

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



A Torn Stamp Usually Isn't Worth Anything

As a general rule a torn stamp isn't worth anything. But that isn't only a general rule with which there are plenty of exceptions.

In fact, putting it another way, it would be quite accurate to say that any stamp with a high premium is still worth something even though torn. The difference may be as much as 95 per cent less, but there will still be a value there.

I had a good illustration of this recently while calling on Jim, a stamp dealer friend. He was examining a small stamp which had the unusual distinction of being in two pieces.

"Are both these pieces from the same stamp?" Jim asked.

"Far as I know they are," the owner replied. "Never paid much attention to them though. In fact, I thought I'd thrown them out."

The two pieces made up what is known as a private proprietary stamp, one of the kind put out under the Revenue Act of 1862 as a means of raising

money for the Federal government during the Civil War.

It was a four-cent, purple item bearing the name of a patent medicine firm, J. C. Ayer & Co. This stamp was put on a box of pills that sold for a dollar. Jim said at length, "We know, because the stamp had to have one cent denomination for each 25 cents in value of the commodity to which it was affixed."

He paused briefly to call our attention to the fact that the two parts fitted together almost perfectly.

"Too bad it couldn't be a whole stamp," he went on. "But quite understandable since they were put in a package so that they would break when it was opened."

The catalogue price of a whole one is \$750.00. "The owner, grieved and passed a handkerchief across his face."

"But I can still get two thirds of that for one in this condition. So, if you'll take \$250 for it, I'll..."

"Sold," said the owner. "And right now."

SOME KINDS OF MACES ARE OF SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE

The silver, china and other objects Charles had acquired during the summer in England were interesting enough, but my eyes kept returning to a short wooden staff with a meal crescent moon on one end.

"But what's this?" I asked, picking it up as he dropped on about how he had purchased some particularly fine Lovestoft.

"I really don't know, GM. It for five pounds. There's something about the feel of it that attracts you."

I studied the piece carefully. The staff tapered from just under an inch thickness at the butt to about three-eighths at the end on which the crescent perched. The wood was turned and beautifully but simply carved.

The crescent itself had the inner edge shaped in the profile of an old man's face—the old man in the moon such as one finds in some old Almanacs. The metal of which it was made, and which I had first thought to be silver, could now see as pew-

ter, and of the finest quality, the kind with lots of tin in it. "It's a wand of some kind," Charles said.

"A mace," someone else exclaimed.

So far as I was concerned there were only two kinds of maces—one a weapon which is merely an armored club, the other as symbolic instrument used by legislative bodies.

But I quickly learned there is a third, also symbolic, the kind used in the ancient, annual ceremony of "beating the bounds" in that ceremony the mace bearer walks around the boundaries of the parish, or estate, and whenever he comes to a fence or other obstruction illegally placed there during the past year, he strikes it with his mace. At which point his assistants remove the obstacle.

As for the value of such a mace—the best I can say is that it is high. Charles was offered \$150 for it and indignantly refused it. An offer of two or three times as much might not offend him, but I don't know.

LONGFELLOW FIRST EDITION UNWITTINGLY GIVEN GIFT

Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn" have always seemed to me one of the finer works of poetry in the English language.

And so one day some years ago, while looking through the stock of a country store for a book to take fishing with me, I was delighted to come across a good clean copy of Longfellow's famous work. It was only a dollar, and I bought it on the spot and dropped it in my fishing jacket.

I read the book through during the next few days. It was a volume published in London in 1864 and so soundly made as any I have ever come across.

It was bound in a good green cloth, blocked and ruled in gilt, both front and back and on the spine. Even the portrait of the author that had been tipped in as a frontispiece was in excellent condition.

But I didn't keep it. It obviously wasn't a first edition, I felt, and since others in the camp

would enjoy the work of the great poet, I gave it to one of them when I left.

