

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Sword Canes Still Illegal, But Many Have Them Yet

Sword canes have long been illegal, but some people still use them—and quite unwittingly, at that.

The reason is that the better made the weapon, the more difficult it is to distinguish it from an ordinary cane.

Some of them, like one an elderly lady of my acquaintance had been hobbling around on for years, are so skillfully fashioned that their nature can be determined only by accident.

Hers was a stout stick of what seemed to be blackthorn with the thorns trimmed down so that they formed only tiny knobs. The handle, formed of part of the root, was roughly shaped like a pistol butt so that it gave one an excellent grip on the cane, either for ordinary use or for swordplay.

About three inches down from the curve was a broad band of silver, nearly an inch wide. Actually it was two bands superimposed. When the upper was turned, it spiraled down nearly a quarter of an inch, thus releasing a catch that permitted the handle to be turned slightly and the sword withdrawn.

The length of the blade was

28 inches, tapering to a needle point from its half inch width and three-eighths inch thickness at the hilt.

The blade was dated 1841, but neither the name of the maker nor place of manufacture was given. While it was not illegal in most parts of the country at that time to carry concealed weapons, the maker evidently felt that his produce had not been ordered merely for personal defense purposes.

Had he felt so, he would undoubtedly have put his name and address on the piece. The quality of workmanship indicated a manufacturer with plenty of experience in such products, and as many a sword cane of that time shows, the maker was generally anxious to drum up future business by identifying his product.

The value of a good sword cane runs from \$50 up, depending on the quality of workmanship, metals used and ornamentation. One that I saw sold a few years ago was cheap at its \$625 price. There were better than three full ounces of gold in the handle. The carving was superb.

POLITICS, WAR AFFECT EVERYTHING—EVEN STAMPS

Politics and war affect stamp collecting as well as everything else, but I didn't expect that the current difficulties in Cuba would affect the present market.

They do, however. One dealer that I know made a \$1,000 purchase recently that he didn't want to make but had to because he couldn't afford to turn it down.

"I told the seller if he'd take \$500 down, I could give him \$1,000 dollars more in three months' time, but he said he had to have \$1,000 now," the dealer said.

"He wanted it in a hurry to help the Castro rebellion. I know it from what he and his friend said in Spanish," he continued. "They didn't know I understood."

The nearly 400 stamps that made up the sale included many of the earliest used in Cuba, but those were not the valuable ones. Strange as it may seem, the majority of the stamps used in the island while it was under Spanish

rule have comparatively little value. The average top retail listing wouldn't be much over \$10.

Where the big values lie in those stamps that were used during the American occupation of the island, during and shortly after our war with Spain.

Those stamps may be readily recognized by the surcharge, usually in black ink, that makes them immediately obvious.

The best item the dealer got in the anti-Batista sale was a blue-green item of a four millesimas denomination. The stamp is one put out by the Spaniards. In its center is a profile portrait of the boy who later became Alfonso XIII, whose rule ended with the advent of the Spanish Republic that Franco overthrew.

Surcharged on the stamp in black ink was the phrase "5 CENTS."

The stamp has a value, according to Scott's catalogue, of \$750.

18TH CENTURY ANOMALY FINE VALUED BENCH

One should always be suspicious of freakish-looking furniture, machine-turned or otherwise, especially if it looks old and rather decrepit, and even if it has a rush seat.

It might be fairly valuable.

An example is an eight-legged bench on which I sat recently. It had no back, though that didn't matter so much since it stood on the porch against the wall. And its rush bottom was far from comfortable until I managed to sneak a cushion for my end.

But it performed beautifully as the afternoon got into high gear, not only providing seats for five people but doing well as a conversation piece.

The owner had bought it at a salvage shop for \$10—partly because of the use it might give, but more particularly because the dilapidated condition of the rush work would present a challenge to his wife, who had gone in for basket weaving.

