

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

Saving Old Maps Can Be Profitable Enterprise

"This fellow's wife was so sore at him for paying 100 pesos for it," said Tom, unfolding the map on his library table, "that I went over and offered him 200 for it! It was a map of the United States of Mexico, as the title read in Spanish, but the legend said it was published in New York in 1848, by J. Disturnell. "I didn't know how much it was worth," Tom continued, "but I figured that I couldn't lose money on it. It seemed to me a pretty sure thing that a colored map of Mexico of that date, published in New York and showing the routes of the American armies in Mexico during the Mexican war, ought to be worth \$20 all right. "Well, anyway, I forgot about

it until I got home when I tossed it on the desk there, intending to look it up. "But I didn't even have to do that. A book dealer friend of mine, happened by one evening last week and spotted the thing right away. He wanted to measure it, of course, and as soon as he'd found out it was the proper dimensions, 30 1/2 inches by 42 1/2 inches, he announced he would be glad to take it off my hands. "I sold one last month for \$60," he said, "but I've got another customer who'll pay me \$80, so if you'll take \$60 it's a deal." "But I wouldn't sell it for \$100," he said. "Aside from being an interesting map, it's the best memento I've got of a month in Mexico City."

INTERNAL REVENUE STAMP ERASES INCOME-TAX DEBT

It was pitiable in a way, but I couldn't help laughing. There was Frank, seated at his desk, swearing softly to himself over what looked like a government form. And it was a government form, a missive from the Internal Revenue Service stating that he owed the Treasury an additional \$38.92, plus interest at six per cent. After a bit, he began to laugh a little. And I, thinking to cheer him up somewhat, pulled out a packet of stamps I had bought earlier for a dollar. I had bought them because of one stamp I wanted, and having extracted that, I felt I would give the balance to Frank, especially since there were a couple of internal revenue stamps in it. "A very generous heart indeed," he said, bending forward suddenly and snatching up the

envelope to shake out its contents. "In fact, far more generous than you realize," he concluded, picking up one of the stamps to examine it carefully. It was a 40-cent item, a 1882 issue, brown gray in color and cancelled with pen and ink across the face of Washington. "Why, it has beautiful margins," he exclaimed, holding it up for me to see. "And it's imperforate. Nobody's clipped it, I'm sure." He put a ruler against its side. "Yes, it's exactly 23 by 51 millimeters!" "What do you mean," I asked with a queasy feeling. "That's worth only 40 or 50 cents, isn't it?" "That's right, Pink, if it's clipped, or if it has any perforations. As this one is, however, it's worth \$90. Just take a look at the catalogue, old boy."

SIMPLE ANDIRONS CAN BRING FANCY PRICE

I walked over to the fireplace to knock out my pipe on the hearthstone—that was how I came to see there were four andirons on the hearth. The two latest, perched one on either side, were rather spindly things. Their front legs looked like horseshoes—which very likely they had been. The rear legs were merely vertical pieces of iron, and the connecting pieces were nothing other than a common rod of metal. The uprights, standing a good 20 inches high, were not much better. Except for two things, they were simplicity itself. The top part of the iron was bent outward into a shape something like a shepherd's crook, but with the end terminating in a button. On the inside of the upright, at even intervals down from the top, were two hooks. Midway between them, but on the outside, was another hook. While I stood there examining the andirons—they were quite

heavy, by the way, weighing a little over 15 pounds each—my niece, Judith, entered. "Aren't they lovely, Uncle Pinkney. I got them this afternoon for \$30. Bought them by the pound." I remarked that the price seemed rather steep for anything so plain, for something that was strictly utilitarian, without claims to grace or beauty. "That's just it," she said. "That's one of the things which proves these are right out of the 18th Century." "And what are the others?" I asked. "Well," she said, "those hooks for one. They used them to rig the spits on—spits and other cooking instruments. These were strictly kitchen andirons." "And how much do you expect to get for them?" I asked. "They are already sold," she replied, holding out a check for \$150. (Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Iowa Farmers Drive Low Priced Cars

Ames, Ia. — (U.P.) — Sociologists at Iowa State College found in a survey of farmers in Story County, an "average" Iowa county, that most of them drive automobiles in the low-priced field. They said the survey showed 75 per cent of the owners had vehicles more than two years old. It showed 62 per cent of the farmers owned cars in the low-priced field, five per cent in the high-priced field and 33 per cent owned medium-priced cars. Forty-four per cent of the cars were three to six years old, 24 per cent one to two years old,

Attorney General Says Ban 'Unreasonable'

Osage, Ia. — (U.P.) — The high school here recently dropped its ban on married students after an Iowa attorney general's opinion termed it "unreasonable and therefore unenforceable." The school board had passed the ban on married students last November after "anticipating a rash of these high-school marriages." Under the ban, students who married before graduating were forced to drop out. The board admitted that it still thought the ban was "right" and only dropped it because of the attorney general's opinion.

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Virgo Appears in Eastern Horizon; Southern Heavens

By FAY VAN SCHOLACK
 Doesn't it seem altogether fitting and proper that Virgo the Virgin, goddess of growth and plenty, who is supposed to be scattering grain to the creatures on earth, should be prominent in the evening sky during the months of May and June?

In the evenings of early March, Virgo appears above the eastern horizon and slips from view in the west during the first part of September. Around 8 p.m. on June 1 this constellation is about half way up in the southern heavens.

