

# DEVIL'S RIVER NEWS.

VOL 25

SONORA, SUTTON CO., TEXAS, SATURDAY JANUARY 16, 1915.

NO. 1265

## For Everything

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#### Devil's River News

Published Weekly.  
MIKE MURPHY, Proprietor.  
TEVE MURPHY, Publisher.  
Subscription \$2 a Year in Advance.  
Entered at the Postoffice at Sonora, Texas, as second-class matter.  
Sonora, Texas, January 16, 1915

#### His Sense of Humor.

There is a judge in a certain eastern city noted for his grouch. The most comical incident has no more effect on his frown than upon a wooden Indian. But one day a lawyer who had tried in vain to make the judge laugh walked into court and found the jurist doubled up with mirth. The lawyer hurried to his colleagues to find the reason. "Dinner to the man responsible for that," he said. "Who told the story?"

#### A Scot's Criticism.

The late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who was noted for his genial humor, was once severely criticised by a fellow countryman for his un-Scottish habit of joke making.

He had just been elected M. P. for the Stirling burghs, and a disappointed Scot remarked, with a sigh:

#### His Leg Hurt.

"I got home very late last night from the reunion," said the old veteran, "and my wooden leg hurt me horribly all night long."  
"Nonsense!" said a second veteran. "How could your wooden leg hurt you?"  
"My wife lammed me over the head with it," the first veteran explained, with a loud laugh.—Chicago Herald.

#### Still Antique.

Mrs. Bryden—And is this chair really an antique piece of furniture? Mr. Swolly—Antique, madam? There's no doubt about it. Why, it was so worm eaten when I bought it that I had to have a new back, a new seat and three new legs made for it!—London Telegraph.

#### NAVAL TORPEDOES.

#### Chief Details of These Deadly Weapons of Modern War.

Undoubtedly one of the most deadly weapons with which navies fight one another is the torpedo. Naturally some of the details of the Whitehead torpedo, the one used in the British navy, are kept extremely secret, but the general details of all torpedoes are exactly the same.

The shape of a torpedo is that of a long thin fish. The nose of this deadliest of all fishes is a steel pin which when it hits against its victim—a huge Dreadnought or a battle cruiser—is driven in against a percussion cap. This cap explodes the terrific charge of gun cotton in the head of the torpedo.

In the center part or body of the "tin fish" is the compressed air chamber, the air being under a pressure of 150 atmospheres. Next to this is a little device known as the heater, which keeps the engines in working order when the torpedo is being used in extremely cold weather.

The engines of the modern torpedo are marvels of ingenuity and accuracy. They are started by means of a special little catch on the outside of the torpedo—a catch that engages in a corresponding device in the firing tube as the deadly steel fish is forced out on its errand of destruction.

These engines drive a pair of propellers which force the torpedo through the water at the speed of an express train. The speed of the modern torpedo, when traveling completely under water, is fifty miles an hour.

Those are the chief details of the modern torpedo, though there are a number of ingenious devices which make a torpedo almost a "thinking" machine. One device, for instance, regulates the depth at which the torpedo will go under the surface of the water, and it always keeps that depth beneath the surface—never more, never less. Another device—the gyroscope—makes sure that the deadly weapon will go on a straight line and not get turned by the force of the water or by currents.

#### Putting Out Vesuvius.

A party of English and Americans were touring on the continent, and one American man greatly annoyed one of the Englishmen whenever they went sightseeing by invariably asserting:

"Oh, that ain't much! We can beat that all to ribbons over on the other side of the pond."  
When Naples was reached they went to have a look at Mt. Vesuvius, and the Englishman remarked to his American friend:

"Now, sir, can you beat that over in your country?"  
The American quick as a flash replied:

"Well, I don't know that we can beat it, but we have a little waterfall over there that would put the blasted thing out in five minutes!"

