

Buried Treasure



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Drawing by Ray Walters.

WHO said that Romance is dead in these modern days, in this year A. D. 1927?

Pieces of eight! Doubloons! Treasures of the Spanish Main! Pirate gold! BURIED TREASURE!

Do those words bring back memories to you—memories of your boyhood days when you first read Stevenson's "Treasure Island"? That was long ago, perhaps, and yet—

Here are three dispatches which have appeared in our newspapers within the last few weeks. Read them and see if they don't give you a sort of thrill:

NEW YORK—Residents of Asbury Park and nearby villages are warming up to a hunt for pirate treasure as the result of the discovery by Percival G. Ullman, Jr., of No. 96 Lake street, Asbury Park, in that city of a fossilized boot of the type worn by swash-bucklers two centuries ago. Embedded in the rock-encrusted boot Ullman found a woman's gold ring, set with a large pearl.

The boot was found near the spot where a flintlock carbine was picked up a month ago. A band of sea marauders, led by a woman, took refuge at the spot. The woman cut her hair short and was a ruthless plunderer, the original "bobbed-hair bandit."

NEW ORLEANS—Mysterious bands of treasure hunters still range across the Louisiana marshes. They are seeking the buried spoils of the pirate Jean Lafitte.

The buccaneer is said to have cached vast stores of doubloons and pieces of eight along the great coastal stretch southwest of New Orleans.

Reported discovery of a buried treasure near Vermillion bay a year ago caused considerable excitement.

One party of treasure seekers went as far as to pull up a post set by government surveyors, evidently believing that the stake was one of the markings made by Lafitte.

It is said that two members of Lafitte's band once lived in the vicinity of the city of Lake Charles.

CLEVELAND, OHIO—Doubloons, pieces of eight, and other treasures of the Spanish Main, to the value of \$50,000, are buried on a South American island, ready for the person who is willing to dig, according to George Finlay Simmons, curator of ornithology of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who has just returned from the island.

The cache includes much golden plunder taken from the Inca Indians by the Spaniards, who in turn were robbed by the two pirates who buried the loot a century ago on the island off the coast of Brazil.

One of the hoards, Simmons says, amounts to \$10,000,000, and was buried by the Spanish pirate, Jose Santos, who captured a ship laden with gold and silver ingots, altar vestments and candleabra from the churches of Lima, Peru.

More than \$5,000,000 more was buried on the same island by an English pirate, who styled himself "Zulmitro." Records of this cache were

kept and were in the possession of the Russian quartermaster of the pirate ship until he died in the Far East.

Eight expeditions were made to find the treasure between 1800 and 1892, but most of them never reached the desolate coast of the island. Those that did found that the landmarks, marked on the map, had been wiped out by a landslide.

"Robert Louis Stevenson used the place as the scene of 'Treasure Island,'" Simmons says, "but the plunder found in fiction really is still there."

Such items are not at all uncommon in our newspapers and probably will continue to appear therein for many years to come. For, among our most cherished traditions is the belief that every pirate who sailed the main at some time in his career buried a part of his loot somewhere and never recovered it. And there (wherever "there" is) it lies to this day awaiting the lucky discoverer, whom through blind chance or because he has come across some old document which puts him on the trail, it will enrich beyond his wildest dreams. As a matter of fact it is much more likely that the average pirate squandered more of his ill-gotten gains than he ever buried, that not one in ten of all the stories of buried treasure have the slightest foundation in fact and that more money has been spent in the efforts to find this hidden wealth than all the treasure which all the pirates in history ever buried is worth.

But these facts, even if they could be definitely established, probably would fail to dim the lure of the supposed buried treasure nor dampen the enthusiasm of those who go out to seek it. That lure and that enthusiasm are based upon a universal human weakness—the "get-rich-quick" desire. Perhaps Edgar Allan Poe is as much responsible as any one for nourishing the buried treasure angle of that desire. So long as the tradition of hidden treasure on our coasts persists and so long as his "Gold Bug" is read by successive generations of Americans, so long will we have the great American sport of hunting pirate gold.

Only a year or so ago a Canadian announced his invention of the metalophone, an electrical "Gold Bug," which could detect the presence of buried metals even though they were concealed beneath more than 50 feet of solid rock. Immediately the word went out that the metalophone was to be used to find the buried treasure on the historic Cocos island, which lies in the Pacific ocean about 500 miles southwest of Costa Rica and which was a favorite lair of pirates in the old freebooting days. In fact Cocos island has been a magnet for treasure seekers for many years because there

is an apparently well-authenticated story that the mutinous crew of the British ship Mary Dear hid on the island treasure valued at \$12,000,000 (some accounts put it at \$35,000,000 and others at \$60,000,000) more than a hundred years ago. Soon afterwards the secret leaked out and scarcely a year has passed since that time that someone has not tried to uncover this vast wealth. As late as 1925 a party of British scientists set out for that purpose, but if they or anyone else have been successful, the world is yet to hear of it.

The treasure which the famous Captain Kidd is supposed to have buried somewhere along the New England coast is nearly as famous and as much sought after as the Cocos island wealth. It is true that he did bury a part of his loot on Gardiner's island, off Montauk point on Long Island, N. Y., when he returned from his trip a-pirating, but that was recovered soon after his arrest. And that is all of Captain Kidd's gold that has ever been recovered.

