

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage



Hotchkiss Rifle Held Equal of Springfield

Most people think of the Springfield rifle as the traditional shoulder arm of American forces from soon after the Civil War through World War I and later, but for a while the Hotchkiss rifle made a bid for the honor.

One that I had the opportunity of firing recently is known as an 1878 model. It has a 45 calibre, breechloader with a 27-inch barrel, one that had apparently been cut down, since I understand that in their original condition the barrels are a little better than 28 inches long.

The weapon used center-fire cartridges loaded with black powder. Its capacity was six, including one in the chamber and five in a tubular magazine into which they were fed by thrusting them through a trap door in the butt-plate.

Though known as a Hotchkiss military magazine rifle, the weapon was probably made at the Springfield Armory. But others of the identical model are said to have been

made by the Winchester Arms Co. If so, it would be quite in line with a long established ordinance practice of having the same weapon manufactured in different places, large for testing purposes, especially in the case of small arms.

Probably not more than 5,000 of these rifles were manufactured in both places combined. Why they did not meet with wider demand, I don't know. The one I tried out worked as smoothly as the regulation Springfield, and as for its stopping power—if a 45 slug is considered most effective when fired from a handgun, which it is, it should certainly be no less so when fired from a rifle.

Regarding the value of the Hotchkiss, while they can be acquired in fair condition for up to \$72, the owner had paid \$90 for it. The excellent condition of the rifle as well as the action justified the difference.

CLASSIC MOTIFS DECORATED 19TH CENTURY GLASS

Glassware with classic motifs in the pattern, such as cupids and Greek gods and goddesses, were a popular and common item in the culture-hungry America of the latter 1800s. Though common enough then, they are so much less so now that they are well into the collector's item class.

One of the commoner is what is known as the "Cupid and Venus" pattern. Its characteristic is an oblong vertical medallion in which is a female figure accompanied by a winged boy who is minus his bow and arrows.

Some years ago I saw a pitcher in this design in a yellow glass, offered at \$6 by a successful antique shop. Recently I saw what may have been the very same pitcher, but this time, the price was \$25, an increase not accountable by ordinary inflation.

Another type has as its distinguishing feature a plain circular medallion with a flow-

er embroidered edge. In the center is the figure of a classic helmeted warrior, shield on left arm, right arm raised high as if to strike with a sword. It is known as the Minerva design, not because of any resemblance to the goddess by that name, but because on one of the pieces on which it appears the name Minerva is stamped below.

As an example of its value, a complete in clear glass with this design now sells at around \$25, a figure triple what the same piece would have brought in the 1930s.

A still rarer design is another featuring Cupid and Psyche rather than Venus. The difference lies in that Psyche has wings, while Venus does not. A goblet that I saw in this pattern recently was in a deep blue glass. The price was \$16, representing another sharp rise for this type of pressed glass.

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May 16 Deadline For Filing Change In Assessment

Salem—Harry Loggan, director of the Oregon state tax commission's valuation division, has reminded residents that May 16 is the deadline for property taxpayers to file petitions with county boards of equalization for correction of property assessments.

The board of equalization will convene Monday, May 11, to make the annual review of assessments, and property owners may appear in person or be represented by an attorney before the board when it considers petitions for reductions of assessments, Loggan said.

County assessors are required to post the ratio used in assessing property, he pointed out, so taxpayers, by converting assessed value to true cash value, using the posted ratio, can test the assessment of their property. They may also obtain a certificate of assessment from the assessor.

A taxpayer planning to appeal to the board of equalization should first review his assessment with the county assessor, Loggan said. The county assessor can make an adjustment up to and including May 1.

If the assessor makes no adjustment, the taxpayer has the privilege of placing his case before the county board before May 16. Forms for this purpose may be obtained from the county clerk.

If the board does not grant the requested relief, the taxpayer has 30 days after receiving the board's notice in which to continue his appeal to the tax commission. If the commission makes no adjustment, the taxpayer can appeal to the circuit court, Loggan said.

ILWU Lauded by Hawaiian Delegate

Seattle—UPI—Delegates to the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union's convention here learned Thursday they are a respected group when it comes to Hawaiian statehood.

Jack Burns, Hawaii's delegate to Congress, told the ILWU's 13th biennial convention, that the foundation for statehood was laid by the international union.

Burns said the ILWU in Hawaii "freed the working man from the plantation, and laid the foundation for democracy in the territory. It made the working man realize he had dignity."

The convention of Harry Bridges' huge labor organization moved into its fifth and final day today.

price to have been determined for it.

(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Seasons of a Bird Watcher



EARLY SPRING

I wrote the last of my weekly columns on Jan. 18. Since that time numerous people have said they missed it. To be honest I have missed it more than they have. So I decided to comfort myself (and possibly some others) by doing a seasonal column once in a while.

On Jan. 19 Mrs. Howard Bush took J.H. and me on a kind of deluxe bird trip visiting friends who feed birds on Old Military road. The Eugene Ors take advantage of the fact that there are no house sparrows in that vicinity by running the most extensive bird feeding operation I have seen hereabouts. We watched chickadees, titmice, Stellar's jays and many other species at the many feeders outside the windows of their pleasant rooms. At the V. A. Turpin place we got our first winter record of a band tailed pigeon in this county.

Jan. 26 was a notable day for owls. We saw the largest and the smallest that occur in our area. Thanks to a report from Mrs. Max Thayer of Rogue River we went up Foothills Creek and found a great gray owl near their place. We never had a better view of an unusual bird. This immense owl (26 inches) let us approach it at least as close as eight feet and we could study it minutely. No wonder these birds are rare. This one would certainly make an easy target for a man with a gun, but I hope all such will restrain themselves. The same day we saw a pygmy owl (6 1/4 inches) on the other side of the Rogue above Gold Hill.