"That was a mistake I didn't learn about until over a year later when I received a letter from the man I had given it to. The letter thanked me most graciously for the book.

"Even though it's dated 1864," he wrote, "and the American first is dated 1863, this one is the first edition. I know because I have consulted the Publisher's circular which states that the London edition was published the week of Nov. 2, 1863, whereas the American edition didn't come out until Nov. 25."

Well, I finally got another copy of the British, the real first edition. But one not quite so good as the one I had given away.

And it didn't cost me a dollar, either. In fact I was very lucky to get it for \$50.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

San Diego—UP—The Navy has announced plans for Operation Ski Jump, a major Navy-Marine corps maneuver to be conducted early next year off the West Coast.

Salem—UP—Gov. Elmo Smith has authorized the state's executive departments to operate with minimum staffs on the Monday before Christmas.

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PROSPECT Christmas Party Planned

By GENILLE SPRUILL
Prospect—The Prospect Home Extension Unit will hold its next meeting Dec. 12, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Helen Hoffman. It will be a Christmas party and "secret pals" will be revealed. Everyone is asked to bring a 50 cent exchange gift, and their own table service. Child care will be provided free of charge at the Community club.

The Raymond Artimires have gone to Yreka, Calif., for the weekend. Joining them there will be their son, Frank, who is attending OTI in Klamath Falls.

Prospect PTA held a meeting Tuesday, Nov. 27, with Mary Vandenberg presenting the program. Miss Vandenberg is from the Southern Oregon Child Guidance Clinic. A film was shown called "Roots of Happiness." It was about family relations, emphasizing the part of the father in the family.

Mrs. Hazel Ulrich was hostess to a bridge club meeting in her home last week. Mrs. O. E. Stone won first prize, Mrs. Florence Shaffer, second and Mrs. Wallace Dinkens, third.

Mrs. Lucille Cook and daughter were house guests of her sister, Mrs. Lueze Jacobs. The Cooks are from Smith River.

The Rev. Mr. McCasland, of the Assembly of God church, has resigned because of ill health.

Prospect Garden club is featuring Holiday House Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. Decorated homes open to the public are those of Mesdames Archie McKillop, William Gains, Clarence Hedgpeath, Willard Huffman and Paul Dole. Tickets may be purchased from Mrs. K. Gartman.

Earl Rambo, of Roseburg, visited with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Garrett and family.

The Slenderettes met at the home of Mrs. Paul Struck Tuesday evening, Nov. 27, with a surprise birthday party for Mrs. George Govoner.

The Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Owens and sons are visiting in Prospect for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Burill and children went to the Thanksgiving football game in Corvallis.

George Ring Sr. visited the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George Ring Jr., and family, for a few days.

The LTL is sponsoring a taffy pull at the home of Mrs. Hope Hedgpeath, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. All children in the area are invited. This is put on by the combined efforts of the Sunday school teachers of the Nazarene and Assembly of God churches in Prospect. The local WCTU also helps in this project.

The Prospect bowling team sponsored by Jack Hollenbeck, of the Prospect Shopping Center, won two and lost two last week. Ted Jantzer had a 570 series.

Mrs. Brita Nystrom and son, Ronald, of Klamath Falls, were visitors at the home of Mrs. Ray-

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mond Artimire.
Mrs. R. Artimire and Mrs. P. McCullen were in Medford on business Tuesday.

The Prospect town team won its first league basketball game Monday, Nov. 26, by a score of 59 to 52. They played Hawkinson Tire team of Medford.

Home from Yreka, where they have been working, are Pete Frison, Daisy Artimire, and the Winningshams.

Seen in Prospect was Bill Wheeler, who was injured recently in a logging accident.

Home from the hospital, after minor surgery, is Mary Covey.

Miss Rosemary Robertson was guest of honor at a bridal shower given at the home of Mrs. B. Denney. There was another shower given for the bride-to-be early this week at the home of Mrs. Bill McCracken, in Eagle Point. The groom is Bob White of Astoria, Ore. The wedding will take place Dec. 19, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Robertson.

