## Buried Treasure by Pinkney Gage

# *Unrecorded Firearms Have Collectors' Market*

If you ever come across a revolver or other firearm and can find no record of the maker's name, don't assume that it's worthless. For so long as it is in working order, or reasonably close to it, there will be some collector who'll want it.

The likelihood of finding such a weapon is at least fair. From the 1850s well into the 1930s very little capital was required to go into the arms-making business, and for better than three-quarters of that time there were plenty of little men who scraped together some money and took a chance.

Most of them failed. In the majority of cases, their guns were inferior to those of well established manufacturers, and even when they were just as good they still went out of business for lack of adequate financing.

Nonetheless, any of their guns, and whether or not they ever acquired a history, have a real value. A case in point is one that I saw recently.

It was a five-shot, .32 calibre, rim-fire, magazine pistol produced under the name of "Ramsgate & Eakin, New York," according to the markings on the four-inch, octagonal barrel. Date of manufacture was probably 1872 since there was a patent pending mark to that effect on the frame.

On the under side of the barrel was a tubular magazine that held four cartridges. By pulling back and down on the breechblock with the thumb and then cocking the piece by pulling back on the plume-shaped hammer, the mechanism extracted the empty cartridge case and inserted a new one from the magazine.

Though an awkward piece to work, it was obviously one of the earlier attempts in the evolution of the automatic pistol.

The condition of the piece, for $15 in a junk shop, was fair. The mechanism worked but the barrel was somewhat pitted.

The buyer had objected to paying more for the reason that the maker's name was not listed in any of the standard works on American hand guns.

But that was the very point he emphasized in offering it for sale. He was asking $100 for it when I saw it and was trying to make up his mind whether to accept the firm offer of $75 which one collector had made him.

### PRIVATELY ISSUED STAMPS MAY NOT BE LISTED

A stamp that has nothing on it but the words "Post Office One Cent Dispatch," may seem like a phony, but if you ever find one anything like it, take good care of it until you've checked it thoroughly.

Even though there is no indication as to where or when it was issued, or by what post office, the job of running it down will probably not be too difficult.

Since there is so little information on the stamp, it is almost sure to be one of those issued back around the 1850s when local mail delivery was still conducted by private firms. Working on that assumption, the thing to do is to look the stamp up in one of the major catalogues, such as Scott's. While there is a sizeable number of such issues, the job of locating it, if it is known, should not take more than an hour or so. And even if it does, the time will be well spent, for practically all such issues have a high value, some of them running into the thousands of dollars.

Only a few minutes were required for an acquaintance of mine to locate a stamp he had found with the words on it quoted above. It was an eight-sided item which some earlier collector had clipped off the corner of an envelope, fortunately leaving a generous margin around the edges. The stamp was printed in a reddish color on a blue paper. The edges were not perforated, and the cancellation mark was light, consisting of nothing but a hastily scrawled initial across the face.

According to an illustration in the catalogue, it was one that had been issued by the officials of the Baltimore post office, during the period from 1850 to 1857. Revenue derived from sale of the stamp went to pay the carrier for delivering the letter.

Its value was listed as only $50. Had it been printed on white paper, it would have been worth $125 if unused, and $450 if used.

So be sure to look up any stamp like that if you happen to find one. And just in case you can't find any reference to it in any of the catalogues, don't feel at all discouraged. Just sit down and write to the catalogue's publisher giving a complete description of the item. Quite possibly you may have found one that is not yet known, and in that case it will be worth a whale of a lot more than $50.

### BRET HARTE, AUTHOR OF WESTERNS, BEGAN AS POET

Bret Harte's "The Luck of Roaring Camp" is certainly his most famous story, but a first edition of one of his books of poetry is just about as valuable.

The reason is that "The Lost Galleon and Other Tales" a book of verse, is his first published work, and though Harte was a better story writer than poet, book collectors are generally willing to pay a substantial premium for the first work of any collected author.

Harte, the grandson of a wealthy New York Jewish merchant, went to San Francisco in 1854. After a series of jobs that included being an express messenger over a bandit-infested mountain road, he went into the newpaper business, beginning as a type-setter.

By the time he had filled the various jobs of editor and columnist on various California papers, he blossomed out as a poet. The poetry was good enough so that by 1867 he felt justified in bringing out "The Lost Galleon and Other Tales." Any copy that is dated San Francisco 1867 is a first edition, and, depending on condition, will bring a price of from $20 to $75.

"The Luck of Roaring Camp," however, did vastly more for the author than any of his poems. Strangely enough, it was regarded as a somewhat immoral piece in the high-rolling West, but the comment that it provoked among eastern critics of the time was just the reverse. They though it a splendid bit of work.

