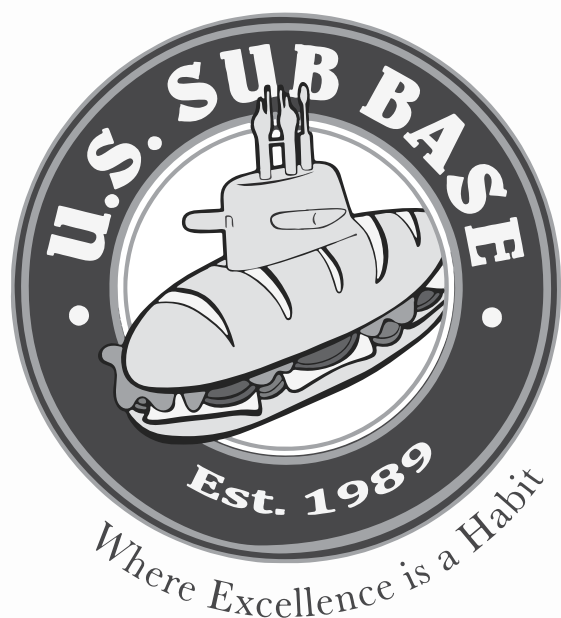
An excerpt from *Around Carson* by Scott Schrantz
The Bank Saloon (also formally known as Jack's Bar) was the oldest continuously operating drinking establishment in Carson City, until its closure in 2002. It first opened on August 19, 1899, as the Bank Saloon. It was created out of sandstone from the State Prison, the same sandstone quarry that Abe Curry used to build the U.S. Mint, the State Capitol, and the V&T Roundhouse. Before the Bank Saloon, this corner held a wooden frame building that dated back to 1859. That structure was built as a dance hall, then was turned into the Frisbie Hotel. It lasted over 30 years, until it was demolished in 1892. The lot sat empty until 1898, when Johnny Meyer, who was running the Sacramento Saloon on the other side of Fifth Street, decided to build his own place. Then the Bank Saloon was born. Its location across the street from the Legislature made it especially popular among legislators and lobbyists. Many a deal was presumably made in the dark corners of the bar.

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Saturday & Sunday: Mark Twain & More
Spend the day on the Comstock enjoying fine art, historical exhibitions, theatre slideshow of Mark Twain and the Arts, a special Mother's Day reading at 1pm, and create miniature paintings in Art Lab.

This is a ticketed event, please visit our website for more details: www.stmarysartcenter.org

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55 North R Street (next to high school)
Virginia City, Nevada
775.847.7774



