

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Morse's Rifles Rejected; Extravagant, Dangerous

In 1854, Samuel F. B. Morse demonstrated a magazine rifle he had invented. The weapon, which used metallic cartridges, would have assured quick victory to the first army to use it, but U. S. authorities rejected it as "extravagant and dangerous."

The stupidity of the authorities had ample precedent, one of the more outstanding being that the U. S., for generations after the superiority of the rifle over the smooth-bore had been demonstrated, continued to arm its troops with smoothbores.

I was reminded of this the other day when a friend showed me a U. S. Springfield musket that was produced in the famous arsenal in 1799, according to the date stamped on the butt plate.

The weapon was a .69 calibre flintlock with a 44-inch barrel, bound to the stock by three bands. On the forward end of the lockplate the word "Springfield" appeared, its

1870 STATE DEPT. STAMPS NOW COLLECTORS' ITEMS

It isn't true of many things, but in the case of some stamps it is a fact that the more of them you have, the greater is their unit value.

One example of this is the seven-cent Department of State stamp, one of a series created by Congress when it resolved to abolish the franking privileges of government departments. The stamp is green in color. Its central ornament is a portrait bust, facing left, of Edwin McMasters Stanton, the famous Secretary of War in Lincoln's Cabinet.

The name of the department is given above the portrait and the denomination of the stamp below.

The value of the individual stamp, either used or unused, is about \$3. However, a block of four of these stamps, and unused, would be worth from \$170 to \$200. As for its value in used condition, it would probably be very much higher still.

An acquaintance who acquired a block of these some weeks ago was astonished to note that those in the block were of a soft, rather porous

paper, while a duplicate single stamp he had acquired earlier was on a thin, hard paper. His immediate thought was that one of the two types was a fake or at any rate a re-issue.

In some cases such differences in paper are indicative of re-issues. Not so in this case. Stamps bearing the names of different government departments were made by the Continental Bank Note Co. from 1873 to 1879. They were produced on the thin paper.

In 1879, the plates from which the stamps were printed were turned over to another firm which continued to print the stamps but used a softer, more porous paper.

Since there are no watermarks in either of these papers, and because the plates were the same, the feel of the paper is the easiest way to tell whether the stamp was produced by the Continental or the American Bank Note Co. which got the contract in 1879.

In any case, the value is the same.

that is a line quoted from one of Washington's speeches — "Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful and the most noble employment of man."

The size of the print is only a little over 12 by 8 inches, and so far as I have been able to learn, it was never brought out in any larger size.

The owner paid \$100 for it, a price that was about \$20 higher than those listed for it in various catalogues and auction records. However, I think he was smart to get it. Inevitably, as this charming picture becomes better known, its value will increase. The supply is not only forever limited, but is steadily shrinking — a combination of factors which, in the case of such an important subject, will inevitably mean an increase in value.

(Released by McClure News-paper Syndicate)

Grants Pass Men Are Questioned by Police
Steve Joseph Flores, Grants Pass, and a 16-year-old youth from the same address were questioned by Medford police Thursday in connection with distributing handbills advertising palmistry readings on West Jackson st.

Police said a "Madam Kate" in Grants Pass was advertised as answering life's problems seven days a week. Questioning revealed her to be the sister of the youth, police reported. The pair was released after questioning.

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News About Books From the Library

The library's annual fund for the purchase of books must always be divided five ways like a pie served for family dessert.

One slice goes each year to replace standard, wanted older books which have been lost or damaged. A substantial slice is needed to nourish the library's reference collection of books upon which an increasing number of readers depend for factual information.

A third, and generous, portion purchases books for junior readers, and this must in turn be divided not only among a host of various subjects but among the many reading age levels all the way from picture book and primer to the romance and adventure sought by teen-agers.

A fourth part of the book fund is devoted to the purchase of duplicate copies of popular titles for the use of branch libraries in nine communities of the county.

The fifth slice of the fund, with perhaps a nibble or so from the second, is set apart to purchase the new titles listed in these bi-monthly columns. During the past two weeks it furnished the following:

Arts and Crafts: How to Build Modern Furniture, Dal Fabbro; How to Write and Sell Magazine Articles, Gehman; Claude Monet, Degand; Oil Painting for Everyone, Slater; Historic Churches of the United States, Broderick; Color Guide to Home Decoration.

