

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Colt Pocket Revolver Worth At Least \$1,000

Tom passed me the cylinder from the revolver he was working on.

It didn't take me long to see why the part would be valuable. The cylinder was bored for five 28 calibre shots. Between two bands that ran around the cylinder at either end was an engraved design portraying some centaurs firing revolvers. The beginning and end of the design was separated by a tiny oblong in which appeared the magic word COLT.

"Yes," said Tom, "after I found that cylinder I finally ran down the frame."

I was about to exclaim that it had no trigger when he pulled

back the hammer, releasing a mechanism that snapped the trigger out from where it was concealed in the grip.

He handed me the pocket revolver, for that's what it was. I looked for more identification marks. On the four-inch barrel was the legend "Patent Arms Mfg. Co. Paterson N. J. Colt's Pat."

"What's it worth?" I asked.

"It was made between 1836 and 1842," he said, "because those are the years the firm lasted. The rifling is good, and the fact it has no serial number doesn't matter. It's worth from \$1,000 to \$1,500, but I'm going to ask more."

Specimen Exposition Stamps Worth More Than Regular Ones

The curtain made a faint clacking sound as Mrs. Smith released it and motioned me toward a chair.

It was a big, leather-upholstered armchair with rockers and mounted on a frame. As she sank into a wingchair opposite, I sat down, inadvertently resting the back of my head against a spotless antimacassar. Yes, I thought, bending forward and looking closely at the curtain. It's made of beads and jet.

"Well, young man," said Mrs. Smith with what seemed an amused look, "I do have a complete set of Columbian Exposition stamps. But they're not the regular ones."

"Not the regular one, Mrs.

Smith?" I exclaimed. "But they have to be. Only one set was put out for the Columbian Exposition in 1893.

The 16 stamps, ranging from one cent to \$5.00 in denomination, were the regular ones, all right. But each of them had been overprinted in dull purple with the word "Specimen."

I excused myself while I went out to the car to get a copy of Scott's catalogue. "The 'specimen' items were listed, all right, and they were even more valuable than the regular ones. A total of \$470 as against \$403."

Mrs. Smith was pleased but not overly impressed. "Just put them back in the drawer," she said.

Dorflinger Glass Hat Makes Expensive Vase

Cousin Charlotte was changing the flowers. It was a pleasure to watch her as the morning sun made shifting patterns of leaf shadows on the floor.

Cousin Charlotte exclaimed, "I've told that girl a dozen times not to use this hat for a vase. Will she never learn?"

"Hat?" I said, getting to my feet. "What hat are you mean?"

"This one," said Cousin Charlotte.

It was made on the order of a helmet. Somewhat along classic lines, like those worn by the goddesses of Greece and Rome. It consisted basically of crystal which had been overlaid with a glass of brilliant ruby, cut through here and there, to the clear glass beneath. Across the

visor was an elaborate floral pattern etched into the metal. Height of the piece was a little over nine inches. It was about eight inches wide.

"Where did you ever get it," I asked.

At an antique shop in Rye, four or five years ago, I paid \$40 for it. It had a label then, saying it had been made by Dorflinger, but of course, that's come off with the maids using it as a vase.

I complimented her on her good taste in buying it.

"A couple of people have tried to tell me I paid too much," she said, "but I saw one the other day and it was priced at \$90."

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Earth Nearer Sun Jan. 3 Than At Any Time in Year

By FAY BENTLEY

Believe it or not the earth is nearer the sun on January 3 than at any other time during its orbital journey. In fact, we are about a million miles nearer Old Sol on that date than on July 3, when our planet is at aphelion, the point most distant from the sun.

The orbit or path which the earth follows in its yearly trip around the center of our solar system is not a true circle, but slightly egg-shaped or elongated. We say that the orbit of the earth is not a circle but an ellipse.

Figure Drawn

This figure may be easily drawn by tying a pin to each end of a thread a few inches long. Thrust the two pins about one-half inch apart into a piece of cardboard. Now place a pencil in the loop formed by the thread and move it as you would in drawing a circle. The resulting figure is an ellipse.

The orbit or path traced by our earth as it constantly encircles the sun is somewhat the shape of the figure you have drawn. The points where the pins penetrate the cardboard are called the focal points of the ellipse. The sun is at one of the focal points of an ellipse and not in the center of the circle.

In January, the earth is traveling in the part of its orbit nearest the focal point where the sun is located. In July our planet is moving on the opposite side of its orbit. This causes us to be about 3 million miles nearer the sun in January than in July.

Speed Variation

Another interesting item in the behavior of this terrestrial sphere is the variation in the rate of speed as it encircles the sun. When nearest Old Sol (perihelion) it travels at a greater number of miles per hour than when it is farthest away.

