

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Cyprus Problem Will Increase Stamp Value

Most Greeks are in favor of "Enosis"—having the British turn over the Island of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Greece. In fact, many of them are quite heated up about it, and so I was a little surprised recently to see a Greek friend of mine pay \$20 for a British stamp issued for the colony of Cyprus.

"Enosis," he said, "we'll probably get it eventually. After all, the British already offered us Cyprus once, back in 1915. Meanwhile, now's a good time to buy Cyprus stamps."

His reasoning was that increased news prominence for small countries tend to increase the values of their stamps by bringing them more forcefully to the attention of the stamp collecting public. He cited the \$20 price he had paid as an illustration.

The stamp was issued in 1881, three years after the British took the island over from the Turks. It was olive

green color. Across the top was the word CYPRUS. Along the bottom was the denomination, four piastres. In the center was a picture of Queen Victoria. Across the face of the stamp were the inked initials "J.A.B."

I assumed that the initials meant that the stamp had been on a letter which had been hand-cancelled, but the owner assured me otherwise. According to Scott's catalogue, he said, they were the initials of a postmaster, but they merely meant that the stamp had been used for accounting purposes in the postal system the British had set up for the island.

The catalogue value of the stamp was given as \$16.50 and I pointed that out to him.

"I know," he said. "But obviously locally the demand has risen during the past year. I could have bought one a year ago for \$15, but thought the price too high. So it seems better to buy now rather than wait longer."

BUTTON CHARM STRING RECALLS VICTORIAN AGE
In case you ever find a string with a lot of buttons on it, don't break the string to get the buttons off—no matter how unusual and interesting some of the buttons may be.

The reason is that very likely what you've found will prove to be what is known to collectors as a "button charm string," and if it is, its value will be greater than the combined value of the individual buttons, no matter how rare they are.

Button charm strings are a product of the sentimental days of the Victorian Age, along with the pressed flowers and lockets containing a lock of hair and a faded picture.

Most of them were undoubtedly produced by the occupants of female seminaries who intended to keep them as stringed mementoes of friendships that blossomed in flower painting classes or those where they learned to play on the pianoforte.

CALIFORNIA GOLD COINS MINTED TO PROVE STRIKES
There simply couldn't be any California gold coins before 1849, so the man said.

Everybody knows the California gold rush didn't get started until 1849, and California wasn't admitted to the Union until 1850. Therefore, a California gold coin dated 1848 must be a fake, and worth no more than its actual gold content plus any curiosity value it might have.

That was the gist of an argument put up by a man who felt he was being offered too much money for a \$2.50 gold piece he wanted to sell. (There are such people. Usually they are those who are extremely sensitive about being taken as objects of charity.)

The coin was typical of the quarter eagles put out by the U.S. Mint in 1848, except for one thing. Above the eagle on the reverse side were the letters CAL.

It took some talking on the part of the dealer to convince the seller that the coin was legitimate. He did it by showing him that that 1849 gold rush actually started early in 1848, shortly after discovery of gold on Jan. 24.

The clincher that convinced people in the East of the validity of the gold discovery was the actual arrival of gold, and one of the things the government did to publicize the fact was to mint some coins from the first gold to arrive. The step was advisable because there had been plenty of gold discovery stories for years before.

As to the value of the piece. It is worth up to \$200 in mint condition, about 10 times the value of the coin without the CAL.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Defendants in criminal trials in Georgia may not testify under oath. They may make a statement if they wish, but are not subject to cross-examination.

The U.S. Capitol building in Washington is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily with the exceptions of Christmas, New Year's day and Thanksgiving Day.

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BLM Calls for Timber Sale Bids

The bureau of land management will open bids at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 12 in Medford on an estimated 1,872,000 board feet of green timber on O and C lands in Jackson county. The timber is in the Trail Creek district.

The appraised price is \$40-577.50 for the timber, the BLM said.

An area of about 84 acres may be clear cut in the district, and about 116 acres partial cut. Access to the tract area is provided by state highway 227 and a road to be constructed by the BLM and maintained by the contractor. Timber included in the sale include 1,325,000 board feet of Douglas fir, 139,000 board feet of Ponderosa pine, 298,000 board feet of sugar pine, 78,000 board feet of incense

\$100,000 Suit Filed In Circuit Court

Charles H. Hollis, 510 Mae st., Medford, is seeking \$100,000 in damages as a result of an auto accident on Nov. 9, 1958, according to a complaint filed in circuit court.

