

Jewelry Box

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Fall 2017

A newsletter from

Joseph's Jewelry

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By Joseph Mirsky, Gemologist and Proprietor

www.jewelrynewsletter.com

Your Community Jeweler for 30 Years

Your Cheatin' Heart

Your cheatin' heart
 Will pine some day
 And crave the love
 You threw away
 The time will come
 When you'll be blue
 Your cheatin' heart will tell on you...

— Your Cheatin' Heart, Hank Williams

If your cheatin' heart doesn't tell on you, your cheatin' mattress will. Smartress, a mattress with "lover detection system", will call you "if anybody uses your bed in a suspicious way," turning your bedroom into a no sin zone.

Smartress has 24 hidden vibration sensors, "contact zones detector", and monitors "intensity and impact per minute." You'll also get a 3D map showing where the mattress gets the most pressure.

28 million breakups are caused by Whatsapp and Facebook, says the Spanish manufacturer, with the most cheating in Spain. A 2014 study showed that 39% of Spaniards admitted to having an affair, the most in Europe.

The Smartress video also says that 32 million people use the Ashley Madison website. "Life is short. Have an affair," is the Canadian company's motto. Men have to pay \$49 a month minimum for 100 "credits". It costs 5 credits to start a conversation.

Women sign up for free. You set up a profile with your physical appearance (from "slim" to "zaftig (voluptuous/curvy)", turn-ons, and types of men you prefer. If you're squeamish about uploading a photo, the site has a mask tool that will partially disguise you. The site claimed to have 31 million men and 5.5 million women signed up.

The Super Bowl rejected an Ashley Madison ad in 2009: "Who are you doing after the game?" And a \$25 million offer for naming rights for the Meadowlands Stadium was rejected in 2010.

In July, 2015, the Ashley Madison site was hacked by a group calling itself "The Impact Team." They stole all the account information — names, phone numbers, street addresses and email addresses of all 36.5 million users from around the world and put it online.

So how many men cheated on their wives? Hardly any. An analysis of the hack data by Gizmodo showed that of the 5.5 million women only 12,000 of them were real. The rest were fake women, accounts ginned up by Ashley Madison employees. These "fembots", software programs with canned chat lines and photos recycled from inactive older accounts, then contacted the men, used up their credits, then vanished.

In 2012, a Brazilian woman sued Ashley Madison claiming she had suffered repetitive strain injury in her hands from typing in 1,000 fake profiles.

Some 15,000 government employees, including Department of Justice lawyers and military personnel were exposed in the leaked data.

After the data breach was posted men started receiving blackmail threats demanding payment (in bitcoins) or wives, family, and friends would be notified of their attempted infidelity.

In December, 2016 Ashley Madison settled charges by the FTC and 13 states about lax security and the fake women for \$1.66 million.

Class action lawsuits claiming that Ashley Madison could have prevented the data breach with standard security techniques were settled for \$11.2 million in July, 2017.

Ashley Madison CEO Noel Biderman resigned a few weeks after the data breach. The company bragged in December, 2015 that it had added 4 million members since the data breach. It's still online if you want to check it out while she isn't looking.

Internal company emails also hacked revealed that Biderman cheated on his wife with three women going back at least three years. In an interview with Biderman and his wife Amanda, released on Netflix in January, 2016, but done before the data hack, comedienne Chelsea Handler asks him if he's ever cheated on his wife. "Not yet", he replied.

Keep Your Eyes on the Road

If you use GPS to navigate in Australia you might wind up in the wrong lane or driving into a wall. The GPS coordinates used are based on maps from 1994. But

since then Australia has moved 4.9 feet north due to continental drift. Australia drifts 2.75 inches further north each year, the fastest of all the continents.

In January, 2017 Australia's GPS coordinates were shifted 5.9 feet north, an overcompensation to where the continent will be in 2020 when a new system will automatically adjust for future drift.

But no worries if the Force use you can. 65,000 Australians listed "Jedi" as their religion in the 2011 census



We'll Meet Again

We'll meet again
 Don't know where
 Don't know when
 But I know we'll meet again some sunny day

We'll Meet Again was one of the most famous songs of World War II in England, a hopeful song promising reunion with families and sweethearts for the young men who went off to war.