By the time his wife had got through repairing the seat—about half of it had to be replaced—the two had become curious about the

bench's origin. The eight legs and stringers were manifestly machine-turned, but the weave of the rush work and the type of rush used were not like anything they had seen in 20th century pieces.

And since eight-leg benches are scarcely a common household article today, they decided to look up the piece in reference works on early American furniture.

It didn't take long for them to find what they were looking for. Benches of that general size and type were fairly common in the 1700's and well on to at least the middle 1800's.

They also learned that such pieces are rare enough to be featured in several museum displays as well as in various reference works.

As for the value of their piece, which gives all the appearance of having been made in the 1850's, that is difficult to determine. But since they have authorized an antique dealer to pay up to \$125 for a reasonable close companion to go on the other side of the porch, they consider it worth that much at least.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Memphis, Tenn. — It's unlikely that truckdriver Charlie Anderson will forget to fasten his truck tailgate in the future. He did Friday, spreading a load of asphalt over a two-block area. His boss—and the police—made him sweep it up.

REGISTRARS Mexico City — More than 10 million persons have registered to vote in the July 6 presidential elections, it was announced Friday.

About 75,000 persons die of malaria each year in India.

General Motors Had Small Car In Plans

Wilmington Del. — (UPI)—General Motors President Harold H. Curd said Friday "a smaller car is currently under study" at General Motors.

It was the first and most explicit admission by GM of months old industry knowledge that Chevrolet has completed plans for a small or "light" car right up to the tooling stage. While not committing larger sums needed for tooling, GM is watching the market to see if it should put the car on the market in late 1959.

Ford has plans which have

progressed almost as far, and Chrysler Corp. acknowledged this week it has plans "to be ready" if small car production is justified.

Mount Shasta Parlor Destroyed by Fire

Mount Shasta, Calif. — (UPI)—Noble's Chapel, a funeral parlor here, was destroyed by fire Saturday. It took firemen more than an hour to put out the flames and fire fighters were equipped with gas masks.

Two bodies in the establishment were recovered undamaged.

Syrian Soldier Admits Throwing Two Bombs

Beirut, Lebanon — (UPI)—Beirut Radio said Saturday a Syrian soldier had confessed throwing two bombs which killed three persons and injured many more here last Monday and Thursday.

The government-owned station said the Syrian, Mohammad Bakri Rabeeh Ammoun, was arrested Saturday and re-enacted the crimes for police authorities. The radio said the Syrian comes from Aleppo and that he confessed he is on active service with the Syrian Army.

Use Mail Tribune Classified Ads

Rogue River to Vote On School Budget

Rogue River — Rogue River school district will hold its annual budget election Tuesday, May 27, in the Rogue River High school gymnasium. Polls will be open from 2 to 8 p.m.

Although the proposed budget exceeds last year's by only \$3474.53, an election must be held because the entire operating budget of the district is considered as being outside the six per cent limitation.

This is because the district is now financially independent of the rural school board, and has no established tax

Largest Great Lakes ore carriers are 714 feet long. The violet is the state flower of Illinois.