Damages are being sought from Donald M. and Barbara Fiedler, Grand hotel, Medford, and Lawrence Jones, Rogue River.

Hollis alleges in his complaint that the Fiedler and Jones cars collided with his vehicle on Highway 99, three miles south of Rogue River.

Hollis charges further that the car which collided with his vehicle was being operated in a negligent and careless manner. As a result of the accident, Hollis alleges, he "sustained severe and lasting personal injuries." The injuries

cedar and 32,000 board feet of white fir.

have caused and will cause him to lose work and income, he stated in the complaint.

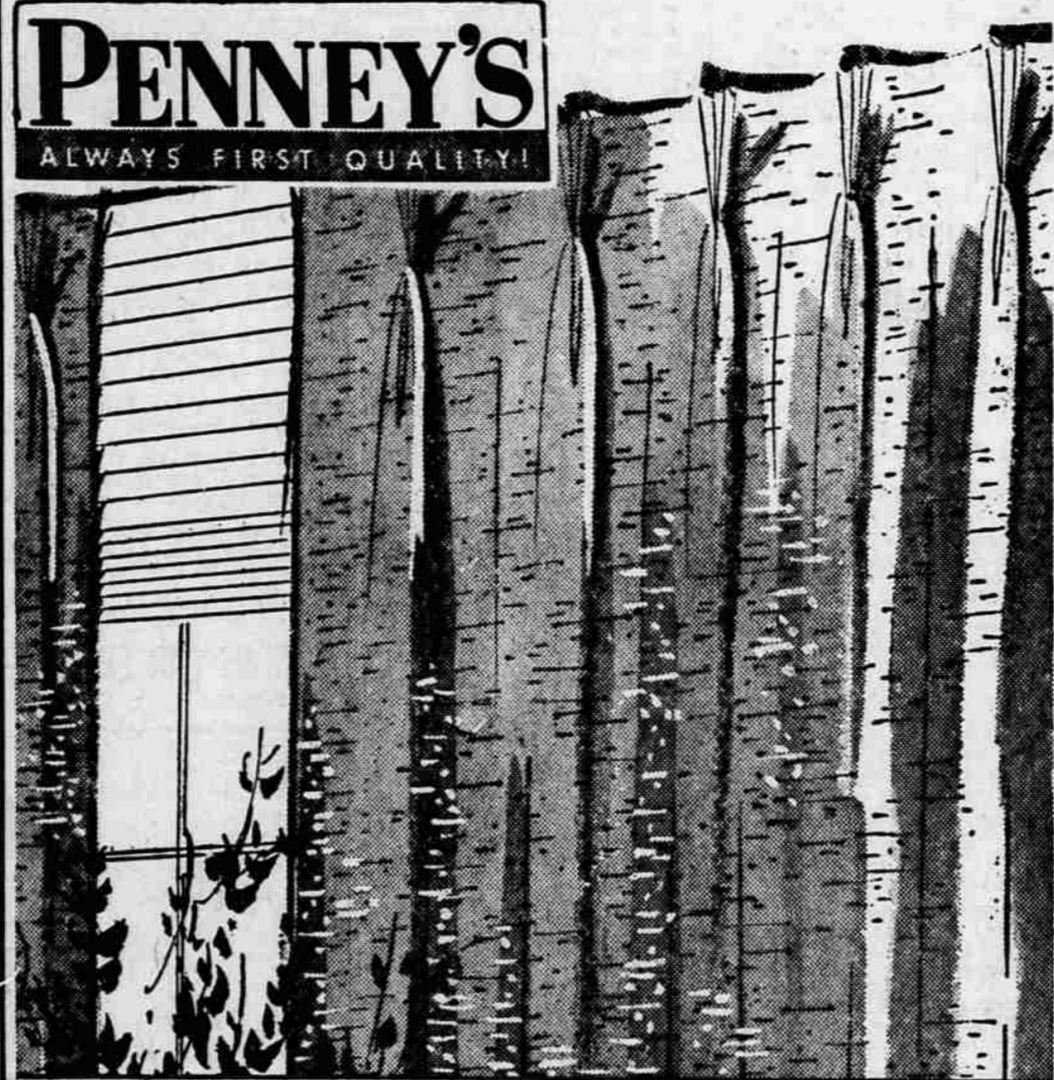
32 Influenza Cases Reported in County

Thirty-two cases of influenza were reported to the Jackson county department of health last week, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health physician.

