Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

Roper Revolving Shotgun Terrific Hunting Weapon

It was admirable, the effortless ease with which the man in the next stand picked the ducks out of the sky.

At first I thought he had a companion, but he hadn't. He was tumbling the birds all by himself. And with an automatic, apparently, one that used black powder, judging by the dense clouds of smoke the wind whipped away.

Well, it was in Mexico where our rules against automatics don't apply. Presently when both of us had shot our fill, I strolled over and introduced myself.

"Beautiful marksmanship," I said. "What kind of a gun are you using?"

"This," he said, passing me the weapon. "Ever seen one before?"

I hadn't, and it will probably be a long time before I'll see one again, certainly one in as good condition.

It was what is known as a "Roper Four-shot Revolving Shotgun." It looked to be about a 12-gauge—actually it was of .64 calibre—and it used steel cartridge cases with percussion primers. The owner had several boxes of them which he had had specially made.

The barrel was of a 27-inch length out of the over-all 48 inches of the piece. The engraved name of the maker was "Roper Repeating Rifle Co.," Amherst, Mass."

"This gun's only 80 years old," the owner said.

What impressed me was the ease of handling. The gun weighed less than seven pounds. The walnut stock fitted smoothly against my cheek.

"Its quite a weapon," the owner said when I asked how he happened to get it. "I bought it three years ago, on a lark. Paid $165 for it—a little high, I'm told. But I've never regretted it. It's really a sweet shooting gun."

As I learned later, even $250 would not have been too much for that make in such excellent condition.

STAMPS INVESTMENT CAN BE BETTER THAN STOCKS

We were having an argument about stocks, one of those useless but perenially recurrent discussions of the "I-should-have-bought' type.

Jim had just got through listtening to how many more thousands he would have now if he had bought $100 worth of General Motors 30 years ago and kept it, taking advantage of all the rights it gave.

"Okay," he said, "but I didn't buy any. Nor did you, nor anyone else here, I'll bet, and keep it as you've described."

The others had to admit they hadn't, either. They had had plenty of different experiences, but most of them boiled down to the simple fact that money invested on the long term doesn't usually bring more than six per cent.

"But I've beaten that, though," Jim said. "It's taken me quite a while to realize it, but I'll pass it on to you."

He went over to a cabinet and came back with a large folder which he opened on the table. Inside were several sheets of stamps.

The top one was a sheet of 100 three-cent stamps put out for the World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago, in 1893—a deep bluish-green item showing a picture of the Santa Maria running her "westing" down.

"I bought this one when I was ten in 1913," he said. "Paid six dollars for it.

"That's 43 years ago, but look where their value stands today. Sure, if I'd put $100 in General Motors, and kept it there, I'd have made a wad of dough. But what kid could do that. However, I did put $6 in this.

"Which was a lot smarter than putting it in a bank that paid six per cent, if I could have found one. Because at six per cent, compounded for 43 years, my $6 would now be about $30.

"But put into this sheet of stamps, it will now bring me $350—if I want to sell it. See?"

And he passed us the catalogue which shows the 1955 price record as $350 for that sheet of stamps, millions of which were printed and sold.

WIFE'S URGE FOR URN ENDS IN NEAT PROFIT

Lucille had long wanted a large flower urn to go on the front porch, one of those massive things that stand three or four feet high and cost up to $500 or more.

But Charles, her husband, said nothing doing. It was a waste of money, his pockets weren't bottomless, he wasn't made of it, etc. etc.

Well, I happened to be there one day when Charles arrived a little late from work.

"I'm glad you're here, Pink," he said. "You've got a strong back and it's just what I need."

"Okay,' I said. "But why do you need my strong back?"

"Because I'm going to fix Lucilles' wagon for her this time. In fact, I've got it fixed. She's been yapping about an urn again, and now she's got one."

She had one, all right, and it didn't take us more than about 10 minutes to set it up.

It was a giant wooden mortar, about four feet high and nearly two and a half across the lip. It was made of ash and had been hand-hewn from the trunk of a singel tree. In appearance, from a little distance, it was not unlike a goblet with a very shortened, thickened stem.

"I've got some flowers and vines for it, too," said Jim, taking them out of the car and putting them into the mortar.

It looked quite nice when he had finished. I was impressed, and so was Lucille.

But it didnt' stay there long. Within the week she had learned that the mortar was a product of the 1700's, a genuine antique, and had it moved inside.

It was her discovery, even though her husband had bought it for $10 from a druggist who had found it in his basement.

"She's been offered $500 for it, but she won't sell," said Jim exasperatingly. "And how she's hollering for another urn. And you know why, Pink . . . . She says we can afford it now, because we've made $490 on the mortar."

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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ATTENTION! EASTERN STAR MEMBERS Reames Social Club meeting May 16th, 12 noon. Medford Masonic Hall. Come & enjoy a good luncheon and bring your foursome for an afternoon of cards.

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SAVE Full line lumber & building supplies. Check our credit plan. Up to $2,500 —3 yrs. to pay. Free delivery. NORTON LUMBER CO. Phoenix Ph. 3-2888

CAN YOU BEAT THIS? 1.92-lbs. average daily grain on CHECK-R-MIX HOG FEEDS. Try 'em, see for yourself. Monarch Seed & Feed Co.

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

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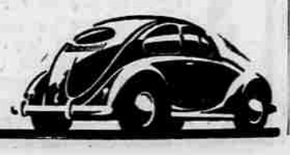

Worst of Income Decline May Be Past

Corvallis — The worst of the farm income decline may be past if off-farm prosperity continues, but prospects for immediate improvement look none too good to Oregon State college agricultural economists.