THE ATRONACH

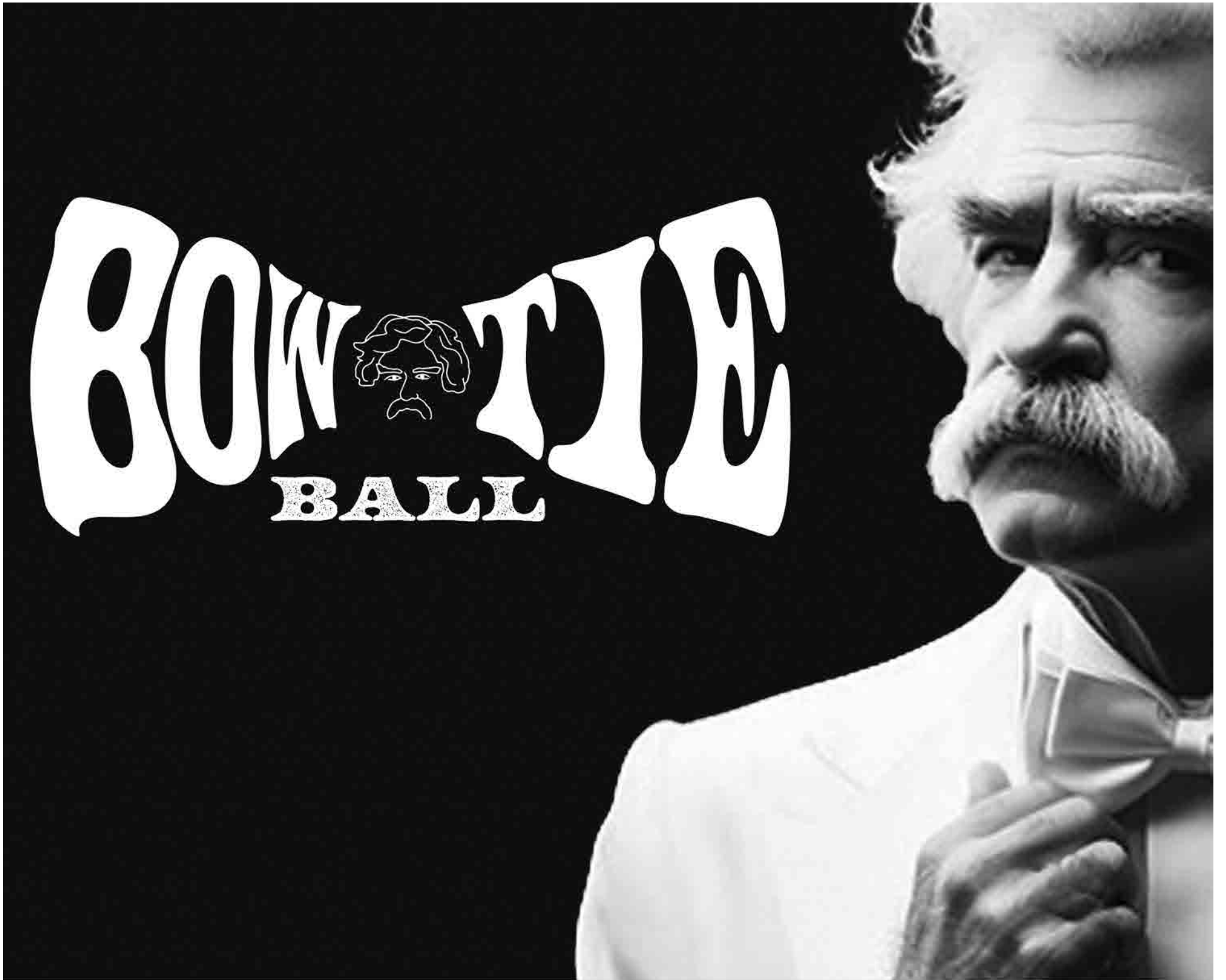
BY M. COLTON BRODEUR

My bones were woven by deft hands, that spun the calcium strings imitating the silkworm and bark spider. My composer carved my teeth from moon rocks She found upon the mountain tops that fell from the dark side. Her Plans for my flesh were to use fresh bark From the hardest tree known as the lignum vitae, but failing to find one at the nearest park, she settled her mind on the rind of the mighty oak. My hair she made bespoke From the feathers of a blue jay that she asked for as a joke after repairing the wing that the mad flying thing - having flown into a window - broke. My irises were strung together like peg and rubber band art from the strands of sky visible only when thunder clouds part. My heart, which is also blue, beats specifically to the rhythm of her favorite tune 'Dream a little dream.' The gray matter of my brain was made by collecting and mashing together a hundred things that aren't as they seem. My hands she modeled after King Midas so that every soul would turn gold at my touch, but souls like gold are so soft for something so hard, so my Midas touch never meant much. My vocal cords were forged by my father modeled to match his own using the same piano wire

he used to garrote the last man to sit upon his throne. Several pieces of paper were thrown into a hat to determine my gender. On each piece was written something profane in a dead language. They shook the cap and threw it in a blender. My aspirations are the bottled-up dying breath of several great poets who didn't live to see their worth. My sense of humor comprised of everything ever said to make my mother smile, which she had been collecting from her own birth. My legs were built with neurodivergence in mind made to handle constant tip towing just fine, to run wild but never win a race. My arms designed for physical labor To push pull lift and grind, but crafted first and foremost to embrace. I was constructed with the utmost care Using only the finest reagents my progenitors conceived of and, while unbeknownst to them, I absorbed also their despair I was made with by and for Love.

Colton will be performing with Spoken Views Collective at Western Nevada College on Saturday, May 11th at 7 pm.





6PM | SATURDAY MAY 11TH 2024 | \$100

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM

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MARKTWAINDAYS.COM



“LADDER TO THE PLEIADES”

EXCERPTED FROM RAISING WILD: DISPATCHES FROM A HOME IN THE WILDERNESS (ROOST BOOKS, 2016)

BY MICHAEL P. BRANCH

My daughter, Hannah Virginia, who recently turned three years old, is teaching me about the stars. Far from being a liability to her, my own profound astronomical ignorance has turned out to be her boon and, through her, a boon to me as well. The most important thing the kid has taught me is the brilliant, open secret that if you don't go outside and look up, you won't see anything. Every night before bedtime she takes my hand and insists that I get up and take her outside to look at the stars. If this sounds easy, ask yourself if you can match her record of going out every single night to observe the sky – something she has done without fail for more than a year now. That she has somehow brought her celestially illiterate father along is more amazing still.

