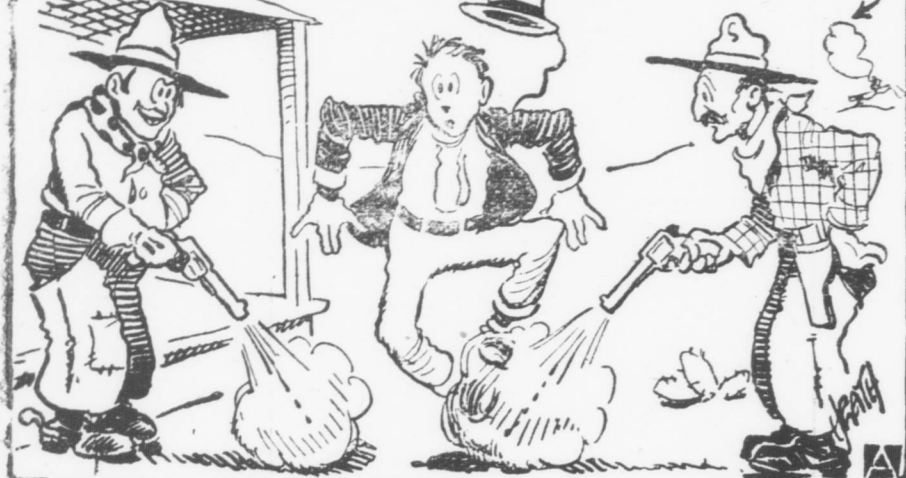


I FOUND THOSE WESTERNERS SIMPLY CRAZY ABOUT MY DANCING - IN FACT THEY INSISTED ON ME GIVING EXHIBITIONS ALL THE TIME!



BUT THIS IS HOW THEY DID IT



**Vest Pocket Essays**  
By GEORGE FITCH  
Author of "At Good Old Sivas"

**THE WEATHER**

THE weather is the starting crank of the world's conversation. If there were no weather to talk about, half of us would only be able to converse when we found something to say, and would consequently be dumb a large part of the time.

The weather is what the atmosphere hands to us from day to day. All weather is produced by atmosphere. When the air is clear, we have a fine day, and the fact is mentioned 1,000,000,000 times in conversation. When the atmosphere is cloudy, we have clouds and rain which are just as easy to talk about and use up a large vocabulary. When the atmosphere moves swiftly from place to place we have gales and cyclones and political campaigns. When the atmosphere is heated, to a trifle below the boiling point by the sun, a man will leave his work and walk five blocks in order to lean against a friend in a cool, clinky place and help him say, "Phew!"

The weather accounts for most of the variety in life on this sphere. It is weather which makes a Hotentot content with a suit of clothes which he can fold up and put in his ear while bathing, and it is weather which makes the Eskimo eject the polar bear from his warm furry skin and move in himself to stay continuously until he dies. It is England's weather and the wide range of description required to do it justice, which has made the nation the literary center of the world. It is the six months of superheated Texas weather which makes a Texas fight in September at the wiggle of a whisker, and it is the celebrated tepid climate of California which enables the native son to reap four crops of tourists a year.

Weather is divided into four seasons in the temperate zone—light overcoat, shirt-sleeves, thicker underwear and ear-tab weather. Weather



Mr. J. P. Morgan was small potatoes, beside the seapots.

owners, peach growers and chicken raisers. Mr. J. P. Morgan was supposed to boss a large part of creation, but he was small potatoes beside the weather, which exercises a controlling influence over baseball, crops, the clothing business, parades, picnics, county fairs and summer parks. It also casts the deciding vote in many elections and can tie up a railroad system more thoroughly than a dozen walking delegates. On the whole, weather must be an undesirable thing. We never hear of the weather in heaven, while hell is supposed to consist almost entirely of climate.

**LIVE STOCK**



**SHEEP CLUB BOY'S PROFITS**

Investment Paying 200 Per Cent Induced Farmers to Take Renewed Interest in Industry.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Late in the fall of 1917, George Irwin of Henry county, Indiana, and nine other boys in his neighborhood organized a sheep club. A few interested stockmen and the local bank made it possible for the club boys to secure one pure-bred ewe apiece. Each boy gave his note to the bank for the purchase price of his sheep.