In fact, a Boston publisher brought out a book of his short stories under that title in 1870. The first issue of that, by the way, does not include the story "Brown of Calaveras" which appears only in later editions.

Prices brought by a first edition of "The Luck of Roaring Camp" generally range $20 higher than those for "The Lost Galleon."

Most of the other works by Harte, who entered the consular service in 1878 and stayed abroad for the rest of his life, bring prices that are considerably lower. Talented writer that he was, the only material that really stimulated him was western, and the longer he stayed from the West, the less productive he became.

**(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)**

# Parks, Recreation Budget Proposal Questioned at Committee Meeting

Medford's preliminary 1959-60 budget for parks and recreation was eyed with skepticism at a meeting of the city budget committee Friday night.

Only six of the 16 committee members (eight private citizens and eight city councilmen) were present. This lack of a quorum prevented formal action, but details of many departmental budgets were discussed.

Committee Chairman Howard Boyd noted a general trend toward greater operation and maintenance costs in various budget proposals. He said the committee should consider possible solutions to these increases.

Other outlays coming under particular scrutiny were those for health services, and acquisition of a bookkeeping machine for one finance office. Meter maids for the police department were discussed at some length.

City Manager Robert A. Duff singled out the building department for its good performance during the past year.

**Net Increase**

The parks and recreation department's budget proposal represents a net increase of $26,276 over the current year's approved outlay–most of it in the area of personal services.

Tony Manno questioned what the newly-hired parks and recreation director, whose proposed salary is $7,080 a year, would do during the winter months.

Duff replied that a "full year's program" was contemplated, and that the intention was for arrangements to be made with the Medford school board for use of school facilities outside of school hours. He also mentioned the "demand for greater use of swimming pools."

**'By Mayor and Council'**

"This is a program that's been promoted and developed by the mayor and city council," Duff added.

"Almost entirely by the mayor," commented City Councilman Fred Robinson, Ward I.

Boyd, who also questioned the need for a part-time stenographer and recreation leaders, described the proposed outlay as "just a little bit steep.

"It will be necessary for the mayor to come and give us a sales talk on this," Boyd said. "I want to be sold as to its necessity."

He added hower, that he did not wish to imply he was "violently opposed" to it.

Mayor John W. Snider could not attend last night's meeting. Duff said the mayor would not be able to attend on any Friday night.

**Health Services**

The preliminary budget for health services shows a proposed outlay of $5,000 "for contracted health services with Jackson county health office." Last year's approved figure was $4,000.

Duff said he believed higher costs were responsible for the proposed increase. But committee members asked why this money should be paid to the county in the first place if certain services were required by state law.

Duff said the city formerly employed a health officer of its own, while now the county health officer serves as his equivalent.

He added that other cities such as Salem and Eugene pay their respective counties for such services. But Robinson replied that cities elsewhere receive in return a "substantial amount" as their share of county road funds. Duff said Medford received no such funds since Jackson county exacts no levies for roads but receives money from O and C funds.

**'Could be Challenged'**

Robinson said he believed this situation "could actually be challenged in a court of law." He asked if Ashland paid the county for health services. Duff replied, "I doubt it," but said he would investigate.

Discussion of the proposed planning commission budget focused upon the need for hiring a planning technician. The technician, Ned Langford, has been working here on a joint city - federal planning project adminstered by the bureau of municipal research and service at the University of Oregon.

Duff explained that because of the increased work load incurred by the commission, Langford has been pressed into service as its administrative assistant in addition to his project duties. Duff said the $4,480 budget item for his services to the commission has been proposed for the coming year since the bureau was going to bill the city for them. During the current year, the only budget outlay for the technician has been a lump sum for the project.

**'Almost Staggering'**

Duff described the planning commission's present work load as "almost staggering," and added that a bureau official considers its agenda as "one of the most active" of any city in the state.

Purchase of the $5,500 bookkeeping machine is proposed in the finance deparment's preliminary budget. Boyd asked if its use would lead to any reduction of personnel.

No, Duff replied, but it would "forestall the time when increased personnel would be required." Duff explained that the "extraordinary load" on the finance department resulting from "a tremendous amount of accounts to be put on the assessment rolls and billed" in connection with current large-scale improvement projects makes the machine desirable.

**Meter Maids**

Medford Police Chief Charles Champlin told the committee his department had asked a budget provision for two meter maids who would police parking meters in the current request. Duff explained that preliminary cuts to keep the budget within the 6 per cent limitation had led to this item's deletion.

Manno said he thought some "less important items" could be cut from the budget to permit an outlay for the meter maid. But Duff said if this was to be considered the committee should review other departments' requests as well, since they had also suffered deletions.

"This year for the first time the building department is in the black," Duff reported. "For the first time in quite a while we have a good building department."