A number of astronomers tried to discover the reason for such "goings on" and finally Kepler, an outstanding mathematician and astronomer proved that an imaginary line drawn from the center of the sun to the center of the earth would sweep over equal areas in equal amounts of time.

In January the line from the sun to the earth is shorter. Therefore, the part of the earth's or-

bit traversed by the earth must be greater than the part covered in July when the line from the sun to the earth is longer.

Like Cutting Pie

Just like cutting a pie. If one pie is large and the other small, it would take a wide piece of the small pie to contain as much material as a narrow piece of the big pie. Think of the outer rim of the pie crust as representing the path traveled by the earth.

The earth must travel each of the two distances represented by the crusts of the pies in the same length of time. So in January its orbital speed is greater than in July.

"Why do we have cold weather in January if we are nearer to the sun?" people sometimes ask.

The variation in the earth's distance from the sun is really very small when compared with other astronomical distances, and actually has little effect on the amount of energy received by our planet.

Unequal Heating

The unequal heating of the earth's surface is due to the angle at which the rays of light from the sun touch the earth's surface. Near the equator where the rays from the sun strike directly the weather is always hot.

The farther we travel, either north or south of this torrid or hot zone, the greater the angle or slant at which the light rays contact the earth. This is due to the tilting of the earth on its axis.

Near the poles of the earth the ray of the sun touch the ground surface at so great an inclination or slant that little heat is produced and, as we all know, permanent ice caps exist.

APPLEGATE-JACKSONVILLE Clothing Drive Planned

By HELGA MITCHELL

Applegate-Jacksonville — The Ruch PTA is sponsoring a clothing drive for Hungarian refugee relief overseas, with the Rev. Earl Best as chairman. Knitters or sewing groups in this area, who wish to make articles for this purpose, are asked to contact Mrs. Wilfred Pearson by writing to Rt. 2, Box 50, Jacksonville, Ore. Mrs. Pearson has yarn from the American Friends Service committee and quilt material for baby quilts from the Save the Children Federation.

Christmas has come and gone in the Applegate and during these post-Christmas days there are still a few Christmas cards straggling into the mailboxes on route 1. Turkey skeletons haunt numerous pantries and several dieters are resolving to undo the damage done from the "Christmas splurge" in the new year. Children are delighting themselves in their toys from Santa, and a few women are breathing a sigh of relief that the mad pre-holiday rush is over.

Several Applegaters have had out of town visitors, while others went away for the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Armin Richter visited her mother, Mrs. Byron Palmer in Los Angeles for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Taylor and David went to Portland to be with her family for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sorber went to Farmington, Calif., to visit her mother and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. William Travis went to San Jose to visit their parents. Accompanying them, Lee Port Jr. recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Morris Byrne, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Port and daughter Suzanne, spent Christmas at Jerome Prairie at Grants Pass visiting Mrs. Port's family.

Registration Set For Adult Classes

Registration for upholstery and drapery classes, which will be sponsored by the adult education department at Medford High school next month, may be made Jan. 2, 3, and 4, at the school, Lindsay Vinsel, director, has announced.

The classes start Jan. 7 and continue through Jan. 18 with Mrs. May Frye, instructor at Eugene Vocational school, instructing the classes. Interested persons may call 3-5341 to register. Vinsel said.

Class I of the upholstery class will meet between 8:30 a. m. and 12 noon and from 1 to 4:30 p. m. daily between Jan. 7 and Jan. 11. Class II will meet the same hours between Jan. 14 and Jan. 18. Both classes will be in room 341 of Hedrick Junior High school and will consist of covering and fabricating small projects, such as chairs and smaller items.

The drapery class will meet each evening between 7 and 10 p. m. starting Jan. 7 and continuing through Jan. 18. It will be held in room 15 of Medford High school.

Persons registering for classes have been asked not to purchase materials for classes until after contacting the instructor.

Christmas dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Buck, were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Farrand, Mr. and Mrs. Estel Cox, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Reavis and children, Jack and Cathy of Jacksonville. Prior to the dinner, Mrs. Buck was busily pulling apart

Christmas Contest Winners Are Listed

Eagle Point—A Santa Claus with his bag of gifts display at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ashpole won first place in the first Christmas Home Decorating contest sponsored by the Eagle Point Lions club.

The Ashpole decorations included holly around the door and gold foil covering the door with a candy cane on the front.

Second place was won by a display of spotlighted carollers and lighted trees on each side of the front steps at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Hopper. Music was piped to the carollers, and included Christmas songs sung each evening.

A lighted Santa Claus and snowballs at the home of Dick Spain took third prize. The house was outlined with lights as were the windows.

A Nativity scene and Christmas cards at the home of Mrs. Beryl Hickson placed fourth.

The Judges for the contest were Jo Holmes, representing the Lady Lions auxiliary, Marion Nagel, of the district garden club, and Carol Clymer, of the Eagle Point Garden club. Judging was done last Sunday. Prizes totaling \$25 were awarded winners.