In the summer of 1918 George Irwin presented the following statement of his work and investment:

Disbursements.	
Cost of 1 ewe	\$18.00
Feed	6.25
Interest on note	.72
Total cost	\$24.97

Receipts.	
1 ewe (inventory)	\$18.00
1 lamb (sold)	25.00
1 lamb (sold)	22.50
Wool (sold)	6.50
Total receipts	\$72.00
Total cost	24.97
Profit	\$49.03

Investments paying 200 per cent were worth looking into decided the farmers who lived in the locality of this club, and interest in sheep raising increased.

Another boy in the Henry County club has developed a flock of 30 ewes, and plans to have more. His father has become so interested in his son's work that, although the boy is rather young, he is allowed to go to sales and to do his own bidding on prospects for his flock. Practically all the



Sheep Club Members Exhibiting Their Animals.

boys engaged in the sheep-club work are keeping their foundation animals and at the same time are adding to their stock.

Previous to 1918 there were but few boys and girls organized into sheep clubs under the supervision of the department of agriculture and the state agricultural colleges. With the high price of wool and mutton, the sheep project, however, has become increasingly popular. Last year 257 such clubs were organized with an enrollment of 3,613 members. During the year 8,005 lambs were raised by these young people and 2,006 pounds of wool were marketed. The total value of the flocks at the end of the year was \$131,173.40; the initial cost of the sheep, together with the expense of feeding them, was \$37,082.82; the total profit made by the boys and girls who were members of the sheep clubs and who continued the work throughout the year was \$94,090.58. The results the boys have been getting have opened the eyes of their fathers. The boys and girls in the sheep clubs are demonstrating in every state that sheep are profitable if well handled.

**LIVE STOCK NOTES**

A self-feeder assists in economical pork production because it prevents waste.

If there are no trees in the hog lots, it will be necessary to provide artificial shade.

There is no way we can make pork faster than to turn the hogs out into a field of clover.

A permanent, well-built dehorning chute is much more satisfactory than a portable one.

When pigs are kept free from parasites it is not hard to get them to grow at weaning time.

It would be a good idea for each farmer to raise a few calves and get the benefit of higher prices likely to prevail.

Tobacco dust or stems chopped fine and placed where sheep and lambs can always have access to them will help prevent stomach worms.

**Profit by Acts of Criminals.**

One of the most striking results of the "Battle of Steptey," a year or two ago in London, England, was on the profits of gunsmiths. The automatic pistols used by the besieged bandits in their desperate fight with the police and the guards were extensively described and illustrated in the press. Till then the automatic pistol had barely been heard of by the average Englishman. Since then, however, gunsmiths have sold as many automatic pistols in a week as they had previously sold in a year. A big successful safe robbery, curious as it may seem, does good, not harm, to the safe business. Firms which have to keep large stocks of cash or valuables on the premises are apt to discard their five or ten-year-old safes for the very newest types. The safe-makers are always working a little ahead of even the most skilled safe-breakers, and the very newest of safes are known to be quite safe for a few years, until the scientific safe-breaker catches up. So safe-makers chuckle after a big safe robbery.

**Cadet Life at West Point.**

Briefly: "At 3:45 p. m. the academic work is over for the day and drills for all classes occupy the hour from 4 to 5, followed by a dress parade at 5:25, excepting Wednesdays and Saturdays. This is the schedule from Sept. 1 to Nov. 1 and from March 15 to June. On Saturdays academic work ends at 12:30 and with the exception of inspection at 1:50, the afternoon of the cadet is free until 6:25 supper call. His amusements are much like those of college students generally. Football is perhaps the most popular organized sport. Games are played on the West Point grounds with teams from many colleges, and the season closes with the annual army-navy game, when the West Pointers meet the midshipmen from Annapolis on Franklin field, Philadelphia. Basketball follows during the winter months, many contests with teams from other schools occurring during the season, and then, in the spring, comes baseball, of course.—Popular Mechanics.

**Points of View.**

"You see, a Frenchman and an Englishman view marriage from entirely different angles. The Anglo-Saxon of honest instincts, attracted toward a pretty girl, at once thinks of the possibilities of marriage; if he finds them infinitely remote he makes romantic love to her in the solitude of his walks abroad or of his sleepless nights, and in her presence is as dumb and dismal as a freshly hooked trout. The equally honest Gaul does nothing of the kind. The attraction in itself is a stimulus to adventure. He makes love to her, just because it is the nature of a lusty son of Adam to make love to a pretty daughter of Eve. He lives in the present. The rest does not matter. He leaves it to chance."—"The Joyous Adventures of Aristide Pujol," by William J. Locke.

