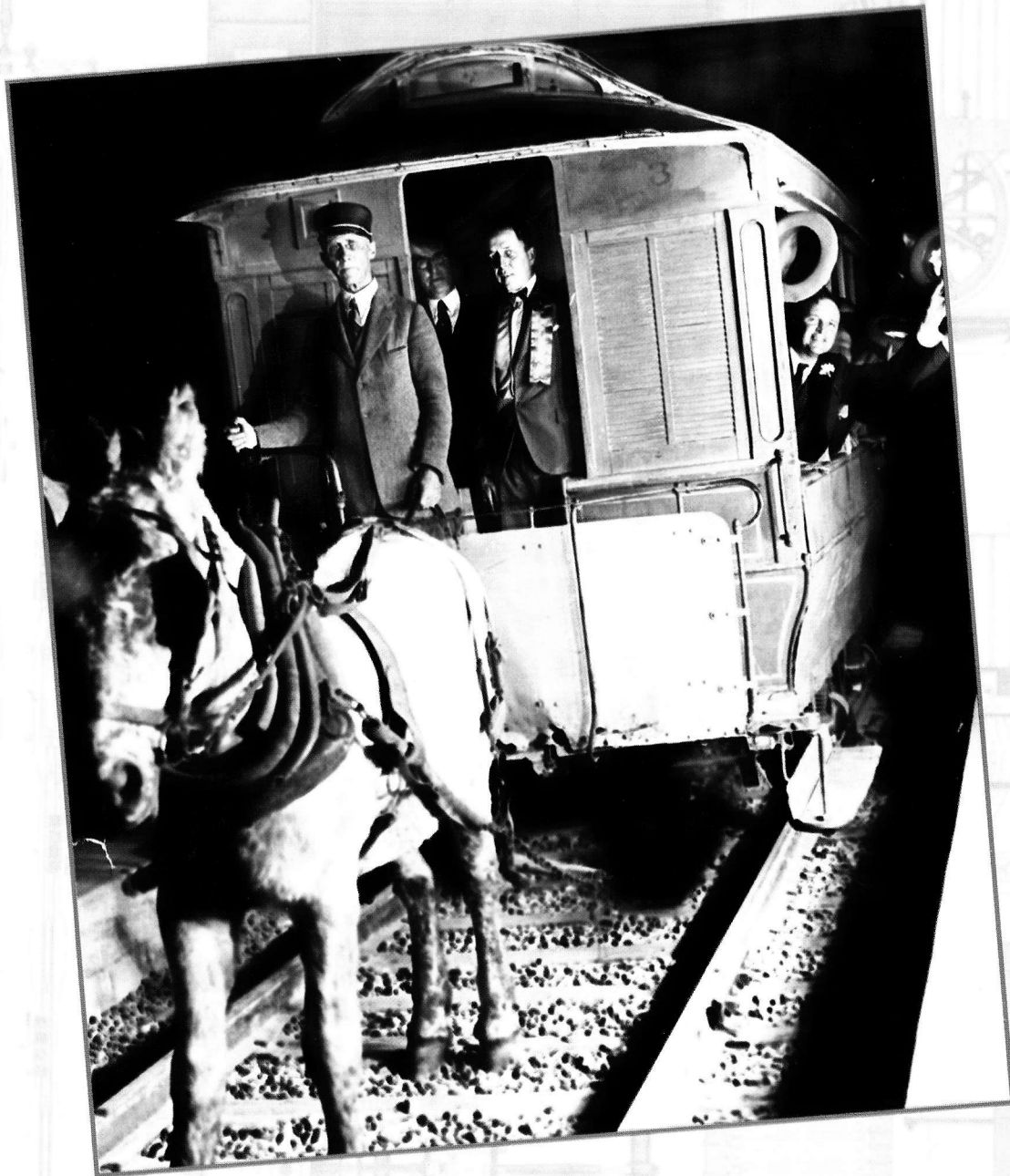


# The *Locomotive* and the *Horse*

by Thomas Bowles



1 It was a summer day in 1830. The people around the city of Baltimore, Maryland, were excited. They were excited about a race that was going to be run. The race was between two trains.

2 One of the trains was to be pulled by a horse. Most trains were pulled by horses in those days. The other train was to be pulled by a new invention called a steam locomotive.

3 The horse was to pull a train along one set of tracks. The locomotive, known as the "Tom Thumb," was to pull a train along another set of tracks. Both trains would be filled with people.

