

Buried Treasure

by *Frank My Gage*

Colt Shotguns in Poor Shape Sell for \$50 Up

There was a puff of white feathers in the air, and the goose came tumbling down 86 yards away. I know because I paced it off across the field.

It was a good shot, not just a lucky one—there were six BB's in him—and I looked respectfully at the gun I'd borrowed.

It was a 10-gauge and I had fired a full choke barrel, which accounts for the six shots hitting at that long range.

But it wasn't an ordinary 10-gauge. It had 32-inch, Damascus steel barrels, little but beautiful ornamentation, and a balance as delicate as a pair of scales. A rather surprising factor in so large a weapon.

The stock was of a golden Circassian walnut. Just to the rear of the trigger guard was a small initialed plate of silver.

Thinking that it must be the product of one of the most expensive gunmakers, I looked for the manufacturer's name.

It was a Colt, one of the hammerless shotguns turned out by the famous firm during the closing years of the last century.

The old fellow who lent it to me said that he had bought it new in 1898, for \$90. Could one get them secondhand today, I wanted to know.

He had seen one go for \$75 some months before, but it was a 12-gauge and the barrels were rather puffed.

And that seems to be the price of them today—\$50 to \$75, for Colt shotguns not in good condition.

But anyone with a Colt hammerless in good condition would be very foolish indeed, in my opinion, to get less than twice that amount, or even more.

Stamp's Value Not Hurt by Discrepancy in Catalogue

Tim had found the stamp legitimately enough. It was in an old book he had bought the year before.

But he couldn't believe the stamp itself was legitimate. First, it was worth too much for him to be lucky enough to find it, and second, it didn't conform well enough to the picture in the catalogue.

The stamp was old, all right. It was one put out by the City Dispatch Post, of New York, and it had been used shortly after Aug. 16, 1842. That is, it had the stamp and cancellation mark were genuine, because it was on that date that the U.S. Post Office Department took over the firm which thenceforth operated under the name of United States City Dispatch Post.

The stamp itself was on woven paper of a grayish color. It consisted of an oblong frame holding an oval that contained a picture of Washington. Its denomination was ten cents.

The agreement between the stamp and its picture in the

catalogue was perfect, the difference lay in the cancellation mark.

The mark was a simple one. It consisted merely of an elongated octagon in which were the initials "U.S."

"And that's the trouble," said Tim. "In the picture there's no period after the S in 'U.S.' But there is in the cancellation mark on this stamp of mine."

Tim went on to say that he was sure the printing in those days was bad and the proofreading worse, so that there never had been a period there. I disagreed. It seemed more likely that the period had been there but had disappeared after Tim's stamp had been used before the making of the cancellation mark pictured in the catalogue.

Tim sold it with a statement to that effect and an agreement that the money would be returned if the stamp or the mark were proved spurious in 90 days.

Both stamp and mark were okay, and the price he got was \$375, just \$25 less than that in the catalogue.

Good Sense Main Requisite For Successful Collecting

One of the amazing things about collecting is that almost anyone can do it, and do it profitably—provided he has good sense.

An excellent illustration lies in the experience of Paul, a friend of mine who recently sold a collection of butterfishes he began in 1946.

He sold them primarily because he now wants to begin collecting in a totally different field, and the price obtainable for the butterfishes was a good one.

At first, his wife opposed the sale—he had collected some 80 different types of butterfishes all of which were housed in two cabinets in their dining room—but when she heard what he was getting for them, she became quite agreeable.

"On the average, they've run me about \$150 each," he said. "And so, if I can unload them for \$6 apiece, I'd really be a fool not to."

I agreed with him in one sense, but pointed out that if his collection was worth so much now, it might be worth a lot more in a few years.

"It probably will be," he replied. "I'm sure it will. But this new field I'm going into will increase even faster, and besides, I've had enough of butterfishes."

He showed me a dish of the famous coin pattern, popular during the last quarter of the past century. It was ornamented with replicas of quarters done in frosted glass. They bore the date 1892. I remarked that it was a rather late one. Paul nodded.