Following the inexorable logic that makes a kid's universe so astonishing, Hannah insists on looking for stars no matter the weather. At first I attempted the rational, grown-up answer: “It just isn't clear enough to see anything tonight,

honey.” But her response, which is always the same, is so emphatic and ingenuous that it is irresistible: “Dad, we can always check.” And so we check. And it is when we check that the rewards of lifting my head up and out of another long day come into focus. One cold and windy night we stepped out and discovered, through a momentary break in an impossibly thick mat of clouds, a stunning view of Sirius blazing low in the southeast. Another evening we stood in an unusual late-winter fog and saw nothing – but then we heard the courtship hooting of a nearby great horned owl, followed immediately by the distant yelping of coyotes up in the hills. We even stand out in snowstorms to stargaze, and while we've never seen any stars on those white nights, we've seen and felt and smelled the crisp shimmering that arrives only on the wings of a big January storm. Snow or no snow, Hannah knows those stars are up there, so she does easily what is somehow difficult for many of us grown-ups: she looks for them. And whether she

sees stars or not, in seeking them every evening she has forged an unbreakable relation with the world-within-a-world that is night.

Questions are the waypoints along which Hannah's orbit around things can be plotted, and she has asked so many questions about stars for so many nights in a row that at last I've been compelled to learn enough to answer some of them. In doing so I've stumbled into placing myself, my family, my home, on the cosmic map whose points of reference wheel across the sky. We've learned a surprising number of stars and constellations together. Now that we're in our second year of performing our nightly ritual, we're also having the gratifying experience of seeing our favorite summer stars, long gone in the high-desert winter, come round again on the year's towering, dark clock.

The other evening after supper, my wife asked Hannah to make a wish. Without hesitating she replied, “I wish I could have a ladder tall enough

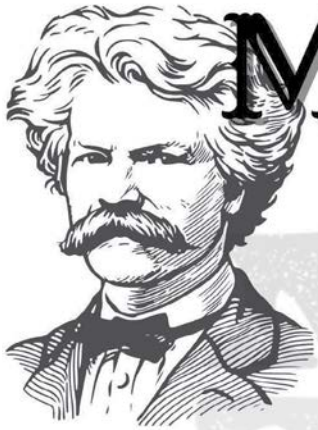
to reach the stars.” As usual, I didn't know what to say. It is impossible to dismiss a three-year-old kid when she articulates hopes that are at once so perfectly reasonable and so beautifully impossible.

Before she goes to sleep, Hannah and I look at the six-dollar cardboard star wheel I bought to help us identify constellations. Too tired to make much of it, I toss the disk down on her bed in mild frustration. She picks it up, holds it upright in front of her in both hands, stares earnestly out beyond the walls of her room, and begins to turn it left and right as if it were a steering wheel.

“Where're you going?” I ask.

“Pleiades,” she says. “You want to come?”

Michael Branch will be performing with Fil Corbett at the Brewery Arts Center at 12 pm on Saturday, May 11th.



MARK TWAIN DAYS

VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

May 10-12, 2024

ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

55 R. STREET

Friday - May 10

- ART AFTER DARK.....3:30-7:30 pm
- Live Music by the Others Brothers.....4 - 7 pm
- Mark Twain's "Buck Fanshaw's Funeral" reading by Martin A. David.5 pm
- ART LAB & ART GALLERIES (MARK TWAIN exhibit!)

FREE SMAC MEMBERS/ \$20 Non-Memebers/ \$15 Seniors, Veterans, Under 10

Saturday & Sunday - May 11 & 12 (11am - 4pm)

- EIGHT Art Galleries! (MARK TWAIN pop-up Exhibit!)
- MARK TWAIN & THE ARTS SLIDESHOW (Lousie Curran Theatre)
- Historical Tours (148 Years of deeply unique HISTORY!)
- Art Lab (Paint your own miniature paintings!)
- Literary Reading Celebrating Mothers1pm

FREE SMAC MEMBERS/ \$15 Non-Memebers/ \$10 Mothers, Seniors, Veterans & Under 10



HISTORIC FOURTH WARD SCHOOL MUSEUM

537 SOUTH C. STREET

Friday - May 10

- Presentation by Historian Joe Curtis.....4:30 -7 pm
(Learn about Mark Twain's formative years in Virginia City)
Hors d'oeuvres & Wine (\$5)
Museum Members FREE/ \$10 GA / *With Train Ticket \$5

Saturday - May 11

- Victorian Tea & Brunch....(Theme: "Mad About Hats").... 11:30 am - 2pm
- Victorian Hat Fashion & History Presentations
- LIVE MUSIC!... GAMES & PRIZES!RAFFLE!

Museum Members \$45/ \$50 GA/ *With Train Tickets \$45

Sunday - May 12

- Mark Twain & Virginia City Writers Exhibit.....10 am - 5 pm

Free MARK TWAIN Poster! (*with Train Tickets, while supplies last)

Museum Members FREE/\$7 GA/ *With Train Ticket \$5



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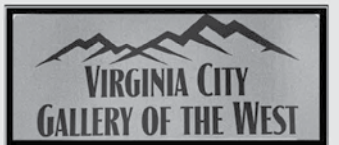
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MINTING OF THE MEDALLIONS

BY KELLY BRANT

Mark Twain began his illustrious writing career here in Carson City, Nevada! His "Letter from Carson City," published in the February 3rd, 1863, edition of Virginia City's Territorial Enterprise, marked the first appearance of Samuel Langhorne Clemens' famous pen name.

