

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



An Eye for the Unusual Pays Off in Any Field

An eye for the unusual will pay off in any field, but in none more dramatically than in that of stamp collecting.

If ever you come across a stamp, even of the most common type, that is printed upside down, or double printed, or that has any other thing about it to distinguish it from the norm, don't dispose of it until you've checked and double checked on its value.

A case in point is that of the six-cent airmail stamp that was printed by the hundreds of millions back in 1938.

It is an indigo and carmine colored item showing an eagle on a shield holding an olive wreath and arrows.

Like most other stamps, this one came in sheets, each stamp being perforated on all four sides so that it could be easily separated from the others.

One day, Jack Rea, an ac-

quaintance of mine, reached into his desk drawer for some airmail stamps and noticed that he was holding a vertical pair—one joined along the top and bottom edges—but that there were no perforations along the line between the two.

He wasn't a stamp collector then, but he had heard stories about peculiar values in the field, so he kept the odd pair.

It was a profitable bit of thinking on his part. Today such a pair of stamps of that issue has a value, unused, of \$125. No listing is given for its value cancelled, the reason being that such a pair is unlikely ever to come on the market.

But a horizontal pair has, however, and Jack wishes he had found one of them instead. They are joined along the short edge, without perforation. They are so much scarcer that their catalogue value, unused, is listed at \$1,250 to \$1,350.

GRANT PEACE PLATE SET NOT CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Helen was an astute buyer, one who generally assumed that the stated price was simply an asking price and subject to bargaining.

Accordingly, I was somewhat surprised to see her pick up a plate, inquire the price and promptly pay it without a moment's hesitation—particularly since the sum asked, \$15, was decidedly on the high side.

The piece was one of the so-called Maple Leaf patterns and of the type known as the "Grant Peace Plate," having a bust of the famous Civil War general in the center with the following legend encircling the rim: "Let Us Have Peace U.S. Grant."

It is not an uncommon item. Thousands of them were turned out by Adams & Co., of Pittsburgh, Pa., back in 1885-86.

Examples are to be found every once in a while and in

such a variety of colors as yellow, amber, apple green, blue or clear. The one Helen had found was blue, and from what I had seen of such plates before I would not have paid a cent over \$10 for it.

I said as much to Helen on the way out.

"Why did you buy it at the price?" I asked.

"Well," she said, "during the past three years I have acquired 11 such plates, all blue, and of the same shade as this one. And whether you know it or not, a set of such plates is rare. So much so that a dozen of them sold as a unit bring a far higher price than if sold individually."

"Are you going to sell them?" I asked.

"I certainly shall," she said. "And for \$200 for the dozen, which figures out nicely when compared with the usual price of \$10 for a single plate."

ALASKA GOLD COIN'S ONLY VALUE IS TO COLLECTORS

I had never heard of an Alaska gold coin, but there was what certainly seemed to be one, sitting on the desk where Fred had placed it.

It was a good-looking job. There was a well formed Indian head facing right, above the date 1897. Around the edge were 16 stars.

I turned the piece over. On the reverse was a wreath containing the words "Alaska Gold," the letters forming a small circle above the word ONE which in turn was above the slightly longer word PINCH. All of them were enclosed by a wreath.

"Well," said Fred, "is it a coin, or isn't it?"

I knew that there was no mention of such a thing in any of the standard catalogues in my possession, and that therefore the piece did not qualify as a coin in the sense of its having been used as legal tender.

Nonetheless, I put in a call for a coin dealer friend of mine who has a vast fund of knowledge on the unusual in the field.

"The Alaska Pinch Series," he said, "sure thing. They're a token that was sold at the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition at Seattle, back in 1909. Made up by a San Francisco firm and sold by the hundreds."

"But what is its value?" I asked.

"There's a new catalogue out called 'Small California and Territorial Gold Coins.' A fellow by the name of R. H. Burnie wrote it. Of Paeagoula, Miss. He lists your ONE PINCH at \$35 in extra fine condition. But has no price for the uncirculated state. So if your friends want to sell, he should ask \$50 for it."

I relayed the information to Fred, but he isn't interested in selling. He wants to go ahead and collect the whole series.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Woodworkers Hold Organizational Meet

The International Woodworkers of America AFL-CIO held an organizational meeting in Medford at the IWA hall last week.

The meeting was held to formulate an "organizational program to organize the unorganized woodworkers in the southern Oregon-northern California area," according to A. F. Hartung, Portland, president of the organization.

In addition to Hartung, others attending the meeting included Claude Ballard, vice president; and Tim Sullivan, assistant director of organization, both of Portland. Burke Christie, Olympia, Wash., president of IWA plywood district, council 9, and Harvey Nelson, president, and Ron Roley, vice presidents, represented the Columbia River district council 5 from Portland.

Hal Griger, president of the Klamath Basin district council 6, and Ernie Tomberg, president of the Southern Oregon district council 7 of Coos Bay also attended the meeting.

Staff members present were Jim Lee, district organizer of the Plywood district council, and Leonard Simmons, Guy Roley, Ray DeBord, Frank Gordon, Ben Morganti, Chan Stout and Bill Baker, all International organizers assigned to the southern Oregon-northern California area.