"So what?" he asked. "This dish alone is worth around \$50—which will raise my average nicely."

"Whether you're collecting stocks or butterfishes, the cardinal rule is quit when you're ahead," he remarked.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

21—FOR SALE, MISCELLANEOUS

SPECIAL AUCTION
1155 N. Central Ph. 2-2558
SUNDAY, March 17th, 1:30 p.m.

40 NEW APPLIANCES
In the crates
All with 1-yr. warranty by the factory can be financed at the bank if you have good credit rating.
These appliances are all one of the name brands and can be seen Sunday after 10:00.

2-20" Deluxe electric ranges
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All these freezers ranging in size from 10 to 20
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ALL THESE ARE BRAND NEW AND IN THE CRATES.

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 - "Blackstone" Automatic Dryer excellent condition.
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TWO dual drive White trucks and Walker tractors, good shape. 2-2258.

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One 1952 Gerlinger Lift Truck—8 Ton Cap. One 1953 Gerlinger Lift Truck—10-Ton Cap. with Hydraulic Log Kickers and Heavy Carriage. For information, write or call James Coach Lumber Co., Inc. P. O. Box 358, Medford, Oregon. Phone 2-5281.

10 ANGLE dozer blade. Very reasonable. Ph. 2-7026 or 2-1291.

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By Jimmy Hato

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SIG-MOUTH LOOKED AT IT—HE LOOKED AT MARYLYN PATOTIE TOO, BUT DID YOU EVER SEE WHAT HE MARRIED?

HIM AN' HIS OLD LADY HAVE WORN OUT TEN REAL-ESTATE AGENTS JUST LOOKING AT EVERYTHING BUT THE TAJ MAHAL....

LISTENING TO THE SOUR-GRAPE SQUEEZER START A PAIL'S DANDY OFF JUST DANDY...
THAN AND A HATLO HAT TIP TO HARRY STORM, CHICAGO, ILL.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF SALE
To Satisfy
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The following goods belonging to one Shirley Cook, last known address to be 406 Beatty, Medford, Oregon, will be sold at Public Auction at B and B Auction, 1155 N. Central, Medford, Oregon on March 19, 1957, sale beginning at 10:00 A.M. until such lien is satisfied: 2 Box Springs, 2 Mattresses, Electric Stove, Kitchen Table, 4 Kitchen Chairs, Davenport, Coffee Table, End Table, Overstuffed Chair, Bed, Blankets and Suits, Foot and Head Board, Spring.

Davis Transfer and Storage Co.
139 So. Fir
Medford, Oregon
Phone 2-6273

NOTICE OF SALE
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The following goods belonging to one Jess Stout, last known address to be 11022 Park Drive, Garden Grove, California, will be sold at Public Auction at B and B Auction, 1155 North Central, Medford, Oregon on March 19, 1957, sale beginning at 10:00 A.M. until such lien is satisfied: 1 Piano, 1939 So. Fir
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Medford, Oregon
Phone 2-6273

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The following goods belonging to one C. S. Crase, last known address to be 2130 Portland Road, Salem, Oregon, will be sold at Public Auction at B and B Auction, 1155 N. Central, Medford, Oregon on March 19, 1957, sale beginning at 10:00 A.M. until such lien is satisfied: Sewing Machine, Davenport, Overstuffed Chair, Vanity Bench, Mirror, 2 nightstands, Chest, 2 mattresses, Coil springs, Bed sats & rails, Bed reeds, 2 Vanities, 2 Vanity mirrors, Refrigerator, Lawn chair, Rocker, Piano and stool, Book case, Cedar chest, Stump collection, End table, Floor Lamp and shade, Box of records.
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NOTICE OF SALE
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Warehouseman's Lien
The following goods belonging to one A. J. Picarelli, last known address to be 39 South 13th St., Shamokin, Penn., will be sold at Public Auction at B and B Auction, 1155 North Central, Medford, Oregon on March 19, 1957, sale beginning at 10:00 A.M. until such lien is satisfied: 3 Cartons—contents unknown.
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This exclusive article will appear **MONDAY, MARCH 18, in Medford Mail Tribune**

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