Twain penned humorous descriptions of his personal experiences and his observations of characters and events in the wild West's Nevada Territory. His columns entertained readers throughout the nation and abroad. Mark Twain later recounted his Nevada experiences in *Roughing It*, published in 1872.

The Nevada State Museum, located in the former Carson City Mint, will mint commemorative "Twain" medallions for Carson City's Mark Twain Days Festival on historic Coin Press No. 1. The medallion commemorates Mark Twain's 1863 Carson City "birth." This one-half ounce .999 fine silver medallion was designed by former U.S. Mint sculptor Tom Rogers. Each medallion will bear the Carson City Mint's famous "CC" mint mark.



Coin Press No. 1 is a six-ton, Morgan & Orr knuckle press: One of only four remaining and the only one of its kind still in operation. This press produced all the mint's coins between 1870 and 1875 prior to the arrival of additional presses. Visitors may purchase a medallion blank and then see it minted into their Mark Twain Medallion from May 10th to May 12th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Medallions are sold for \$75 each through the Nevada State Museum Store. The Nevada State Museum is located at 600 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. For more information, call 775-687-4810.

ARBORGLYPH

BY FIL CORBETT

Most days I walk alone through an aspen grove; one of the several groves on this creek behind my house. It's early Spring at 8000 ft. and there is still quite a bit of snow. The aspens are dormant, so no leaves right now. The color palette is pretty much entirely white. White bark and white snow, white sky except for a few scratchings of black, most about hip level, on the bark. One says: "Jesus Arriaga - 11/7/1966."

There's a good chance you've seen tree carvings, or arborglyphs, before. They're pretty common at rest stops and trail heads. And you'll usually see things like: "Jay loves Sheri" or some initials plus some other initials. But these kinds of carvings way out here off the trail, are different. For one, they're old: 1960, 1953. There's one I found across the creek from 1922. And second - they're always just one person. Solo.

These carvings are Basque arborglyphs. Markings left by shearherders who were largely from the Basque country between France and Spain.

The life of a shepherd in the Nevada mountains was a lonely one. Often they'd venture into the

hills and would go weeks and sometimes months without seeing another human. Jesus Arriaga, the guy from this carving, was one of these shearherders.

One clue is that it's usually a full name, not initials. Another, it usually reads Spanish or French, and if they write the date, it's European style with day/month/year. So 11/7/66 meant Arriaga stood at this tree on July 11, 1966.

The final clue is that I googled his name and found a video of him talking about his first nights in America. He said,

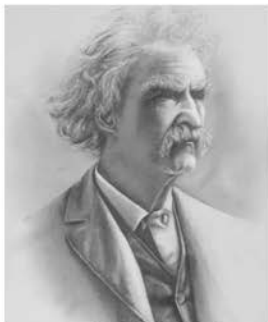
"First Night. Full Moon. It was raining and this goat starts scratching his belly and he pushed that fence down and all the sheep just demolished that whole field in a full moon. That was the first experience I had."

The loneliness was serious. But for the most part, it was a silent and uneventful loneliness. The shearherders would keep an eye out for predators. They'd keep the sheep near grass and water. Scratching their names into the bark was

SEE 'GLYPHS' PAGE 22

NAA Nevada Artists Association

Fine Art Gallery in the Carson City/Lake Tahoe area



Artwork by Michelle Bowler

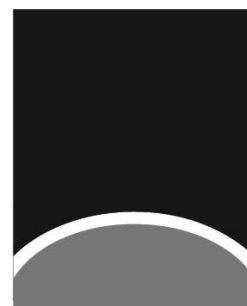
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naacarsoncity@gmail.com

Our shows change every six weeks. We also offer opportunities for non-members to show in our gallery four times a year. This gives these artists and our members an opportunity to win ribbons and cash awards.

For upcoming events
 check our website
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CHARLIE'S 20 CLOVE GARLIC CHICKEN

BY CHARLIE ABOWD

Nevada's Capital City prepares to celebrate the second annual Mark Twain Festival (May 10-12). I thought this recipe would be fitting because like Twain, garlic is the other of Nevada's famous cultural contributions. We are right behind California in the production of garlic and garlic seed.

At first I was tempted to say Nevada is number one in the nation in garlic production, in keeping with Twain's philosophy to, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story."

And as many know, I never met a yarn I couldn't spin, hence the title of my book, "Recipes and Rambles that made Adele's a Nevada hot spot."

This said, I have my dear wife, Karen, Karel Ancona, my co-author, and Carol Jensen, my publisher's West Coast acquisitions person around to keep me on the straight and narrow when it comes to my propensity for embellishment.

