Buried Treasure by Pinkney Gage

Irish Gun Still Good Even 100 Years Later

"I sometimes think," said Peg, "that he married me to get that gun."

Jimmie grinned as he picked up the revolver from the table. "I didn't, of course. The gun is merely one of the rewards I get for having shown such excellent taste."

The revolver was of a type I hadn't seen before. It was a five-shot, .44 calibre, Rigby-Tranter percussion weapon. Its lines were quite modern even though it must have been made in the 1840s.

"Peg's grandfather brought it from Ireland when he came to California in the Gold Rush days," Jimmie said. It's an Irish gun."

"I'd like to point out that whenever you come across a gun like this—signed like this—it's well worth having," Jimmie said.

Engraved in the metal, in a cursive script, were the words "Wm. & Jno. Rigby 24 Suffolk St. Dublin."

"It's a wonderful gun," said Jimmie. "I'm trying to get another . . . Why, I'd even pay $150, if I had to, for one in such good condition."

Carvings On Any Medium Likely Have Good Value

Carved birds or animals, in wood or any other medium, are likely to prove of exceptional value, even if the carving seems bizarre.

A good example of this lies in the experience of a friend of mine who came across a carved eagle which he bought for $2.

It was unquestionably an eagle. But as eagles go he was a sorry looking thing — that's why he went so cheap. His neck, for instance, looked more like a swan's than that of any other member of the feathered kingdom, and his entire stance was decidedly on the awkward side.

The bird was carved on what seemed to be the headboard of someone's bed. The board had been broken off an inch or two below the carved representation of a rock on which the eagle stood. Either end of the board was also broken, one side being split, but not in a way to injure the bird and his immediate area.

From tip to tip of his outspread wings he was a little over two feet. The strength and detail of the wings, by the way, were both superb, but the head, thrust forward on the end of the upward and outward curving neck, seemed very uneagle-ish.

"Watch," said Bob, the bird's owner, taking it by the head and giving it a sharp twist. "It comes right off."

And sure enough, the head was now in his hand. A screw in the base of it fitted into the stump of the neck.

"I think it was arranged that way so it could be taken off for moving," Bob said.

The explanation seemed good enough for me, and I turned my attention to the wood itself which seemed to be of an unusual kind of mahogany or some other tropic species.

Months later, after Bob had shaped up the piece into a panel which hung above his study fireplace, a friend showed him a picture of the headboard of a Chippendale bed. Though the eagles were not identical, they both undoubtedly came from the same woodcarver. No other I ever heard of had such a peculiar concept of eagles' necks.

In any event, Bob's bird was so impressive that when he got tired of looking at it, he had no difficulty in selling it as an example of late 18th Century wood carving — and for the pleasant price of $175.

Glass Hat A Unique And Valuable Vase

It was a replica of a stovepipe hat in shape, but near to a beaver in color, in places — thanks to its being made of Burmese glass, one of the several kinds of art glass created during the latter part of the last century.

Depth of the hat was almost nine inches. Its diameter was three one way and three and a half the other. The brim was nearly an inch wide.

The price tag on the piece was $25. Without a moment's hesitation I bought it, took another look at the pieces along the shelves of vases, tumblers, etc., and left.

There were several things about the hat that delighted me.

First of all, while I had seen several top hats done in glass of various kinds, none of them had been of the size of this one. As a vase, my acquisition would be highly practical, easily carried and capable of holding plenty of flowers.

Secondly, at a price of $25, if the piece was as near to being unique as I thought it was, it should be worth considerably more than that.

Thirdly, the glossy finish of the glass, as well as the gradual shading from what seemed a warm peach color to a vivid yellow, was exceedingly pleasant to the hand.

Well, I got it home all right, and even managed to use it several times, until a cousin saw it and proceeded to make life miserable for me until I would either give it or sell it to her.

She liked the piece for itself, of course. But there was another and more potent reason that made her want it enough to give me the outrageous price of $350.

She wanted it especially because she knew none of her collector friends would have one like it, and they would be filled with envy when she showed it to them.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

They'll Do It Every Time — By Jimmy Hatlo

California Tourist Files Damage Suit

A southern California tourist, Paul J. Floyd, has filed a complaint in circuit court here against Lydia Dobson, doing business as Twin Plunges, an Ashland public swimming pool.

The plaintiff is seeking $20,911.90 for injuries he claims he received while swimming at one of the Twin Plunges pools on Sept. 6, 1956.

According to the complaint, Floyd dived from a high diving tower and struck the bottom of the pool. As a result, he claims to have suffered a sprained left wrist, contusions and abrasions of his left arm and forehead and a fractured elbow.

He charges Mrs. Dobson with seven counts of negligence, which include having the tower too high for safety considering the depth of the water; inviting the public to use the pool when the water did not conform with clarity requirements of the state board of health; and failing to mark the pool depth at intervals on the side of the pool.

The plaintiff seeks $911.90 special damages, $20,000 general damages as well as costs and disbursements of the legal action. Representing the plaintiff is the Medford law firm of Duncan, Brophy, Wilson and Duhaime.

Faculty Members Named To Study Committee

Ashland—Dr. Elma Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, has appointed two SOC faculty members to serve on a committee to study the proposal that colleges of education offer a fifth year and a master's degree in education for secondary school teachers.

Dr. Alva Graham, chairman of the graduate committee, and Dr. Eugene Bowman, director of curriculum at the college, will represent SOC at a January meeting in Eugene to discuss the proposal.

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New Parole Officer Begins Duties Here

Ford Hagan, formerly of Yamhill county, has begun his duties as parole and probation officer for Jackson and Josephine counties.

Hagan, who succeeds Joe Dispenziere, began working for the department of parole and probation in Salem on Dec. 17 and came to southern Oregon on Jan. 4.

Dispenziere was recently promoted to director of parole and probation for the southern Oregon region. He will be supervisor of four regional offices covering Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Klamath and Lake counties.

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

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