**Soft Answer.**

In a part of New York where the conductors on the street cars still come around to collect fares, George Cohan recently jumped on a car. The conductor collected fares and went to the rear of the car. Mr. Cohan, wishing to be next the exit, left his seat and took another nearer the door. The conductor, meantime, on the lookout for passengers, saw, as he thought, a new man taking a seat, and went to collect his fare. Mr. Cohan put his hand in his pocket and offered the conductor a coin. "This is only one cent," said the conductor, handing it back. "Yes," said George slowly. "I know that. I paid my fare when I was in the other seat. This time I supposed you were taking up a collection."

**Apples Near and Yet So Far.**

No other product of the soil needs more reform in selling methods than apples. A certain western grower traced a shipment to the consumer in order to find out what that worthy individual paid for his product. This investigation brought to light the interesting fact that the apples had passed through no less than five hands before reaching the consumer, and while the grower had received only 85 cents per bushel box for them they had been retailed to the consumer at \$4.50 per box. For this reason we have, every season, apple orchards full of rotting fruit, while the cities are full of hungry people who would gladly buy this product if the price was right.—Farm and Fireside.

**Banker Not Financier.**

No successful banker was ever a great financier in the broad political sense of the term. Creative finance is always the work of the Hamiltons, the Gallatin, the Chases, not the work of the money lenders. Nevertheless, technical banking experience is not to be despised in national affairs. One of the just complaints directed against the new currency bill in its administrative features is that only one member of the seven members of the federal reserve board is to be a banker. This is plainly a defect, and the bankers who call attention to it are performing a useful public service.—New York World.

**"Wireless" an Obsolete Word.**

"Wireless" has become an obsolete word in the United States navy. "Radio" has supplanted it. Messages are called "radiograms" and "wireless telegraphy" has been changed to "radiocommunication," spelled as one word. That is an example of building up a word German fashion. There is a tendency to call the operator "radioman" instead of "radio operator," as at present.

**The Oldest newspaper.**

Benjamin Franklin contributed much to the development of journalism in colonial days. An editor at the age of 16 and a prolific writer, he was identified at some time or another in his life with many of the newspapers which flourished during this period. The oldest newspaper in the United States, which has been continued without interruption of issue or change of name, is the New Hampshire Gazette. It was first published in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1756.

**Place of Fat Men in History.**

Fat and fame have not very often been combined, perhaps because stout men are generally inclined to be easy going, and therefore lacking in that push which brings a man to the fore, says London Answers. The only great statesman one can recall who was really a fat man was Charles James Fox, as can be seen even by his effigy in the palace of Westminster, where he would make three of his great rival, Pitt the younger.

**Deservedly Valuable Pen.**

One of the best-known pens in the United States is owned by Isaac B. Reed of New York, who at one time refused to sell it for \$750. Its value arises from the fact that, aside from having been used by both Lincoln and Grant, it was made from a carved box in which young George Washington kept parts of his surveying instruments. The box itself was made from the lid of a desk that belonged to the captain of the Mayflower.

**The Eyeglass Glide.**

It was at a formal dancing party, and I was dancing with a young man who wore eyeglasses. I soon felt something cold slide down my back and my friend said, "Pardon me; my glasses have fallen down your back." Needless to say I escaped to the dressing room and had the glasses removed and returned to him.—Chicago Tribune.

**Age of the Bagpipe.**

It is wrong to suppose that the bagpipe is associated only with Scotland. For this instrument is centuries old and has always been known in Asia. People danced to the music of the bagpipe in the thirteenth century, the painter Raphael pictures a bagpiper, and didn't the Pied Piper of Hamelin play this same instrument?

**Eagle Is Threatened.**

The existence of the bird which is the emblem of America is threatened. An Alaskan law places a bounty of 50 cents on every bald eagle killed. The result is that in 19 months over 5,000 eagles have been killed. The bald eagle is charged with destroying salmon, young deer and game birds.

**Strength.**

Said the observing cuss: "The kid who was the despair of his parents because he couldn't carry a tune usually develops into the kind of business man who raises the mortgage off the old home place as soon as he gets in the harness."