Fact is the Silver State's agricultural accomplishments are something to be proud of.

Perhaps that nearest to my heart is The

Greenhouse Project, which provides ag education to our students and fresh produce to our community's food insecure. The program has expanded to include a native plant nursery and composting facility in order to fund TGP's important work.

One of our biggest fundraisers, the 15th annual Mother's Day Plant Sale, takes place Saturday, May 11 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at our Green Central site, located at 1111 Saliman Road behind the bus yard on the Carson High School campus. Signs will be posted. Plant sales are anticipated to begin mid-April at www.carsoncitygreenhouse.org. New stock will be added as available; simply check the site for updates and the latest event details.

The actual event has grown through the years to include an array of plants for all your gardening and landscaping needs, as well as the opportunity to Build a Basket for Mom, face painting, vendors with gardening-related items and a raffle. I will be there signing copies of my book, whose proceeds support TGP.

Books are available locally at the Legislature



Gift Shop; signed copies at The Purple Avocado; or at Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.

Charlie's 20 Clove Garlic Chicken was originally published in 2017 March in Edible Reno-Tahoe, a fabulous regional culinary magazine founded by Amanda Burden and Jaci Goodman. I love how easy it is to prepare and the flavorful result.

CHARLIE'S 20 CLOVE GARLIC CHICKEN

Serves 4; This can easily be increased as needed to serve larger groups.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 organic, whole skin-on chickens cut into 10 pieces each: two legs, two wings, two thighs, each breast cut into two pieces yielding four breast pieces

SEE CHARLIE'S ON PAGE 22



JOIN US AT NASHVILLE SOCIAL CLUB AS WE CELEBRATE

THE SECOND ANNUAL MARK TWAIN DAYS FESTIVAL

VISIT CARSON CITY | MAY 10TH-12TH



FRIDAY | MAY 10TH

RIDERS IN THE SKY

LIVE ON THE SWAN MUSIC HALL STAGE

SHOW AT 7:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



SATURDAY | MAY 11TH

COCO MONTOYA

LIVE ON THE SWAN MUSIC HALL STAGE

SHOW AT 7:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!



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APRIL 19TH ~ SHOW AT 7:30PM

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SOCKS IN THE FRYING PAN

MAY 3RD ~ SHOW AT 7:30PM



VISIT
CARSON CITY NV





RENO POET LAUREATE, JESSE JAMES ZIEGLER

After hearing the news that I would be the next Poet Laureate for the city of Reno I was asked what the position means to me. My answer was fairly simple as I had been thinking about such a question since I moved back to this region from rural Virginia in the fall of 2014.

I am honored to serve as the ambassador of the art form to the entire Truckee Meadows region as poetry has always been my first love. Poetry is the language of bridge building, activism, catharsis, edification and love. I intend to further the art form in our region through community building and community service.

Delving both into Mark Twain's body of work and my own I will share literary works which demonstrate the versatility of the word poetry and show the art form truly is for everyone. Yes, Mark Twain known for his collected tales, essays, speeches and humor, also shared in my first love of poetry.

Many moons ago I wrote a four line poem in Spanish in attempt to encapsulate my life's goal.

Poesía en marcha
con todo mi alma
sangre, sudor y lagrima
el resultado es una palma

Roughly translated: Poetry in motion, with my entire soul. Blood, sweat and tears, the result is a triumph.

My life has been filled with poetry and remained in motion since I first penned those lines in the summer of 1996 on a siesta in Cuernavaca Morelos Mexico. I have given my heart and soul to this art form which is my preferred method of therapy, social commentary, meditation, reflection and prayer. I have literally given my blood, sweat and tears over the years to poetry. For Mark Twain days specifically, my blood is the chosen family I take the stage with, my sweat is the work ethic I give in service to my community, and the tears are rooted in joy. It is my profound hope you feel the result is a triumph.



Jesse will be hosting the Nevada Inspired Short at Brewery Arts Center at 10 am on Saturday, May 11th and with Spoken Views Collective at Western Nevada College at 7 pm on Saturday, May 11th.

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SPOKEN VIEWS

BY ELISA GARCIA

The disco ball is shining from the ceiling and Kendrick Lamar is playing at full volume while we wait for the night to start. Seats fill as strangers flow in from the alley. I see new faces every night and they're all here for the same thing. I am not religious but this is my church. We pray to our gods with poetry. Each line an offering of ourselves. Let the Slam Gods possess us as we shout over the beatnik snaps and claps. I always say I am not a rapper, but on these nights I think I could be. Jesse captures candid shots of us and speaks in tongues when he graces the stage. Artie sits cross legged and sketches comics on a blank canvas. Steph meditates in the corner before baring her soul. Reena weaves spells to cast over the audience and entrance us. Shaughn walks in with Cesar and they smell so loud, everyone gets contact high. Griffin snaps and gives praise to conversation with strangers. Pan plays his harmonica and paces back and forth. Robbie shoots whiskey with me to help ease the nerves. It has been months since I