It was sung by Vera Lynn, The Forces' Sweetheart, who sustained England in her finest hour with We'll Meet Again, The White Cliffs of Dover, and There'll always be an England.

Dame Vera Lynn turned 100 March 20, 2017. In celebration, a 350 foot image of her was projected on to the White Cliffs of Dover on her birthday. Vera Lynn 100, an album of 12 of her best songs was also released to mark the occasion.



Amethyst earrings in 14 karat white gold, .10 carat diamonds total. \$295. See it in color on the web.

Do It Yourself

Evan O'Neill Kane (1861-1932) was an innovative surgeon in Kane, Pennsylvania (founded by his father, a Civil War general). In 1921, at age 60, he removed his own appendix under local anesthesia using mirrors. He had done this operation 4,000 times. He wanted to test whether local anesthetic could be used for patients who could not tolerate general anesthesia. He was well enough to be taken home the next day.

In 1932 at 70, he repaired his own inguinal hernia. The tricky operation took 1 hour 55 minutes and Kane was back at work in the operating room 36 hours later.

In 1931, Kane's son Elisha Kent Kane, head of the Romance Language department at the University of Tennessee, came with his wife Jenny to visit her relatives in Hampton, Virginia. On a swim at Grandview Beach, Jenny went down under water. Elisha was able to get her to shore and then drove her to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. Two days after the funeral Elisha was arrested for murder.

He was acquitted at trial after his brother Thomas, a doctor like his father, testified that Jenny had a heart condition.

Evan also signed his work. Artists and sculptors sign their masterpieces, so why shouldn't he?

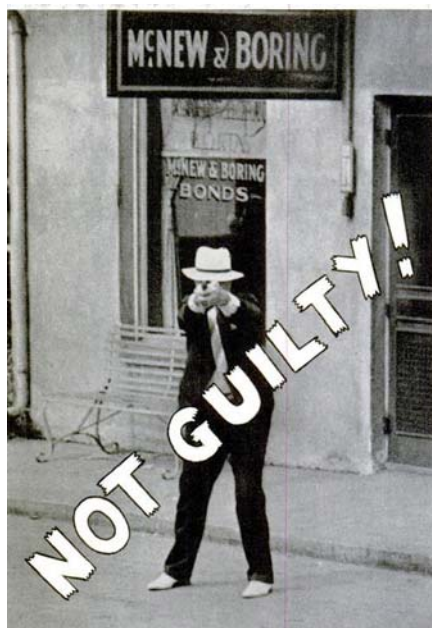
"I inscribe upon my operated patients, by simple means of a tattoo, my last initial in radio code," he said in *The American Journal of Surgery* as quoted in the *Norwalk Hour* June 2, 1925. He puts a little India ink near the incision and uses a heavy needle to scratch his initial "K" in Morse code, dash-dot-dash.

"These, tho indelible, are hardly prominent enough to be objectionable cosmetically and if the tattooing is done carefully it attracts but little attention."

For a while he even put the date, also in Morse code, but discontinued it as taking too long. But "Despite this objection it is of advantage to read near one's patient's scar the approximate date of operation without having to refer to notes. It saves time and obviates the risk of being thought unduly forgetful."



Kane repairing his hernia in 1932. He never fully regained his strength and died of pneumonia 3 months later.



You would think that this shot of a shooter shooting a gun at someone shooting at him with a camera would be sufficient evidence to convict him of attempted murder.

Bail bondsman Ed McNew of Knoxville, Tennessee was the subject of newspaper articles about his undue influence with police and judges in 1938. Knoxville Journal photographer Howard Jones managed to get a snapshot of the elusive McNew sitting in front of his office from his car before speeding off.

Two days later, June 25, 1938, McNew was crossing the street to go to court on a charge of drunk driving when Jones tried for another photo. McNew pulled out a pistol and fired four shots at Jones who was at a corner of a building. All shots missed.*

Four months later, McNew was tried for attempted murder. His attorney, Ray Jenkins (later counsel in the Army-McCarthy hearings) accused Jones of harassing McNew and had him wheeled in on stretcher. McNew sobbed and claimed that he had suffered a "mental explosion" at the sight of Jones' camera and the jury acquitted him.