The famous Blackbeard is said to have buried part of his piratical wealth in New Jersey. Wherefore "gold diggers" have made the dirt fly at various places in New Jersey but more particularly at Burlington.

Legend says that Sir Henry Morgan hid part of his loot beneath the soil of Oak island, off the coast of Maine, and more than \$200,000 has been spent from time to time digging on Oak island to recover it. So far the net result has been nothing.

The gold of Jean Lafitte has kept treasure seekers busy at various places along the coast of Louisiana and Texas. This legend is almost a perfect buried-treasure yarn. There is a document, bequeathed by a father, about to die, to his son, bearing the date of 1813, which tells of the burial by Lafitte and his men of 70,000 doubloons and a bar of silver. It is signed by a number of the pirate's followers and has as its seal the usual pirate marks, the skull and crossbones and a dagger. There occur also the words "mutiny," "cruelty" and "inquisition" and on the other side is a rude map which is the key to the location of the hoard. There is a story of a party of men who stumbled upon the place where they were sure that the treasure was buried, then went back to get spades to dig and could not find the place again. So there (wherever "there" is) lies Lafitte's buried treasure worth \$1,120,000 for someone.

But, in the argot of the day, "try and get it."

THE KITCHEN CABINET

(© 1927, Western Newspaper Union.)

Every atom gives resistance not the universe can break; Each rose petal holds perfection angel artists could not make. Under every power and passion stirs the elements divine, If I grasp the moment's meaning, all eternity is mine.

—Theodore C. Williams.

HOUSEKEEPING HELPS

Woodwork finished with a good varnish may be cleaned easily with a damp cloth. If possible to choose, have all woodwork free from grooves and creases where dust finds a place to lodge.

If the cupboard shelves are varnished they will clean as easily as tiling.

The kitchen work-table if covered with zinc will be easy to keep clean and thus save scrubbing.

Keep plenty of soft paper to wipe out greasy dishes, pots and pans, thus saving the dishwashing.

Keep a bundle of newspapers handy for various uses around the kitchen—to wipe off the stove, and on which to set soiled or smoky pans.

Plan the meals a week ahead and save food and friction.

Rubber heels are a great saving of both floors and nerves. Yours and others.

Learn to close doors, drawers and screens quietly. The nervous system pays toll for jarring sights and sounds.

A dust mop will remove dust without stirring it up. A kitchen floor that has been previously swept with a broom, if dusted well with a mop will look and stay much cleaner.

Small rugs are best for sleeping rooms as they may be taken outside and dusted.

Rocking chairs are found in too great numbers in most homes; they take up much room, mar the woodwork, not to speak of bruised shins and frayed tempers.

A window shade fastened to a row of shelves makes a fine curtain to keep out the dust.

Aside from ventilation, windows are made to let in light and to look out of—why load them with heavy dust-catching hangings?

Fold a heavy rug to stand on when ironing or washing dishes. It is a great relief to tired feet.

In an emergency mend a torn hair net with a hair from your own head.

Water cress is one of our most valuable greens; being rich in mineral salts, it is a valuable tonic.

Melt alum in an iron spoon to mend china or glassware. Hot water will not dissolve it.

French, Italian Dishes.

The musical names given some of our homely dishes by our foreign cousins make them so interesting that they even taste better because of them. Old-fashioned mush from corn meal is called polenta. Could it possibly taste as common as mush? On Friday they serve baccala, which is

fish, but so disguised that its best friend would hardly recognize it.

Baccala.—Freshen a pound and a half of codfish by soaking over night. Cut into serving sized pieces and fry ten minutes in a little olive oil. For the sauce add a little olive oil to the saucepan with a clove of garlic, one chopped onion, one sliced green pepper, one bay leaf and two cloves; cook five minutes, then add a small piece of butter, one-half pint of tomatoes, salt and pepper. Put into the fish and cover closely, let simmer two hours, adding water as the moisture dries out. Serve with hot corn meal mush.

Rogoune.—Few people like kidneys, for they are so often poorly prepared. Split and cut away all the white in a veal or beef kidney, cut the kidneys into cubes and drop them into boiling water; cook one minute. As they turn white drain and place in a frying pan and cook in olive oil fifteen minutes. Now put them into a casserole and cover with a sauce like the one used for baccala, with the addition of more garlic. Cover and cook slowly for several hours. Serve with rice or polenta.

Scalopin (Seasoned Veal).—Cook a thin slice of veal (pounded thin) in olive oil, season with salt and pepper; when nearly done add a tablespoonful of vinegar. Serve hot.

Braciola.—Take a pound of thin round steak, pound it to a wafer-like thickness, cut into four strips, salt and pepper freely. Chop one clove of garlic, one small onion, a little parsley, with some bread dressing, spread along the middle of each strip. Roll and tie, brown in a little fat, cook slowly thirty minutes.

But, in the argot of the day, "try and get it."

Neenie Maxwell

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Deaths From Snake Bites

Over 400 persons died from snake bites in the United States during the past three years. The greatest number of deaths was in the southern states. The increase in number is supposedly due to touring and camping.

Porcupines in Trouble

The "fretful" porcupine now has Uncle Sam camping on his trail. The biological survey of the government is after the needle-clad creature because of destruction of timber, as it has been found the porcupine is fond of eating green bark. One animal frequently has been observed to girdle 25 young trees in a day. An extensive study of the animal is being made in California, Oregon and Washington to find a way to eliminate the menace to timber without harming the protected animals.

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