

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Old Bolt Action Pistol Turned To Quick Profit

Chad walked over to a dusty case in the pawnshop and asked to see a pistol.

It was a peculiar looking weapon—like a cross between an 18th century horse pistol and an automatic. It wasn't an automatic, however. Though it did have a magazine which would hold five .42 calibre shells in addition to the one in the chamber, it was in reality a single shot, bolt action pistol. There were two triggers—a conventional one for firing the piece and a ring trigger which had to be pulled to open or close the bolt mechanism.

POSTAL SAVINGS ENVELOPES PAY OFF

"This is the last of these," said Jim, holding up an unused two-cent stamped envelope.

"I got three of them 15 years ago, and this fellow," he continued, picking up a letter with a check clipped to it, "has just bought the last one."

I reached for the envelope which had been folded crosswise and had a carmine-colored stamp on it. The stamp consisted of an oval containing the legend U.S. Postal Savings in the upper half, and in the lower, Two Cents.

"What makes that so desirable," said Jim, "is the fact that the carmine color on manila like this, rather than white, is an error." From a little stack of envelopes he produced one with a white background that showed in marked contrast with the other when placed beside it.

RARE NEW ENGLAND DESK FOUND IN ATTIC

Occasionally I have felt there were almost as many genuine New England antiques in California as in New England itself, and after what happened recently I am almost sure of it.

While having coffee in a Sacramento restaurant one morning I ran across Jimmy, a longtime friend of mine whose people moved into the Auburn area in the 1850's.

He had found gold in the family attic in the form of a folding top writing desk of curly maple and Sheraton inlaid mahogany.

"One leg had been busted for the past 40 years, but I fixed it," he said, going on to describe the piece in detail.

The oblong top opened on a slanting surface in green baize, beneath which were front and

On a side plate somewhat behind and below the six-inch, part round, part octagonal barrel were the words Pat. Schulhoff.

"It's priced at \$17," Chad said, "and that's the investment I would like you to make."

I bought it. Back in the car, Chad asked me to drive him to another section of town. It was with some misgivings that I took him to a suburban apartment house alone.

But I need not have had any. Less than 20 minutes later he was back with five \$10 bills and a check for \$125.

I asked him what the chances were of getting any others.

"Bad," he said. "I happened to get the three I did only because a certain postal savings department clerk took some work home with him one night back in 1912. Anyway, that happened to be the night when he was stricken with a fatal heart attack, and years later, when it occurred to the widow these might be worth something, she brought them in to me."

He picked up the letter with the check, detached the latter and fumbled in a drawer for a rubber stamp. I noted the check was for \$350.

"I paid her \$225 for three," he continued, stamping an endorsement on the check, "and this \$350 makes my total take \$1,150 for three of an item that today catalogues at \$450, but it took 15 years for me to do it."

rear wells one of which had pigeon-holes and three small drawers.

The front of the piece was inlaid with three elliptical, curly maple panels and fitted with a lower drawer with oval brasses and bail handles. The legs were of the baluster type, with well-tapered feet.

"I had been studyin' furniture for some time," Jimmy said, "and the more I looked at that piece, the surer I was that it fitted the description of a type folding top desk that was made around Salem, Mass. from about 1795 to 1800."

"Well," he resumed, "I took pictures of it and wrote a flock of letters, and the upshot of it was I sold it last week for \$1,700."

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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26-PERSONAL

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Deception Island Has Hot, Cold Running Water

Washington — Off the ice-capped Antarctic Continent where nearly all the water is salty or frozen solid, nature provides one island with hot and cold running water.

Deception Island, a part of the South Shetland chain about 525 miles southeast of Cape Horn, was once a volcano. Fires still smoulder underground, melting snow that fills fresh water wells. Several hot springs bubble on forlorn, black-ash beaches.

In addition to serving as a watering place for ships, the island enfolds a remarkable, land-locked harbor.

For these reasons Deception is one of the best-known islands near the south polar continent. American sealers used it in the early 19th century. Whalers and explorers of many lands made it a headquarters and haven.

Volcano Blew Top

Deception's volcanic heart is far from dead. As late as 1842 an American sealer reported the "whole south side" of the island seemed to be afire. Recent visitors have described the sulphurous stench of hot springs, ghostly vapor, earth tremors, and the perpetual warmth of the inner basin's sand and shallows.

A Britisher first discovered the South Shetland Islands in 1819. But Deception was discovered by the American sealing captain, Nathaniel Palmer, in 1820.

Palmer met Russian explorers in a dense fog near Deception in 1821. The oldest published account appears in "Fanning's Voyages."

It quotes the Russian commander as saying: "We had sight of those islands, and concluded we had made a discovery, but behold, when the fog lifts, to my great surprise, here is an American vessel apparently in as fine order as if it were but yesterday she had left the United States; not only this, but her master is ready to pilot my vessels into port; we must surrender the palm to you Americans."

Since World War II, Deception's ownership has been disputed by Great Britain, Argentina, and Chile.

\$40,108 Damage Suit Filed by Ashland Men

S. S. Bounds, Ashland, has brought a \$40,108.50 damage suit against Larry Basey, Ashland, for injuries which the complaint says were received in a one-car accident on June 3, 1953, according to records filed in the county clerk's office.

Bounds was a passenger in a Jeep, driven by Basey, which overturned about six miles south of Ashland while the two men were en route to view some property. The complaint charges Basey was negligent in operating the vehicle.

The complaint alleges that Bounds has been incapacitated permanently from gainful employment. Bounds is represented by Harry A. Skerry, Ashland attorney.

Sunday, January 2, 1955

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—ELEVEN

Eight Men Appear in Circuit Court Friday

Eight men appeared in circuit court here Friday on felony charges and four of them were sentenced to terms in Oregon state prison.

Russell Bruce Jackson, 32, general delivery, Medford, was sentenced to three years in

prison on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. He pleaded guilty to the charge Dec. 17.

Charles Erwing Basey, 25, Fallon, Nev., was sentenced to 18 months in prison on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Floyd Raymond Hanscom, 36, general delivery, Medford, was sentenced to two years in prison on a grand larceny charge.

5 Year Term

Jesse David Carter, 24, of 440 Wightman st., Ashland, was sentenced to five years in prison on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

David E. Delong, 35, of 227 Meade st., Ashland, received a suspended three-year sentence on a charge of assault while armed with a dangerous weapon.

Three cases were continued for receipt of records after the men involved entered guilty pleas. They were James C. Brown, 49, of 24 North Orange st., charged with concealing stolen property; Fred Joseph Netekovan, 48, no address, charged with larceny in a building, and

Churches Find Use For Old Christmas Cards Overseas

Old Christmas cards can be used for missionary work by both the Women's Missionary council of the Medford Assembly of God church, and the Women's Missionary society of the Jacksonville Presbyterian church, according to officers of the groups said today.

The women at the Medford Assembly church prepare the cards into awards which are used in various countries in their missions. They have one request for 5,000 such awards, the officers explained.

Women of the Jacksonville Presbyterian church send the pictures from the cards mainly to a mission in the Philippine Islands where they are used in a similar manner.

Those having Christmas cards to give may contact the Medford Assembly missionary group by calling the secretary, Mrs. William Jeffery, telephone 2-7466. The Jacksonville council may be reached by telephoning Mrs. Roy Martin, the spiritual life secretary, Jacksonville 30-98036.

Used stamps from the United States mails also are usable by the missionaries of the Assembly church.

Used Christmas cards also can be used by local people conducting kindergarten classes.

Both the starfish and the sea urchin have tube-foet and a mouth centrally located on the underside of the body.

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