Easy to Find
 It is easy to find Virgo by locating its first magnitude star, Spica. There is no other bright star near this brilliant blue-white sun. Begin with the last star in the handle of the Big Dipper. Follow an imaginary line curving downward and to the right till the sparkling orange-yellow Arcturus is reached. Continue this line downward and to the right for approximately the same distance as between the Dipper handle and Arcturus and you will discover the glowing blue-white light of Spica.

Spica means "ear of wheat" and, to the ancient people, this star represented a sheaf of that grain held in Virgo's left hand. Diagonally above Spica, and to the right is a curved line of five faint stars which with dim stars to the left and also above Spica enable a star-gazer with a vivid imagination to picture a maiden in a half reclining position.

Virgo was also looked upon as the goddess, Astraea, who lived on earth and meted out justice to earth-dwellers in an effort to make them worthy of the friendship of the gods.

The first race of mortals who lived in the Golden Age were loved by the gods. Life was free from toil and grief and death a deep, quiet sleep.

After this generation had become extinct, the gods created the Silver Race which was far less noble and soon perished as a result of sin and quarrelling.

Jupiter, who had now become ruler of mortals out of bronze. They fashioned weapons of bronze and lived in bronze houses, eating only meat and neglecting the gifts of the goddess of the harvest. Strong, valorous, and war-loving, they fought continually among themselves until none was left.

Golden Age
 The gods spent much time with humans during the Golden Age, but with the coming of the Silver Age they found little happiness in the company of men, and only visited them occasionally.

Astraea, the only divinity who remained on earth, spent years trying to teach humans the value of kindness and justice. At first the good overcame the evil, but as time went by, evil became more prevalent.

When the terrible race of bronze men ruled the earth, Astraea gave up in despair and was placed among the stars as the constellation, Virgo. It is said that on her way back to heaven she formed the Milky Way by scattering heads of wheat in the sky.

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PULCHRITUDINOUS PULL—Three pretty sailor girls provide a pulchritudinous pull as the American President Lines S.S. President Coolidge arrives in San Francisco. En route around the world on her maiden voyage, the luxury argosier is the theme ship of the 1956 Golden Gate Trade and Maritime Festival. Left to right: Bobbie Brown, Jean Kaye and Joanne Copeland.

A Nichol's Worth of . . . Comment On This and That

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS
 United Press Feature Writer

Washington — (U.P.) — "Little Mo," aged two and weighing 1,300 pounds, stuck her eating equipment through the iron pickets before the White House. She liked the grass and gobbled in some scattered blades left by the mowers.

"Little Mo" Harman Nichols is a baby elephant, one of the star performers here for Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus.

"Dag-bumdest thing I ever saw," said circus press agent Zac Freedman, a man who has been rigging publicity stunts for a long time.

"I could get away with this sort of thing at Hollywood or Vine, or in New York," Zac said. "But I expected to lose one valuable elephant not to mention my own life when I unloaded 'Little Mo' right outside the White House. It was blasé, that's what you could call Washington."

Republican at Heart
 The press agent maintains that the baby pachyderm, one of the principals of "the greatest show on earth" is really a Republican at heart.

"She liked the GOP grass she trampled in," he said. "She even had an eye coked on Ike's putting green. She is so Republican she likes golf balls."

The big show this year is featuring 10 baby elephants, who together tip the scales at something like 13,000 pounds. They form an elephant band, really.

Denison Dam and Lake Texoma reservoir area in Texas and Oklahoma was host to 6,598,700 vacationers. Second in line was Texas' Whitney Reservoir area with 2,980,000. Oklahoma's Fort Gibson reservoir area followed with 2,745,000.

Other reservoir areas which were a lure to more than a million Americans were: World Creek, Lake Cumberland, Ky., 2,334,100; Hansen, Calif., 2,038,700; Bull Shoals, Mo. and Ark., 1,548,000; Tenkiller Ferry, Okla., 1,412,700; Clark Hill, S. C. and Ga., 1,365,000; Allatoona, Ga., 1,241,500; West Fork of Mill Creek, O., 1,225,500; Belton, Tex., 1,190,000; Grapevine, Tex., 1,170,000; Garza Little Elm, Tex., 1,150,000; John H. Kerr, Va., and N. C., 1,009,000.

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

Trend of Americans To Go Outdoors Seen in Park Use

Washington — (U.P.) — A record number of persons used recreational areas around federal reservoirs last year, reflecting the growing trend of Americans to relax outdoors.

An all-time high of 61,132,000 vacationers in 1955 jammed onto land licensed to cities, counties and states by the Corps of Engineers, according to figures released by the Army.

Previous attendance records were set in 1954 and 1953 with 53,848,000 and 41,301,000, respectively, according to Lt. Gen. S. D. Sturgis, Jr., Army Chief of Engineers.

The millions of Americans who felt the call of the wild enjoyed camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating, sailing, water skiing and hunting.

The Army said that during 1955 more counties than ever before undertook park and recreation programs on reservoir areas which are civil projects of the Corps of Engineers. States and cities are continuing to add facilities at the projects with the sanction of the Army.

Facilities Outstripped
 Even with this local cooperation, the engineers stated that the great number of people who use the playlands are far out-

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SLEEPING COMFORT
 Grand Rapids, Mich. — (U.P.) — A woman called police to report a "still form" was on the lawn of a home in her neighborhood late at night. Police found Marine Pvt. Robert Conlin, 20, home on leave, in a sleeping bag beside his home. Conlin, who is six feet, seven inches tall and weighs 243, told police he could not get to sleep in his bed and decided to go outside and sleep under the stars.

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