Large stocks of farm goods, plus costly consumer demand for more convenience in food packaging, will work against much boost in farm income without a substantial increase in government aid, the economists said.

Long-range trends for probable supply and demand of farm goods are outlined in the current Oregon Farm and Market Outlook published by the college. Copies may be obtained at local county extension service offices.

National demand for farm goods by 1965 is estimated at 17 per cent above present levels to meet population increases and changes in buying habits. Farm production could increase beyond this point and hold farm prices down if known farm technology were fully applied, economists said.

Expected consumer trends by 1965 point to use of more meat, more nonfat dairy products, more poultry products, and more fruits and vegetables but less cereals, potatoes and milkfat. The changes could help restore farmers prices and purchasing power.

Portland Grocery Clerks Veto Offer

Portland — (U.P.) — Union grocery clerks Friday rejected a wage increase offer by employers but no strike was called immediately.

Union members met at 6:30 a.m. to vote on an offer worked out earlier in negotiations conducted by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation service. The offer called or an 18½-cent hourly "package" raise spread over a two-year period.

A union spokesman said the vote to turn down the offer was at a 3-1 rate.

Paul Hansen, international representative of the union, said negotiations would continue and there would be no strike immediately. But, he said, one could come "at any minute." A strike would affect most of the city's large chain stores and some independents.

The rejected offer would have given a pay raise of 7½ cents an hour retroactive to May 1, with 6 cents more next January 1 and 5 cents more next May 1. The 6-cent raise could have been taken either as added pay or for a health and welfare program.

Small Boy Dodges Police in Chicago

Chicago—(U.P.)—The Air Force Friday went to the aid of baffled police in their 11-day search for a will o' the wisp missing boy.

Forty Air Force recruiting officers volunteered to join the hunt for 8-year-old Leo Rausch Jr. because he's a special friend of theirs.

Before Leo ran away last April 30, he liked to hang around the recruiting office in his North Side neighborhood. Airmen jokingly told him to join the Air Force.

Instead Leo has melted into the busy streets and alleys of Chicago. Policemen know he's alive. He's been reported seen at least 20 times. They also have a nagging feeling that Leo is having a wonderful time in the big city at the expense of the 50 officers assigned to hunt for him.

Pickin' Pears

News and Notes From Camp White

By BILL HURN

Monday afternoon at Recreation hall, Camp White veterans were entertained by Grants Pass Lady Bugs of Steelhead Post 14 with a party. Mina Gordon, Marie Wilcox, Minnie Tantlinger, Florine Hughes and Pat Reherd were in charge. Military Order of Cooties with their Lady Bugs were also in charge of a cigarette spread to non-compensated members Friday and held a party for Ward 5, which they have formally adopted as their charge. Clara Martin, Martha Bishop, Lilas Banks, W. G. Masse and Al Young were in the group.

H. Jaffrey, assistant manager has returned from a Washington D.C., trip where he lectured at the Walter Reed Army Medical center in Washington. The seminar was conducted under the auspices of the Interagency committee on Training and Education of Federal Hospital Administrative personnel.

Red Cross's May birthday party hosted 41 members Wednesday evening at the theatre. Included were a musical program by A. A. Lawson, Jack Walker and Foss G. Kramer; games, gift presentations and prize awards followed by refreshments.

An open social evening of VFW Post 6412 was held in the hall at Camp White Wednesday evening. Entertainment of accordion and dance acts was furnished by Posts and Cooties of the district area who also supplied refreshments.

A presentation from VFW department of Oregon was made to Henry Huls of the GI general statuette membership award for 1955.

At the Boiler House Friday afternoon, E. K. Ricker, manager, H. Jaffrey, assistant manager and other departmental executives met with Chief Engineer Bert R. Sims and his boiler-house crew for presentation of awards and checks under the Incentive awards program of VA.

Awards and certificates were for superior performance. Dale Sawyer, operating engineer; Edward Neff, assistant operating engineer; Earl Chester, Lloyd Leabo, Henry Ebson, Frederick Hinz and John Renfro, firemen, received awards.

McKay, Hitchcock Support Claimed

Portland — (U.P.) — Campaign leaders for Douglas McKay and Philip Hitchcock, two of four candidates for the Republican nomination for U.S. senator, both claimed support for their candidate Friday.

Paul Hebb of Oswego, Hitchcock's state chairman, said that an error had been discovered in a recent University of Oregon survey of editorial support of candidates. He said three, not four, daily newspapers had endorsed McKay while four have endorsed Hitchcock and three others indicated they favored him.

William L. Phillips, McKay's campaign manager, said two separate public opinion surveys forecast a better than two-to-one advantage for McKay over Hitchcock. He said a statewide survey by the Dan Clark Associates taken about the time McKay returned to Oregon gave him better than a two to one nod. Results of the Warren Waterhouse polls were almost "on the nose" with the Clark survey, he said.

Clare Boothe Luce Arrives for Checkup

New York — (U.P.) — Ambassador to Italy Clare Boothe Luce arrived at Idlewild Airport Friday from Rome for "a complete physical checkup."

Mrs. Luce looked pale and tired but was cheerful and smiled when she was met by newsmen.

Salem — (U.P.) — Gov. Elmo Smith has designated the week of May 13 to 19 as Oregon's White Cane week.

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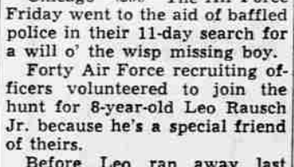
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