

September 4, 1936

[Dedication of Mark Twain Bridge - Hannibal, Mo.]

- 0906

FDR Speech File

READING COPY

President's speech at Dedication
of Mark Twain Memorial Bridge --
Hannibal, Missouri.

Sept. 4, 1936.

It is with earnest American pride and with a glory in American tradition that I enjoy this happy privilege today -- joining in this tribute to one who impressed himself upon the lives of youth everywhere in the last four score years and ten.

To look out across this pleasant vista where the life of Mississippi River boyhood was captured and recorded for posterity and to have a part in its commemoration is a privilege I am happy to experience.

No American youth has knowingly or willingly escaped the lessons, the philosophy and the spirit which beloved Mark Twain wove out of the true life of which he was a part along this majestic period. Abroad, too, this peaceful valley is known around the world as the cradle of the chronicles of buoyant boyhood.

Mark Twain and his tales still live, though the years have passed and time has wrought its changes on the Mississippi. The little white town drowsing in the sunshine of the days of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer has become the metropolis of northeastern Missouri. The tiny handful of complacent population has grown to twenty-three thousand souls -- the seventh largest city in your state and the fourth in bustling industry. The old steamboat landing is still there, -- the railroads and the buses and the trucks have not ended water transportation on the River.

It was my privilege last year to have a part in the opening of the centennial commemoration of Mark Twain's birthplace; on that occasion from the White House I pressed a key which caused a light to shine from the tall tower on Cardiff Hill -- the Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse. The perpetuation of Mark Twain's name, birthplace, and the haunts of his youth are very dear to me, especially because I, myself, as a boy, had the happy privilege of shaking hands with him. That was a day I shall never forget. With every American boy and every American who has ever been a boy I thrill today at this great structure joining two great states in the commemoration of youth's immortal.

When old Moses D. Balis found his way to the junction of the Hannibal and the Mississippi back in 1818, he little thought of the great stage of happy youth on which he was lifting the curtain. Likewise he and the older folk of the tiny river settlement in Hannibal had little thought that Sam Clemens, playing about the steamboat landing, would live through the ages.

Likewise, they had little thought that the cabins and the frame houses and the white-washed fences would give way to thriving industrial plants, modern buildings, a splendid city hall and other impressive public structures.

In place of the school house from which Huck Finn lured Tom Sawyer to truancy and the old swimming hole, you have eighteen modern grade schools, a high school, parochial schools and a fine library.

The old candles and the oil lamps which Tom Sawyer had to fill are gone. In their place you have one of the most successful municipal electric light and power plants in the country.

And today we mark one more step of progress -- one more imprint of a changing order -- this great structure spanning the Mississippi. The river ferry started to go when the old railroad bridge joined Missouri and Illinois back in 1870. As the years went by, this structure carried the rail, the horse-drawn and the motorized commerce in and out of Hannibal across the Mississippi. Time has now taken another step and today we eliminate the hazards of railroad crossings, of high waters and mixed rail and vehicular traffic.

This bridge, with its three-fourths of a million dollars outlay, stands symbolic of what can be accomplished by the cooperation of local governments with the Federal. Here, in this act of progress, we find the Federal Government, the City of Hannibal, the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois all joined in correlated action. Together they have given you this new bridge.

Working together in the days to come, they will greatly further the prosperity and convenience of the people of the United States.

End

Grand Island, Nebraska

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL BRIDGE
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI

September 4, 1936, 10:15 A.M.

It is with earnest American pride and with a glory in American tradition that I enjoy this happy privilege today -- joining in this tribute to one who impressed himself upon the lives of youth everywhere (in) all through the last four score years and ten.

To look out across this (pleasant) vista where the life of Mississippi River boyhood was captured and recorded for posterity and to have a part in its commemoration is a privilege that I am happy to experience.

No American youth has knowingly or willingly escaped the lessons, the philosophy and the spirit which beloved Mark Twain wove out of the true life of which he was a part (along this majestic period.) Abroad, too, this peaceful valley is known around the world as the cradle of the chronicles of buoyant boyhood, and we are all boys. (Applause)

Mark Twain and his tales still live, though the years have passed and time has wrought its changes on the Mississippi. The little white town drowsing in

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

... and bring sufficient supplies with it
and the same I do not believe would be well to
try to get out and get another -- just another
messenger or something else now. In my judgment
we must have enough to handle our duty
very easily indeed and when the mail is
the best we can possibly get information as will tell
us what transpires or has happened and therefore
therefore when we get another we'll not need
another messenger but there's no
other thing we can possibly get another because
as far as we go out we're not to be too near them and therefore
not have to worry about us being shot down
and so there's nothing which will get us in
any trouble and however much we tell them about us
so we can always keep them informed and to inform
(laughing) and the
people will like to hear what we have done
because we're not the ones that have been doing many of
the things that the civil and Indian and so

the sunshine of the days of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer has become the metropolis of northeastern Missouri. The tiny handful of (complacent) population has grown to twenty-(three) five thousand souls --. (the seventh largest city in your state and the fourth in bustling industry.) The old steamboat landing is still there, -- the railroads and the buses and the trucks have not ended water transportation on the River, and for that I am very glad. (Applause)