**A 200-Foot Dive.**

The greatest depth ever reached by a diver is said to be 204 feet. The greatest depth at which useful work has been done is 182 feet. Sponge and pearl divers, working without armor, frequently descend to depths of about 150 feet.

**Christian Unity.**

He who takes hold of one end of the litter on which a hurt brother is prone must not pause to question the name and affiliation of the man who takes hold of the other end.—The Christian Herald.

**Each Works to Same End.**

The ease, the luxury, and the abundance of the highest state of civilization, are as productive of selfishness as the difficulties, the privations, and the sterilities of the lowest.—Colton.

**Daily Thought.**

There is no man so good, who, were he to submit all his thoughts and actions to the law, would not deserve hanging ten times in his life.—Montaigne.

**Hurt by Injudicious Friends.**

If a cause be good, the most violent attack of its enemies will not injure it so much as an injudicious defense of it by its friends.—Colton.

**The Bungler's Way.**

To do evil, that good may come of it, is for bunglers in politics as well as morals.—William Penn.

**Lest You Didn't Know.**

A horse hide will make a dandy pair of shoes, but banana skins are unequalled for slippers.

**So Wags the World.**

The class poet sometimes becomes a sletcher in after life.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Optimistic Thought.**

Popular sovereignty, when truly understood, is a fountain of power.

**Spasmodic Sermon.**

Many a fine broadcast has been built with gold bricks.

**Entomologist's First Duty.**

When a new pest to any crop is brought to the attention of the economic entomologist and a remedy is asked, he must first know just what this insect is. He must know the group to which it belongs, the habits of this group, the exact classification of this individual species. It may be that it will prove to be a perfectly new species, in which case it must be accurately described and properly placed, so that other workers will know about it and about its relationships and its possibilities for harm.

**Sudden Cold Kills Fishes.**

It has been proved that sudden cold sometimes causes the death of thousands of fish in the shallow waters of the tropics and subtropics. Many species are so chilled as to become helpless, and either killed directly by drowning or are washed ashore in a comatose state. The phenomenon is known locally as "freezing," although the temperature of the water may be several degrees above the freezing point.

**About Islands.**

As a rule islands belong to the mainland near which they are located, Guadalupe belongs to Mexico, that is the one off the coast of Mexico. Andros, to the United States; Margarita, did belong to Germany, and the peace conference will settle its administration. Fiji belongs to England. The Marshall and Caroline islands also belong to Germany. Marcus Island belongs to Japan. Fanning island belongs to England.

**Knocking on Wood.**

The superstition of rapping on wood after a boast of a piece of luck is of European origin. The raps were supposed to drive away evil spirits vexed by others' good fortune. The raps later signified the Trinity, and the necessity for rapping on wood was because that was the material of the cross. The expression dates from a custom in vogue five thousand years ago.

**Says Whales Once Walked.**

Whales used to walk. That is the statement of Prof. Arcey Thompson, authority on fishes of the sea, in a lecture on that subject at the Royal Institution, London. He said the whale originally had four feet or fins, but that the two hind ones had simply dwindled away. In bygone ages ancestors of the present family of whales walked about much as seals do.

**Wonderful Is Write.**

"Oh, Mr. Turnem-Down," exclaimed Stayupp N. Schibble, "I will admit that my technique may permit of slight improvement, but you must concede that I have a wonderful imagination." "You certainly have, young man," returned the crusty fiction editor, "if you imagine you can sell your bunk to me."

**Got Aristocratic Convicts.**

Virginia was the only American colony which ever received British convicts, and very few were ever sent there. Most of those sent were political prisoners, and the aristocratic element predominated. In 1676 parliament forbade the transportation of convicts to English colonies in America.

**City of Light.**

The city of London's one square mile is probably the most brilliantly illuminated square mile in the world. Its lamps have a total of 2,270,000 candle power, which yields an average illumination of nearly one candle power for every two square yards of the area of the city.

**She Knew a Way.**

A little girl in our neighborhood stumbled and fell, hurting her head quite badly. The hair had to be cut around the wound, and after telling her that her hair would not grow where the hair was cut she said: "It will, if I put some hair seed on."—Chicago Tribune.

