

IT GOES UP AND DOWN

BIGGEST SEE-SAW THAT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED.

It is a Feature of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition—Those Who Ride Upon It Will Be Carried 200 Feet Into the Air.



UNIQUE feature of the Tennessee Centennial, which opened at Nashville, is the greatest seesaw which anyone ever heard. It is a mighty enlarged affair that is exactly similar in principle to the sport almost every child has enjoyed which is known as "teetering." It is the nineteenth century evolution of the pine board and the rail fence to the mighty steel columns that support two huge cars, each of which will accommodate fifty persons.

The see-saw, as the accompanying illustration shows, is composed of a central tower and a bull steel beam. This steel tower is thirty feet square at the base and seventy-five feet high to the upper pin. On this pin the beam, which is of steel, swings vertically. It is rectangular in sections, is thoroughly braced and 160 feet long. It is swung on its axis by means of two steel segments, which are affairs resembling huge croquet wickets the ends of which fasten into the beam and the rounded center slides over a portion of the tower which is prepared to receive such action. Technically speaking, pinions driven by the operating machine engage the two segments.

To the ends of the big steel beam cars are suspended—one car at each

should be nicely balanced upon the fence, or upon whatever object was its central point of support. This is the idea which has been observed in the construction of the giant see-saw.

It seems wonderful, when one thinks of it, that so great an affair as this could be adjusted with such mechanical nicety. Yet C. H. Devallos of Nashville, whose idea it is, says that were it not for that same delicate adjustment, the see-saw would be an utter failure. The question naturally arises, is it possible for the steel beam to slip and thus destroy the balance and get beyond the control of the machinery. The inventor says, however, that owing to the tremendous prehensile strength of the structure, especially at the points where any strain may possibly develop, that an accident of the sort suggested is absolutely impossible.

At the time of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, or rather some months previous thereto, an idea something like that which has resulted in the construction of the see-saw was broached. The building and mechanical experts who were asked to pass upon the idea laughed at the plan and said that even in this era of wonderful creations the successful carrying out of such a project was entirely out of the question. It simply could not be done.

Mr. Devallos has, however, shown that the seeming impossible is clearly practicable and his see-saw promises to be one of the greatest attractions at the Tennessee Centennial.

The only seeming impediment to the entire success and great popularity of the see-saw seems to be that on the face of it it is what the Tennessee mountaineer calls "scary." When a man stands on the ground and looks up at the top of the tower and remembers that the swing of the great truss beam would take him 200 feet from the earth with nothing but air between him and terra firma, he is likely to hes-

ROMANCE OF MAN AND WIFE.

Requiem for a Dead Husband Brings a Live One.

A romance such as is read about in novels, but seldom enacted in real life, is reported to the Boston Herald from Auburn, Me.

Twenty-three years ago Mrs. Ruth A. Bray of this city was divorced from her husband on account of his dissipation. Bray moved to Texas, and for a long time has made Brenham his home, and engaged in business there.

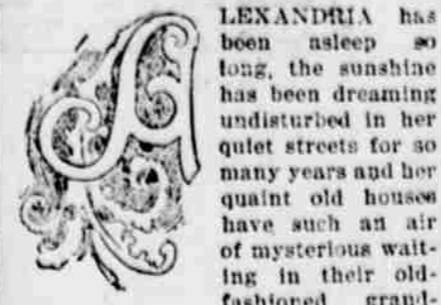
This winter Mrs. Bray was very sick, and during her illness she learned that her former husband was ill and not expected to live. She had a friend write a letter to Texas making a request that if Mr. Bray died his body be sent to her.

In the meantime Mr. Bray had improved. He wrote in reply that he was still in the flesh, but if his friends in Auburn wished for his body they were welcome to it. Mrs. Bray thereupon sent her daughter to Brenham to ascertain in regard to Mr. Brenham's condition. She found him almost destitute. The daughter bought him an outfit and brought him north. He is now at the house of Mrs. Bray, in this city. Mrs. Bray is a fine woman of 65 years, and quite wealthy. Her own sickness and that of her former husband have revived all her fond affection for him, and it is said the sequel of the story will be that the couple separated for so many years will be reunited again in marriage. Some of Mrs. Bray's friends wish her to wait for awhile to be certain that her former husband has really reformed, and this she will probably do. Mr. Bray has had a hard struggle, and there would seem to be every reason that he would settle down to a quiet home life with the woman who, through all these long years, has never ceased to remember and love him as in the day of their youth.

A SOUTHERN TOWN.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., CONTAINS MANY PICTURESQUE SCENES.