#### Washing Rubies From Burma's Soil.

Most of the rubies come from Burma, where they are mined or washed from the earth. The Burma Ruby Mines company employs modern machinery, to which the earth is hauled in trucks that have been loaded by coolies. In the machines the mud is separated from the gravel, and this is sifted by pulsation. Finally the natives pick and wash the gravel by hand.

A pigeon blood ruby weighing half a carat, flawless or nearly so, costs about \$1,000 in Rangoon. There is, however, no fixed price, each stone having to be bargained for separately.

#### Premature Explosion.

"Madam," said the street car conductor, "is this your boy?"  
"Yes, sir; he is," she snapped.  
"And I am not going to pay any fare for him, either. He isn't five years old yet!"  
"I didn't dream of asking you to pay fare for him, ma'am. I was only going to tell you he's the brightest and handsomest little fellow I've seen for many a day."

Then he passed down the aisle, leaving the portly dame speechless and gasping for breath.—Chicago Tribune.

#### THE WORD "GOT"

It is Very Badly Misused, According to This City.

"Got" is a good English word; but, like other words, it must be employed for its specific meaning. It has only three letters in it, yet it is the most misused word on the English tongue.

"Have you a dollar?"  
"No."  
"Get me one, please. And after you have gotten it bring it to me."  
"This is all that got, got or gotten means."

One becomes, falls or grows sick. Then some relative or neighbor goes and gets the doctor. After you recover you receive the doctor's bill. In no instance do you get his bill unless you go to the doctor, get it and have it gotten, gotten or gotten to home to reflect over the several items of his charges.

Remember this: It is impossible to "get" anything that does not possess an absolute tangibility.

Hence one cannot get a promotion, but wins it, and one cannot get rid of a thing. Stop and think how foolish and meaningless it is to say "get rid" and "got rid." "I am going to rid myself, or I have rid myself, or having rid myself of such a person or annoyance," is proper.

One gets a wife, obtains a job, gets an auto, but never "gets" into it; goes and gets a new suit of clothes, never gets the bill for it, if it is mailed to him, because in truth he receives it, and so on.

"Get his goat" of course is slang and has its own specific purposes of expression, but it is good English nevertheless, for, literally and in the proper employment of the word, a goat is one of the things one may "get"—that is, go over to where the goat is, tie a rope around its neck and lead billy home.

Just this, and absolutely nothing else, is what the word "get" means.

Dictionaries may tell you differently, but even then the best lexicographers admit they must write their books to conform with the latter day usage of words. In the next breath also they will tell you that pure language has no worse enemy than this very same helter skelter usage that we are too prone to fall back upon in defense of our many errors in speech.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

#### Exchange Suggested.

One evening as he sat gloomily reading the paper, having grumbled at the dinner, the dog, the baby, the cook and everything else that came along, his wife made a suggestion.

"Bertie," she said, "would it not be a good thing to rearrange your business?"  
"Yes; I might rearrange it into a rag and bone dealer's. It would probably pay better. But I don't quite see how to do it," he answered, with concentrated sarcasm.

"I didn't mean that exactly," she answered sweetly. "But could you not manage to be a bear at the office instead of at home?"—Omaha Bee.

#### She Could Spell.

She critically examined the gold sleeve links which were set before her and then requested the clerk to show her another line. She decided on a pair, murmuring to herself, "Yes; I'm sure he'll like these." "Do you care for any initials, miss?" queried the clerk.  
"Oh, yes; I forgot!" said she. "I think I'll use my first initial this time. You may engrave the letter 'U' on them." "U" repeated the clerk as he wrote the instructions down. "May I inquire the name, miss, if it is Urah or Ulysses? Names commencing with 'U' are so very rare." "Eugene," replied the young woman proudly.—Exchange.

#### London Landlords.

There is perhaps no tenant who is so completely at the mercy of his landlord as the occupier of a house in London which belongs to one of the great ground landlords. He is an absolute prisoner within the four corners of his lease. The slightest deviation is accompanied with pains and penalties; but, on the other hand, the landlord reserves all kinds of privileges to himself.—London Tit-Bits.