TURNABOUT

Robinson, Ill. — (UPI) — Joy Shafer, insurance man who was unfamiliar with the automatic gearshift on his wife's car, drove it through the rear wall of their garage.

her dining table to place more leaves in the center, when to her dismay, the table fell apart in three pieces. Frantic phone calls ensued this minor catastrophe, and the sympathizing guests brought along card tables, which rapidly alleviated Mrs. Buck's sad plight.

Christmas dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mitchell, of Top o' the Hill, were Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Buck) Spencer of Medford, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burmeister of Jacksonville, and Mrs. Caroline Wyman of Medford.

The last Applegate Home Extension Unit met at the home of Mrs. Leonard Miller of Thompson creek with Mrs. Charles Elmore as co-hostess. Secret pals were revealed, and there was a gift exchange.

At the recent Applegate school Christmas program, Francis Krouse, chairman of the school board, announced there would be a work day at the school on the following Thursday. After this announcement the Rev. Thornton Gopen asked everyone to bring lots of pies and salads, and that there would be six geese barbecued at the school cafeteria. After Gopen's exhortations on the food, Francis Krouse arose and gave this last thought on the coming work day, "Everybody who wants to see Gopen's goose cooked, be sure and show up Thursday."

Recently, twelve members of the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship of the Medford Congregational church, accompanied by their pastor, Rev. Thomas McCamant, went on safari to Beaver creek to cut Christmas trees for their own use and for use in the church. En route back to town, they stopped at the W. D. Pearson home for hot cocoa and cake

Sunday, December 30, 1954

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—SEVEN

to accompany their sack lunches.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvis Offenbacher and two children Sue and Mark of Crescent City visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Offenbacher for the holidays.

Christmas day was doubly celebrated by several local residents, who had birthdays on that day. Billy Piete, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Piete celebrated his 10th birthday and Mrs. Bert Harr, William Ziegler, Mrs. Curtis Gerhardt, and Mrs. Edward Goodwin, of Thompson creek, all celebrated their birthdays. Mrs. Gerhardt said she hadn't given up having a birthday party on Christmas day, since she heard of a woman who had celebrated her first Christmas birthday party when she was 83 years old.

The Little Applegate Knitting club will meet at the home of Mrs. Otis Buck Tuesday, Jan. 15.

The Upper Applegate Home Extension Unit will meet at the home of Mrs. Ray Widner on Wednesday, January 2 at 10:30 a. m. Leaders of the project, "Yeast rolls," will be Mrs. Lyle Hard and Mrs. Wanda Hard.

At the last Applegate 4-H general meeting, Mrs. Curtis Gerhardt was presented with a frame which held a certificate that stated she was Oregon's second best bus driver, with a record of nine years of accident-free driving. This frame was given by the Applegate school

board, PTA and the community in recognition of Mrs. Gerhardt's interest and work in the community, and she was lauded as an outstanding community member.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Childers of Palmer creek spent Christmas with his mother, Mrs. W. A. Childers of Jacksonville. Mrs. W. A. Childers had four children, six grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren present at this event.

C. L. Evans of Toketee Falls paid a surprise visit on Christmas eve at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. W. Childers, and stayed overnight.

A recent house guest at the C. W. Childers residence was Mrs. Lena Cox and son Stephen, of Stockton, Calif.

Several readers of the Applegate-Jacksonville column were puzzled, when they saw the column in the paper the last two times, and had positive knowledge of this correspondent being away on a winter vacation. We are happy to announce that Applegate has a ghost writer in its midst. In the form of Mrs. William (Maudie) Ziegler, who did the excellent job of writing

the last two Applegate-Jacksonville columns.

At the last Ruch 4-H general meeting, Mrs. Charles Williams, leader of the Home Economics club stated that her club is attempting to stimulate an interest in books in this community and hopes enough local people will respond to the Bookmobile service offered by the Medford library. If enough people of the community will write to either the Medford library, or to the Mail Tribune requesting book service, there would be a possibility of having a Bookmobile in this area. Mrs. Williams urges everyone to write in for this service.

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A Scotch blessing on New Year's Eve...

On Hogmanay, the last day of every year, Scotch Highlanders used to form a procession behind a man attired in a cow's hide who would visit each house in the village and bless it with these words, "May God bless this house and all that belongs to it, cattle, stones, and timber. In plenty of meat, of bed and body clothes and health of men may it abound."

It is a blessing that all of us would wish for our families, too. And we can help to make it happen by employing what is commonly regarded as another Scotch custom—saving.

Most of us could use a simple systematic savings plan—one that will work automatically and pay off with guaranteed results. Your government has provided just such a plan—the Payroll Savings Plan for Series E Savings Bonds.

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