

THE EDITOR SPEAKS

THE OLD SCOUT



A Frederic Remington Picture. Century Magazine.

THE WEST TAKES this occasion to convey the deep concern felt by the personnel of this magazine over the catastrophe experienced by Alaska generally and by the city of Fairbanks specifically in August. Knowing the courage and resourcefulness of the citizens of this great state, we are confident they will overcome this tremendous set-back and continue to build toward their tri-goals of industry, culture and progress. A suggestion: how about an atomic plant to create electricity—and heat—for Alaska?

WE ARE PROUD to publish in this issue a story by Joan Kylo titled "Escape From Sioux Captivity," (page 14). Two more articles, by this author, on the same theme, will appear in coming issues. Miss Kylo authored the memorable "Blankets and Chains" for us in the October, 1966 issue of *The West*.

OUR PEOPLE HAD fun trying to backtrack the closed hobble in the story titled "Mormon Hobbles," (page 8) and it must be admitted we didn't all bat a hundred per cent. Tricky little gadget, but fascinating; we would ask Author Earl Spendlove to send us one—on loan perhaps—except that he plainly states the one pictured is the only one around. Any of our readers who may know of other hobbles like these around somewhere, write to this column giving details. We thank you in advance.

MANY THANKS TO the Public Library of Lincoln, Nebraska for sending along that resurrected item from "The Nebraska City News" dated April 29, 1882. The little story had to do with the hilarity with which Jesse James' brother-in-law greeted the news of his murder. Said Jess had dined with him that exact day, therefore the news of his death was greatly exaggerated. It happens, however, that an on-

the-ball reader, A.B. Butler, wrote a letter to Mail Pouch about it and it appears in this issue for your possible mystification.

FOR ALL YOU TH'ers who dote on Harry Rockingchair's "Treasure Trails" (page 38), here is an item to fan the flames of discovery. A 13-year-old youngster found a home for orphan children at Lake Lucio lucco found in the ruins of a monastery—a disintegrating bit of parchment—directions for the recovery of a fortune in silver. (The monastery was being demolished.) The purported treasure of Gerolamo "of the family who discovered Collescipoli," directs anyone who finds the treasure to "... take it without hesitation," and the enthralling missive is dated December 28, 1437. But, says the author, there are troubles ahead for the seeker of this treasure, estimated to be worth well over a million dollars because of its antique status. "The old wars between Collescipoli," (where the monastery was located), "and Terni, have faded into history. Terni now is a thriving industrial city. Collescipoli is a suburb. Little is left of the original walls, towers or gates. In other words, where in the world are we going to start excavating for this fortune? No getting around it, there's always someone to take the joy out of life.

"BLOODY INGALLS Under Siege" (page 26), by Joe Koller, is absolutely the best-reading and absorbing article we have ever seen about the Battle of the Marshals vs. the Gangs. Now no one need ever wonder who exactly were the men who infiltrated Ingalls, mixing with the hordes of Sooners waiting for the signal that meant that at last they were to have land of their own. And all of the gunslingers and gang members are named, too. A wonderful story, and a fine reference piece.

THE WEST

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BLOODY INGALLS UNDER SIEGE

MORMON HOBBLES