It was my privilege last year to have a part in the opening of the centennial commemoration of Mark Twain's birthplace; on that occasion from the White House I pressed a key which caused a light to shine from the tall tower on Cardiff Hill. (-- the Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse.) The perpetuation of Mark Twain's name, birthplace, and the haunts of his youth are very dear to me, especially because I, myself, as a boy, a younger boy than I am now, had the happy privilege of shaking hands with (him) Mark Twain. That was a day I shall never forget. With every American boy and every American who has ever been a boy I thrill today at (this) the great structure joining two great states in the

commemoration of youth's immortal.

When old Moses (D.) Balis and his associates found (his) their way to the junction of the Hannibal and the Mississippi back in 1818, (he) they little thought of the great stage of happy youth on which he was lifting the curtain. Likewise (he) they and the older folk of the tiny river settlement in Hannibal had little thought that Sam Clemens, playing about the steamboat landing, would live through the ages.

Likewise, they had little thought that the cabins and the frame houses and the white-washed fences would give way to thriving industrial plants, modern buildings, a splendid city hall and other impressive public structures.

(In place of the school house from which Huck Finn lured Tom Sawyer to truancy and the old swimming hole, you have eighteen modern grade schools, a high school, parochial schools and a fine library.)

The old candles and the oil lamps which Tom Sawyer had to fill are gone. In their place you have one of the most successful municipal electric light and power plants in the (country) Nation. (Applause)

And today we mark one more step of progress -- one more imprint of a changing order, a necessarily changing order (-- this great structure spanning the Mississippi.) The river ferry started to go when the old railroad bridge joined Missouri and Illinois back in 1870. As the years went by, this structure carried the rail, the horse-drawn and the motorized commerce in and out of Hannibal across the (Mississippi) River. Time has now taken another step and today we eliminate the hazards of railroad crossings, of high waters and mixed rail and vehicular traffic.

This bridge, with its three (fourths) quarters of a million dollars outlay, stands symbolic of what can be accomplished by the cooperation of local governments (with) and the Federal Government. Here, in this act of progress, we find the Federal Government, the City of Hannibal, the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois all joined together in (correlated) coordinated action. Together they have given you this new bridge.

And, my friends, working together in the days to come, they will greatly further the prosperity and convenience of the people of the United States in every

part of the Nation. (Applause)

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

the top side of the mountain side of the
gold mine which had suffered such damage
in the recent wind storm -- told his
men to go up and bring him a sample
of the gold which had been washed
out of the mine (crushed) and he said --
the last thing you should want to do
is to start the men at the bottom and let them
go up to get out a few samples of the
gold as quickly and safely as
possible without any damage to
the mine or any possibility of causing any damage
in getting the samples out "there was about half ton of
gold found. I think probably with much more
gold in there but could not tell exactly because
we took a sample because we wanted to make
sure (about) ~~about~~ ~~about~~
about half ton of gold was in there
because we thought we could have gotten more gold
if we had gone up the mine and I don't know if we

ROUGH DRAFT IN REGARD TO DEDICATION OF MARK TWAIN
MEMORIAL BRIDGE AT HANNIBAL, MISSOURI,
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1936.

It is with earnest American pride and with a glory in American tradition that I enjoy this happy privilege today -- ~~this~~ joining in tribute to ^{the} ~~an~~ influence which has impressed him ~~itself~~ upon the lives of youth everywhere in the last four score years and ten.

To look out across this pleasant vista where the life of Mississippi boyhood was captured and recorded for posterity and to have a part in its commemoration, ~~and major~~ ^{is a privilege,} events in life which only a few of us can experience.

No American youth has knowingly or willingly escaped the lessons, the philosophy and the spirit which beloved Mark Twain wove out of the true life of which he was a part along this majestic period. Abroad, too, this peaceful valley is known around the world as the cradle of the chronicles of buoyant boyhood.

Mark Twain and his tales still live, though the years have passed and time has wrought its changes on the Mississippi. The little white town drowsing in the sunshine of the days of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer has become the metropolis of northeastern Missouri. The tiny handful of complacent population has grown to twenty-three thousand souls -- the seventh largest city in your state and the fourth in bustling industry. The old steamboat landing still is there, but ~~its importance~~ ^{is less} ~~transportation has been dwarfed by~~ the railroads and the buses and the trucks have not ended water transportation on the River.

