

Discussion Questions

Lill Martine is trying to leave her true identity behind but is unable to do so. Ned is trying to hang onto his, but no one really believes he is Edward Turrentine Bayard III. What other characters are struggling with issues of identity, and in what ways?

Why do you think 1871 might be a particularly fitting time for a story that revolves around identity? Why is the United States such a good setting for a story about identity?

When Ned tells Phaegin about Tilfert and Avelina, Phaegin conjectures that Avelina might have been a mistake- a man in a woman's skin. She says she once saw a white man in a black man's skin. For the time, Phaegin's ideas would have been considered progressive. What attitudes in the book seem repugnant to us today, but were common place at the time? What attitudes are widely held today, but may well be seen as backward in the future?

How is the Old West of Turpentine different from the Old West you've come to expect from other books or movies?

Who do you find heroic in the book and why?

How would you describe Chin? Righteous? Certain? Stubborn? Moral? A horse?

What was Curly's greatest misdeed and why?

Amos Even, Phillip, Brill, Dawbs, Coy Hayes, Daniel Ritter, Will Smith, Jim Harrier, Wilson Dunlaw-- what do these characters have in common?

If Ned had been born female how would his story have differed?

If Ned had been born poor how would his story have differed?

If Ned had been born Irish-American, or black, or ---- how would his story have differed?

Mrs. Quillan's Derby Salad.

Chop half a head of lettuce, half a bunch of watercress, a small bunch of chicory and a half head of romaine. Toss greens with a cup of french dressing. Divide among 4-6 plates. Atop the greens and divided among- arrange artfully: two medium tomatoes (peeled, seeded and quartered) 2 breasts of boiled chicken (sliced) 6 strips of bacon (cooked until crisp and crumbled), 3 hard-cooked eggs (diced) and half a cup of crumbled Roquefort cheese.

Dawbs' Cornmeal Mush.

Stir $\frac{1}{2}$ C. cornmeal into 2- $\frac{2}{3}$ C boiling water and cook it down until it thickens. Add butter and salt if you've got it, and parings of sage. Eat as is, fry into Johnny cakes. or bake it on a garden implement for hoe cakes. (from an 1830 recipe)

Dawbs' jerked meat.

Kill an animal. Cut the flesh from the bones in thin strips. Work a liberal amount of salt in well, and let it remain for about two hours. Drive four forked stakes into the ground and lay a pole across the forks. Fill the space the other way with more poles laid on the first two about two inches apart. Lay the strips of meat on the poles. Start a small fire of clean hard wood underneath. Keep it up for twentyfour hours. This process will reduce the weight of the flesh by more than half, a relief if you've got a ways to go.

Avelina's Buffalo Roast.

3 # Buffalo Roast

potatoes, quartered

onions, quartered,

apples if you have 'em, apple juice, too.

Carrots, if the damn horse didn't get them all.

Heat oil in a Dutch oven and sear the roast on all sides. Add onions carrots, and the like with whatever spices you've got on hand including sage, pepper, salt. Roast for about an hour. Add potatoes and roast for an hour more.

Avelina's Bison Tongue.

Slap the tongue in the Dutch oven and cover with water. Add an eighth of a cup of apple cider vinegar, salt, pepper, and whatever spices are available, pickling spices if you've been putting up goods, and a large quartered onion. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until tender. Slice thin. Good between brown bread.

Phaegin's kedgerree

Cook a cup of rice. Rinse, drain and spread it out to dry. Boil 3 eggs until hard. Chop one egg and quarter the other two. Put a pound of smoked haddock in water to cover and simmer for ten minutes. Drain, skin and flake the haddock, removing any bones.

In a large frying pan add butter, (red pepper if you like it hot) rice, haddock and chopped egg. Cook until hot. Garnish with chopped parsley and quartered eggs.

Mother's Apple pie

Cut 2/3 of a cup of butter into 2 cups of flour sifted with a teaspoon of salt. When the butter is the size of peas, add cold water until the dough holds tight together (about 5 tablespoons). Divide into 2 balls, one with 2/3 of the dough, the other the remaining 1/3.

Roll out the large ball and place in pie tin. Peel and chop 6 good-sized apples. Toss with a generous amount of sugar and cinnamon, put into pie crust. Dot with butter. Roll out small ball of crust, place over top. Pinch to look pretty-like. Stab top for steam. Cook in a medium-hot oven (375) until the crust is golden brown.

Mother's Christmas porridge

Stir 1/2 cup of steel cut oats into 2 1/2 cups of boiling water with 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Simmer for about 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve porridge hot with milk and honey and a good slug of rum. Merry Christmas!

Mrs. Bryant's Irish Coffee

Brew a good dark pot of coffee. Lace the coffee with a decent amount of whiskey, more'n decent if there's trouble in the house. Serve with lumps of cane sugar.

Real-life characters from the Old West-and the Old East, too

These figures taken from the ranks of history may make you think of fictional characters or situations in Turpentine.

Colonel Henry Inman wrote an account in 1897 of a disastrous journey into the American desert without enough water, led by Captain Becknell. “When what they had brought with them in their canteens from the river was exhausted, thirst began its horrible office. In a short time both men and animals were in a mental condition bordering on distraction. To alleviate their acute torment, the dogs of the train were killed, and their blood, hot and sickening, eagerly swallowed; then the ears of the mules were cut for the same purpose.”

