

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

Old State Revenue Stamps Found On Cancelled Checks

Ever see a revenue stamp put out by one of the 48 states? I never had until last month. Didn't even know they existed until I came across some cancelled checks that were stuck in an old book I had bought as one of a lot.

The checks were drawn on the Bank of California in the year 1868, for the account of the Empire Mining Company, of Virginia City, Nevada. They were paid by the bank's Gold Hill Agency.

In addition to the very common U. S. Internal Revenue two-cent stamp was another of which I had never even dreamed.

It was an orange colored item printed on a thick, white, wove paper. In an oval were two superimposed five-pointed stars, the top one containing the figure 2. Above the oval was the word Nevada. Below it read State Revenue. On the opposite sides were the words Two and Cents. I started thumbing through my catalogues. No trace of the item. Then, I called on six stamp dealers. Only one of them had heard of it, and all of them said there was no catalogue dealing with state issues.

EARLY MARYLAND COIN IMPRINTED IN LATIN

"A study of Latin can help an amateur coin collector," Jim said, "Not so very long ago I went to a small sale one day and found a fellow I knew already going through the coins. He collected only American coins, and he was buying almost all of them.

"Just as I was getting a little sore over how this fellow seemed to be hogging things, he flipped one out of the little pile in front of him with the remark that he didn't want any foreign coins.

"Naturally, I glanced at the piece and then picked it up to see if I could tell where it came from. There wasn't a clue that I could see. On one side there was a bust of someone named Cecilius and the words Terrae Mariae. On the other was a Latin motto, a coat of arms and the Roman numeral XII. Not even a date.

"Bennington Pitcher Bought at Half Value

"No," said a small woman with a big rasping voice, "I don't care if you do think it was made in Bennington. What I want is an absolutely authentic hand pitcher."

And with that as her final pronouncement she marched out the door.

The pitcher was of a mottled brown glaze, typical of the kind turned out by the United States Pottery, at Bennington, Vermont back in the middle of the 1800s.

On one side it showed a lively deer hunt and on the other an especially realistic bringing of a boar to bay. Over the neck and shoulder of the piece, which stood about eight and a half inches high over all, trailed a grape vine design.

Just to make sure it was the same one from years before, I turned the pitcher over and looked at the bottom. It was free of any identifying marks, quite blank.

As I replaced it, a man came over and picked it up. After remarking it was a nice looking

hundred—the handle consists of a hound whose front paws are on the brim of the pitcher and rear paws low on the side—he inquired the price.

"I couldn't tell which was faster when he learned it was \$75 the way he arched his eyebrows or the manner in which he whipped out his wallet.

"Authentic Bennington," he said when the transaction was completed. "But too cheap. Really, you should get double the price."

The proprietor said something about having kept it for three years, but the customer hurried on.

"I've looked at so much of this," he said, "I can spot it at one hundred yards. It has the lines of what Daniel Greatbach turned out both at Bennington and in New Jersey. Note the way the dog's head is lifted up off the forepaws? Well, that's Greatbach, all right. Take my word for it. Marks or not makes no difference."

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)



CHRISTMAS DINNER—U. S. Chief Justice Earl Warren (left) and his host, Wallace Lynn, bagged their own Christmas dinners near Colusa, Calif. They proudly show off the geese and ducks as exhibits of their marksmanship.

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Jupiter Now Splendid

By HUGH PRUETT

Astronomer, Extension Division
Oregon Higher Education System
"Sunset ran, one glorious blood-red,
Reeking into Cadiz Bay . . .
While Jove's planet rises
yonder,
Silent over Africa."

Far from home and evidently lonely, the poet Browning thus describes his observations at sea of brilliant Jupiter coming over a foreign sky line. But any clear evening now we are privileged to view this splendid object wherever we may be.

Several have recently inquired about this luminous "star of the east," which outshines everything else in its locality—or in the entire evening sky. This planet is now a splendid Christmas star and attracts the attention of all who have learned to look up. The best views are obtained outside our lighted cities.

Rises Earlier Nightly
Jupiter now clears the horizon nearly two-thirds of the way from the east to the northeast about one and one-half hours after sunset. Each night it

rises practically four minutes earlier than the previous night. Its full glory is displayed after it has climbed well up above the low-hanging haze.

Jupiter is the giant among the worlds that encircle our central sun. Its visible diameter is 11 times that of our modest Mother Earth. Jupiter's average distance from the sun is a little more than five times that of ours; its required time for one revolution around the sun, the Jovian year, is almost 12 of our years.

