

A HISTORIC RIDE.

RIVAL EXPRESS COMPANIES RACE THEIR MESSENGERS.

Bill Lowden Tells the Story of an Event That Thirty-seven Years Ago Stirred Up the People of the Pacific States. A Great Hundred Mile Run.

All over California and perhaps in every one of the Pacific states men are living today who remember the wonderful feat of horsemanship known as "Bill Lowden's Ride," which was performed thirty-seven years ago. Tehama, on the Sacramento river, was the starting point; Weaverville, in Trinity county, the terminal one. The distance was a good 100 miles, most of the last forty being made in the night over mountain trails and through heavy timber. The distance was accomplished in five hours and thirteen minutes—unexampled time for a ride of 100 consecutive miles under existing circumstances. We let Mr. Lowden tell the story of his wild ride.

"In the latter part of the year 1851 Adams & Co. and Wells, Fargo & Co., the rival express companies, with Cram, Rodgers & Co. and Rhodes & Whitney, the connecting companies between Shasta and Weaverville, commenced racing their expresses with horseback messengers. After many hard races had been run, first one and then the other winning, in December, 1854, it seemed to have been arranged by the chief companies that they would run the president's message from San Francisco to Portland on the arrival of the mail steamer and then stop racing.

"Great preparations were made for the race, and all the fast horses along the road were pressed into service. As high as \$100 was paid to owners of horses for the privilege of riding them from three to five miles. Everything was in readiness about the 28th of December. Horses were placed about four miles apart by each company, every horse having a man to care for him, with an extra horse to ride himself. At least that is the way I had my stock arranged. Both relays of horses were under saddle from the 28th day of December, 1854, until the 2d day of January, 1855, until that date I made my part of the race. I rode for Adams & Co.

"The race was a very close one from San Francisco to Tehama. Wells, Fargo & Co. led to Marysville. Between Marysville and Tehama Lusk, Adams & Co.'s messenger passed Wells, Fargo & Co.'s rider, and the Mexican who took the bags from Lusk reached Tehama first and crossed to the Tehama side of the river just as Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger arrived at the opposite bank and jumped into the boat.

"Now my race commenced. I sprang into the saddle, with saddlebags weighing fifty-four pounds, and rode nineteen miles to Shasta without touching the ground but once during that part of the race. That was at the Prairie House, where Tom Flinn, the man in charge of my horse, had got into a fight with the man who kept Wells, Fargo & Co.'s horse, and had let my horse (Tom Turk's gray) get loose. I saw the situation, and riding my tired horse a little past where the fight was going on, sprang to the ground, caught the fresh horse by the tail as he was running away from me and went into the saddle over his rump. I turned to the horse I had just left with the express bags, pulled them over to my fresh horse and went on. I lost about one minute here. All other changes I made while the horses were running, the keeper leading the horse I was to ride and riding his extra one. I could make my coming known with a whistle about one-half mile before reaching the change, giving ample time to tighten the cinch and start the fresh horse on the road, and by the time I overtook him the keeper would have my horse in a gallop.

"I reached Shasta—sixty miles—in two hours and thirty-seven minutes. I was detained there about two minutes to divide the express matter, I taking the Weaverville portion and Jack Horsely the through pouch for Portland. I had nine changes of horses between Shasta and Weaverville and reached the latter place in five hours and thirteen minutes from the time I left Tehama. From Shasta to Weaverville, forty miles, the ride was made after dark, with a light snow falling, but when I reached the mountains and had my faithful horses to ride—Wildcat, Comanche, Greyhound, Pompey, Jack and the Bill Klix horse—a little snow did not make much difference in speed. But I was myself in bad condition at the end of this ride. I had lost my cap and my hair was a solid mass of ice. I wore no clothing except flannel drawers, undershirt and boots, unless my belt, with pistol and knife, might be considered clothing. The cold first seemed to penetrate me when I threw the express bags into the office at Weaverville. I had not felt it before.

"I was so far ahead of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger at Shasta that they stopped the race so far as that company was concerned. It was well that they stopped, for Jack Horsely made a splendid ride to Yreka, and was half way to that place when Wells, Fargo & Co.'s messenger reached Shasta. My stock and help for this race cost Adams & Co. about \$2,200. I made other races, long and short, but considering the weight I carried, the weather and the time of day that I made it, I have always believed this to be my best one."