The Knoxville Journal then reprinted the picture of McNew firing with "Not Guilty!" Written across it. McNew was tried and convicted in 1939 of carrying a concealed weapon. The verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court of Tennessee in 1940 and McNew paid a \$118 fine and went off to serve 60 days at the county workhouse.

Life Magazine July 11, 1938 reported "As police closed in, nerry photographer Jones jeered: 'If I couldn't shoot any better than that, I'd quit'"

* *Time* magazine December 9, 1940 said Jones ducked behind a wall after the first photo but *Life* in the July 11 issue says "while

shots whizzed past him, Jones composedly continued to click his camera."



Garnet pendant in 18 karat gold. Estate piece. \$325. See it in color on the web.

Congratulations!

Here's what to do when you win the lottery:

1. Stop wasting your money on lottery tickets.
2. Live happily ever after.

Paint Job

"Any customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants so long as it is black." — Henry Ford, quoting his announcement to staff in *My Life and Work*, 1922.

Cars used to be painted at the factory by hand spraying and baking in ovens. Over time, layers of multi-colored hardened paint built up on the painting racks and were removed when they got too thick. Workers collected these pieces of paint slag, called fordite since it was first collected at a Ford plant in Michigan in the 1940's. Fordite can be cut into colorful agate-like gemstones. (It's also called Detroit agate or motor agate.) It takes 997 layers of paint to build up a one inch thick piece of fordite.

In the 1970's, paint spraying was replaced by an automated electrostatic process that doesn't leave an overspray buildup, so the only source of fordite is from stashes now-retired workers took home. Fordite from the 60's and 70's has the bright colors of the cars of that time.

At the 2016 Tucson gem show was exhibited colorful fordite from the Corvette assembly plant in Bowling Green Kentucky (chevyite?, vetteite?) Fordite specimens and jewelry sell for \$40-\$300. For \$47.45 you can get a fordite iphone case.



Snake Oil

The original snake oil really wasn't "snake oil". Chinese workers on the Transcontinental Railroad, built from 1864-1869, soothed their aching muscles by rubbing with oil from the Chinese water snake, a traditional remedy. 20% of it is EPA, an omega-3 fatty acid that can be absorbed through the skin and is effective for treating inflammation, especially arthritis and bursitis.

Indian tribes made snake oil from rattlesnakes and the practice caught on with settlers. A North Carolina woman who died in 2015 at 107 made snake oil from her grandfather's recipe found in his Bible. It's still sold in local stores.

The Milwaukee Journal November 8, 1897 gave the recipe of "Rattlesnake Pete" Gruber. The snake has leaves of fat on each side of the backbone which "are fried out exactly as tallow or lard is" and a fat snake will yield about half a pint of clear oil.

Clark Stanley (b. circa 1854), a Texas cowboy, says that after witnessing their snake dance* in 1879, he lived with the Moki (Hopi) Indians for 2 years 5 months where he learned their language and was given the formula for their rattlesnake oil medicine. He then started a snake oil liniment business, traveling around the southwest selling Clark Stanley's Snake Oil Liniment in medicine shows. The liniment label touted it as a cure for whatever ails you: "rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, lame back, lumbago, contracted cords, toothache, sprains swellings, etc." Rattlesnake oil only has about a third of the omega-3 fatty acid as that from the Chinese water snake.

At the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, dressed in a colorful cowboy outfit, he pulled live rattlesnakes out of a sack, killed them, slit them open, plunged them into boiling water and skimmed off the melted fat. He then mixed it with other ingredients and sold thousands of bottles of his liniment to clamoring crowds with this dramatic routine according to most reports. He mentions in his book (see below) that he killed snakes and made the liniment "in full view of the audience" at the Columbian Exposition, but with no other detail. He is not mentioned in directories of the Exposition or the Midway Plaisance, a mile long strip outside the gates intended as an entertainment venue, although a host of tawdry amusements popped up just outside the fair on Stony Island Avenue. Stanley says a druggist from Boston saw his act and induced him to move to Beverly, Massachusetts where he set up a factory which he soon outgrew and moved to larger quarters in Providence, Rhode Island. His snake oil liniment was "sold by all druggists and dealers everywhere."