have been here. Feels like a lifetime ago. Poets adding lines on the list for a chance to speak. I make exceptions. I want to hear from everyone. Energy buzzes in the room. I hear bits and pieces of poems and puzzle them together and call it excitement. Call tonight my favorite knowing next time will be even better. Iain created this for us. Walked at hip hop open mics so we could run poetry open mics. So I follow you down this road my poetry husband. Thank you. I can still feel Emily's presence since she left us. My spoken word guardian angel. I pray she is dancing with Erica and Naomi. Still riding bikes and writing poems. We miss you. Look at how we continue to grow. This is my chosen family, you are my guest, come inside, all are welcome.

Elisa will be performing with Spoken Views Collective at Western Nevada College at 7 pm on Saturday, May 11th.

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Group photo to take place at the Brewery Arts Center for next year's Mark Twain Days Festival promotional material. Grab your free mustache and join in on the photo fun! Mark Twain costumes encouraged but surely not required.

SAID THE TRAVELER UNDER THE TREE TO THEIR SHADE

BY REENA SPANSAIL

How can I go on without you?

How can I go beyond this spot, though the open road siren calls to me?

Light filters as sounding spectra through your branches as they shine through my shadows.

“Do not be afraid of cycles nor the grief that comes with each wheel turn. Fate spins us together, and spins us apart. You play the bard, and I’ll sing my part.

She whispers with her moss boughts, sighing,

How can you play the breeze, when Death is everywhere?

How can you stay singing shade songs while the tiny insects of the world eat you alive where you stand?

Surely I cannot stay, you are on the brink of collapse yourself.

We can cohabit, them and I. Not everything

is life or death. Some things are somewhere in between. My shade is peaceful now, though I hold ghosts of Darkness past.

She beams, a pillar of generosity in this burnt out colonnade.

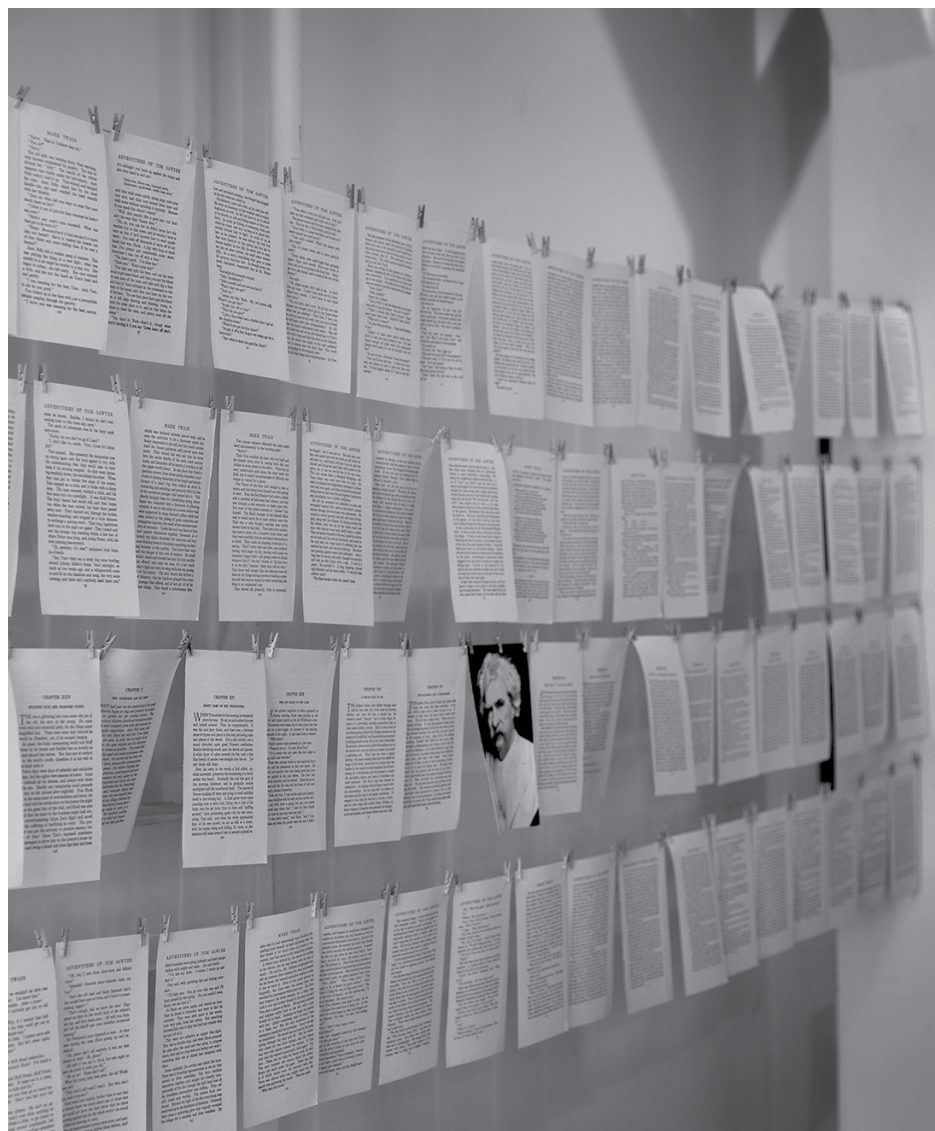
Sit here and sing with the breeze for a while. You need to breathe, and I like your poetry.”