Old Carlyle House and Its Memories—The Mystery of the "Female Stranger"—A Town That Has Been Asleep for a Century.



ALEXANDRIA has been asleep so long, the sunshine has been dreaming undisturbed in her quiet streets for so many years and her quaint old houses have such an air of mysterious waiting in their old-fashioned grandeur that it seems almost a sacrilege to tear away the curtain of contented silence which time has hung there and to gaze with modern eyes half blinded by the dust of unceasing whirl at the bright, stately days of patch and powder, says a correspondent of the New York Tribune. Nearly every house has its bit of history, its comedy of dances and assemblies, or its darker tragedy of misfortune, death and even murder.

Among the places crowded with historical myths and shadows the old Carlyle house stands pre-eminent, for it has played its part in all the warfare of the country and has had no less a share in the heyday of Alexandria's glory. Built of stone and Holland bricks by the early settlers, supposedly in 1640, it was used during the French and Indian war as a fort; and in the old kitchen that is now falling into decay there is a well that has supplied the place with water through all the varied phases of its long existence. It was in the house that rose above the fort, which, by the way, made a most convenient foundation, not to mention stables and dungeons, that Braddock, in consultation with the governors of five colonies, planned his ill-fated campaign; here young George Washington received his first commission; the war of 1812 saw it in use as a powder magazine and a prison, while in the civil war it was used as a hospital. Around the colonial period, however, when Alexandria's glory was brightest, most of the interest centers; for, though the old house is now comparatively unknown and obscure, being hidden by the surrounding wings of the Braddock house, in those days its pillared portico looked down upon long terraces, bordered with slender Lombardy poplars. The wide hall is flanked on either side by quaint little rooms, the most famous of which is the "blue parlor," unchanged since the days of Washington, where the white cornice is carved in queer little roses and thistles to remind them, perhaps, of the old English days of "Merry Carlyle." It was in this room that little Sallie Fairfax tripped down the mahogany stairs to dance at her first ball with Gen. Washington and in the tiny antechamber in front Gen. Braddock slept. Upstairs the rooms are small and the modern housewife would look in dismay at the cupboards, for they are scarcely more than two feet square. The windows which front the river originally opened upon a balcony that overhung a most enticing garden, but the balcony has gone and the old garden, with its circular path of brick, its great box-trees and wistaria vines, is fast becoming a dream of the past. On the third floor the rooms are smaller and so still that but for the spotless whitewash they might easily be peopled with ghosts. At one end of the passage that runs between the rooms there is a door leading into a corridor of the old hotel and down its length of blackness it is said that the wailing of a baby, long since dead, often breaks through the stillness of the night. So much for the ghosts, who, unfortunately, do not walk in broad daylight, but the old vaults, far down below, are surely spooky enough, even where the sunlight pours its warm flood through the doorless archway. In one of the partitions above the vaults stands an old cupboard, made by the Indians, with traces of beading thickly covering the doors. The beads, however, have all disappeared. Down the stone stairs again, to the left, there is supposed to be an underground way that led to the river, which in those days was nearer by several hundred feet than it is now, but the vault has long been walled in, and its secrets are still unsolved. The Braddock house, which surrounds this relic of a bygone stateliness, is of a much later date, but a quaint, rambling enough old place it is. The front was originally built for a bank, and the rest of the house was added afterward. It, too, has seen many changes and much degeneration, and its wings seem fairly to shake with holy horror at the buzzing of the telegraph wires that have their home in its staid and proper walls. Straight down the street from the Braddock house is the old Clagett tavern (they were all taverns in those days), whose lower floor has been degenerated into something that is more like a junk shop than anything else, but upstairs are the assembly rooms, which, it is said, George Washington often honored with his presence. There is a queer little musicians' gallery looking into it that was accessible only from the lower hall by means of a ladder, as the tiny door leading into it is high up in the wall. When the musicians had assembled the ladder was taken away, leaving those unfortunate no way of escape. This room, now divided into three, is used as a club room by an organization that has done much to preserve and care for it. The carved wainscoting and molding

ANIMALS SHAM DEATH.

Fear Was Perhaps Responsible for Two Strange Incidents.