**How Pleasure Comes.**

If you want knowledge, you must toil for it; and if pleasure, you must toil for it. Toil is the law. Pleasure comes through toil, and not by self-indulgence and indolence. When one gets to love work, his life is a happy one.—Ruskin.

**Forbidden Fruit.**

"It's odd," remarked a woman, "how the dullest of women's luncheons—and oh! how dull they can be!—will suddenly take a turn for the better when some one broaches a bit of gossip. It puts new life into everything."—New York Post.

**New Breed.**

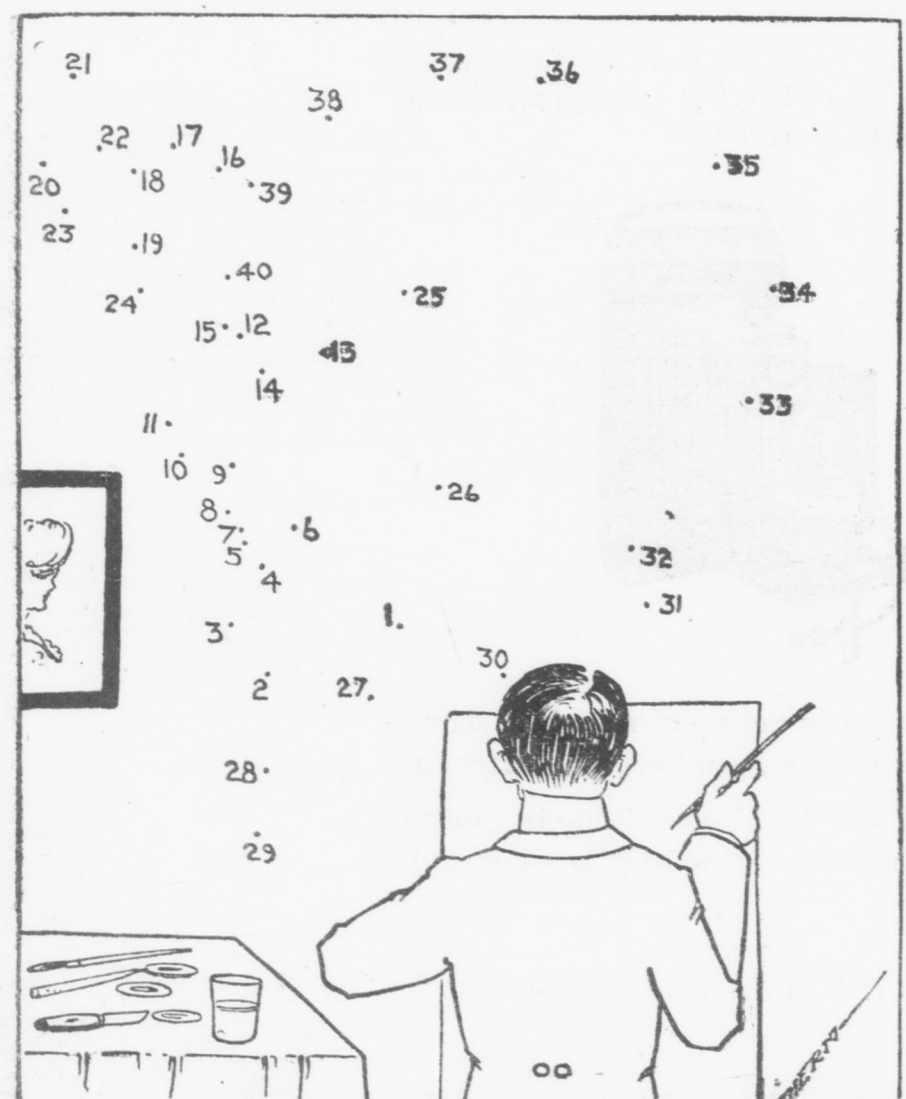
Donald was enjoying a ride with his mother when he noticed a black and white dog and remarked, "Why, mother, there's a Holstein dog."

**A Pun.**

There's a man in our town whom they call "the human sponge"—he never feels swell unless he's soaked.—Ontario Post.

**Daily Thought.**

The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of land.—Emerson.



**THE TANGLED DOTS.**  
By Clifford Leon Sherman.  
"Here is a dot picture of my big brother," said Tom. "You can guess what branch of the service he is in." "He looks a good deal like an aviator," said Mabel, "but aviators don't wear miners' hats."