More may be said in regard to the narrator's condition on arriving at Weaverville. The five hours' strain on nerve, mind and muscle had produced complete exhaustion, and it was always related that when Mr. Lowden sprang, or rather slid, from his horse he dropped to the sidewalk, and had to be assisted to bed. But a thorough rubbing, an occasional potion of "Mountain Balm" and a good sleep soon revived the hero of the greatest race ever made in northern California.—Rohnerville Herald.

Abul-Hassan, an Arabian horologist who lived in the Thirteenth century, was the first man to introduce the equal hour theory.

CONDENSED PARAGRAPHS.

Watch a man reading his own contribution to a magazine, and you will get a picture of absolute concentration.

"The number of impetuous ears in the world," said Hicks, "is proof to me that the early bird doesn't catch the worm these days."

The city of Kaskaskia, Ill., claims possession of the first bell rung for divine service west of the Alleghany mountains. It was cast at La Rochelle in 1741.

No opening could be discovered through which an enormous beetle came to be included in a solid log of wood which was discovered in a ship's hold in Portsmouth.

It is said that in all the forests of the earth there are no two leaves exactly the same. It is also said that amid all peoples of the earth there are no two faces precisely alike.

Montana is larger than Turkey; Texas is larger than the whole Austrian empire by 30,000 square miles and New Mexico is larger than Great Britain and Ireland put together.

A London thief tried to escape in a big box. After trying to balance himself on his head a few times, however, he found the weight of his feet insupportable and yelled for assistance.

In territorial area the United States ranks third. Great Britain controls 8,557,000 square miles of territory, Russia, 8,352,940 miles, and the United States, counting Alaska, 3,580,242 miles.

A mustard foot bath is often helpful in the first stages of a cold. A good handful each of mustard and coarse salt should be stirred into the water, and all chills must be avoided afterward.

While there are differences of opinion in regard to the effectiveness of the protection afforded by lightning rods, the best authorities favor the view that a faultless system of conductors insure absolute protection.

The harbor of New Haven, England, presents an excellent example of the extensive use of plastic unset concrete, this material having been almost exclusively used in the construction of that massive breakwater.

An eclipse of the moon is caused by the shadow of the earth; the phases of the moon are caused by the continually varying inclination at which that half of it that is illuminated by the sun is presented toward the earth.

The cost of rough steel castings for marine engine work is said to be about four times that of cast iron, but greater allowance has to be made for the machining, as much as 20 per cent. of the casting being removed in some cases.

"The tenement house," said a speaker at a recent public meeting, "is the enemy of philanthropy of the present day." He meant that whatever is done to ameliorate the condition of the masses of the poor in the great cities is, to a great extent, neutralized by the conditions under which they live.

No Safe Deposit Vaults Needed.

There is no trouble about living in the polar regions except lack of food supply. No danger exists that the provisions once placed would be disturbed. Among the people who dwell in those frozen regions a cache is sacred. Nothing short of starvation will compel a native to interfere with one, and even in such a case he leaves payment behind for what he takes. Snow shoes and extra clothing are hung up in the open air in summer and are as safe as the accoutrements which city persons "hang up" at their uncle's during the warm season.—Chicago Herald.

Tree Snakes of Hot Countries.

A set of tree snakes (Dipsas) to be found in Africa, south Asia and north Australia, devour birds, small beasts or lizards, but some also feed on eggs. These tree snakes are singularly beautiful in their coloration. More slender, as their name would imply, are the whipnakes (Dryophis), which are also strictly arboreal, but differ from the harmless tree snakes in being nocturnal.—Quarterly Review.

The Highland Pipers.

The Highland pipers have always been noted for bravery in action. At Porto Novo the Seventy-first piper played with such good will that Sir Eyre Coote called out, "Well done, my brave fellow; you shall have a pair of silver pipes for this!" At Vimiero a piper unable to walk coolly sat down and played, "Up and war them a', Willie," for which the Highland society afterward presented him with a set of pipes.—Cornhill Magazine.

Where Population Is Densest.

The densest population of the earth—over 400 to the square mile—is confined to Java, China, Japan, northeastern and southwestern portions of India, England, parts of France and Belgium, the Nile valley, Italy, Portugal, a small strip of Germany and a small section in the vicinity of New York and Boston.—Chicago Tribune.

Felt Flattered.

England is laughing at the story told in Henry Norman's "Real Japan" of the American minister at Tokio, who thought the Japanese "darned clever" people because they greeted him with cries of "Ohayo." "How did they know that I was from Ohio?" he asked.

Kissing Teething Babies.