Open 24 Hours Every Day • 20c per 8 lb. Washer Load • Drying 1c Per Minute

SELF SERVICE COIN OPERATED

KOIN-O-MATIK

516 W. Sixth St. **LAUNDRY** 516 W. Sixth St.

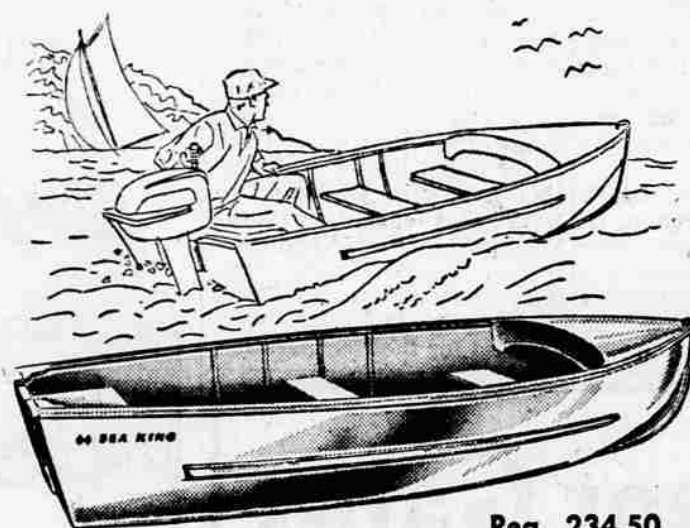
Large 50-Lb. Dryers • Agitator Type Washers • Supplies Available • Really Hot Water

NEW! EXPANDED DEPARTMENTS
MORE MERCHANDISE AND
BETTER SELECTIONS



your new **WARDS**

EVERYTHING FOR SUMMER FUN AND VACATION NEEDS



Reg. 234.50

12' Sea King deluxe aluminum boat Lightweight—easy to transport

Weights only 125 lbs. Needs practically no upkeep. 16-gauge alum. bottom, 18-gauge sides. 24" bow deck. Oak gunwales.

199⁸⁸

PLUS FREIGHT



Keep them safe
with Wards reg.
4.49 motor boating
vest—Special!

3⁴⁴

"Stay afloat" security for
your child in Coast Guard-
approved vest. For 2 to 12
year-olds. Save!

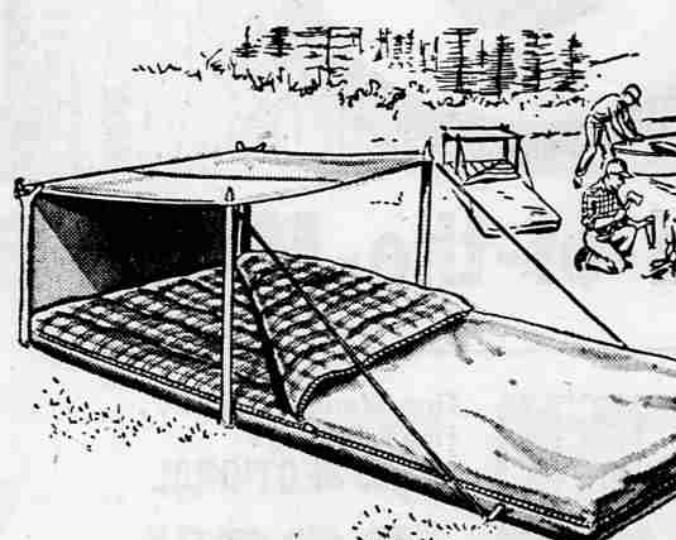


26" lightweight "Tourist" bike Her-cu-matic 3-speed hub

Reg. 44.95

Imported from England. 3-speed hub lets you shift gears like a car. 2-wheel hand brakes. Boys', girls'.

39⁸⁸



Sale! Wards sleeping bags filled with 3 lbs. Gelacloud. Reg. 15.95

Save 5.07! Durable poplin cover, plaid flannel lining. 100" zipper, 2 air mattress pockets, detach. canopy.

10.88



WATER SKIS—TOW ROPE

20⁹⁵
LOW PRICE

Rugged support—made of solid ash. Yellow and red trim. 5'9" long. 75' tow rope. **2.95**



2-burner Hawthorne propane gas stove

18.95

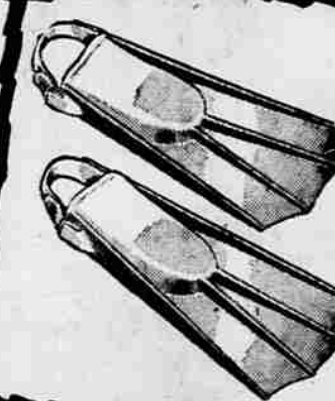
For any type of cooking. No pumping or priming. Holds 2 full-size pans. Removable grills. Fuel incl.



