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CELEBRATING NATIONAL MISSOURI DAY *With a History of the Show Me State*

Jan. 4 has been declared National Missouri Day, celebrating the entrance of the nation's 24th state to the union. All states have nicknames, some more famous than others. But perhaps none is as memorable and enigmatic as Missouri's moniker of the Show Me State.

Though the nickname is all about requiring proof, its origins are murky. The phrase first began appearing in

print during the 1890s as a colloquialism to refer to Missourians, but its original meaning is up for debate.

One story holds that the phrase is connected to free railroad passes issued in 1897. Missouri legislators and their families received hundreds of free train fares. When boarding the train with the complimentary ticket, the conductor would insist, according to proponents of this explanation, "You've got to show me."

Another version of the phrase's roots traces to 1898, during the Spanish-American War. All of the guards at a base in Tennessee were from St. Louis, and they were required to check passes before anyone could leave the site. Before allowing anyone to exit, they would allegedly demand, "Show me your pass."

Others hold that the "show me" moniker has more derogatory beginnings, referring to Missouri workers who migrated to Colorado as strikebreakers.

Being unfamiliar with the local mining methods, they required additional instruction. Bosses would introduce new workers by explaining they were from Missouri and stating, "You'll have to show them."

But the most likely and commonly accepted explanation maintains that the phrase originated with Missouri U.S. Representative Willard Duncan Vandiver during a speech made in 1899. "I come from a state that raises corn and cotton and cockleburs and Democrats, and frothy eloquence neither convinces nor satisfies me," he said. "I am from Missouri. You have got to show me." Though he may have been using an existing idiom, Vandiver does appear to have launched it to national prominence.

Whatever its origins, the Show Me State nickname has stuck around because it resonates with the reputation of Missourians as resolute and rational people. The unusual name is just one of many things that makes the state unique.



TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144 // FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222 // JANUARY 2022

A SIMPLE ACT OF GENUINE CONCERN A LESSON TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

I came home from work the other day, and as I walked in, my wife said, "I need to talk to you real quick." She said it in a tone that indicated the kids should not be around. Whenever I hear this tone, I am immediately on alert, and my brain goes to the bad places of this world: Is someone sick? Dead? Cancer? What? Who? What??? Speak!!!

No, it was not any of those things. Something had happened at school that day with my second son, Lew. I was worried — though he can be a handful at home, he is a sweet boy at school and does not make any trouble for his teachers. My wife proceeded to tell me that something happened at lunch that day. Apparently, there was an incident where Lew was getting some water from the water jug and, though I am still not entirely clear, something fell and made a mess and a huge noise. All of the kids in the cafeteria laughed and pointed the way kids do.

Lew's tablemates, two of the sweetest kids, did not partake. They probably were so close to Lew they could feel the radiating shame and embarrassment. Lew was upset and understandably so. Tears rolled down his cheeks, and he silently rocked back and forth, rubbing his thighs to try to bring himself under control at the lunch table after the catastrophe. My eyes well up at the thought of it. I can feel the deep, all-consuming embarrassment dominate his body as he gently presses down on the tops of his quads, in desperation trying to get himself together.

Well, Lew was the one who told Christine about it right after school when she picked the boys up. Mac, my oldest, had math club so he didn't come outside right away. Lew went on to tell Christine the story, breaking her heart hours before she would torch mine, replete with the howls from the kids, the banging of whatever fell and the shame.

But he included some details she did not expect and neither did I when she relayed the story. You see, everyone was laughing at Lew. It was near the end of lunch. The crowd of second and third graders was rowdy. But Lew told Christine that one boy stopped and helped him. One boy genuinely asked what was wrong, what happened, if he was okay and said, "Don't worry about it, Lew. It wasn't even a big deal." And that boy walked with Lew shoulder to shoulder out to recess.

That boy was Mac, his older brother.