He praised Oliver R. McNeel, department head, and stated that a sizable a salary increase proposed for McNeel in the budget was justified by the work he had been doing and the fact that "he was underpaid before."

**Other Details**

In commenting on other details of the budget discussed last night, Duff stated:

The fee for the annual audit of the city's accounts could be expected to increase in the coming year since the current contract is expiring and more work is now involved;

Installation of a switchboard to provide adequate telephone service for city hall will involve increased costs, including a non-recurring installation charge of about $800 (the services of a full-time switchboard operator are also required);

Maintenance of city police vehicles at the street department shop last year proved "not too satisfactory" and the work is to be accomplished in the coming year at private garages;

The civil defense budget "probably pays its own way" through allowing the city advantages in acquiring necessary communications equipment.

The committee adjourned shorty before 10 p.m. after calling the next meeting for this coming Friday evening. Those attending last night included, besides Boyd, Robinson and Manno, Councilman Al Bradford, Ward II, Aubrey Loper and Carl Dawson.

**NOW OVER HERE** – Medford City Manager Robert A. Duff (left) points out the city's park facilities to Robert L. Haworth, new city parks and recreation director, on a map in his office at city hall. Haworth assumed his duties last week.



## Polaris Success Boost to Campaign

Cape Canaveral, Fla. –(UPI)– The first perfect flight of a Polaris test rocket Friday gave the Navy a big boost in its campaign to develop a submarine-launched ballistic missile.

The solid-fuel Polaris forerunner experienced none of the difficulties that plagued earlier rockets. The Navy said the two-stage rocket apparently achieved all of its test objectives.

Development of the Polaris has lagged because of problems with the "jetevators," the movable exhaust nozzles used to guide the rocket. On some rockets in the current test series the extreme heat generated in the area of the nozzles melted the tubes. But the Navy and Lockheed Aircraft Corp., which makes the rocket, were confident after Friday's successful test that they have solved this problem.

### SEEKS TRADE WITH RUSSIA

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil–(UPI)– Brazilians attending an economic conference in Geneva this week are expected to propose full-scale resumption of trade between Russia and Brazil, it was reported yesterday. Foreign Office sources said the Brazilian delegation has been instructed to lay the foundation for a trade agreement with Russia.

### MUSICIAN DIES

New York–(UPI)–Don Albert, 66, an orchestra leader, died Friday.

# The Family Council

**Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors**

**Martha S.** – Their father would be poison to the children.

**Jane M.** – She should try to get over her bitterness.

• • •

**Martha S.**–I am the mother of two children, a 13-year-old girl and a boy of nine. My husband deserted us five years ago and we have not seen him since.

Fortunately, my father left me enough money to get by on for the next few years. I am also working part-time and eventually I'll take a full-time job. My husband's family has also been very nice. They thoroughly condemned his actions and have offered to help the children get a college education if they want it.

However, I am now furious about my sister-in-law. She helped my daughter write a letter to her father behind my back. Now he wants to come to see the children. I want nothing to do with him and I'm sure he'll be poison to the children.

• • •

**Jane M.** – I feel that I did the only right thing under the circumstances. My little niece came to me and told me that she misses her father and wants to get in touch with him. I couldn't say no to the child and I couldn't tell Martha because I knew she would be furious and wouldn't let her make contact with her dad.

I am not trying to defend my brother. He behaved disgracefully, but I felt that by this time he had probably begun to realize and regret it himself. Apparently I was right because he is now eager to see the children.

I think Martha should try to get over some of her bitterness for the children's sake. Even if they can't live with their father, it would do them good to know that he cares for them.

• • •

**The Council:** It is never "right" to conspire with a child to do something behind a parent's back. As long as the parent remains a responsible person, no outsider should come between them as a kind of higher or better authority.

Jane was also wrong in her idea of using this little girl's feelings to pull back her father. This man knew where his children were and had every right to see them if he wanted to. Yet he chose to remain away for five years. Surely, if he thought about it, he realized that his children missed him – letter or no letter. The little girl's letter served the wrong purpose of coaxing him, of catering to his own childlike desire to see some proof that he is loved in spite of the fact that he has done nothing to deserve love.

However, Jane is right on one point. It is important for Martha to try to get over her bitterness toward her husband. If the little girl had not felt her mother's bitterness so strongly, she would not have appealed to her aunt. This child should have felt free to speak to her mother about her longing to see her father. She should have felt that she would get sympathy and understanding on this score.

If the child had spoken to her mother, Martha would have remained in better control of the situation. She could have advised her daughter to wait until she got a little older or she might have won some say in the kind of letter that was to be written.

Martha is now in a very difficult position. If she forbids the visit, she will seem cruel to her children. It would be better if she could persuade her daughter to put off the meeting until she is older and has more understanding. If the girl is determined, however, it may be best to permit the meeting and let nature take its course. Children sometimes manage to get the good from an apparently bad person or situation.