I will. I will stay and see how trees grow like poems.

I will stay and listen to the breeze.

The traveler stayed until the early evening, falling in and out of slumber, singing the breeze under their breath until the sun dipped low on the horizon and it was time to travel through the sands and scrub once more.

Reena will be performing with Spoken Views Collective at Western Nevada College at 7 pm on Saturday, May 11th.



DISCOVER EVERY SIDE



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**CHARLIE'S
FROM PAGE 18**

- 1/2 cup flat leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 cups fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 20 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon mint, ground
- 10 cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 10 medium mushrooms, sliced about 1/4-inch thick
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Set oven to 400 degrees. While oven is heating, lightly flour the chicken pieces. Place chicken in a roasting pan with a touch of extra virgin olive oil to prevent sticking. Place in oven and roast for 20 minutes. Then reduce oven to 300 degrees and continue roasting the next 20 minutes.

While the chicken is roasting, it is time to make the sauce. Pour all the sauce ingredients into a sauce pan, and whisk over medium heat until completely mixed. Turn down to simmer. Stir occasionally.

After the chicken has cooked for the time above, remove from oven, patting off any excess olive oil with paper towel. Transfer to an oven-friendly serving dish, at least 3 inches deep, and pour the sauce evenly over all the pieces. Return to the oven at 300 degrees for another 20 minutes, basting once or twice. Remove from the oven. Sprinkle with parsley.

Talented Sommelier Steve Sanchez, who we were fortunate to have working with us at Café at Adele's nearly 10 years, recommends serving Elouan Winery's Pinot Noir. This pinot is the result of California winemaker Joe Wagner's move to Oregon where the grapes from three regions have been combined to produce a unique blend that is very crowd friendly, readily accessible and reasonably priced, about \$20 per bottle.

**GLYPHS
FROM PAGE 19**

a habit born of boredom. But they'd also carve to communicate with other shepherds. A sort of message board that took 3-5 years before the tree healed up and revealed the message.

I once asked Joxe Mallea-Olaetxe, a researcher and photographer who spent decades researching them for his book "Speaking Through the Aspens" why he thought people did this. One reason, he said, is because at that moment what these men in the forest needed was simply a witness.

And walking through the groves in the gusty spring, as the snow line retreats toward the peaks, I find they are exactly that to me, 60, 70, 100 years later – a witness. To be able to walk out into the woods alone and read the names of all the other people who, a long time ago, were alone here too.

Fil will be performing at the Brewery Arts Center at 12 pm on Saturday, May 11th.




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LETTER FROM PAGE 1

to feel their vastness expanding your soul like a balloon, and ultimately find yourself growing, and swelling, and spreading into a colossus, I say when this point is reached, you look disdainfully down upon the insignificant village of Carson, reposing like a cheap print away yonder at the foot of the big hills, and in that instant you are seized with a burning desire to stretch forth your hand, put the city in your pocket, and walk off with it.

Now, although we are surrounded by sand, the greater part of the town is built upon what was once a very pretty grassy spot; and the streams of pure water that used to poke about it in rural sloth and solitude, now pass through our dusty streets and gladden the hearts of men by reminding them that there is at least something here that hath its prototype among the homes they left behind them.

And up "King's Canon," (please pronounce can-yon, after the manner of the natives,) there are ranches, or farms, where they say hay grows; and grass, and beets, and onions, and turnips and other "truck," which cows are fond of-yea, and even potatoes grow there-a vegetable eminently proper for human consumption; also cabbages, peas and beans.

The houses are mostly frame, and unplastered; but "papered" inside with flour-sacks sewed together-with the addition, in favor of the parlor, of a second papering composed of engravings cut from "Harper's Weekly;" so you will easily perceive that the handsomer the "brand" upon the flour-sacks is, and the more spirited the pictures are, the finer the house looks. There are several stone buildings here, and in the course of time, Ma, there will be several more. On account of the dryness of the atmosphere, the shingles on the houses warp until they look very much like they would be glad to turn over, and lie awhile on the other side.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary mixture of folks which I mentioned in the beginning of my letter, one can find as good society, here, of both sexes, as any Christian need desire. Please do not forget that.

