

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Snuff-Box Canes Are Quite Rare Nowadays

It had been a couple of years since I had seen Sid and as I lit a cigarette I offered him one. "No thanks," he said. "I've long since gotten over that disgusting and dangerous habit, thank Heaven." He selected an ebony stick with a gold head on it from a rack of canes.

As he spoke, he gave the head of the cane a twist, lifted it off and glanced down delightedly at the top of the cane.

"Aha," he exclaimed excitedly, putting the gold head back on. He walked over to the desk some 15 feet away and announced he would take the cane. In another minute he had paid for it and was coming back.

"This is my lucky day," he said, pulling a small pouch from his coat pocket. "I've been looking for a stick like this for months, and to think I finally got it for \$20."

"What is it," I asked. "Can't you guess," he said, giving the head of the cane a turn and doing something with the pouch. "Look at it," he went on, holding it up in front of me. "Observe closely, please," he continued. "Now, sniff deeply."

I sniffed. It was a good ten seconds before I caught on, and by then I was trying to suppress an unsuppressible sneeze.

"It's a snuff-box cane," he said when I had recovered sufficiently to hear him. "They're quite rare nowadays, and for me to get one like this is really something. Why, I saw one the other day go for \$8 right while I was trying to make up my mind."

I examined the stick carefully. There must have been a full ounce of gold in the head of the cane, and the tiny mark on the under side of the band showed it to be 16 carat.

UNUSED 1880 POST OFFICE SEAL WORTH AT LEAST \$60

"I guess we can safely open this now," said Jim, holding up an impressing-looking envelope and slipping open one end.

There were eight of us present and we watched curiously. The contents consisted of a single envelope which in turn contained a picture and description of one of Great Uncle Charlie's inventions. He had mailed them to himself by registered mail and kept it unopened. Evidently he had expected some kind of a court contest over his gadget and intended to use the letter as proof of priority.

But though the contents were virtually valueless, it occurred to me the envelope might not be. And what gave me that thought was not the postage stamps on the inner envelope, which were worth \$2 or \$3 at the most, but the registry stamp on the outer one.

I had never seen one like it before. It was a big thing, bluish

in color, on soft, porous paper, and it was affixed on the back of the envelope over the juncture of the flaps.

In the middle of the stamp was a circle which was superimposed the word REGISTERED. Around the circle was the legend "Stamp Here Date And Place Of Mailing." There was no denomination. The purpose of the stamp was simply to protect the enclosed, registered letters from being tampered with while in transit.

On the front of the envelope was Great Uncle Charlie's name and box number. Evidently some friend in the post office had decided to make the envelope extra official and had put the letter through in that way.

It was difficult to determine the value of the piece. Post Office Seals, as they are known, list at \$60, unused, for the 1880 issue which ours was. Used ones are unlisted, but we finally sold the cover for \$150.

1927 S BUFFALO NICKEL WORTH UP TO \$80 EACH

Ned handed me a roll of nickels that had been opened at one end.

"I found these in a drawer in the office safe," he said, "and I looked them up in a catalogue. They're worth a dollar each. Not bad, eh?"

I shook the top coin out. It was a 1927 buffalo nickel. On the reverse side, beneath the words FIVE CENTS that appear under the buffalo, I could make out a tiny S, the San Francisco mint mark. The coin was mint clean.

"I guess my old man got this roll from the bank which had gotten it from the mint. They are all the same," said Ned.

I asked to see the catalogue he had used for looking the coin up. It was one of the cheap, paper-covered ones put out by some dealers. A check of the standard catalogues showed a decidedly different price.

One of them valued the 1927 nickel with the S mint mark at from \$3.50 for very fine condi-

tion to \$80 uncirculated. Another quoted a spread of \$4 to \$85.

Ned gasped when he saw the figures. "But these are all uncirculated. Let's see. That means these are worth..."

"Don't try to figure it out," I warned him. "If anyone tossed 50 identical coins on the market at once, the bottom would drop out of the price. The thing for you to do is to dispose of them one at a time."

"But I can't go around peddling these things from dealer to dealer," he said, "and I certainly see no point in keeping them. I'm not a collector."

I agreed that he might as well get rid of them and suggested he run an advertisement in one of the numismatic publications requesting offers for a single coin.

When I checked with him a week ago, he still had plenty of nickels left, but his total revenue from sales was in excess of \$500. (Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Census Shows 152 More Pupils In District 6

Central Point — The annual census of school district 6 shows an increase of 152 students over last year's enrollment. Superintendent H. P. Jewett has announced. Total enrollment is 2,411, compared to 2,259 last year. There are 1,706 students enrolled in Central Point schools, compared to 1,614 last year. Gold Hill enrollment increased from 431 last year to 483 this

Dr. Hardy C. Powers To Speak Here Dec. 4

Dr. Hardy C. Powers, who has served for 12 years as one of five superintendents in the Church of the Nazarene, will speak to the Medford congregation Sunday, Dec. 4.

He will be accompanied by the Rev. W. D. McGraw Jr., district superintendent of the Oregon-Pacific district.

In connection with his Southern Oregon visit, Dr. Powers will receive charter members into the membership of a second Nazarene church to be organized soon under the joint sponsorship of the Medford congregation and the Oregon-Pacific district.

Air Force Cadets Name Falcon Mascot 'Mach I'

Denver — (U.P.) — Air Force academy cadets have renamed their Falcon mascot "Mach I" a scientific word for the speed of sound.

When Mach I dies his successor will be dubbed Mach II — twice the speed of sound. The third mascot will be Mach III, and so on.

Mach I formerly held the unscientific name of "Fearless Fred."

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Two Appear In Court On Auto Theft Charges

Roy E. Armstrong, 21, Ever Shady motel, and Ralph Aaron Pearson, 31, Crater motel, appeared in district court yesterday on charges of larceny of a motor vehicle.

Pearson waived preliminary hearing and his case was continued until Monday morning for him to decide whether he will obtain counsel, court records disclosed. Armstrong was given until the same time to determine whether he will ask a preliminary hearing.

The auto involved belonged to Primio Ciardi, 40 Quince st., according to state police. It was taken from near Hawthorne park about 6:15 p.m. Friday, they said. The two men were arrested on Highway 99 south of Phoenix about 7:15 p.m.

'NORMALLY RED' Lillington, N.C.—(U.P.)—County recorder's court solicitor Neil Ross, defending himself at his trial for drunkenness, said his accusers were misled by the fact that his face is "normally red."

Dead line Sunday Classified is at noon Saturday, 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day

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