

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Modern Proof Coins Reap Good Investment Return

Until the other day I never felt very keen about the merit of buying modern proof coin sets, but from now on I shall make it a point to get one each year.

The price set by the government isn't high, only a few cents over \$2, and it is definitely worth it.

What convinced me was the experience of an old acquaintance who went in for collecting modern coins when he was in high school back in the 30s.

He started his collection in 1936, the year the government revived the production of proof coin sets after a lapse of 20 years. His initial investment was \$18.10 for which he received 10 sets of proof coins, each one consisting of the cent, 5-cent piece, dime, quarter and half dollar.

The face value of the coins he got was only 91 cents, but he figured that a rise in price would

rapidly make up not only for the initial loss and bring him a profit.

His thinking was sound enough, all right.

Recently when he needed an extra \$400, and which he felt would be embarrassing to raise in the usual manner, he decided to see what he would get from his coin collection.

The retail value of the 1936 proof coin set was given as \$80 in a catalogue he consulted, but the first dealer he called on offered him only \$20 a set.

Fortunately, the owner decided not to stop there. With the fourth dealer he had much better luck, getting a final offer of \$55 a set for seven sets, a price that was near enough to satisfy his immediate needs, and one that represented a whale of a return on his original investment of \$1.81 per set.

EBONY CARVED APE RECEIVES CALLING CARDS

It was quite a shock to see an ape standing in the hall just inside the door.

I knew it wasn't an old friend, but it could be an old acquaintance. And it was.

Moving closer, I could tell unmistakably it was the same grotesquerie which had stood in another front hall I had often entered as a boy.

The ape, probably a chimpanzee though I'm not too sure of my simians, was about five feet tall. Carved from a block of ebony, or some other hard, dark wood, he looked so lifelike that I half expected him to shake his tray at me. His pale red eyes still fixed the caller with a cold and glassy stare.

"Isn't he wonderful," said a feminine voice behind me. "He's such a monster. I simply couldn't resist him."

It was my hostess who had come out of the living room to see what was holding me up. I asked her where she had got him.

She had found him in an antique store, she said, and proceeded to tell me that the chimp had been carved in India. Some Britisher had had it made and brought it back to England with him to receive the cards of callers in his hall.

Her story was substantially correct. The father of the man who had owned it when I was a boy had brought it with him when he came to America.

Dropping one of my cards on the chimp's tray, I asked the name of the store. It was a shop whose proprietor I knew. When I visited him a few days later he told me he had acquired the chimp from a basement cleaning establishment for \$20 and had sold it for \$235.

"I should have charged more for it," he said, shaking his head regretfully.

ANTIQUE GLASS VASE INSPIRES CURIOSITY

The scent of roses made me look about for the source. There were only two flowers in the room, and because they gave off such a heavy fragrance I stepped over to the mantelpiece for a look at them.

My interest in the blooms faded completely, however, when I saw the vase they were in. For one thing, it was new to the house and for another it was beautiful in and of itself.

It was a little over eight inches high, swelling gracefully from slender stem at the bottom to its flaring rim some four inches in diameter at the top.

I recognized it as a type of art glass, but what kind or by whom made, it was impossible for me to say. The bowl of the vase was of a translucent milk-white color which stood out in marked contrast with the deep pink of a leaf formation that clung to it in a graceful ornamentation. A coating of clear glass covered the entire outside of the bowl, permanently sealing in the colors. Both the stem and the foot of the vase, which flared to a diameter of a good two inches, were clear.

As I stood there studying the piece and wondering about the origin, my niece Judith appeared.

"It's known as 'Kewblas,' a type of art glass," she said in answer to my question. "It was made to a limited extent by the Union Glass Company of Somerville, Mass., back in the 1890s."

I asked how she could tell, since there was no signature or identifying mark of any kind on the piece.

"For the simple reason that they were apparently the only firm to do this type of work," she said.

"I got it at an interior decorator's for \$15," she went on "but it's worth much more than that. Around \$100, judging from the few other pieces I've seen."

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

No Carpenter Shortage At Klamath Air Base

Klamath Falls — (U.P.) — C. D. Long, secretary of the Klamath Falls Building Trades Council here, reports no shortage of carpenters exists at the jet base being constructed here.

"The jet interceptor base job is fully manned," he said, "and there is no undue demand for labor locally with the exception of some plumbers who will be needed when work has progressed."

pany to build two dams; the company "just happened" to apply in August, 1953, for quick tax write-off certificates for two of the three dams for which it was seeking licenses; the two dams in each case "just happened" to be the same two dams.

Sen. Morse Raps Hells 'Coincidence'

Washington — (U.P.) — Sen. Wayne Morse said here that 1953 actions of the Idaho Power Co., and recent actions of the Federal Power Commission in its controversial Hells Canyon decision "fit so perfectly that it taxes the imagination to believe they are coincidence."

The Oregon Democrat said in a statement that he will ask a Senate anti-monopoly subcommittee and the Senate Interior Committee to look into the situation when the two groups begin projected hearings on the Hells Canyon case.

He said the commission "just happened" to require the com-

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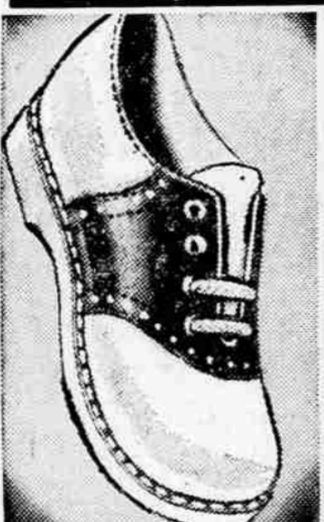
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Elasticized lace trims the leg bands of these soft rayon and cotton briefs for girls. Pretty pastels and white—get all her favorite colors at this special value price! Sizes 2 to 14.



GIRLS STRETCHABLE NYLON ANKLETS
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Stretchable nylon cuff socks for girls! They wash beautifully, never lose their shape. Choose from a rainbow of solid colors, sizes Small, Medium, Large. At Penney's now!



GIRLS TAFFETIZED COTTON SLIPS
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