

NUGGETS OF BOULDER COLOR

By Elton Garrett

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LEG IN THE WAY

Bill Browner made a grievous error when he refused to permit doctors to amputate his right leg some months ago.

And now it's too late for him to rectify the mistake. Next time he has opportunity to acquire a perfectly circumspect and scrupulous amputation, he'll doubtless jump at the opportunity.

But, meanwhile, experience is a sad teacher indeed, and a merciless one. This can be well demonstrated by this remarkable case of a Hoover dam worker who erred and who is now paying for his error.

Bill Browner lives on Fifth street; 'tis there he has been spending his days and nights for nearly a week now—for he's temporarily unable to work. (O, that grievous error!)

'Twas, some months ago that Bill had his right leg broken, below the knee, while he was down on the job in the canyon.

And it was a nasty injury.

To amputate or not—that was the question. He was laid up for some time. After much discussion of the merits of amputation, it was decided at length to try attempting complete cure of the injured member without amputation.

After careful nursing along, the leg, which had been broken below the knee, at least healed up and rounded tediously into shape, so that is could be used once more. The Browner family was glad the Browner leg had not been amputated. At last he was able to return to work.

But little did he dream what rashness it was to retain that right leg, from the knee on down to the ground. For, the more area one hath to his body and the members thereof, the more area he has to expose to the perils of injury and pain in its many forms.

Hence, not long after he had gotten back to work, Bill suffered another accident. This time it was the ankle of his right leg that was broken! And naturally he

was laid up again, until that leg could convalesce. Same leg, in a different place—nearer to the ground. But he survived his second period of inactivity, and went back to work again, thankful for the opportunity.

That leg had caused him plenty of trouble; quite a coincidence, too, that the two injuries should affect the same leg.

Late last week, while Bill was working away, back on the job again, suddenly a heavy wooden rail with which he was working slipped. It fell, and he jerked his right foot back just too late!

His foot was pinned under the edge of the rail, and such pain!

Bill's great toe (known, during childhood, as the 'big toe') has been broken! That same right appendage; third time! And now Bill's nursing a convalescing big toe, hoping to get back to work again soon.

Had he had the leg amputated below the knee the first time, the second two accidents never could have happened! But Bill is learning!