

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1934

Strange As It Seems

by JOHN HIX



AN ORGAN THAT PLAYS REAL MUSIC WAS CONSTRUCTED OF OLD TIN CANS, SCRAP LUMBER AND STRING BY J. P. PEARSON... - English Musician -

EMPEROR NORTON I
MONARCH BY CHOICE OF THE GOLDEN WEST... EMPEROR OF THE UNITED STATES... PROTECTOR OF MEXICO...
HE "RULED" IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM 1851 TO 1880... HE "DISSOLVED" THE UNION IN 1860... ORDERED THE COAST GUARD TO BLOCKADE SACRAMENTO RIVER... AND TREATED SCHOOL CHILDREN TO CANDY "ON THE EMPIRE"....



MRS. LNDIA MCPHERSON - Los Angeles... HAS THE LONGEST RED HAIR IN THE WORLD... IT MEASURES 6 FEET 4 INCHES... AND IS HER THIRD HEAD OF HAIR...



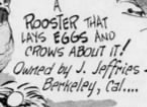
A NATURAL TUNNEL - 500 FEET LONG - PIERCES A MOUNTAIN ON TORGHATTEN ISLAND NORWAY...

WALKING SHOE STORES - of Caracas, Venezuela THE ENTIRE STOCK IS CARRIED ON A POLE...



MISS STELLA ROYAL - 30-INCH MIDGET LIVES IN A DOLL HOUSE! HER ENTIRE APARTMENT IS BUILT TO SCALE...

WALTER NILSSON ROODE A UNICYCLE FROM NEW YORK TO SAN FRANCISCO IN 117 DAYS! 3386 MILES...



A ROOSTER THAT LAYS EGGS AND CROWS ABOUT IT! Owned by J. Jaffries - Berkeley, Cal...

Self-styled, of course, but none the less ruler in his own mind of the United States, Emperor Norton I still remains one of the most colorful characters of the old West. Legend after legend attaches itself to the decrees and proclamations of Emperor Norton. Old timers in the bay region of California recall the rule of the emperor which lasted more than a quarter of a century. The eccentric old gentleman was born Joshua Norton. He was a prosperous merchant of San Francisco in the middle of the nineteenth century, rated as a millionaire. He attempted

big scale operations in grain, however, and met his downfall when the rice market broke. He was left penniless and for the most part forgotten until a few years later when he emerged from retirement with the delusion that he was an emperor. He first decided that he was Emperor of California, but later he reasoned that inasmuch as California was in the Union he should include the rest of the states. Consequently he decreed himself Emperor Norton I of the United States. Mexico, he took under his wing, styling himself as Protector of Mexico. When the Civil War broke out he proclaimed dissolution of the Union.

He once ordered the Coast Guards to blockade the Sacramento River because a navigation company had offended the emperor. For years, until his death in 1880, Emperor Norton was a familiar figure about the streets of San Francisco - a benevolent and democratic ruler, especially so to the children whom he used to take into candy stores and order treats "on the empire." For further proof address the author, inclosing stamped, addressed envelope for reply.