Behold, I have spoken the truth concerning this land. And now, for your other questions, which shall be answered tersely, promptly, and to the point: First-"Do I go to church every Sunday?" Answer-"Scasely." Second-"Have you a Church in Carson?" We have-a Catholic one-but, to use a fireman's expression, I believe "they don't run her now." We have also Protestant service nearly every Sabbath in the school house. Third-"Are

there many ladies in Carson?" Multitudes-probably the handsomest in the world. Fourth-"Are the citizens generally moral and religious?" Prodigiously so. Fifth-"When my old friends ask me how you like Nevada, what reply shall I make?" Tell them I am delighted with it. It is the dustiest country on the face of the earth-but I rather like dust. And the days are very hot-but you know I am fond of hot days. And the nights are cold-but one always sleeps well under blankets. And it never rains here-but I despise a country where rain and mud are fashionable. And there are no mosquitoes here-but then I can get along without them. And there are scorpions here-and tarantulas or spiders, as big as a mouse-but I am passionately fond of spiders. Tell them I never liked any country so well before-and my word for it, you will tell them the truth.

Tell aunt Maryz that I am sorry she thought I intended to study law, because to my mind, that is proof positive that her excellent judgment has erred this time. I do not love the law. And besides, there are many young lawyers here, and I am too generous to allow the glare from my lamp of genius to dim the feeble lustre of their two-penny dops. In a word, you know-I don't want to be the means of showing them how little the Lord has done for them. And while on the subject, let me hint to the craft that fees in this Territory are large-and also, that although there is a shining array of legal talent here, there is still room in the firmament for another star or so.

While at breakfast this morning I received a telegraphic dispatch worded as follows, and I have delayed my letter in order to insert it:

China Town,3 Oct. 26,-8 a.m.

"Dear Sam.-My brother George died this morning at half past two o'clock-come down.

Wm. H. Clagett."4

I shall go down in the stage at noon and render Billy all the assistance in my power, in this, his hour of distress. For the present, good-bye.

S. L. C.

NOTES

Series of horizontal lines for taking notes.

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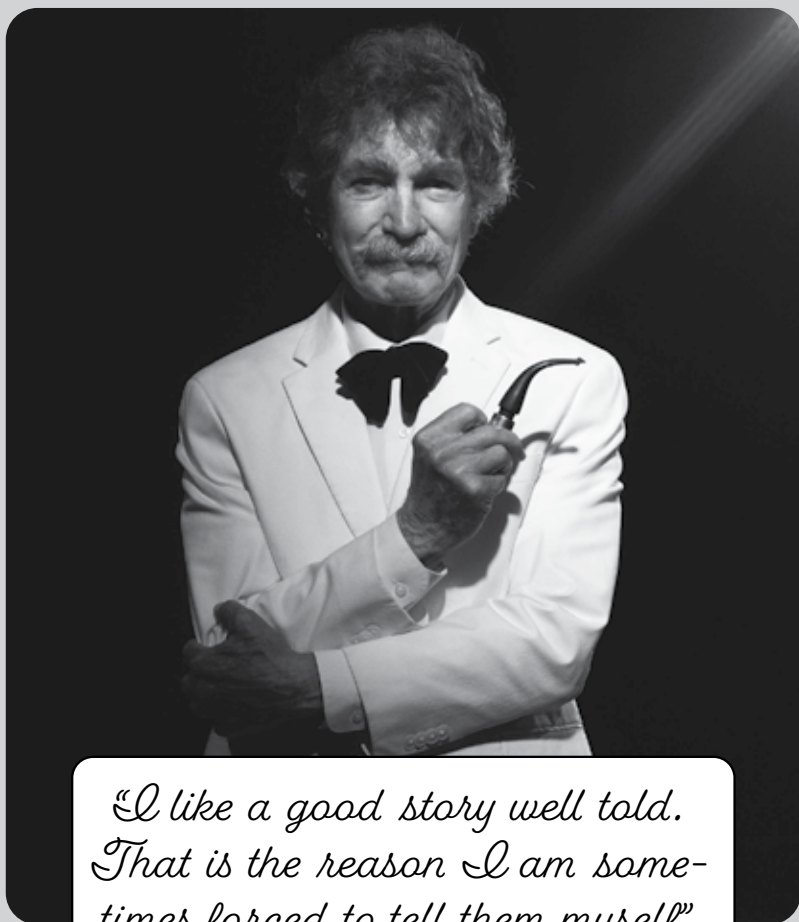


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*"I like a good story well told.
That is the reason I am some-
times forced to tell them myself."*

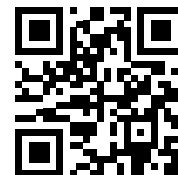
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