In the late winter the varied thrushes (Alaska robins) began appearing in the valley in numbers, as they usually do. A number of people called up to ask about this orange breasted bird with a black necklace on the breast and a yellow line over the eye. This winter was in great contrast to the last one in that the evening grosbeaks did not come in any numbers. In fact we haven't seen any.

On our home place the late winter was notable for the large numbers of Audubon's and myrtle warblers seen. The white throated myrtle warblers were the commoner of the two on our place and also elsewhere. They came regularly to our feeders after fat. Recently one even came inside the house. It was fluttering by the front door in the evening when some guests came, and when we opened the door it came on in. I had quite a time catching it and putting it out.

Since we had seen tree swallows on Jan. 12 it was harder to get excited over the first swallows of spring. We saw some that we couldn't identify on Feb. 9. On Feb. 24 Ralph Browning reported seeing rough winged swallows along Bear Creek and on the same date the Reynolds in Ashland had tree swallows looking at their bird houses. On March 9 we saw the largest flock of swallows we ever saw in the spring, easily 200. They seemed to be 90 per cent tree swallows, but we also picked out some violet-green and rough winged. On April 6 we saw our first barn swallows, an unusually early date for them.

Spring gets mixed up with winter a lot in our climate, but if you are going to fix a date for its beginning here, I think Washington's birthday would be as close as any. It was the day after that when I heard the first dove cooing. Robins began their spring song about that time, too. Now quite a few birds are beginning to nest.

I have had two trips. In February I went to Berkeley to a conference, but incidentally had a wonderful time studying birds. One good place was around the salt ponds between Palo Alto (where a son now lives) and the Dumbarton bridge. Another was from the Berkeley pier. After Easter we went over to Tulelake and the Lava Beds national monument. It was a pleasure to see three varieties of geese in good numbers, Canada, snow and white-fronted. The ponds were full of brightly colored ruddy ducks, cinnamon teal and shovellers. The pure white egrets were also beautiful.

As far as water birds in our valley are concerned, we have seen more cinnamon teal than ever before. On our last trip before this writing (April 6) we saw them on five or six different ponds. We also noted some other spring arrivals on this trip, such as chipping sparrows and vesper sparrows. We saw yellowthroats (a little warbler with a black mask) in four separate places. We also noticed that the tri-colored blackbirds seem to be coming in to their same nesting area along Bear Creek west and north of Mon Desir. On the 4th I saw a rufous hummingbird by our flowering peach tree.

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PENNEY'S THRIFTY SHOE DEPT. — STREET FLOOR

City Hall Third Floor Remodeled

The Medford engineering and building departments and the planning technician's office are being moved to the top floor of city hall, it was reported Friday.

They will occupy space left by the bureau of land management, which recently moved to new quarters in Office Park on South Pacific highway.

A permit for \$2,500 in remodeling was issued by the building department Thursday. Among improvements now under way are repainting and installing new partitions. The building department hopes to move upstairs this week.

The work is being done by both city employees and private contractors.

The planning technician, Ned Langford, is currently located in an office at Medford airport. The engineering and building departments are on the main floor of the city hall.

Crater Student's Art in New York

Nancy Clark, 15-year-old Crater High school student, is among 20 Oregon students whose work in art will be displayed later this month in the Scholastic National High school art exhibition at the New York Coliseum.

The national show is the climax of regional exhibitions of junior and senior high school students throughout the country. Oregon's regional was held this year under the sponsorship of the J. K. Gill company.

Winners in the various art categories at the Oregon show received gold keys.

TREED

Plainville, Conn.—UPI—Penny Perry, 11, climbed a tree to rescue her pet kitten, but firemen had to be called anyway. Penny couldn't get down.

Job Outlook in Oregon Said Bright

Portland—UPI—The manager of the Portland office of the State Employment Service says the job outlook in Oregon this summer is bright.

Manager Clark Woodcock said that business and employment trends established in the past few months indicate there will be a very low number of claims for unemployment benefits this summer. He qualified his remarks by saying a major strike or strikes could cause a setback in the trend.



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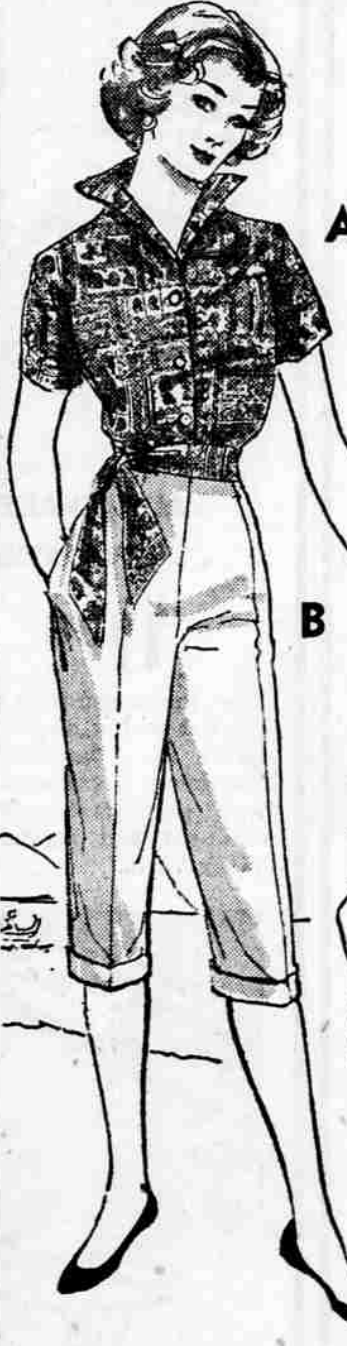
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