On The Side

'Tis in your eyes, my sweetest love, My only worlds I see. Let but their orbs in sunshine move And earth below, and skies above, May frown or smile for me. —TOM MOORE

Control Board Buys Site at Wilsonville

Salem — (U.P.) — Gov. Elmo Smith said Friday that 505-acre Wilsonville site for the new Portland area mental hospital has been purchased by the Board of Control.

The transaction was completed Thursday afternoon at Oregon City, he said.

A topographical survey of the land will be started immediately. Included in the purchase is 17.8 acres of land the emergency board had recommended to straighten the northern boundary.

The 11 owners will be allowed to complete harvest of crops now on the land and one landowner has been given permission to remain in his home for the rest of the year.

The hospital advisory committee will meet Monday to discuss the program for the institution. This study will be completed within two months.

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

Latin Word meaning "to cut."

Q. What fish is most easily fooled by bait which is most difficult to make bite? A. Your query baffles me. However, I believe the trout may be the most gullible of fish. It can be fooled by worms, flies and a wide variety of artificial lures. Q. In what part of Ireland was Chauncey Olcott, the singing actor, born? A. Olcott was born in Buffalo, N.Y. Q. What is the world's greatest horse race? A. They say it is the Epsom derby. However, I can't go along with that choice as it is an event exclusively for three-year-olds. However, I have no other choice at this time.

Jewelry

From a financial viewpoint, diamonds cannot be properly rated as a girl's best friend. The smart girls who keep well informed try for rubies or emeralds. Diamonds are not so scarce. Rubies and emeralds are. The ruby is the birth-stone of the Leo-born. So if your wife is a Leo, give her one.

Husky Infant

California is in again with something to top. The 11th child of 40-year-old Mrs. Rosie Yeango of San Diego, Calif., weighed 14 pounds, 13 3/4 ounces at birth. If this isn't the huskiest baby of 1956, who is? The Yeango infant was born under Taurus. Children of that sign are usually above the average weight at birth. Or, so say the stargazers.

Get it Right

As for the number of lions that the great trainer Jack Bonavita had in his act, the right answer is 27. That is 27 at the same time. That's a lot of lions to be surrounded by. They weren't so tame either. One named Baltimore bit Bonavita's arm off. However, Jack resumed the act when he recovered and kept Baltimore in it. Bonavita's ending was a strange one. After taming and training lions for many years, he was killed by a polar bear.

DATED CAKE

Rapid City, S.D. — (U.P.) — Richard Haigh, a student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, received a belated birthday present. It was a cake, and Richard noted "it was sort of dry." It had been mailed earlier by his mother, Mrs. Harold Haigh of Henry, S.D.

Opposition Heard On Snake Project

Lewiston, Ida. — (U.P.) — Opposition testimony to the proposed Mountain Sheep and Pleasant Valley project on the middle Snake river began here Friday before a Federal Power Commission hearing.

The hearing, aimed at gaining opinions and views of a non-technical nature on the proposed \$23,000,000 project, concludes today after final testimony before chief FPC Examiner Edward C. Marsh. Earlier in the week, similar testimony was heard in Pendleton, Ore. The technical testimony will be taken in Washington, D.C., starting July 24.

Thursday civic leaders, industrialists, farmers, labor representatives and sportsmen urged the license be granted to the Pacific Northwest Power Company for construction of the two dams. The witnesses said the Northwest needs the power and the tax revenue created if the dams are constructed.

Witnesses said that the proposed 1,183,000 kilowatt project would not interfere with the fish runs on the Snake and Salmon rivers.

Berry Crop in Valley Smallest on Record

Peak production of nectar, boysen and raspberries in Rogue valley will be between July 4 and 15, Walter Kasworm, Rogue River, has announced. The crop will be the smallest on record of the Rogue Valley Berry association, he said.

The small crop has been blamed on winter kill and floods from heavy rains during the winter months. The raspberry crop, Kasworm said, will be small, but quality of berries is expected to be about average.

The quality of other berries will be fair to good, he said.

Because of the small crop, Kasworm said, prices will be higher than in other years.

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Best Seller

The world's best selling photograph recording of all times is said to be one made by Ernest Lough. On one side is "Hear My Prayer." On the other "For the Wings of a Dove." Lough made this recording when he was a choir boy. He did not become a professional singer. Is now an advertising executive.

Please Note

What is the most expensive hotel in the world? I note it claimed it is the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach, Fla., where during the peak winter season the price of a room on the 11th to 14th floors, inclusive, is said to be \$250 a week. Speaking of hotel prices, the Penthouse suite of the Dorchester hotel, London, costs \$525 a week. And who do you think has been occupying it lately? Why, sir, none other than Jack Benny.

Asking

Queries from clients. Q. I claim the caesarean operation is named after Julius Caesar. Right? A. The name of the Caesarean operation has nothing to do with Julius Caesar. It was being performed long before he was born. Name is derived from

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Sealed bids for a 73 to 79 passenger school bus will be received at the office of the Supt. of Schools in Eagle Point, Oregon, by the board of directors School District No. 9, Jackson County, until 8 p.m. July 18, 1956, and will then be opened and publicly read aloud. Specifications may be secured at the Superintendent's office in Eagle Point.

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