It was my privilege last year to have a part in the opening of the centennial commemoration of Mark Twain's birthplace; on that occasion from the White House I pressed a key which caused a light to shine from the tall tower on Cardiff Hill -- the Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse. ~~wherefore, although the~~ perpetuation of Mark Twain's name, birthplace, and haunts of his youth are very dear to me, ^{With every American boy and every} American who has ever been a boy I thrill today at this great structure joining two great states in the commemoration of youth's immortal. ^{the happy driving of shaking hands with him.}

When old Moses D. Balis found his way to the junction ^{him.} of the Hannibal and the Mississippi back in 1818 he little thought of the great stage of happy youth on which he was lifting the curtain. Likewise he and the older folk of the tiny river settlement in Hannibal had little thought that ~~simple~~ Sam Clemens, playing about the steamboat landing, would live through the ages. ^{that any child river first}

Likewise they had little thought that the cabins and the frame houses and the white-washed fences would give way to thriving industrial plants, modern buildings, a ~~hundred thousand~~ ^{planned} city hall and other impressive public buildings.

The school house from which Huck Finn lured Tom Sawyer to truancy and the old swimming hole ~~is in antiquity.~~ In its place you have eighteen modern grade schools, a high school, parochial schools and a fine library.

The old candles and oil lamps are gone. Instead you have one of the most successful municipal electric light and power plants in the country.

And now today we mark one more step of progress -- one more imprint of a changing order, this great ~~the~~ structure spanning the Mississippi. ~~The day of the~~ ^{ago} river ferry started ~~into~~ ^{when} the old railroad bridge joined Missouri and Illinois back in 1870. As the years have gone by this structure has carried both the rail, the horse drawn and the motorized commerce in and out of Hannibal and across the Mississippi. Time has taken another step and today we ~~dedicate this great modern~~ ~~structure~~, we eliminate the hazards of railroad crossings, of high waters and mixed rail and vehicular traffic. Your old bridge is to continue to carry the railroads, but the new is to keep motor traffic segregated in reasonably assured safety.

This bridge with its three-fourths of a million dollars outlay stands symbolic of what can be accomplished by the cooperation of the state governments with the federal. Here in this great act of progress we find the federal government, the city of Hannibal, the state of Missouri, and the state of Illinois all joined in correlated action. Together they have given you this new bridge. For two years they have kept an average of two hundred and fifty persons employed and they have given Hannibal one more advantageous outlet for its cement, its lime, its flour, its shoes.

Working together in the days to come, they will greatly further the prosperity and well-being of the people of the United States.

STATEMENTS FILE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

HOLD FOR RELEASE

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE
DEDICATION OF MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL BRIDGE,
HANNIBAL, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 4, 1936.

CAUTION: PLEASE GUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

Release upon delivery, expected about 10.15 A.M.,
Central Standard Time, Friday, September 4, 1936.

M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary to the President.

- - - - -

It is with earnest American pride and with a glory in American tradition that I enjoy this happy privilege today -- joining in this tribute to one who impressed himself upon the lives of youth everywhere in the last four score years and ten.

To look out across this pleasant vista where the life of Mississippi River boyhood was captured and recorded for posterity and to have a part in its commemoration is a privilege I am happy to experience.

No American youth has knowingly or willingly escaped the lessons, the philosophy and the spirit which beloved Mark Twain wove out of the true life of which he was a part along this majestic period. Abroad, too, this peaceful valley is known around the world as the cradle of the chronicles of buoyant boyhood.

Mark Twain and his tales still live, though the years have passed and time has wrought its changes on the Mississippi. The little white town drowsing in the sunshine of the days of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer has become the metropolis of northeastern Missouri. The tiny handful of complacent population has grown to twenty-three thousand souls -- the seventh largest city in your state and the fourth in bustling industry. The old steamboat landing is still there, -- the railroads and the buses and the trucks have not ended water transportation on the River.

It was my privilege last year to have a part in the opening of the centennial commemoration of Mark Twain's birthplace; on that occasion from the White House I pressed a key which caused a light to shine from the tall tower on Cardiff Hill -- the Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse. The perpetuation of Mark Twain's name, birthplace, and the haunts of his youth are very dear to me, especially because I, myself, as a boy, had the happy privilege of shaking hands with him. That was a day I shall never forget. With every American boy and every American who has ever been a boy I thrill today at this great structure joining two great states in the commemoration of youth's immortal.

When old Moses D. Balis found his way to the junction of the Hannibal and the Mississippi back in 1818, he little thought of the great stage of happy youth on which he was lifting the curtain. Likewise he and the older folk of the tiny river settlement in Hannibal had little thought that Sam Clemens, playing about the steamboat landing, would live through the ages.