In 1840 a New York Tobacconist hired a young woman named Mary Rogers as a clerk in his shop designed to attract men to his store. (Rogers’ unsolved murder a year later was known as “The Mystery of the Beautiful Cigar Girl.”)

In 1860 Lewis Osterweis & Sons, a cigar store, was founded in New Haven, CT and remained in business until 1954.

Between 1850 and 1890 over 31,000 were killed in coal mines with hundreds of thousands injured. It wasn’t uncommon for coal collieries to employ children as young as twelve, at times taking kids as young as seven. Edward Cannon -Irish laborer, aged seven years, was fatally injured by mine cars in the No. 5 mine of Landsford on the 26th day of November 1884.

It was claimed by Edward Cope, one of the three great 19th century paleontologists, that Othniel Marsh, another 19th century paleontologist, had stolen fossils, plagiarized his writings and was over-all an incompetent scientist.

According to Evan Connell in Son of the Morning Star, a washerwoman by the name of Nash married a private named Noonan. While Private Noonan was away his bride sickened and died. Before dying she told those caring for her not to wash and dress her if she died. They refused and when preparing her for burial found she was not female. It was reported in the Bismarck Tribune that Noonan, because of the shame that fell on him in the discovery of his wife’s sex, committed suicide with a pistol.

Ina Raymonde was a young woman in the late 19th century. Her fiancé, who was also betrothed to another, was found shot. It was rumored that Ina was the killer as she was

known to be an astounding marksman. Ina and her family changed their name and relocated to Nebraska.

Texas Jack Omahundro A fellow scout of Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack not only scouted, cowboyed, and buffalo hunted, but also became a stage actor and married an Italian actress by the name of Josephine Morlacchi.

Test your knowledge of
19TH CENTURY TRIVIA

1. In 1866 the New Haven Arms Company was reorganized into the _____ Company. A) Colt Manufacturing B) Browning and Bullard C) Winchester Repeating Arms
2. Denim was known as _____. A) cowboy cotton B) cotton jeaning C) cotton duck.
3. What was sewn into the hems of skirts to prevent them blowing up and revealing a lady's legs? A) spoons B) lead shot C) nails
4. Bison bones were collected and shipped east to be used for _____. A) rustic chandeliers B) aphrodisiacs C) fertilizer.
5. By the end of the 19th Century the bison population in the United States had dwindled to _____ animals. A) 800 B) 8,000 C) 25,000.
6. In the 1870's _____ were sold on trains for 2.50 for use by passengers. A) maids B) tin basins C) straw mattresses
7. Sept 6, 1870 _____ casts the first woman's ballot in _____ territory. A) Susan Anthony, Wyoming B) Louisa Swain, Wyoming C) Carrie Nation, Utah
8. Children working in cigar and cigarette factories were called _____. A) bunch breakers B) fingerlings C) cheaters.
9. The best selling tobacco product of this time was _____. A) shredded chaw tobacco B) the five cent cigar C) bagged tobacco and papers
10. The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal published "Influence of Smoking in Promoting _____." A) lung expansion B) mental acuity C) defecation.
11. MY CIGAR magazine in 1874 wrote "That smoker has reached the acme of skill...who can blow three concentric rings and _____ through the inner circle without causing a line to waiver." ... A) blow a fourth B) spit

12. In 1860 it was reported in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper "Miss Temple and Miss Williams...were crossing the Mississippi at Dubuque, Iowa, when they sunk through a spot of spongy ice. Their _____, however, spread out and held them up until assistance arrived." A) bustle B) crinoline C) legs.

13. Miners used canaries to detect _____ because their heart rate is so high they die or pass-out before a man can accumulate the gas in his blood to a harmful degree
A) carbon monoxide B) argon C) methane

14. Mules in the mines enjoyed treats of A) apples B) carrots C) tobacco D) all of the above.

15. Between 1850 and 1890 over _____ workers were killed in or around the mines.
A) 10,000 B) 20,000 C) 30,000 D) 40,000

16. The name the mine workers gave to various gases in coal mines is _____ A) the damps B) cavish C) mine ghosts

17. The house across from the tuberculosis sanitorium where the children stayed whose parents were in the hospital was called _____. A) the preventorium B) House B C) Hope ward

18. Who first proposed the theory of evolution? A) Darwin B) LaMarck or C) Cuvier

19. Lamarck tested his theory of _____ by cutting off the tails of mice to see if the next generation would be born tailless. A) inner striving B) use and disuse C) genetic generation

20. America's three great 19th century vertebrate paleontologists were Leidy, Cope and _____. A) Miller B) Marsh C) Maynard.

21. Mary Anning was the daughter of a working class English fossil collector and inspired the line _____ A) "Mary, Mary quite contrary" B) "the maid is in the counting house" C) "She sells seashells by the seashore"

Name the ailment the following cures were used for.

22. Mixture of turpentine and beeswax _____

A) Asthma

23. Buttercup tea _____

B) Grippe (Influenza)

24. Amputation _____

C) Sore throat

25. Coal tar derivatives _____

D) Gangrene

26. Poultice of raw onions _____

E) Burns

1. C 2. B 3. B 4. C 5. A 6. C 7. B 8. A 9. B 10. C 11. B 12. B 13. A 14.
D 15. C 16. A 17. A 18. B 19. A 20. B 21. C 22. E 23. A 24. D 25. B 26.
C