

Birthday Celebration

**MARK TWAIN AND
ANDREW CARNEGIE
HOST LAUNCH PARTY**



**YESTERDAY SHOW
TWAIN'S LOST
EDISON INTERVIEW**



**LECTURE SERIES
SHOULD HUMANS BE
KEPT AS PETS?**



**TWAIN ROBBERY
A BANK DEPOSIT
GONE WRONG**

TWAIN TIMES



Reaching for the Stars

These grade 8-10 students read *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* even though its more popular sequel, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is the fifth best-selling novel of all time. That book is banned here because its language is seen as controversial. The lecture was about illustrations of character development in this coming of age story - which is to say America's coming of age. We didn't want to give a speech that simply mirrored the syllabus.

**West Virginia High
School Students
are mesmerized by
Twain's Origin of
Speech**

There was no time to ask educators what they wanted us to stress and none offered any ideas. They were happy enough just to have the author show up; so we prepared by reading some of the works Twain read in the years preceding the book. One was the 1872 sixth edition of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*.

Twain delivered a wonderfully humorous speech inspired by this work as part of his 1872 lecture tour promoting *Tom Sawyer*. Twain's use of dialect allowed us to segue into a conjectural story about the origins of Language. The approach got some students thinking.

Although there was no direct reference to another Twain work in our speech, a thoughtful student asked, "What is the significance of *Those Incredible Twins*."

We didn't prepare for the question, which referred to Siamese twins in *Pudd'n'head Wilson* whom Twain said represented the dual nature of man. The students made their own connections between the origin of spoken language — which was part of this day's speech — Darwin's scientific explanation, and Twain's humorous take on it. The question was a reminder that anything can happen, so it is best to learn how to prepare for it. Find out what your students are thinking. Invite Twain to your school.

Pilot Lost and Found

The pilot for The Yesterday Show, thought to contain secret coded plans for a particle weapon invented by Edison, was lost in the Cloud recently. We think it was hacked by ISIL Well, not really. The weapon was conceived by Tesla, not Edison; and it wasn't really lost. The Government destroyed the plans. We just wanted to get your attention. To view a clip from the Twain-Edison Interview, go to www.marktwainslaststand.com/media.html.

A Case of Mistaken Identity

Many of Twain's stories contained a variation on this theme. *The Prince and the Pauper* was among his most famous. That story inspired an anecdotal tale of an attempt to make a bank deposit that went awry. The event really happened and is recounted in great detail. Changes were made to protect the storyteller and anyone else who might have been there. If you want to hear the story, you will have to wait for a live performance. Ask your library to sponsor the lecture containing this unlikely but true tale.

*Twain still makes
people laugh;
those who can, do*



Libraries today are focused on creating sustainable relevance in their communities. We'll share the Mark Twain Education Society's library and other partnering plans on November 30, 2015 at our Sunset Dinner Cruise aboard the Marina Jack II.