

Media Item Report

to hours over the bar in the pole vault.
At right, Archie Williams, dusky Ca
ler title, closely followed by Arthur Br

"TOM SAWYER" PICTURE MAY BE FILMED IN EGYPT

Tom Sawyer Spivey of Shawnee-
town Claims to be Original
in Bad Boy Story

So far no further word has come
from a party of cameramen who
were in Golconda last week, seek-
ing suitable scenes for the film-
ing of "Tom Sawyer". Mark
Twain's well-known books. Shots
were made there and at Elizabeth-
town, also at several points on
the Mississippi river. The party
went to Memphis for further
views, but they gave it out that
Golconda offered the best scenery
of any they had seen up to that
time. If nothing better was found
at Memphis they expected to re-
turn to Golconda about September
1.

At Elizabethtown movies and
stills of the Rose Hotel and E. F.
Walt's home, and the J. Lovier
residence were taken, also scenes
around Cave-in-Rock and Rostolara.

At Golconda, the "shots" were
made from the lawn in front of
the Phil A. Craig home on the
hill, which commands a splendid
view of the Ohio river and the
hills in Kentucky beyond the
stream. The ancient stone house
at the same point, with its heavy
walls, was considered appropriate
for the jail.

Original of Tom Sawyer

Thomas Sawyer Spivey, an 80-
year-old retired bank vault invest-
or and author, who claims to be
the original Tom Sawyer of Mark
Twain's book, lives at Shawnee-
town, only a few miles distant from
the scenes shot by the movie cam-
era men.

Spivey claims that while a lad
in the employ of Charles Carroll,
the largest merchant and owner of
the wharfboat at Shawneetown in
the prolific steamboat days, he
came into contact with Samuel L.
Clemens, as a river boat pilot, and
a fictitious friendship was formed.
Elements of Twain's "Tom Saw-
yer" story are located in the
country between Shawneetown and
Elizabethtown, and Spivey says
that many of the adventures relat-
ed actually occurred there with
Tom Spivey as the hero or victim,
and such escapades as related to
Clemens on his pilot boat visits to
Shawneetown were fictionalized in
Tom Sawyer.

Agreement With Mark Twain

Spivey says that the prefaces
of Mark Twain's subsequent publi-
cations incorporate an agreement
between himself and Twain that
Tom Sawyer was named as a "com-
posite" character to prevent others
claiming to be the original. He
said that he did not want to be
pointed out as the "bad boy" of
the book, when he was graduated
in 1875 from Cumberland Presby-
terian college at Enfield, Ill., with
William E. Borah and William J.
Bryan as classmates.

Spivey is the author of 15 or 20
books, several of which deal with
agnosticism, and is the owner of
one of the largest private libraries
in southern Illinois, possessing
many old volumes collected in
traveling in this and other coun-
tries.

Mrs. Schmelmeyer In Critical Condition

Mrs. Sophie Schmelmeyer re-
mains in a critical condition at her
home on Garfield street.

Mrs. Schmelmeyer has been seri-
ously ill for four months and has

Caption: 1936 Tom Sawyer article

Date: 1936

Categories:

Description: In 1936 a camera crew took film and stills of the James Coy Lovier home and another residence in Hardin county Illinois for a film that was being created about Tom Sawyer, the fictional Mark Twain character. The real Tom Sawyer (based off Mark Twain's fictional character) at the time lived in Shawnee-town Illinois one town over. He was 80 years old then and he wrote many books against Christianity with his last one being "The Last Word" in 1935 about the eradication of the church.

Links:

Person: Lovier, James "Red" Colbert

Person: Johnson, Winnie Thelma Lovier Ligon

Person: Lovier, James "Red" Coy