

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

1869 U.S. Navy Rifle Picked Up During War II

"What's the gun above the fireplace?" I asked. "Why does it rest that place of honor?"

Many of the more than 100 guns in my collection were important collector's items, and the one over the fireplace didn't look like anything at all out of the ordinary.

The gun was a .50 caliber rifle with two handgrips on the barrel and a long, squarish trigger guard as its most outstanding feature. The action, which was in good working order, was what is known as the Remington roller stock type.

In general, the weapon's condition was excellent. I sighted down the 31-inch barrel, I noticed some markings near the breech—an eagle with raised wings and also, in three lines,

the legend "U.S.N. Springfield 1869."

"So this is a Navy rifle!" I exclaimed.

Tony nodded. "And it does have a history. When I was in France during the war, a member of the underground felt I had done him a favor and gave it to me."

"But how would he get a U.S. Navy rifle that was made way back in 1869?" I asked.

"His father had used it against the Germans in the War of 1870," Tony replied. "The United States sold 10,000 of these to the French, and that's how he got it. It's a good rifle, too. I've fired it and it shoots as true as you could ask."

As for its market value, in good condition such a weapon is now worth about \$40.

CIRCULAR CANCELLATION ADDS TO STAMP'S VALUE

In the cool recesses of the safe were two people poring over some volumes that looked like stamp albums.

And they were stamp albums which the proprietor and his wife had received earlier that week as part of an inheritance.

While I was watching them, an envelope fell out of one of the books. The proprietor swooped on it like a hawk.

"Wow," he exclaimed, "we're lucky after all."

I didn't understand right away. The stamps didn't look particularly exciting. They were 10-cent gray violet items, put out to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, held at Omaha in 1898. The main feature of the design was a picture of an ox pulling a covered wagon.

There was a block of four of them on the envelope. But even so, from what I could re-

FAIRLY COMMON ITEM MAY HAVE A POTENTIAL VALUE

call of the stamps, that wasn't enough to boost their value significantly.

"So," said the proprietor, showing the envelope under my nose, "we have good fortune."

I wanted to know how good and why, pointing out that I had never heard of that issue having any special value.

He looked at me pityingly. "Here's the reason, Mister," he said, holding up the envelope and pointing to a circular cancellation mark. "When you see that on a cover, look for a higher value."

Within the circle was the legend "Exposition Station, Omaha, Neb., Sept. 20 6 p.m."

"That adds a nice value to the stamps," he went on. "Just look it up in Scott's Specialized Catalogue. With an ordinary cancellation, the block would be worth about \$20, but with this one it's worth \$110 dollars."

and goblet for \$7.50. The pitcher especially attracted her because of its large oval medallion and the precision with which the two figures were executed.

Within about 18 months she managed to buy 11 other goblets at an average cost of a little under \$6 each. Then, shortly after completing her set, she acquired two other yellow ones for roughly the same amount.

The contrast between the rich yellow and the clear was too much for her. By the time she had got six more of the yellow goblets and a yellow pitcher in the pattern, she had decided to dispose of the clear glass set.

She set about it by writing to some 20 collectors she had become acquainted with. The move paid off. She got \$140 for the pitcher and 12 goblets of clear glass.

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WOE IS ME—A policeman comforts 20-month-old Bonnie Lynne New as they wait for firemen to come to the rescue. Bonnie Lynne got herself in this predicament when she stuck her head between the posts to wave to her sister coming up the stairs in their San Francisco home. Outside of a few tears, Bonnie Lynne was as good as new after firemen got her out.

SHADY COVE-TRAIL Flood Threatens Homes

By EVALYN P. WATSON
Shady Cove-Trail-Residents along the river's edge took stock of the rising waters in the streams and tributaries which flow into the upper Rogue this week and some started moving their belongings to higher places and planned to spend the night away from their homes. Since then the river has dropped considerably and flood danger is temporarily lessened.

A warm Chinook wind in the higher elevations around Prospect and Union creek, along with heavy rains, melted the existing snow pack and caused streams to rise rapidly. The highest waters were reported on Elk creek, where one bridge was washed out.

The sympathy of the community is extended to Mrs. Josephine Verdon on the death of her husband, Al Verdon on Friday, Dec. 7. The Verdon's have lived in Shady Cove for a number of years and owned and operated the Shady Cove Washateria. Private funeral services were held Tuesday in Medford for Verdon. Mrs. Verdon is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Kelley of Shady Cove temporarily.

