

"And Departing, Leave Behind Them —"



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



IT IS easy enough to account for the erection of private memorials to private citizens in the form of markers over their graves and for the statues, monuments and other memorials with which we honor our statesmen, military and naval leaders and other heroes. But how shall we account for some of the strange memorials which, through the ages, have been set up by human hands and which man continues to set up to a great variety of things, both animate and inanimate. To give a complete catalogue of them would require no less space than a book, but for an idea of their variety consider some of these:

Perhaps as queer an assemblage of monuments as can be found in any one place on earth is to be seen in a cemetery at Mayfield, Ky., where a burial plot contains life-size statues of the dead members of one family, dressed in the fashions of their times, and the figures of various animals, among them a deer, which were the pets of the various generations of the family and were buried beside their masters.

Ordinarily you wouldn't think that cheese would be an appropriate object for a memorial, yet there is one. It stands near the little city of Vimoutiers in France on the farm of a certain Beau Moncel, where during the latter half of the Eighteenth century lived Marie Harel, who is credited with being the inventor of Camembert cheese. Not only is the fame of this Norman milkmaid commemorated by this stone shaft on the farm where she worked, but in Main Place in the city of Vimoutiers itself is a statue of her, back of which is a stone bas-relief showing the farmhouse on the Marcell farm where she was born in 1761, where she lived until her death in 1817 and where she made the new kind of cheese now famous the world over.

These monuments were erected through the efforts of a New York doctor, Joseph Kurim. For many years he conducted a sanatorium in New York, where the only medicine he gave his patients for all kinds of stomach ailments was Pilsener beer and Camembert cheese. Because of his gratitude to the inventor of the cheese with which he made so many people well and saved their lives, he made a romantic pilgrimage to Vimoutiers a year or so ago, and the result was this most unusual of all monuments. It was only a year or so ago that news dispatches carried the following story:

San Jose, Calif.—A movement is in progress here to erect a monument to the memory of Louis Peller, who, 75 years ago, started the prune industry in America.

Peller came to California during the famous gold rush of 1849. Away from his sunny France, he missed the plums from his home locality near Bordeaux, and wrote back for seeds and cuttings, and searched the hills for roots of wild species on which his scions could be grafted. So interested did he become, he gave up his quest for gold and gave the world the prune, beginning what is now a billion dollar industry.

From another part of the West at about the same time came this news story:

Fair Play, Colo.—Prunes, a burro, will have a monument. Shot last month when he became too feeble to eat after serving nearly every mine in the region of Fair Play, he will have a memorial of samples of ore taken from all the mines in which he worked.

Up in Alaska several years ago a bronze plaque, bearing a bas-relief of a mule and a horse, was dedicated by the Ladies of the Golden North, an auxiliary of the Alaska-Yukon Pioneers, to perpetuate the memory of the faithful pack animals, both mules and horses, who lost their lives on the White Pass trail during the Klondike gold rush days. With Gov. George A. Parks of Alaska and George Black, member of the Canadian parliament from Yukon territory, officiating, the dedication took place near Inspiration point above the famous Dead Horse gulch.

If you want to see how other members of the equine world have been honored, go down to Lexington, Ky., and drive out along the Winchester pike until you come to Hamburg Place, the farm of J. E. Madden. Nestling in a little grove of trees on this farm is what is thought to be the only cemetery for horse celebrities in the world. Dominating the grassy plot of ground of less than an acre and enclosed by a stone wall stands a statue of a horse. Upon the foundation on which the statue stands is this inscription, "Nancy Hanks 2:04." For this is the last resting place of the world champion trotter from 1892 to 1894.

Even more traditional than love of man for

1. Monument erected to the memory of thousands of carrier pigeons killed during the World war which was unveiled in Brussels, Belgium, by the Duke of Brabant, son of the King of the Belgians.

2. Monument over the grave of George W. Pike near Douglas, Wyo.

3. A burial plot in a cemetery at Mayfield, Ky., containing life-size statues of the dead in the fashions of their times and figures of animals which were pets of various generations of the family and which were buried beside their masters.

4. Monument erected in Berlin, Germany, in appreciation of the invaluable services which the horse gave to the German army during the World war.

5. Monument to Camembert cheese near the city of Vimoutiers in the Camembert district of Normandy, France.

6. Monument erected to Segis Pietertje Prospect, world's record milk-producing cow, near Seattle, Wash.

his horse is his love for his dog. So it is not surprising that in various parts of the world may be found monuments to "man's best friend." Visitors to Newstead abbey in Nottingham, England, are certain to be shown Lord Byron's monument to his dog Boatswain. Boatswain was a Newfoundland of affectionate disposition whose death left the great poet inconsolable. The dog was buried not 50 feet from the corner of the abbey where he used to sit on sunny days and where his master used to romp with him. His grave is marked by a shaft of brick and marble surmounted by an urn. The pedestal is a series of steps. On a tablet are inscribed the words: "Near this spot are deposited the remains of one who possessed beauty without vanity, strength without insolence, courage without ferocity, and all the virtues of man, without his vices. This praise, which would be unmeaning flattery if inscribed over human ashes, is but a just tribute to the memory of Boatswain, A Dog."

