

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Any Revolving Cylinder Gun Brings Top Price

Colonel Colt's famed contribution to the history of firearms — the revolver that bears his name — was preceded by an undetermined number of other revolving cylinder weapons that worked, but not so well.

These included handguns, rifles, shotguns and even at least one small cannon.

One of these early weapons is a flintlock, four-shot, revolving cylinder shotgun. It is a British gun of about 12 gauge made in London in the latter part of the 18th Century.

Originally it had a barrel probably three feet long, but somewhere along the way the barrel had been cut down to only 18 inches, possibly for use by a stagecoach guard or more likely as a spring gun. An eye, screwed into the under side of the butt halfway between the butt plate and the trigger guard, could have no other purpose than to guide a cord attached to the

trigger so that either the opening of a door or some other pull on the string would fire the piece.

The engraving on the lock-plate was of a quality to suggest that the piece came from one of the better gunmakers of the day. The maker's name was not on it, but quite possibly it was made by Elisha Collier, an American gunsmith who worked in London for several years and turned out various revolving cylinder weapons with a flintlock action.

Collier's pieces in good condition are among the most valuable of antique firearms, bring prices as high as \$3,000 or more. But anyone who owns any kind of revolving cylinder, flintlock weapon need not feel badly about it.

Even if the condition is not particularly good, it is still an item rare enough to command a price in the hundreds of dollars.

STAMPS WITH SURCHARGE HAVE ADDED VALUES

De Gaulle's recent return to power as head of the French Government touched off a controversy between two friends, one of whom served in the French Navy during World War II.

The Frenchman, who had been stationed at the naval base of Toulon in early 1945, got out some letters he had written to his wife in New York.

He proved his point, but in doing so he noticed that the stamps on the envelopes were surcharged with an R. F. Sometimes stamps with a surcharge have an extra value. According to Scott's Catalogue, such stamps do have a worth-while premium.

The "R. F." stands for Republique Francaise. It was overprinted in black on the six-cent, carmine colored regular U. S. airmail stamp, for use by personnel of the French Navy on airmail they wished to send to the United States.

OLD MECHANICAL BANKS ARE IN GREAT DEMAND

If you have an old mechanical bank at home, you'd better take a look at it.

If it is 40 or 50 years old, and from the 1880s or along in there, go to your nearest library and look it up. In case they don't have a book that will tell you about such things, they can arrange to get one.

Many of these mechanical banks have a value of \$20 to \$50. Some are worth \$100 or more, and a very few are worth far more than that.

A friend read a description and seen a picture of an old mechanical bank known as the "Bow-ery Bank." There were two windows in either side of the face of the bank. A dog sat in each one. In front of the window on the right was a coin slot. When a coin was inserted, both dogs turned toward each other then resumed their places.

use by personnel of the French Navy on airmail they wished to send to the United States.

French airmail was far more expensive, and it was considered as a friend gesture to our allies to let them use our airmail facilities at the same rate as our own people. The purpose of the overprint was to prevent use by unauthorized persons.

The letters had to bear the return address, identification data of the sender and be mailed from one of the French naval bases. The type in which the "R. F." is printed differs for the different bases, that for Toulon being in a script.

As for value, the surcharge stamp alone is listed at \$6, used or not. But since these were on the envelopes, the owner had no difficulty in getting \$10 each for them.

O'Connell Campaign Chairman Selected

Philip B. Lowry, Medford attorney and state senator, has been named Jackson county campaign chairman for Kenneth J. O'Connell, Eugene, in his election campaign for the state supreme court, Lowry said Saturday.

O'Connell was appointed to the court recently, but must seek election in the general election this fall.

Senator Lowry said a nominating convention for O'Connell will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, in the Lincoln High school auditorium in Portland. He said more than the necessary 250 voters are expected, and invited any local people interested in O'Connell's candidacy to attend.

Other members of the local O'Connell for Supreme Court will be announced soon, he said.

Socialist Love Tales Wanted in E. Germany

Berlin —(UPI)— East German Communist leader Walter Ulbricht has ordered Soviet Zone authors to write socialist love stories to keep the youth from reading Western "trash," it was disclosed Friday.

In a speech to Communist youth leaders, Ulbricht complained East German boys and girls are reading too many Western novels. Conceding that "girls want love stories," he urged Communist authors to deal with the matter and not leave it to the "trash manufacturers."