The Ladies Auxiliary to Steelhead Post No. 6881 V.F.W. has a full calendar of events planned for the Christmas season. First on the schedule will be the annual Pill Pal party at which the years secret pals are revealed and new pals drawn. This is set for Thursday, Dec. 20 at noon. Those attending are asked to take a sandwich and piece of cake.

The adult Christmas party will be held Friday, Dec. 21, starting at 7 p.m. with a potluck dinner. There will be an exchange of Christmas gifts. The party for the children of VFW members will be held Saturday, Dec. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Mrs. Goldie High of Santa Clara, Calif. is visiting with her friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Chamberlain of Trail. Mrs. High is the former Mrs. Johnson who operated the store at Sunset on the Rogue and is well known in the area.

St. Martins Guild held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. A. Myklebust at Trail. Members have a project in operation now of sewing for the Rogue Valley Memorial hospital in Medford.

The Garth Ross family, who lived in Joe Hearns house next to the Sanfords, have been building on Gregory road near Medford and have moved onto the premises.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Ristow of Tacoma, Wash., visited recently with Mrs. Ristow's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Turner of Trail.

George Pfeifer of Shady Cove has returned to the Veterans' hospital in Portland for further treatment. Scottie Parrick of Trail left Monday by bus for a medical check-up at the same hospital.

Mrs. Adeline Carl and her Mrs. Mary Chapman left on their trip to southern California where Mrs. Chapman will spend the Christmas holidays and Mrs. Carl will spend most of the winter months.

Mrs. Steve Wilson was hostess for the potluck luncheon and

School News

HEDRICK JUNIOR HIGH

By Mary Milne
Friday, Dec. 7, Hedrick Junior High had its first Band Dance. The theme of the dance was "White Christmas," and the decorations were made of blue and white crepe paper. During the evening, lucky numbers were drawn with candy cents given as prizes. Some of the winners were Jaque Ayres, Tom Deakins and Mike Monroe.

At intermission time, The Hungry Five played "White Christmas" and "Hi-Lo-Hi-Lo." Also, Judy and Jaque Ayres entertained with a tap dance and the Chordettes played.

Every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 3 p.m. there is supervised play in the gymnasium at Hedrick Junior High school. Both boys and girls from Hedrick are invited to attend. Barney Riggs is play supervisor.

Friday, Dec. 14, Hedrick Junior High had a Christmas assembly. Hedrick band, Stingers and majorettes performed in this assembly.

The band played a Christmas medley while the Stingers and majorettes formed Christmas symbols including a bell, star, crown, and a cross. After forming the symbols, the lights were turned off and the stinger girls held colored lights to create a beautiful effect.

PHOENIX SCHOOL
By Perry Sneed and Don McCarty

At a student body assembly at Phoenix, Friday, Dec. 8, Ronald Daugherty was awarded a trophy representing second place in a local speech contest. The presentation was made by Bill Perl, chairman of the "I Speak for Democracy" committee.

The "I Speak for Democracy" contest was sponsored locally by the Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce and is a nation-wide contest.

The Phoenix speech class also plans to enter interschool contests in debate, extemporaneous speaking, radio speaking and poetry reading.

Christmas cheer seems to be the theme of the local woodshop class under the instruction of John Marler. The woodshop members have chosen as a Christmas project repairing and distributing used toys to needy children.

Student Activity committee

sponsored a skating party.

Students of Phoenix High school held the party Dec. 7.

Snowland was the theme for the dance sponsored by the Junior class Friday, Dec. 14, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the Phoenix High school gym. Janice Grove was chairman of the refreshment committee; Lester Schleich, decorating committee; and Gary Simmons, clean-up.

A total of 50 students had their names put on the honor roll for getting a "2" or better grade average during the second semester, with each class having approximately the same number of students placed on it. Jack Hoffbub, freshman, was the only student rating a straight "A."

No State Inspection Needed for Greenery

Salem—No place in Oregon requires inspection of holly before shipment to another state or country, according to Frank McKennon, plan industry chief of the state department of agriculture.

He added that no inspection is needed for shipment of other Christmas greenery. A license is not needed to sell either holly or Christmas greenery in Oregon.

Rangelands May Grow Better Gophers

Devis, Calif. (AP)—Improved rangelands in California may now be growing bigger and better gophers.

A University of California zoologist on the campus here is making studies of the histories of pocket gophers, field mice and other rodents. Recent observations have shown some indications that a change in the plant cover by fertilization effects the rodent population.

Zoologist Walter E. Howard hopes to find out what effects range fertilization has on size and number of rodents, the length of the annual breeding season. Such information not only would be useful to rodent control workers, but if range fertilization increases litter sizes and lengthens the breeding season, it might have similar effects on sheep and beef animals.

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