#### Class That Doesn't Splinter.

An ingenious process for producing glass which will not splinter has been devised by a French inventor. One side of each of two glass plates is covered with a thin coating of gelatin, a thin clear plate of celluloid is laid between these two surfaces, and glass is pressed into a single pane.

#### EARLY SUBMARINES.

Aristotle Says They Were Used During the Siege of Tyre.

Professor M. Z. Tourneur of Dieppe, France, says that submarines have almost as hoary a past as aeroplanes, which, as is well known, involve ideas that are centuries old.

The result of his researches has proved that submarines were built as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century. The origin of the invention is older still. Aristotle tells how Alexander the Great made use of submarines during the siege of Tyre more than 300 years before Christ.

A Dutchman named Cornelius van Drebbel astounded London in 1620 with a submarine that held twelve cannon and some passengers, among whom was King James I.

Previous to this, in 1534, a monk suggested the idea that a ship be constructed of metal so as to be water tight and able to resist the pressure of water. "If a sufficient weight be placed in such a ship so as to equal the volume of water displaced it could go on wheels at the bottom of the water or else sail beneath the surface by means of oars," he said.

The necessary aeration, he suggested, could be established by means of water tight tubes, which could also serve as a means of communication with the outside.

He also suggested other means of constructing a submarine. It could have the shape of a large bell, with windows and a flat floor suitable for passengers. However, the form of a fish he recommended would be able to go backward or forward without turning. The propulsion could be by wheels or by ordinary oars. Leather machines for agitating and purifying the air would be necessary. Lighting would be obtained from phosphorescent bodies, and the direction learned by the aid of the compass.

Such a submarine was constructed and was shown to be practical to a certain degree. In 1537 a ship with twenty cannon, eighty sailors and many bags of money blew up and sank in the port of Dieppe. Three years later a Frenchman, Jean Barrie, called Pradine, built, according to the old monk's ideas, a submarine with which he promised to rescue the bags of gold and silver from the wreck and possibly some pieces of artillery.

The government guaranteed Pradine the privilege of working on the task for twelve years, authorized him to "collect and appropriate" the iron and other things that the lost ship contained and even protected him while working with an armed force. The great Pascal, then a little boy, was an eyewitness to these experiments of Pradine, which were carried on till 1650 with ultimate success.

#### Stretching.

Stretching is good exercise. When a man cannot wake up in the middle of the night or in the morning and take a good stretch he ought to kick himself into some sort of comprehensibility. A vigorous stretch in bed or out of it is calculated to excite all the nerves, muscles, veins and arteries of the entire system, thereby stimulating the heart action and enlivening the dormant brain. You may not know that the brain sleeps. It requires a stirring up. All the cords and tendons in the body need rest. They need awakening also. All the vitals must be aroused. Stretching is a first rate rouser. Stretch, stretch, stretch!

#### Education.

I consider a human soul without education like marble in a quarry, which shows none of its inherent beauties until the skill of the polisher fetches out the colors, makes the surface shine and discovers every ornamental cloud spot and vein that runs throughout the body of it. Education, after the same manner, when it works upon a noble mind, draws out to view every latent virtue and perfection, which without such helps are never able to make their appearance and would otherwise be lost.—Selected.

#### History.

When Sir Robert Walpole retired into private life time hung heavy on his hands, and Horace exerted himself to amuse his father. One day he offered to read to him.  
"What will you read, child?" asked Sir Robert wearily.  
Horace suggested history.  
"No, no," replied the veteran statesman; "not history, Horace; that can't be true."

#### Black and White Pepper.

The reason why white pepper is considered better than black is not only because it looks and tastes better, but because it is less irritating to the stomach. Both are made from the same kind of peppercorns. In the white, however, the outer husk has been removed before grinding.

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