Likewise, they had little thought that the cabins and the frame houses and the white-washed fences would give way to thriving industrial plants, modern buildings, a splendid city hall and other impressive public structures.

In place of the school house from which Huck Finn lured Tom Sawyer to truancy and the old swimming hole, you have eighteen modern grade schools, a high school, parochial schools and a fine library.

The old candles and the oil lamps which Tom Sawyer had to fill are gone. In their place you have one of the most successful municipal electric light and power plants in the country.

And today we mark one more step of progress -- one more imprint of a changing order -- this great structure spanning the Mississippi. The river ferry started to go when the old railroad bridge joined Missouri and Illinois back in 1870. As the years went by, this structure carried the rail, the horse drawn and the motorized commerce in and out of Hannibal across the Mississippi. Time has now taken another step and today we eliminate the hazards of railroad crossings, of high waters and mixed rail and vehicular traffic.

This bridge, with its three-fourths of a million dollars outlay, stands symbolic of what can be accomplished by the co-operation of local governments with the Federal. Here, in this act of progress, we find the Federal Government, the City of Hannibal, the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois all joined in correlated action. Together they have given you this new bridge.

Working together in the days to come, they will greatly further the prosperity and convenience of the people of the United States.

End.

STATEMENTS FILE

ShorthandByKannee

It was my privilege last year to have a part in the opening of the centennial commemoration of Mark Twain's birthplace; on that occasion from the White House I pressed a key which caused a light to shine from the tall tower on Cardiff Hill -- the Mark Twain Memorial Lighthouse. The perpetuation of Mark Twain's name, birthplace, and the haunts of his youth are very dear to me, especially because I, myself, as a boy, had the happy privilege of shaking hands with Him. That was a day I shall never forget. With every American boy and every American who has ever been a boy I thrill today at the great structure joining two great states in the commemoration of youth's immortal.

When old Moses ~~of~~ Balis found his way to the junction of the Hannibal and the Mississippi back in 1818, ^(P) they little thought of the great stage of happy youth on which he was lifting the curtain. Likewise ^{he} and the older folk of the tiny river settlement in Hannibal had little thought that Sam Clemens, playing about the steamboat landing, would live through the ages.

Likewise, they had little thought that the cabins and the frame houses and the white-washed fences would give way to thriving industrial plants, modern buildings, a splendid city hall and other impressive public structures.

50th
X > 50

It is with earnest American pride and with a glory
in American tradition that I enjoy this happy privilege
today -- joining in this tribute to one who impressed
himself upon the lives of youth everywhere ^{and} the last
four score years and ten.

To look out across this ~~pleasant~~ vista where the life
of Mississippi River boyhood was captured and recorded for
posterity and to have a part in its commemoration is a
privilege I am happy to experience.

No American youth has knowingly or willingly escaped
the lessons, the philosophy and the spirit which beloved
Mark Twain wove out of the true life of which he was a
part along ~~this majestic river~~. Abroad, too, this peaceful
valley is known around the world as the cradle of the
chronicles of buoyant boyhood. / / - ○

Mark Twain and his tales still live, though the years
have passed and time has wrought its changes on the Mississippi.
The little white town drowsing in the sunshine of the days
of Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer has become the metropolis
of northeastern Missouri. The tiny handful of ~~comparative~~
population has grown to twenty-three thousand souls -- the
seventh largest city in your state and the fourth in bustling
industry. The old steamboat landing is still there, --
the railroads and the buses and the trucks have not ended
water transportation on the River. '957-○

In place of the school house from which Huck Finn lured Tom Sawyer to truancy and the old swimming hole, you have eighteen modern grade schools, a high school, parochial schools and a fine library.

The old candles and the oil lamps which Tom Sawyer had to fill are gone. In their place you have one of the most successful municipal electric light and power plants in the country. *(S)*

And today we mark one more step of progress -- one more imprint of a changing order ~~in~~ this great structure spanning the Mississippi. The river ferry started to go when the old railroad bridge joined Missouri and Illinois back in 1870. As the years went by, this structure carried the rail, the horse-drawn and the motorized commerce in and out of Hannibal across the Mississippi. Time has now taken another step and today we eliminate the hazards of railroad crossings, of high waters and mixed rail and vehicular traffic.

This bridge, with its three-fourths of a million dollars outlay, stands symbolic of what can be accomplished by the cooperation of local governments with the Federal. Here, in this act of progress, we find the Federal Government, the City of Hannibal, the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois all joined in correlated action. Together they have given you this new bridge.

Working together in the days to come, they will greatly further the prosperity and convenience of the people of the United States. *(S)*