Two cases are on record of foxes being discovered in hen houses. In each case the fox not only completely deceived the funder, but allowed himself to be dragged out by the brush and thrown down, in the one case in a field and in the other a dunghill, says the Scotsman. In each instance the fox then jumped up and ran away. Another example is that of a fox which dangled across a man's shoulder as it allowed itself to be carried along a road for more than a mile. At last it bit the man and was promptly dropped. A cat was observed to carry a weasel home in its mouth, the weasel dangling helplessly. The door of the house was closed and the cat, in conformity with its usual habit, mewed to gain admission. To mew, however, it had to set down the weasel, which jumped up and fastened on its nose. The following instance was observed by the late Prof. Romanes: A cornerack had been retrieved by a dog, and, having every appearance of being dead, was put in the man's pocket. Presently violent struggles were felt and the man drew the bird out. To his astonishment it again hung in his hand limp and apparently lifeless. It was then set upon the ground and watched from behind some cover. In a short time it raised its head, looked around and decamped at full speed. A singular fact that must not be overlooked in connection with this phenomenon is that some animals have been found to be actually dead which were at first thought to be shamming. Romanes, for instance, found this to be the case with a squirrel which he had caught in a cloth, and with which he wanted to experiment with regard to the feigning of death. Sir E. Tennent also relates, in his book on the "Natural History of Ceylon," that the wild elephant sometimes dies when being taken from the corral by tame elephants. Further, he relates a case in which, being convinced that an elephant was dead, he had its lashings taken off, and a friend leaning against it the while to rest. Hardly had they left it when it rose hurriedly and, trumpeting vociferously, rushed off in the jungle. The fact, however, that a squirrel or an elephant when captured unharmed will die is sufficient to show that a most powerful nervous derangement of some sort is induced. When the late Joseph Thomson lectured on his African experience he related how the first buffalo he shot tossed him and how, when he came to himself and tried to sit up, he found his antagonist glaring at him a few yards away. He told how he recollected that a buffalo does not try to toss a creature which shows no signs of life, and how he let his head sink slowly back and lay shamming dead. Prehensiles, in flying across wide stretches of water, have been noticed suddenly to fall. In this way they are apparently drowned. It is perhaps dangerous to assert positively that fear is here the active cause of death yet we are apparently justified in believing that a paroxysm of fear can produce sudden death. The squirrel and the elephant may have died in fright; certainly death in man can be produced by sudden fear, and, although man has a much more sensitive nervous mechanism, the lower animals have an extremely active instinct of fear. Prof. Lloyd Morgan mentions the case of a surfaceman working in the Severn tunnel, who was nearly killed by a train. It is stated that "his attention was so riveted that he was unable to make, or rather he felt no desire to make the appropriate movements"—that he could not help watching the train, but felt no terror. With the greatest difficulty he managed to shake himself free of his fascination. In describing his feelings when the danger is past he is reported to have said, "I came over all a cold sweat and felt as helpless as a baby. I was frightened enough then." This may perhaps be taken as a cataleptic condition without fear.

FEMALE STRANGER.

Whose mortal suffering terminated the 11th day of October, 1856.

Aged 23 years and 8 months. This stone is erected by her disconsolate husband, in whose arms she sighed out her latest breath, and who, under God, did his utmost to soothe even the cold dead ear of Death.

How loved, how honored one, avails thee not To whom related, or by whom begot A heap of dust alone remains of thee. 'Tis all thou art, and all the friend shall be.

To Him gave all the Prophets utterance that, through his name, whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.—Acts, 10th chapter, 43rd verse.

Strange words for a soul released from its bondage; stranger still the unsolved mystery that hangs about her. Many are the speculations made, some even averring that she was the daughter of Aaron Burr, the unfortunate Theodosia, but this seems incredible, and nothing definite can be learned concerning this episode of a life to which, perhaps, it was the calm and peaceful ending.

SOME HARD GREEK NAMES.

Not Pronounced Quite as the Average Reader Would Suppose.

Greek proper names have been the source of considerable study to the reading public since the Greek troubles began and the pronunciation of the names of some of the officials who are prominent in Athens at the present time has been the subject of controversy, says the New York Tribune.

A man who is well versed on the subject said that the modern Greek peculiarity was to a great extent the accentuation and gave as an instance the name of Mauro-michales, the Greek secretary of the interior. The name is pronounced Mov-ro-michalls, with strong accent on the second syllable. The secretary of foreign affairs, Alexander Skouzes, pronounces his name Sko-u-zes, with strong accent on the a. The name of Philip Varvozles, minister of justice, is pronounced Varvo-chies, the ch in the third syllable being hard like the German ch. Nicholas Metaxas, minister of war, has an easy name for foreigners, but the minister of marine, Levides, pronounces his name Lee-vee-thee. The president of the chamber of deputies writes his name Zaimes and pronounces it Za-i-mis, with accent on the second syllable. Canaris, the fleet commander's name, is pronounced Canarees, with accent on the first syllable. The name of Delyannis appears in print every day and most readers have ideas as to its pronunciation. His Greek neighbors call the premier Delee-yancees, with accent on the second syllable.