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### SUPPRESSES NEWSPAPER

Rangoon, Burma – (UPI)–The Burmese-language newspaper, The Rangoon Daily, was closed down by the government Friday and its editor, U. Yu Maung, was arrested. Informed sources said the action was taken on grounds of government objections to the paper's comments on a May Day speech made by Former Premier U. Nu.

### HOLD THAT TIGER

Lafayette, Calif.–(UPI)–Highway Patrolman Emery J. Hanlon saw a driver struggling with something, sounded his siren and halted the auto. "It's nothing at all," said driver Merritt R. Ketchum, 31, a seaman. "It's just a pet Bengal tiger. He wants to blow the horn."

# Shark Victim Led In Rites by Rescuer

San Francisco – (UPI) – "Oh my God I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee."

So whispered 18-year-old Albert Kogler during a hurried, ocean side baptism, two hours before he died from wounds made by a man-eating shark.

Baptizing young Kogler was the 18-year-old girl who pulled him from the turbulent surf already turned red from his blood.

The girl, Shirley O'Neill, had plunged back into the water Thursday, disregarding Kogler's screaming warnings of danger.

**Baptized Him**

Already a heroine for her courage in hauling the fatally mauled Kogler to shore, it was revealed yesterday that Shirley baptized him and, in effect, said the last rites over his body from which life obviously was fast ebbing.

After pulling Kogler to shore, she knelt over him, sprinkled his forehead with sea water and made the sign of the cross.

"I baptize thee in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

She said, "I've baptized you, is that all right?" He murmured, "ok."

**Act of Contrition**

Then, continuing the religious rite, he repeated after her the act of contrition:

"Oh my God, I am sorry for having offended Thee . . ."

His last words before becoming unconscious were:

"I love God, and I love my mother, and I love my father. Oh, God, help me, help me."

Kogler died a short time later after emergency surgery failed to stem the damage resulting from shock and loss of flesh and blood.

Meanwhile, Mayor George Christopher disclosed he planned to seek a Carnegie Medal of Heroism for Shirley for her dangerous and heartbreaking attempt to save the life of her friend.

The distance between the earth and the moon is 238,857 miles.


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ALL MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS
plan to attend the
Medford Elks Annual
Officer's Ball
Saturday, May 16
Dance from 9 to 1 to the music of
BALDY EVANS
at the Gay Paree Springtime Sidewalk Cafe
(Semi formal)

The Dance of the Year . . .
MEDFORD MUSICIANS ANNUAL BENEFIT
DANCE
6 BANDS Will play for your dancing pleasure!
MODERN: Blaine Trickle's Tunesmiths—Barney Beaton's Capris, Tommy Lewis Trio—Bill Glomb's Thunderbirds
WESTERN: Dick Spain's Rogue Valley Boys—Vic Flood's Rhythm Masters.
FINIS with JAM SESSION
$1.00 will admit one couple (No minors)
JACKSON HOTEL – PIONEER ROOM
MONDAY NIGHT, MAY 11 – 8:30 to 1 A.M.

Take MOTHER to Dine
AT THE HOLLAND HOTEL
DINING ROOM
Relish Tray — Cream of chicken soup
Tossed salad
☆ Roast young tom turkey, with old-fashioned stuffing
☆ Virginia baked ham, fruit sauce
☆ Roast leg o' lamb, mint jelly
☆ Roast prime rib of beef, Au Jus
Fresh asparagus — baked potato — Hot rolls
Butter — Sherbet or Ice cream — Tea or coffee
Adults $2.00
Special Children's Plate
OPEN AT NOON
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★ Steak Sicilian with mushrooms
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Congratulations to Mother
from
JACK'S DRIVE-UP 911 North Riverside
A Short Drive Out North Riverside — "The Place to Meet and Eat"
"MEDFORD'S LARGEST HAMBURGER PALACE"
QUEEN for the day
Kids, bring Mother out to Jack's Drive-Up today and get her a
FREE
FRESH STRAWBERRY SUNDAE
It's Absolutely FREE to Every Mother . .
No Purchase Necessary
Beat the High Cost of Living by Eating at
Jack's Drive-Up
911 North Riverside
It's Our Way of Showing Our Appreciation To ALL MOTHERS On This MOTHER'S DAY!
JACK'S SPECIAL BAR-B-Q BEEF or PORK
Served on Jumbo Bun with plenty of meat.
53c
Any 10c Drink FREE TODAY with each Beef or Pork
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Plenty of melted Kraft cheese plus order of Golden FRENCH FRIES. ALL FOR TODAY ONLY
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JACK'S FRIED CHICKEN ON TOAST
¼ Fried Chicken served with Golden French Fries and Toast.
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