Of the number, 16 cases were in Shady Cove, 7 in Medford, and three each in Ashland, Trail and Phoenix.

Other communicable diseases reported include infectious hepatitis, Central Point 4; Eagle Point 1; strep throat, Medford 3; measles, Medford 8; Jacksonville 1; chicken pox, Medford 3; and mumps, Medford 2, Gold Hill 1.

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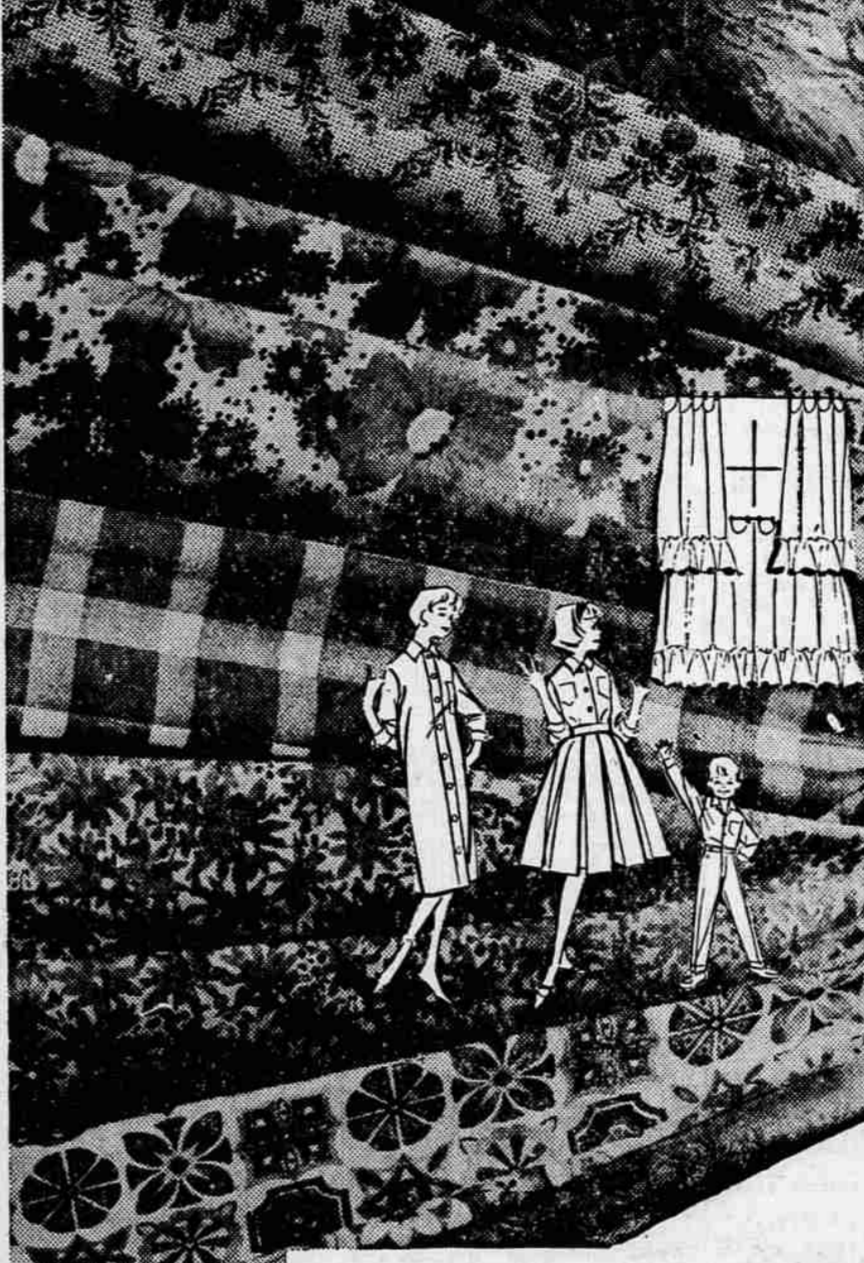
50" x 54"	\$5.88	104" x 84"	\$14.88
50" x 63"	\$5.88	124" x 84"	\$21.88
76" x 84"	\$11.88	150" x 84"	\$24.88

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