A common superstition is that if a colored person will kiss a baby while in the mouth the process will assist it in teething and make this otherwise troublesome period for children more easy to bear.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

In the Kitchen.

Visitor—So you are out of a servant and cooking yourself?
Hostess (exhibiting a blistered arm)—Yes, literally cooking myself.—Kate Field's Washington.

A Grand Success.

She in Satin—Are you glad that you got married?
She in Silk—Of course I am. Why, I got 247 presents.—Exchange.

A Really Absentminded Woman.

An absentminded woman put herself on record the other morning in a cross town car, which she boarded at Sixth avenue, bound east. She paid her fare, said "Third avenue" to the conductor, took a second nickel for her ticket on the elevated, and, shutting her purse, gave herself over to some evidently absorbing thought.

The car was full of changing people, as is usual with crosstown cars, and a moment later the conductor, making his round again, noticed the nickel and mechanically reached for it. The woman gave it to him without a word and rode on. Near Fourth avenue she suddenly started out of her reflections, glanced around, saw that she was near her destination, took out a third nickel to have it ready and once more knit her brows in meditation. Before Third avenue was reached the conductor passed her again. This time she proffered him the nickel, which he would stolidly have taken save for the intervention of an old gentleman seated opposite.

"Madam," he said, "you have already paid your fare twice."

The woman started and looked confused, then a light dawned on her face, she thanked the gentleman, put her nickel into her purse and the purse deep into a mysterious pocket somewhere in the back of her dress just as Third avenue was reached. When last seen she was hurrying up the stairs struggling to fish the purse out in search of the heretofore too convenient nickel.—New York Times.

Belvoir Castle.

Belvoir castle has come in for a fair share of newspaper anecdotes. Pseudo-Gothic in style, its broad turrets and battlemented walls stand on the top of a mound which was thrown up at the end of a spur of the Leicestershire wolds by Robert de Todeni, standard bearer of the Conqueror. From its "lordly terraces" the eye ranges over a wide expanse of landscape, on which there rise conspicuous the ruined keep of Nottingham and Lincoln's cathedral towers. The works of art are numerous, but, with one or two exceptions, of secondary importance. In the cellar is a monster cask of ale called after the founder of the castle. Its capacity is 1,300 gallons, and twelve people have dined in it. There is also a silver punch bowl, resting upon four massive eagle's claws, which is used on the occasion of a family christening. At the foot of the wooded hill is stabling for 100 horses; a mile and a half distant are the kennels for the fox hounds, and from the trees somewhat farther off there emerges the steeple of the village of Wolsthorpe, where is a farm noted for the breeding of prize cattle.—London Star.

Nicknames for Princes.

The Sailor Prince, as Prince George is often called, is reputed to be a gay and sociable young man, good natured, merry and very democratic in his tastes. When both he and his brother were at sea in the Bacchante he displayed, in spite of his being seasick with unsailor-like frequency, a marked aptitude for the naval profession. He was on friendly and agreeable terms with the other young officers on board, and after a time, finding that each of them was known by some handy nickname, he allowed them to drop his formal title and answered readily to that bestowed upon himself. He was known simply as Sprat, and his brother with equal good temper accepted the name of Herring.—Manchester (England) Times.

Waiters Who Do Very Well.

Waiters in some of the more expensive restaurants, where they work all day, get as much as forty dollars a month. It is a very old statement that their incomes much exceeds those of the best paid clerks and bookkeepers, but they earn them. That is, most of them do. Girls who work as waiters in the cheap luncheon places get six dollars a week and their meals. They fare better than typewriters, school teachers or seamstresses.—New York Herald.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF WINSLOW TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY, PA., FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 1st, 1902.

W. T. CATHERS, DR.	
State appropriation.....	\$1 217 04
County Treasurer.....	184 15
From fines.....	15 00
From other township.....	6 97
Collector.....	4 226 36
Class.....	13
Other sources.....	2 50
Due W. T. Catthers.....	\$5 632 15
W. T. CATHERS, CR.	87 95
Credit by vouchers.....	\$6 371 72
Percentage.....	128 27
Interest.....	12 00
Auditing.....	6 00
Secretary.....	22 11
To balance.....	\$6 540 10
On dog fund.....	\$ 142 30
Credit by vouchers.....	77 60
Per cent.....	1 54 78 54
To balance.....	863 76
Audited on the 6th of June, 1902.	
W. J. HILLS, THOS. HUTCHISON, Auditors.	
W. K. GARVIN.	



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