HAWTHORNE propane gas lantern

10.95

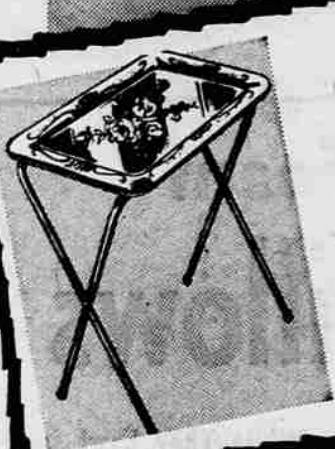
Lights instantly. Burns 4 hours on 1 cylinder. Adjustable valve. Pyrex globe. E-Z-carry handle.



Reg. 2.29 Rubber Swim Fins

Good Quality **1.88**

Deep stabilizer ridging for power. Designed, tested for comfort, utility. Shoe sizes 4-13.



multi-color table for TV or patio!

Wards Price **99¢**

Large Size. 24" high. Tubular steel, rubber-tipped legs and weather-resistant finish.

SPECIAL PURCHASE! Toilet Tissue

Usual 10 for 1.50 value. 1000 (500 double) sheets to the roll. Facial tissue quality.

12 for \$1⁰⁰

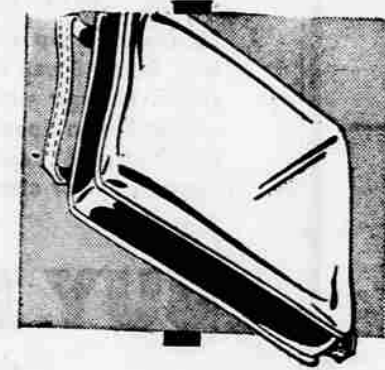
5 Days Left

To SAVE at the Big "Change of Ownership" Sale at

Lucas & Howard Furniture Barn

With National Brands YOU Know

Hiway 99 South of Central Point
North of Medford—Phone NO 4-2243



SALE! Kapok filled plastic boat cushion

Reg. 3.98 **2.95**

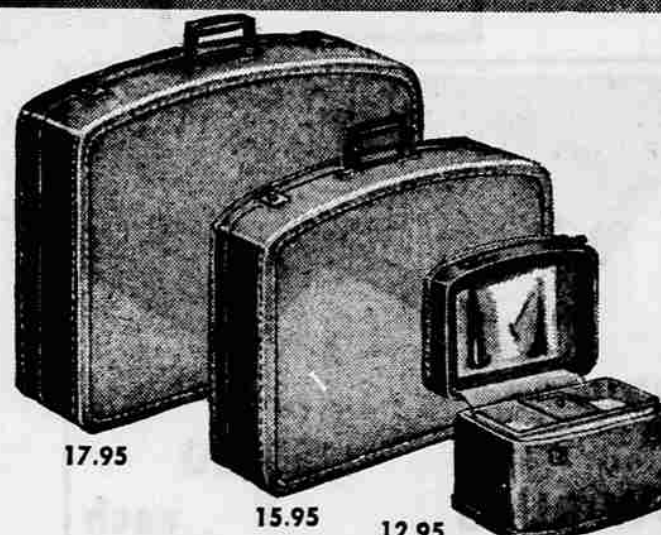
Solid red cushion. Can be used as life preserver... Coast Guard appr. 15x15x2-in. size.



Single-speed port- able spot cooler

\$3 Down **29.95**

Can be used on desk, table or portable stand for cooling small areas. Retractable handle.



17.95

15.95

12.95

NOW! "OVAL-TAPER" LUGGAGE IN BLUE-TAN, OR HONEY-WHITE

Smart Train Case **12.95**
Weekender 21 in. Case **15.95**
Pullman 26 in. Case **17.95**

Wards exclusive! Finest quality. Strong, yet lightweight. Choice of fashion-tone colors. Washable vinyl covers have luxurious look.