There is a copper mining museum in the picturesque mountain village of Roros, Norway.

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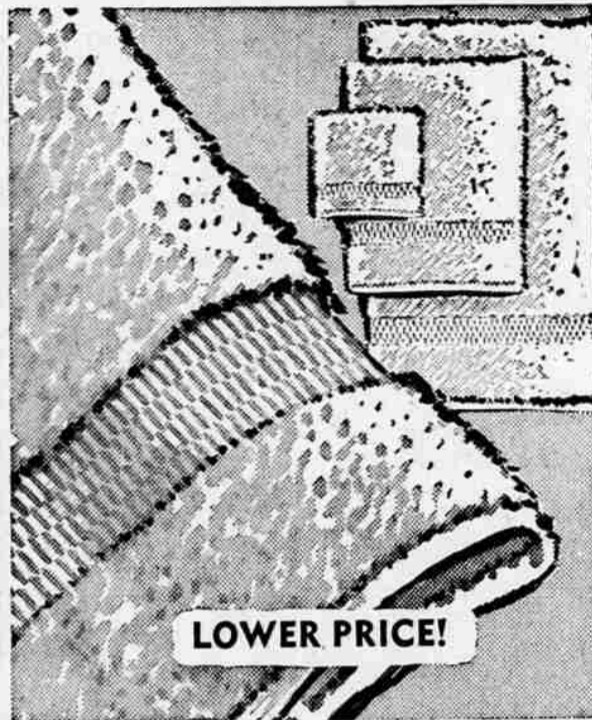
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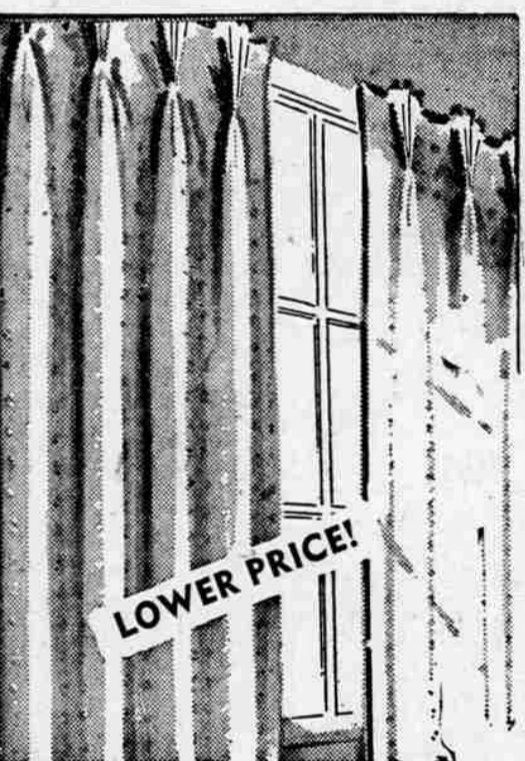
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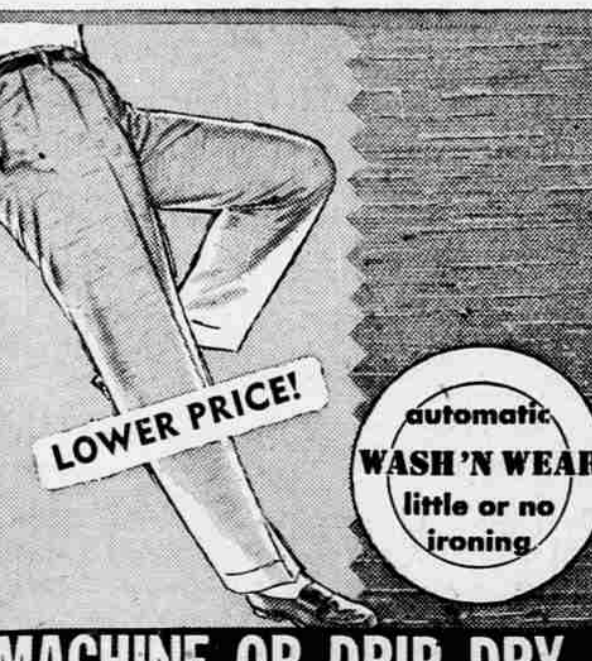
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