4 The race was to start a few miles out of Baltimore. And the first train to reach Baltimore would be the winner.

5 At last it was time for the race to start.

6 "Are you ready?" called the starter.

7 Mr. Stokes was the driver of the horse-drawn train. He nodded his head. Mr. Cooper was the driver of the Tom Thumb. He waved his hand.

8 "Get set!" called the starter.

9 Mr. Stokes lifted his whip. Mr. Cooper put his hand on the starting lever.

10 "Go!" shouted the starter.

11 Mr. Cooper pulled the lever. The Tom Thumb moved forward slowly. Mr. Stokes cracked his whip. The horse galloped forward. It ran past the Tom Thumb.

12 The people on Mr. Cooper's train sighed. But Mr. Cooper wasn't worried. He had built the Tom Thumb. And he knew it would go faster. It just needed time to get up steam.

13 Sure enough, the Tom Thumb soon began to go faster. Little by little, it gained on the horse.

14 Mr. Stokes looked back. He saw the Tom Thumb coming closer. So he cracked his whip again.

15 The horse ran faster. But the Tom Thumb kept coming closer. Soon the locomotive and the horse were side by side.

16 "Faster! Faster!" shouted the people in both trains.

17 "Giddap!" shouted Mr. Stokes. But he was beginning to think he'd lost the race.

18 Steam and black smoke poured out of the Tom Thumb's engine. The locomotive pulled ahead.

19 "Hurrah! Hurrah!" shouted the people on the Tom Thumb train. They waved at the people on the other train.

20 It looked as if the Tom Thumb would win the race. But then something went wrong. The Tom Thumb's engine broke down. The locomotive stopped.

21 Mr. Cooper worked as fast as he could. At last he started the engine again. But it was too late. The horse had already galloped past. And it reached Baltimore ahead of the Tom Thumb.

22 The horse won the race that day. But the locomotive turned out to be the real winner. Locomotives soon took the place of horses on the railways. And horse-drawn carriages became a thing of the past.

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## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 Another good name for this story is
  - a Tom Thumb Goes Forward.
  - b The Old Train.
  - c Who Really Won?
- 2 People decided to have a race to
  - a see how far a horse could run.
  - b find out if locomotives were faster than horses.
  - c break the speed record to Baltimore.

- 3 The horse pulled ahead at first because
  - a steam engines start slowly.
  - b the engine broke down.
  - c Mr. Stokes was a better driver.
- 4 If the race had been longer
  - a the horse would have won anyway.
  - b the locomotive would have won.
  - c the horse and locomotive would have tied.
- 5 Locomotives replaced horses in the same way that
  - a smoke replaced steam.
  - b cars replaced wagons.
  - c roads replaced tracks.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 stirred up; eager (1)
- 2 raised (9)
- 3 control handle (11)
- 4 ran fast (11)
- 5 ahead (11)
- 6 took a deep breath (12)
- 7 bothered; troubled (12)
- 8 true (22)

**C** A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

The *fly* buzzed around the room.  
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 9 **cracked** (11)
  - a broke; shattered
  - b made a sharp sound with
- 10 **past** (21)
  - a long ago
  - b by

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** untied = **un** + tied  
retied = **re** + tied

The letters *un-* and *re-* are called prefixes. A prefix is added to the beginning of a word. It changes the word's meaning. *Un-* sometimes means "not." The word *untied* means "not tied." *Re-* means "again." The word *retied* means "tied again."

Read each set of sentences.  
Choose the word in parentheses ( ) that makes sense. Write the word.

- 1 The locomotive boiler needed to be filled again. It needed to be (unfilled, refilled).
- 2 Mr. Stokes had to set his watch again. He had to (unset, reset) it.
- 3 Mr. Stokes did not want the horse's reins fastened. He (unfastened, refastened) them.
- 4 It was too hot to have his coat buttoned. He (unbuttoned, rebuttoned) his coat.
- 5 Mr. Cooper had to work on the engine again. His work had to be (undone, redone).

- E** Read each sentence below. If the sentence is only about the locomotive, write *locomotive*. If it is only about the horse, write *horse*. If it is about both, write *both*.

- 6 It uses oats to make it go.
- 7 It pulls a train full of people.
- 8 It takes a while to get up steam.
- 9 It needs a driver.
- 10 It never has to sleep or eat.