It is not especially unusual, perhaps, for man to erect monuments to his two best friends, the horse and the dog, but it is unusual for him to erect a monument to a cow. For that reason the statue of Segis Pietertje Prospect, a Holstein cow, which stands over her grave on the banks of the Snoqualmie river near Seattle, Wash., is unique among memorials. The reason for this honor is explained by the inscription on the bronze tablet at the base of the statue. It reads as follows:

"Here lived and gave her service to mankind Segis Pietertje Prospect, world's champion milk cow. Born 1913, died 1925. Twice she registered production records that set her fame above all dairy cattle of any age. In each of two years she exceeded 10,500 quarts of milk, 1,400 pounds of butter, yielding for the two a total of 33,922 quarts of milk, 2,895.18 pounds of butter. Sired by a king and of purest Holstein strain, she herself bore sons and daughters of champion achievement. Finest type of the noble, patient animal that is most justly named 'The Foster Mother of the Human Race,' her queenly worth deserved the gratitude in which this tribute is erected by her owner, Carnation Milk Farms, 1928."

In Salt Lake City, Utah, stands a lofty granite column, on top of which is a large granite ball upon which two bronze birds, covered with gold leaf are gently alighting. On the four sides of the base are bronze tablets, three bearing bas-relief scenes of pioneer life in the Salt Lake valley. One shows the beginning of agriculture in the arid West—a pioneer and his family and a yoke of oxen at work reclaiming the desert soil. The second shows the wheat fields overrun by crickets. The pioneer man sits with bowed head, on his face a look of helplessness and grief. But the pioneer woman is lifting up her face to the skies as she sees a miracle about to take place. Winged over the mountains into the valley come a great flock of gulls. The third bronze shows the harvest days. The gulls have devoured the crickets, the crops are saved and the pioneers in the wilderness will have bread. On the fourth tablet are these words: "Sea Gull Monument. Erected in grateful remembrance of the mercy of God to the Mormon pioneers." Thus this monument is an everlasting story in stone of one of the most beautiful and dramatic incidents in American history—the story of how the gulls saved the wheat fields of Utah in 1848.

This brief catalogue of unusual monuments would not be complete without reference to unusual memorials to two men—not great men, perhaps, and certainly not especially good men—in fact, to two pretty bad men, judged by most human standards. Carved on an Alaskan cliff is a huge human skull which recalls the fame of "Sonny" Smith, gambler, gunfighter and general "bad man" of the Klondike gold days, who died as he had lived—by the gun. So today an ironic skull on a jagged mountain side is Smith's salute to latter-day pilgrims journeying north by the inside water route to Alaska. The skull 25 feet high by 9 feet wide, with missing teeth and leering smile, was carved by order of the "Arctic Brotherhood" as a warning to other bad men.

Some day when you're motoring through Douglas, Wyo., pay a visit to the little cemetery on the hill east of that city and take a look at a large granite gravestone upon which is engraved this unusual epitaph:

GEORGE W. PIKE
Underneath this stone in eternal rest
Sleeps the wildest one of the wayward west.
He was a gambler and sport and cowboy too
And he led the pace in an outlaw crew.
He was sure on the trigger and staid to the end
But he never was known to quit on a friend.
In the relations of death all mankind is alike
But in life there was only one George W. Pike.

Perhaps it's just as well that "there was only one George W. Pike" for Malcolm Campbell, a famous old-time sheriff of Wyoming, is authority for the statement that Pike's "remarkable record for horse-stealing extended over a period of 15 years during which time there were few terms of court that he was not down for at least two counts. . . . but he was never convicted of a crime in his life."

(© by Western Newspaper Union.)

Weather to Order, Plan of Russian Scientists

The Russians have decided to make their own weather. So optimistic are they that an artificial rain institute has been started at Moscow, and others are to follow. Russia is largely dependent upon the crops grown on the farms, and scientists state that presently they will be able to plant out a regular scheme of fine weather and of rain occurring at just the right times. Experiments made by means of planes and powerful ground transmitting stations have shown that much can be done in the way of bringing down rain by means of powerful high-tension currents. It has also been possible to break up hailstorms by bombarding them with great bell-mouthed cannon firing blank charges. When the approach of a hailstorm is signaled by telephone the gunners are called to their stations and every effort is made to cause the hail to fall in districts where it will do the least damage. The vibrations set up by the bell-mouthed cannon frequently bring down the hail and prevent it from traveling to places where it might do damage.

"Life" of Dollar Bill

Dollar bills receive harder use than any other denominations of American currency. They are worn out or disappear at the rate of about 50,000,000 a month. On July 1 last there were approximately 150,000,000 dollar bills left in Washington bearing the signature of Andrew W. Mellon, former secretary of the treasury. When these are retired new bills

signed by the new secretary of the treasury, Ogden L. Mills, will make their appearance. Of course, neither the secretary nor any of his assistants actually sign these bills. The signature is stamped on during the printing process.

Largest Glacial Areas

The Columbia ice fields in Canada are the largest glacial area close to civilization. From this ice field three rivers flowing to three different oceans find their source. They are: the Columbia, flowing to the Pacific; the Athabaska, which later joins the Mackenzie and flows to the Arctic ocean, and the Saskatchewan, which reaches the Atlantic through Hudson bay.

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