

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
SAINT PAUL



P R O C L A M A T I O N

It is peculiarly fitting that the young people of Minnesota should join with the children and youth of the whole Nation in commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mark Twain. He was born in the Middle West. The Mississippi River, which flows through Minnesota, was long and intimately associated with his life. He loved its waters and its banks and spent many sunlit hours piloting his craft through its currents. As he himself reported, he knew "it upside down, wrong end first, inside out, fore-and-aft" and then he knew what to do "in gray nights when it hadn't any shape at all." From his river experience he derived his familiar and famous pen name and he inspired many hearts, both young and old, to thrill to the romance of "Ol' Man River."

Moreover, the soul of Mark Twain remained forever young in its devotion to liberty and democracy. This may be why his appeal increases from year to year and from decade to decade. In our home circles, in public and school libraries, the line of boys and girls, waiting to secure copies of "Tom Sawyer", "Huckleberry Finn," "Life on the Mississippi," "The Prince and the Pauper", "The Gilded Age" and other tales from Twain's magic pen, never shortens and it never will so long as boys and girls respond to adventure and romance.

Mark Twain was much more than an entertainer and humorist. He was a great liberator of the mind and a democratizer of the emotions. Most of his books carry a serious purpose beneath their humor. He deepened the comradeship and humanity of the world even as he brought smiles to the lips or tears to the eyes. He was the foe of cruelty and superstition, of class pride and prejudice and injustice. He hated war and knew its

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suicidal cost. He was a rebel and a prophet as well as a wit. Taken all in all, Mark Twain is the most characteristic and authentic literary figure in our Nation's history. He was a poor and humble son of the pioneer Middle Border but today his influence circles the globe and bridges the centuries.

In behalf of all citizens of Minnesota, both young and old, it therefore gives me pleasure to designate

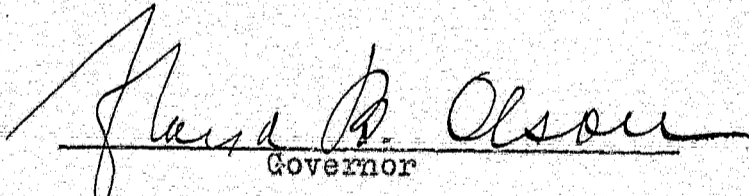
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1935

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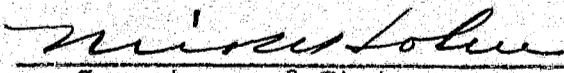
MARK TWAIN DAY.

Upon this hundredth anniversary of his birth let the life, writings and spirit of this great American author be appropriately commemorated and honored in homes, schools, churches and public gatherings to the end that his benign and enlightened influence may long endure in the Commonwealth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at St. Paul, this 25th day of September, 1935.

  
Governor

Attest:

  
Secretary of State

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STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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SEP 2 1935

*W. B. ...*  
Secretary of State