Robert Bekker, son of Mrs. Helen Bekker, teacher of the second grade class, has joined the Air Force. He leaves from Portland for San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 13.

The Cub Scouts held a pack meeting Thursday, Nov. 29, at the old high school gym, at 8 p.m. There were 56 in attendance and Den Four won the cup for having the most parents present. Dens Two and Four put on a skit. Den Three won the "Be Square" pennant for December, they had also won it the previous month. Boys receiving their neckerchiefs were Lon Gidney, Ernie Setzer, Robert McCullen, Andy Mauer, Gordon Jantzer, Carl Adams, Dennis Mathiesen, Jerry Chapman, Bruce Dole, Thad Beddingfield and Danny Hainson.

The Lumber Jacks and Jills are holding a square dance, Dec. 8 at 8:30 p.m. at the Community

hall. Caller will be Stub Bean. It will be a pot luck affair and everyone is welcome.

Sunday, December 2, 1956

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIFTEEN

Pickin' Pears

News and Notes
From Camp White

By BILL HURN

Cigarette Day was observed Monday afternoon by American Legion auxiliary for the department of Oregon under the direction of Thelma Williams, hospital chairman of the auxiliary. Monday evening a games party was held in the theatre by Legion Post 15.

VAVS advisory committee's November meeting was held Monday, Nov. 12, at Elks Temple, Medford. Twenty-one service group representatives and guests met with 15 V.A. staff members headed by E. K. Ricker, manager, and F. J. Glonning, chief of special services, who presided. Routines of introductions, reports of the month's activities, and summary of projects under way were discussed by Ricker followed by committee reports

and organizational aims and plans outlined by volunteer groups.

The Christmas brochure was presented designating the month's agenda. Garden clubs will make wreaths Dec. 10, 11 and 12. On Dec. 14, VFW auxiliary will open their gift shop and are presenting on what date a special program by the VFW auxiliary of Dorris, Calif.

The Domiciliary engineering staff will begin placing trees and wiring Dec. 14 for trimming and decorating by various VAVS groups. Details of gift deliveries and ward entertainments are being arranged. The annual Christmas program Dec. 18 is under the direction of a special committee headed by L. L. Diver, registrar, assisted by Mrs. F. J. Glonning and Walter S. Lee, chief of supply division.

DAV Unit 8 of Medford was in charge of games at the theatre Wednesday afternoon. Ruth Elliott, domiciliary chairman, and Doris Graham, were assisted by Jack Unger, Frank Clayton, Ben Anderson and Jonas Snyder.

Presentation was made by

Committees Being Selected for Confab.

About 10 members for each of 19 committees in the Jackson county agricultural planning conference are being selected, according to W. B. (Ben) Tucker, county agriculture agent.

The committees will study various aspects of agricultural, economic and community life in the county. Reports on their findings and recommendations will be presented at a public general conference in late February.

The family and community living committee will meet Thursday at 10 a.m. in the county agent's office. Tucker said, Mrs. Rollin Jones is chairman of that committee.

No other major planning conference committee meetings will be held until after the Christmas holidays.

hall. Caller will be Stub Bean. It will be a pot luck affair and everyone is welcome.

manager E. K. Ricker of certificates to six member-aides upon completion of an orientation course conducted under the direction of Miss Grace Stuhr, chief nurse. The new hospital aides are Susanna, Gholson, Beckman, Kady, Einkopf and Moser.

Robert E. Kelly comes to Camp White as social worker from Berkeley, CA hospital at Muskegon, Okla. and VA home at Whipple, Ariz. Kelly is a graduate of University of Washington at Seattle with a master's degree in social work in 1950. His assignment and activities here will be directly under Dr. W. J. Slagka, chief medical officer.

Mrs. Kelly and son are to arrive later.

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