Like the Russians, the Greeks have no family names except in the higher walks of society, and a man whose name is Gregorius will call his son Gregoriades, pronouncing the d much like th in though. The son of Demetrius is called Demetriades.

One of the most common names in Greece is Pappadopoulos, which may be assumed by any man whose father was a priest, and a man instead of taking the name of Antonides may call himself by the longer name, if Father Anthony was a priest. The d in Antonides, Pappadopoulos and in all names where it comes before a vowel, is pronounced like th in though.

Half-Price.

Dusty Dick—Say, boss, ain't yer got er half er dollar fer a blind chap? Old Gentleman—Why, you're only blind in one eye! Dusty Dick—All right, boss, make it 25 cents, den.—New York Tribune.

SOME LATE NEW THINGS.

A handy music-holder that needs no standard can be attached to a table by means of a spring clamp and has steel arms to hold the sheets of music in place.

A recently designed chair can be changed into a bed by dropping the back and raising the foot-rest, the sides opening out flat to make it wider if desired.

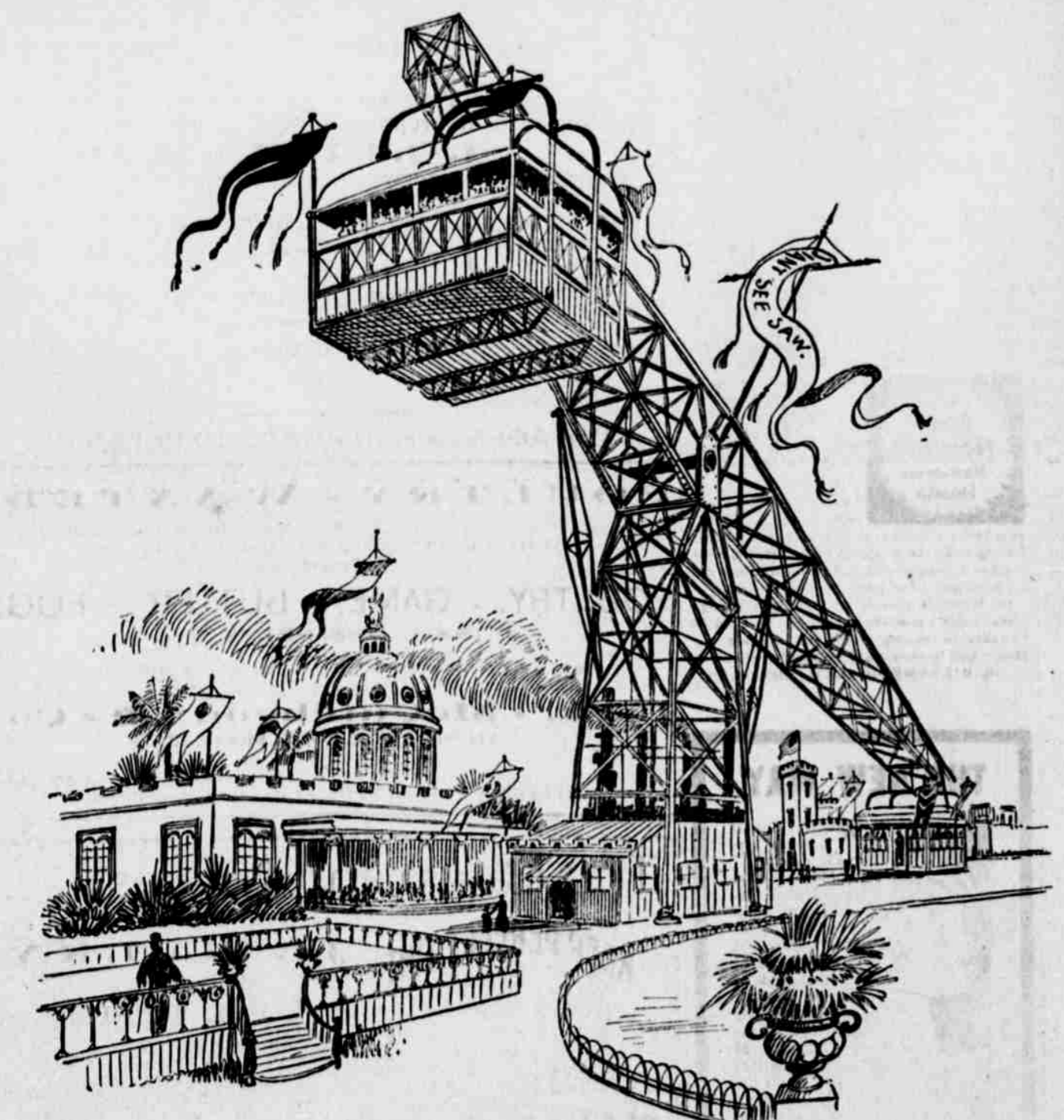
A new parcel-carrier for wheelmen is formed of a narrow box mounted on the frame over the rear wheel and fitted with a lock and key in the door at the end.

