

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Good Idea To Hold Onto Your Old Registry Stamps

Mr. Wright folded back the flap and withdrew a part of a sheet of bright blue stamps which he laid on the counter.

There were ten stamps in all, two rows of four and one of two.

Frank, the owner of the shop, bent forward to examine them.

"Ah, yes. Registry stamps," he said.

Frank picked up the stamps carefully, turned them over for a brief glance at the gummed side and handed them to me. I noted there was a plate-block number on the margin of the sheet adjacent to the row of two.

"Well," Frank said, "this is

not the most valuable find you could have made, but it isn't bad. These stamps are so arranged that if I just remove the block of four from the others, it will leave what is known as a plate block of six. The value of the two together is about \$50. That's what I could get for them; so I'll give you \$30.

"I got no objection to that margin of profit," Wright said. "But if these stamps have gone up that much in 40 years, I might as well keep them a while longer. Matter of fact, I'm going to need a hobby myself before long, and it looks like I got a head start on this."

SILVER DOLLAR WORTH SAME AS STOCKS IS

Jack had a flying eagle silver dollar in his hand, a beauty of an 1839 issue in excellent condition.

"How did I get it," he said.

"Because I got sharp eyes, Gage, and I'm lucky. And also because I thought it might be worth a lot."

"One of our stockholders came into a meeting, lugging a jar three-quarters full of silver dollars. He had \$285 in it, and he wanted buy 30 shares of stock if we'd trust him for the other \$15 until pay day."

"And did you?" I asked.

"I sure did," he said. "Though I felt a little miffed at the time, having to count all those coins."

"But that was all right, because I felt a lot better when I came across this one."

He held the coin out to me

again. "It isn't as valuable as the 1838, and it isn't as good looking as the 1836 flying eagle. That one's got stars in the sky around the bird, and this one hasn't. The only stars it's got are the regular 13 on the front of the coin. But it's worth more."

"When I found out what it was worth, I offered to give to the hoarder half of what I could get for it, which was \$150 at the time. But he refused. Said he ought to have it all. So I didn't sell it and didn't give him anything."

"And what'll you sell it for now?" I asked.

"It's valued at \$250 today," he said, "according to the U.S. Standard Catalogue. But why should I sell? Only 300 of these were minted, and they're getting more valuable all the time."

LATER PRINTINGS SOMETIMES A FORM OF FIRST EDITION

It had been a long time since I had read Thomas de Quincey's "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater."

The book had been one of my favorites as a youth, and since the one before me looked somewhat larger than I remembered, I took it down.

It was larger. As given on the title page, the full title was "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater and Suspiria de Profundis." The date of the work, published at Boston, was 1850.

I opened the book again, read a few pages and decided to buy it. Its appearance was good. There was a pleasant feeling to the century-old, brown cloth binding, and the gilt lettering on the spine seemed just about as fresh as when it came from the printer's.

Without bothering to look for the price—I was confident it would be only \$2 or \$3 dollars—I walked over to the counter and told the clerk to wrap it up.

"That'll be \$30, sir," he said. "Thirty dollars! Why?" I could

feel my hackles rising.

The clerk looked surprised. "Didn't you notice the price," he said. "It's right on the fly leaf, and it's actually cheap for such a splendid copy of the first edition."

"Look here," I said. "The 'Confessions' were first published in London, in 1822. And the first American edition appeared the following year in Philadelphia."

"I know," said the clerk. "But in this form, and with the Suspiria de Profundis, this is the first edition. Why this work wasn't even published in book form in England until 1850. Only the Americans had the first complete version in print."

"For the 1822 edition \$100 isn't too much, and for this one \$30 is actually too little. Believe me, sir," the clerk went on, "if you don't take it now, we are going to have to raise the price. I took it, and I guess I was lucky. A friend of mine had to pay \$50 to get one recently."

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

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Fire Prevention Week Proclaimed Oct. 7-13

The week of Oct. 7 to 13 has been proclaimed by President Eisenhower and Gov. Elmo Smith as Fire Prevention Week.

Statistics show that 31 people alive one day will burn to death the next, according to Medford Fire Chief Gordon Barker. Many of the fatalities will be children, Barker said.

Next year the figure will probably increase, he added. Barker pointed out that more than 1,200 homes burned every day in 1955, valued at about a billion dollars in property.

Last year 40,000 homes burned to the ground and 700 people died because of smoking in bed, he said. Barker listed other major fire hazards as situations which arise in kitchens and bedrooms, cluttered cellars, sooted chimneys, oil soaked garages and unscreened fireplaces.

LEGAL NOTICES

NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER FOR SALE. Oral auction bids will be received by the forest supervisor or his authorized representative, in Room 210, Post Office Building, Medford, Oregon, beginning at 2:00 p.m., November 7, 1956, for all merchantable timber marked or designated for cutting on an area embracing about 320 acres located within Section 30, T. 38 S., R. 4 E., W.M., Willow Creek drainage, Jackson County, Rogue River National Forest, Oregon, estimated to be 3,000 M board feet of Douglas-fir and pine species, and 3,800 M board feet of white fir and other species of timber. No bid of less than \$25.10 per M board feet for Douglas-fir and pine, and \$8.85 per M board feet for white fir and other species will be considered. In addition to the prices bid for stumpage, a cooperative deposit of \$1.70 per M board feet, to be used by the Forest Service for paying the cost of slash disposal, and a cooperative deposit of \$0.40 per M board feet to cover the cost of tree planting, seed sowing and timber stand improvement work on the area cut over for the total cut of timber under the terms of the contract, will be required. As a qualification for bidding, all bidders must submit a sealed bid accompanied by the required payment to the forest supervisor prior to 3:00 p.m., November 7, 1956. Sealed bids will be posted at the beginning of the auction for the information of all bidders. A money order, bank draft, cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$10,000.00 must accompany each bid, to be applied on the purchase price, refunded, or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to the conditions of sale. If an oral bid is declared to be high at the closing of the auction, the bidder must immediately confirm the oral bid by submitting it in writing on a Forest Service bid form. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Forest Service bid forms, for use in submitting sealed bids, and full information concerning the timber, the conditions of sale and submission of the bid should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Post Office Building, Medford, Oregon, or the District Ranger, Butte Falls, Oregon, before bids are submitted.

GONE FOR ELECTION
Des Moines, Iowa (U.P.)—A Fort Leavenworth, Kans., soldier wrote Iowa officials asking for an absentee ballot. He said he expected to be in the guard house until sometime after the Nov. 6 elections.

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COACH PROMOTED

Santa Barbara (U.P.)—Assistant football Coach Edward J. Cody has been promoted to head coach of the University of California, at Santa Barbara, succeeding Tom Hughes, who resigned because of poor health.

highest ratings the associations award, she added.

Staff of the 1956 yearbook included Deanna Brunning, editor; Beverly Cosler, assistant editor; and Jim Materie, business manager.

School Yearbook Gets All-American Rating

The Medford High school yearbook, "The Crater," has received its fourth All-American rating in recent years for its 1956 yearbook from the National Scholastic Press association, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Settle, advisor of the yearbook.

The 1956 yearbook also received an A plus rating from the National School Yearbook association, University of Missouri, Mrs. Settle said. These are the

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