Christine told me this, and I melted away in the laundry room, tears now definitely falling down my face. I composed myself and checked with Lew. He didn't say much and, with typical kid resilience, said he had a good day. I asked Mac how school went. Mac, per usual, was playing soccer or something and was preoccupied. He said school was fine, his typical response. I asked him if something happened at lunch. He said nothing he could remember. Now more pointedly, I asked about Lew at lunch and anything happening. He said, "Oh yeah, but that wasn't a big deal, Dad." And that was that. He went back to

playing soccer; apparently my interview time had run out. I told him I was very proud of him, that whatever he did was a big deal to Lew and meant a lot. That he did the right thing in the face of a crowd of contrary opinions. I know that Lew would have done the exact same thing if the roles were reversed.

Mac was unaware of the impact he had on Lew. He was unaware of how grateful Lew felt to have someone at his side at what seemed like his darkest, loneliest moment — how his simple act of genuine concern made his brother feel. And Lew had not told Mac — how can a 7-year-old express that emotion? Of course, it got me thinking: How often do we have the chance to do something small like that, something that has a huge positive impact on others but we don't really notice? It is impossible to know because of how it plays out.

It was a great lesson for me, a great reminder: Help those who need it when you see it, regardless of the recognition. It doesn't have to be some big show, just a simple gesture of genuine concern, and standing shoulder to shoulder is all it takes.

I wish you all a happy New Year and hope that we can stand shoulder to shoulder this coming year. It seems like it's been too long.

Chr.



Teach Your Children to Set Goals

4 Steps to Success

This new year, teach your children how to set healthy, achievable goals.

Start by sharing *your* goals. Without even realizing it, children often mimic the actions of the adults around them. So, share your goals with your child, and explain how you plan to achieve these goals. Then ask your child to do the same. It can be as big as moving up three grade levels in reading or as small as beating a video game. Foster these ideas within your child so they will set one of their goals and have a positive experience when they achieve it.

Create next steps together. If you want to have more energy in the new year, what steps will you take to achieve that goal? Ask your child to consider the same question in regard to their objectives. If their goal is to finish a certain video game, how will they improve their current game play? What can they do to earn more video game time? Are there learning tools that can help them accomplish this? Teach them that achieving a goal is about so much more than desire; you have to put in the work to accomplish it, too!



Focus on keeping it small. If you want to encourage your child to achieve their goals, then create smaller tasks that teach them the value of finishing something. For example, start and complete an arts and crafts project or game together to show your little one the value of finishing what they start. Then, slowly work your way up to the big goal. Maybe that’s cleaning their room without unnecessary detours or finishing their homework on time.

Finally, celebrate! This is important. Acknowledge the wins that both you and your child have throughout the year. For example, if they want to be a better reader, celebrate whenever they finish a book. This will encourage them to keep going. And even if they do fail, honor their effort. Remind them that putting in the effort, regardless of the outcome, is powerful, too.

For more tips on how to teach your children to set and keep goals, visit [Parents.com](#).

How Much Are Your Favorite Pants Worth?

One Man Estimated His at \$54 Million

Everyone knows that the perfect pair of pants can be hard to come by, but are they worth \$54 million? Administrative Judge Roy L. Pearson had a favorite pair of pants, but in 2007, he claimed that Custom Cleaners lost them and returned a completely different pair instead.

It all began when Pearson took his pants to the Washington, D.C., dry cleaners for alterations worth \$10.50. The pants were sent in error to the incorrect dry cleaner, so Pearson’s pickup was delayed by several days. Once the pants were returned, despite bearing all the correct tags and matching his receipt, Pearson declared that the pants were not his. When the dry cleaner refused his demand for \$1,000 compensation, he decided it was time for legal action.

Pearson originally sued the cleaner’s owners, Soo Chung, Jin Nam Chung, and Ki Y. Chung, for a whopping \$67 million

in damages but later reduced the claim to a far more reasonable \$54 million. In his suit, Pearson requested \$3 million for mental distress, \$90,000 for a rental car to visit another dry cleaner, and \$500,000 in attorney’s fees (Pearson represented himself). At the heart of his claim, though, was the company’s failure to live up to their “Satisfaction Guaranteed” and “Same Day Service” signs in the window.