Snare drums can be attached to chairs for orchestral playing by means of a new device, consisting of a frame to hold the drum fitted with clamps to fasten to the chair.

Cradles and rocking-chairs are to be manufactured soon which are fitted with pneumatic and cushion pads on the bottom of the rockers to make them noiseless and comfortable.

Football can be played indoors by means of a new game-board and apparatus, the board being fitted with goals, etc., and the kicking is done by automatic model men controlled by levers.

For the purpose of lengthening the cranks of a bicycle a steel piece is formed of such shape as to enter the hole in the end of the crank and lock it, the end extending outward and containing a hole for the pedal shaft.



THE GIANT SEE-SAW AT THE TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL.

end. Each car is capable of holding fifty persons and can be lifted alternately to a point 200 feet above the ground. This is the maximum height. The length of the steel beam is also 200 feet. The cars used are similar to those attached to the Ferris wheel in Chicago. When one car is at its maximum height, the other rests upon the earth. The beams will move very slowly, the time necessary for the ascent and descent from the ground to the maximum height and vice versa being about five minutes.

So slowly will the beam move that the sense of motion to the occupants of the cars will be almost entirely lost. This is so arranged in order that very many persons whom a journey into the air of this sort would be likely to annoy with nausea, may be free from any such internal disturbance. The view to be obtained from these cars will be of extraordinary beauty. The scene of the battlefield of Nashville will be visible to the passengers, as well as the "Hermitage," the home of Andrew Jackson; Belle Meade, the famous stock farm of Tennessee, and many other points of interest.

The machinery that will move the huge see-saw is located at the bottom of the steel tower and inclosed in a small house. It is very simple, for while the tower and the huge truss beam are monsters of their sort, so delicate will be the adjustment that the task of the machinery in moving them will be comparatively easy. Every one who has ever teetered—and that means almost all the persons who will read this article—understands how necessary it was that the board used

itate. There really will be no danger, but the trouble is, it is likely to seem as if there were, and to most people this is as bad as if what was feared really existed.

If the career of the see-saw at the Tennessee exposition is a success, it will mean a new era in amusement enterprises, for there is no reason why these mechanical teeters cannot be constructed on a much smaller scale. There are a great many people who possess so many years that they cannot bring themselves to confess that there still clings to them that innate love of teetering which when children they were able to gratify. If the see-saw makes its appearance in the great cities, the chances are that there will be no age limit upon the passengers.

Washington's Mistake.
"All evening," said Mullington to a crowd of familiars, "I was on the kheadive! I was lookin' for Miss Richery everywhere. I had made up my mind to propose. I went into the observatory, and there, in an excluded corner, I saw her. I saw, too, the mistletoe prefixed to the palm on her right. Well, I wound up my courage and said in. I kissed her. At least I kissed something—I thought at first it was Miss Richery—I found out later my inexorable blunder! It was the old maid aunt of the Blakes, the one with the oxygen hair and the rouged face. I thought I'd faint—conscience was slipping from me, but the old idiot wasn't feazed! She never budged—she just looked up in my face and, says she: 'Muffie, dear, a kiss is catamount to a proposal,' and, by Jove, my lawyer says she's right!"—New York World.

Downright Robbery.

Wife—"Why did you send the doctor away before allowing him to do anything for you?" Husband—"The fool said he could cure me in three days. Why, say, I'm insured for \$40 a week and my salary's only \$20. I wonder what he takes me for!"—Cleveland Leader.

A Supposititious Case.

Powell—"But for your birth you would be my equal." Howell—"Yes; if I had never been born I suppose I should be a nonentity, too."—Demorest's Magazine.

SILVER THREADS.

A man with two faces never needs but one pair of feet.

The "moderate" drinker never touches it—one drink is excess.

The biggest debt in the world is the Christian's debt to the heathen.

Some men, if they prayed at all, would say, "Give us this day our daily grog."

Success, like a lung-testing machine, is valuable only as it measures strength.

Man should be a little lower than the angels, and not a good deal lower than the beasts.

The only way to break company with Satan, is for you to do the breaking. He never will.

A St. Louis woman was married to a freight conductor Saturday, and they are now making a honeymoon tour through the southwest in a caboose.