Sports: Fifteenth Series of Famous American Athletes of Today, Whitmarsh; Modern Basketball, Colbeck.

Travel and Adventure: The Privilege Was Mine, Schakovskoy; Main Street, U.S.S.R., Levine; The Ashanti, Lystad; White Land of Adventure, Sullivan; Six Against Crime, Neal.

Social Subjects: The Arco 1959 Income Tax Guide for Preparing Your 1958 Income Tax Returns, Lasser; A History of Sexual Customs, Lewinsohn; The Communist World and Ours, Lippmann.

Philosophy and Religion: The Dictionary of Philosophy, Runes; Archaeology and the Old Testament, Pritchard; Everyday Life in New Testament Times, Bouquet.

Science and Technology: Applied Descriptive Geometry With Drafting-Room Problems, Warner; Course of Technical Information for Electrician-Industrial Maintenance Apprentices, Oregon; Skyrocketing Into the Unknown, Coombs; Automobile Engine Rebuilding and Maintenance, Glenn.

Biography: The Big Bankroll, Katcher; I Always Wanted To Be Somebody, Gibson; Lucretia Mott, Cromwell; Green Grows Ivy, Priest; Beggar's of Life, Tully.

History: Slightly Out of Focus, Capa; The American Fur Trade of the Far West, Chittenden; Decisive Battles of the U.S.A., Fuller; America Goes to War, Catton; The Lines Are Drawn, Johnson; Oregon Blue Book, 1959-1960.

Other Non-Fiction: The Library Trustees, Hall; A Collection of Familiar Quotations, Bartlett; Joyce Jackson's Guide to Winning Friends and Popularity, Jackson.

Humor: Mrs. Bridge, Connell; Sober as a Judge, Cecil; Pioneer, Go Home! Powell.

Romance: Sold for Silver, Lim; Girl Executive, O'More; A Little Love, Gaddis.

Serious Fiction: The Captive and the Free, Gary; Aubade, Martin; Two Adolescents, Moravia; The Numbers of Our Days, Gwaltney; The Scientists, Lipsky; The Elbow of the Snake, Lockwood.

Historical Romance: Walk With Peril, Jackson; Tenderloin, Adams; The Thorn of Arimatea, Slaughter; The Elegant Witch, Neill.

Adventure Stories: Starlight Range, Germano; Kurbrik the Outlaw, Harper; Stranger in Galah, Barrett; The Pistol, Jones; Tales of the Caribbean, Roark; No Leave for the Captain, Rasmussen.

Mysteries: A Day in Monte Carlo, Albrand; The Galloway Case, Garve; Be Careful How You Live, Lacy; The Delicate Darling, Webb.

TODAY In Oregon History (A Centennial Feature)

FEBRUARY 8, 1873

A call was issued today asking friends of Woman Suffrage in Oregon and the Washington Territory to attend a mass meeting to be held February 14 and 15 at the Oro Fino Hall in Portland. It is intended that a permanent state organization be set up at that time. "Now is the time for firm, persistent, energetic action," the call said. Mrs. H. M. Shanahan is president of the Multnomah County Woman Suffrage association, which issued the call, and Mrs. Abigail J. Dunway is secretary.

Other Fiction: The Angry Scar, Carter; The Waist-High Culture, Griffith; Cricket Smith, Linkletter; The Snows of December, Olivier; The Gray Flannel Shroud, Slesar; Ask My Brother, Wagner.



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Youths Arrested for Taking Hubcaps

Wayne Byron Goldschmidt, 18, of route 4, box 313, Medford, was in Jackson county jail and a 17-year-old companion was in the county juvenile detention home Friday after their arrest Thursday night in connection with stealing hubcaps, Medford police reported.

Police said the pair admitted in signed statements they attempted to remove hubcaps from a Chevrolet Corvette parked in the lot behind Robinson Brothers clothing store, 114 East Main st. They were arrested on a charge of petty larceny after a Medford patrolman discovered them in the lot.



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