Through even small telescopes, Jupiter is a most interesting sight. A moderate power makes it appear as large as the full moon does to the unaided eye. The luminous disk is banded with darker, rather irregular lines, which runs generally parallel to the planet's equator. **Distinct Little Stars**

Most interesting are the four larger Jovian moons. Since these encircle the planet about in the plane of its equator, they usually appear telescopically as distinct little stars in almost a straight line. Their positions change from day to day. One night there may be two on each side of Jupiter; the next night there may be three on one side and one on the other. Sometimes all four appear on the same side of the planet. Eclipses of these moons, given to the nearest tenth of a minute in The American Ephemeris, are most interesting to observe.

Eight smaller Jovian moons have been discovered since 1892. Number 12 was located in 1951. Some of these revolve around the planet in a direction opposite to that of most satellites. It has been suggested they may be captured moons.

We do not see the solid surface of Jupiter but rather the outside of the cloud-filled atmosphere. This is illuminated by the sun. Some have estimated that there is a solid metallic core 38,000 miles in diameter covered with an ice layer of 17,000 miles. Surrounding this is an atmosphere 8,000 miles thick. This atmosphere is known to contain methane and ammonia gases.

Approximately 80,000 hymns printed in Korean and Chinese were distributed by the Army to prisoners of war in Korea.

The song of chain saws can be heard in many directions these frosty mornings as many home owners prepare to keep the abode warm through the winter without burning so much high priced oil or using so many of Copco's kilowatts.

The annual Christmas program held Friday night at the school house was well attended with several visitors from other places including the Herman Mattison family of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Knapp and children of Central Point, and Mrs. Dale Schulz of Sams Valley.

The program consisting of Christmas songs, poems, skits and readings was well received, also was the reminiscing of Mrs. Frank Myers and Mrs. Sanford Richardson which took the audience back quite a few years to the first community Christmas tree at Table Rock and a family tree in the Bigham home when the family was much smaller than now.

Police Have Trouble Giving Out 'Present'
Kennewick—(U.P.)—Police found Friday night they couldn't give away a "present."

The "present" was a traffic ticket, but the man who was supposed to receive it apparently wasn't in the Christmas mood. He fled to his home, locked himself inside and refused to answer the knock of either a uniformed officer or plainclothesman.

Dead line for Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday.

Soft Voices of Choir Boys Open Christmas Celebration In Birthplace of Christ

Bethlehem—(U.P.)—Soft voices of choir boys opened a high pontifical mass early Saturday in this town where Jesus Christ was born almost 2,000 years ago.

The Latin patriarch Albert Gori wore rich robes of purple and gold as he opened the midnight mass in the Church of St. Catherine. Monsignor Gori bore the Holy Image in following a solemn procession of choir boys and priests that wound through the church.

The figure of the Infant Jesus was taken from St. Catherine's to the Rockhewn Chapel of St. Jerome where the bible was first translated into Latin.

Many Visitors, Refugees
Bethlehem's population of 12,000 was swelled by visitors and Arab refugees.

Diplomats in full ceremonial regalia and United Nations officials came into Bethlehem after passing through a Jordan Arab legion outpost and an Israeli checkpoint.

Then they continued on the road where almost 20 centuries ago the three wise men rode in their quest for the Prince of Peace.

A mile down the road they passed the well of the magi where the wise men saw the reflection of the star of Bethlehem.

Reach Church of Nativity
Further down the road pilgrims passed Rachel's tomb before reaching the Church of the Nativity built over the grotto of the manger where the Christ Child was born.

In Nazareth, bells of the church of the annunciation pealed out Christmas shortly after midnight. The church is on the site where the Angel Gabriel announced that Mary would become the mother of God.

Arab choir boys sang "Christmas Natus," "Christ Is Born" in a strong local accent as a priest bore the image of the holy babe to the manger next to the altar.

Warner To Become Oregon Chief Justice
Salem—(U.P.)—Justice Harold J. Warner becomes chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court Jan. 1, succeeding Justice Earl C. Latourette in that post.

Warner, selected for the No. 1 spot on the Supreme Court by his fellow justices, has had a long career in law since he received his bachelor of law degree from University of Oregon in 1916 after graduating from that university in 1913.

From the time he became a practicing attorney until he was named to the Supreme Court he had offices in Pendleton and Portland. Early in his career he was a member of the same law firm as Frederick Steiwer, U.S. senator from Oregon. He was Pendleton city attorney from 1920 to 1922.

Hong Kong—(U.P.)—Crew members of a Canton to Macau ferry said Friday they spotted two Russian submarines and four torpedo boats at the Chinese Communist port of Whampao last Monday.

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