Clark Stanley is an elusive character. I couldn't turn up any contemporary newspaper articles about him, not even an obituary. All Internet information about him traces back to his self-published book, which comes in two editions: *The Life and Adventures of the American Cowboy, Life in the Far West by Clark Stanley, Better Known as the Rattle Snake King* (84 pages, original from Princeton) and *True Life in the Old West by the American Cowboy, Clark Stanley* (82 pages, original from Columbia). Both editions have the same articles about life as a cowboy, cattle drives, roundups, branding, etc. and a discourse on cowboy dress:

"It is the general impression among the people of the East, that the long hair, wide-rimmed hats, big spurs, fringed leggins and other striking things in a Cow-boy's outfit are worn for show and bluster; but, like many other ideas about Cow-boys, that impression is entirely wrong. It was not a desire for picturesqueness that led to our make-up as it is today, questions of usefulness and necessity were the only considerations that prompted the adoption of our peculiar dress." The book then goes on to explain about cowboy hats, long hair, the big handkerchief, buck-skin clothes, high heeled boots, big spurs and the heavy saddle.

The Columbia edition has a long section about the lasso with 9 photos of Stanley demonstrating various techniques. Both editions have the lyrics to many cowboy songs and the Princeton edition has pages of ads for the liniment at the end.

The Princeton edition has a section titled "History of Clark Stanley" that supplies his only biographical information, recounted above. In it there are reprinted four articles, one from the Boston Transcript, undated, one from the Boston Sunday Post dated March 15, 1896, one from the Sunday Post, Pawtucket Rhode Island and one from the Troy Medicinal Digest. All the articles report on visits by reporters in which Stanley showed them rattlesnakes and handled them without fear. The first two articles are about visits to Beverly and the second two, Providence.

It is widely reported that the Princeton edition was published in 1897 — there is a penciled notation "[Providence RI 1897]" on the title page. But both versions have a reproduction of a homestead application (for 160 acres of land under the Homestead Act of 1862) with blanks to fill in a date with the year given as "190—". Late 19th century applications have "189—". Hathitrust Digital Library reports the Columbia edition as published in "1900?". Neither edition has a date on the title page. Trademark 34,768 for the liniment was awarded in 1900. The image at right is in both editions and says at the bottom "Trade Mark Registered."

Stanley tells in the Princeton edition that he attended the Roosevelt inauguration in 1905 riding in the Cowboy Brigade of the inaugural parade. The cowboys each shook hands with Roosevelt after the parade. Stanley quotes himself as saying to Roosevelt "This is the proudest day of my life and will be until I am President myself," to which Roosevelt replies "I hope you will be." However, Stanley is not on the list of 62 names (including Tom Mix) in an authoritative article about the Cowboy Brigade on a web site.

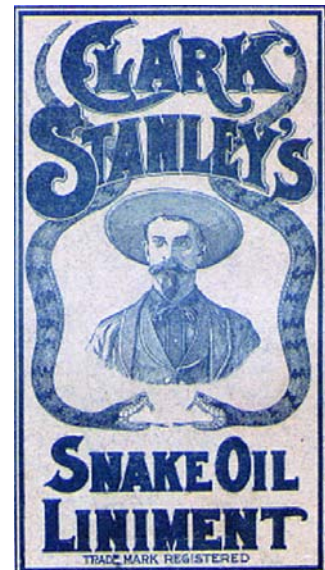
Stanley says he was born in Abilene, Texas and that he was a cowboy for 11 years from age 14 before going to live with the Moki in 1879. That would make his birth year 1854. But Abilene wasn't settled until 1881.

It looks like he was selling snake oil in the book as well as the bottle.

But the factory-made Stanley's liniment didn't have any snake oil at all in it. In 1915 the Bureau of Chemistry of the Department of Agriculture intercepted a shipment of Clark Stanley's Snake Oil Liniment being shipped from Rhode Island to Massachusetts and analyzed it. It consisted "principally of a light mineral oil (petroleum product) mixed with about 1 per cent of fatty oil (probably beef fat) capsicum [hot pepper extract], and possibly a trace of camphor and turpentine." The U.S. Attorney charged Stanley with violating the Food and Drugs Act because the label and accompanying booklet "falsely and fraudulently represented it as a remedy for all pain and lameness..." Stanley pleaded no contest in 1916 and was fined \$20.

In other words, he was selling "snake oil" snake oil and "snake oil" then became the eponym for quack medicine.

