

A Lesson for Mark Twain

Mark Twain was fascinated by inventions. In his lifetime, he lost more than half a million dollars investing in various contraptions. Once, after a series of bad investments had temporarily tempered his enthusiasm for new gadgets, he was approached by a tall young man with a mysterious device under his arm.

The young man was looking for some financial backing to develop and market his invention. Twain listened politely to what the young man had to say, but explained that he had been burned once too often and was not interested. "But I'm not asking you to invest a fortune," the young man said. "You can have a large share in this for \$500."

The author shook his head and the young man sadly walked away. Twain felt a twinge of regret – not enough to change his mind, but enough to call after the poor fellow. "What did you say your name was again?" he asked.

"Bell," was the reply. "Alexander Graham Bell."

It is, indeed, sometimes difficult to properly judge new opportunities that come before us. Hindsight, it is true, is 20/20.

Vision – a dream for the future – on the other hand, is a wonderful gift with which some are endowed. When they are able to achieve that vision, with the help of others, the results are often amazing, and beneficial.

--Beecher Hunter