The media had a field day, joking about the case as a “pantsuit” and inspiring a “Law & Order” episode called “Bottomless.” Pearson seemed to relish the spectacle, calling his lawsuit “an awesome responsibility” in court and breaking down into tears on the stand. He also called a witness who compared the Chungs to Nazis. Even though the Chungs offered him a \$12,000



settlement to make the case go away, Pearson persevered.

He ultimately lost his case. At the end of the trial, the judge declared that no reasonable person would consider the signs at Custom Cleaners to be an unconditional promise — and also that Pearson had failed to prove the returned pants weren’t his.

The Chungs ultimately recovered their court costs via a fundraiser, and Pearson lost his judicial appointment. Unsurprisingly, this prompted another lawsuit, which he also lost. In 2020, Pearson was suspended from practicing law for 90 days as a result of his actions in *Pearson v. Chung*. But for bringing new meaning to the phrase “I’ll sue the pants off of you,” his place in legal history is secure.

What Causes Cargo Spills?

AN UNEXPECTED DANGER

In 2019, the trucking industry moved 11.84 billion tons of freight. With numbers like that, it should be no surprise that trucking accidents occur — and some of the cargo they transport is bound to end up on the road. Though statistics on cargo spills are hard to come by, one only has to glance at the local news to know they happen with more frequency than we’d like.

When some items like hot chocolate liquid or mayonnaise spill onto the highway, it can almost seem amusing. But these accidents often cause serious injuries — and even when they don’t, the mess can cost tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars to clean up. Plus, not all substances are as innocuous as random food items. Many trucks carry hazardous materials, which can cause lasting damage to humans, animals, and the environment exposed to them.

Cargo spills can happen for a variety of reasons. In many cases, a standard collision between the truck and another vehicle causes them. But cargo spills can also happen as a result of improper loading. Federal law dictates how carriers

must secure their cargo, and the risk of accidents and injury increases when carriers break these rules. Cargo can become loose all at once, causing a catastrophic road obstruction, or it can gradually leave dangerous debris in the roadway.

Because there are so many factors to consider when determining the cause of a cargo spill accident, finding the correct parties to sue can be a daunting process. The driver may be at fault for causing a collision or driving recklessly, but the trucking or loading company may also be responsible. Suing the wrong parties can cost you valuable time and money, which is why you need a lawyer on your side.

The attorneys at Finney Injury Law have years of experience helping victims of trucking accidents receive compensation for their injuries. If you’ve been injured in a trucking accident, give us a call to review your case. In addition to your medical bills, you may also be eligible to receive damages for lost wages, pain and suffering, or child care. Contact us today for help getting the justice you deserve.



Deep-Fried New Year’s ‘Cookies’

What do you get when you mix a cookie and a doughnut? A portzelky! This traditional Mennonite “New Year’s cookie” is perfect for sharing.

Inspired by [MennoniteGirlsCanCook.ca](#)

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2 tbsp yeast1/2 cup water, warmed1/2 cup and 1 tsp sugar, divided5 eggs, beaten1/4 cup butter, softened2 1/2 cups milk, warmed1 1/2 tsp salt4 cups raisins7 cups flour4 cups canola oil	<ol style="list-style-type: none">In a large bowl, combine yeast, water, and 1 tsp sugar. Wait 10 minutes.Stir in remaining sugar, eggs, butter, milk, and salt.Fold in the raisins and flour. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Let the dough rise for an hour.In a high-sided pot or deep fryer, heat canola oil to 340 F. Line a plate with paper towels.Drop a rounded tablespoon of dough into the oil. Fry until golden brown, then set aside on the plate. Poke the cookie with a toothpick. If the toothpick comes out clean, it’s cooked through!Repeat until the batter is gone.

YOUR REFERRALS MEAN THE WORLD TO US

There is no greater compliment we can receive than a client telling a friend or loved one about us. If you know somebody who has been injured and needs an attorney who will fight on their behalf and give their case the attention it deserves, please pass along this newsletter and have them give us a call at 314-293-4222. Thank you for spreading the word about Finney Injury Law.