* The Moki snake dance was a rain dance, with the participants holding the snakes in their mouths.



8/16/17 8/16/16 8/17/15

Gold	1273	1344	1119
Silver	16.69	20.04	15.23
Platinum	952	1124	990

You can get live precious metals prices on the web site.

Joseph's buys old gold for cash

Do It Yourself

An article titled Cow-Boy's Hat in Clark Stanley's book *The Life and Adventures of the American Cowboy* (see *Snake Oil* previous page). says that until recently the Cow-boy made his own hats. A hole the shape and size of his head was dug into the ground and a round piece of wet rawhide was pressed into the hole with a bunch of grass leaving a enough outside for a rim. After it dried in the sun, it was "smoke and heat scorched until it was water-proof, then it was trimmed with strings and was ready for use."

But now the hats are made in the East of the best leather and are extremely durable. Stetsons are the most common, costing from \$8 to \$20 (\$219 - \$546 adjusted for inflation). Today Stetsons go for \$100 - \$1000 (for the Stetson 100X El Presidente Silverbelly Felt Cowboy Hat. "Worn by Leaders Around the World" with a 3 piece 10 karat gold buckle set on a strap around the base of the crown).

It's Howdy Doody Time!

The iconic kids TV puppet show Howdy Doody first aired in 1947. Buffalo Bob and his marionettes Howdy Doody, Fluba-dub, Mr. Bluster and humans Clara-belle the Clown, and Chief Thunderthud (kowabonga!) entertained the Peanut Gallery of kids on live TV.

In 1950, in a puff of smoke, the puppet Princess Summerfall Winterspring was transformed into a live Indian princess played by Judy Tyler.

Judy Tyler, then only 17, stayed with the show until 1953. She went on to star in Rodgers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical *Pipe Dream* in 1955 and in *Jailhouse Rock* with Elvis in 1957.

A 1987 review of a book about the

Howdy Doody show in the Chicago Tribune says that the Princess "symbolized purity and wholesomeness" but offstage, she was fondly recalled as "famous for her foul mouth, her propensity for getting drunk and stripping on nightclub tables, and the cheerful way she dispensed sexual favors to the cast."

The book review goes on to say "Rehearsals for the show, in fact, were ribald affairs in which the cast and crew regularly put the puppets through pornographic paces (leading to some embarrassing moments when groups of kids happened to be touring the studio and wondered why the puppets were in such curious positions)."

Shortly after filming for *Jailhouse Rock* ended, Judy Tyler was killed along with her husband on July 3, 1957, in an horrific automobile crash in Wyoming while on their way to New York. She was 24.

HOURS	
MON - WED	10 - 6
THU - FRI	10 - 8
SAT	10 - 6
SUN	Closed

The Beginning According to Tony

I post on the comments section of a radio show. Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson was on and someone posted about the big bang, but with a typo it came out "bing bang." Another person remarked that he liked that formulation. I then suggested that bada bing bang would perfectly characterize the event.



14 karat white gold earrings with blue, green, yellow sapphires, and rubies, .90 carat total. Hinged omega backs. Vivid colors. \$650. See it in color on the web.

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Jurassic Berth

The Henn-na ("Weird") Hotel in a Dutch theme park near Nagasaki, Japan is "manned" entirely by robots. For Japanese speakers, a female humanoid will bow and greet you. But English speakers will confront a velociraptor desk clerk. The dinosaur says "welcome to the Henn-na Hotel. If you want to check in, please press one", in American English.

After you press one on a 4 button keypad, you enter information on a touch screen, then have a facial recognition photo taken. The camera on your room door has to recognize you and let you in. (Robots aren't good at finding lost keys.)

A small white plastic concierge robot will give you menu and event information. An industrial robot arm will put stuff you want to store in a crate in a secure glass-walled room. Then an automated porter dolly will schlep your suitcase to your room.

Once the door recognizes you and lets you in, Tuly, a small doll-like robot with a tulip-shaped head will tell you the time and weather and turn off the lights when you ask. There are no light switches. But none of the robots can yet make the bed.

Velociraptors are those cunning critters that tried to make everyone lunch in the kitchen at Jurassic Park.

Maybe it's better if the velociraptor desk clerk doesn't check you out.



Deep Thought
Ambition is a dream with
a V-8 engine.
 — Elvis Presley

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