

The Soundoff

EUREKA! Treasure Hunters Club, Inc.
Denver, Colorado



Vol. 49 Issue VI

June 2021

Search With Care!

Visit our Club on the Internet at <http://www.eurekathc.org>

HEAR YE,
HEAR YE!

With the scourge of Covid going away, we
are now able to meet at our regular haunt,

Ye Olde Clements Center!

Friday, June 11th

7:30 PM

(Remember to bring thy treasures and thy mask)



The Prez Sez

By Roy Neys

(This is primarily targeted to our group of new members.)

My wife likes to walk around Washington Park and she spotted a metal detectorist with a hacksaw detecting the park several months ago. This made her curious so she asked him what he was going to do with the hacksaw. The man replied, "I'm going to dig up my targets with it." My wife told him that husband has been metal detecting for about 20 years now and she has never seen him using a hacksaw while detecting (true story...who could make this up?).

I haven't seen anyone in our club using a hacksaw but I have seen some pretty sad dig areas. The number one ideal for target retrieval is to leave no evidence of having retrieved anything. Observe the old members; they have a pouch for treasure and trash but they also have 2 or more items for getting to the targets. A pin pointer, flat-head screwdriver and a probe are the ideal tools for the conscientious detectorist. Now that the digging rules have relaxed a bit many of us have a hand digger too.

Probably 90-95% of the targets you will encounter in the parks will be between the surface to maybe an inch in depth. This is why I and most of the older members use a probe first. It is a lot quicker and when done properly leaves little if any footprint. We also got used to using a probe because we weren't allowed to dig anything in the Denver metro area for about the past 10 years.

If you have mastered pinpointing a target with your coil, try siting it first with a probe or screwdriver. After a few stabs, hit it with your pinpointer and rapid stab the area again. You can use the probe to feel the target, then try parting the grass instead of pulling it up. Then, use your screwdriver and slowly lift the target. Put whatever you find in your pouch, then use the flat part of your screwdriver to push the dirt down in the hole. If this doesn't close the hole, pinch the grass around it to close it. Finally, step on the hole. It should look about like you found it. With practice and repetition no one will be able to accuse you of destroying their turf.



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Joining Eureka!

Membership Dues

Yearly dues are \$33 per individual or \$42 for a family membership.

Please go to:

Eurekathc.org

Download and complete the application form under the *About* tab. Membership dues can be paid to the Treasurer at the regular monthly meetings.



"I think he misinterpreted the metal detector analogy in your 'seek and ye shall find' sermon!"



**Roy Neys
Proudly Presents....**

**THE BIG
COINHUNA
HUNT!**

Date: June 13, 2021

Place: Robby Ferrufino Park

9001 W. 74th Ave

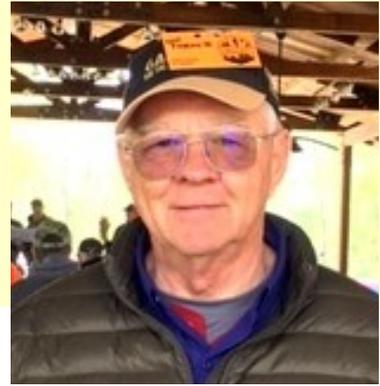
Arvada, CO 80005

Time: 2 PM

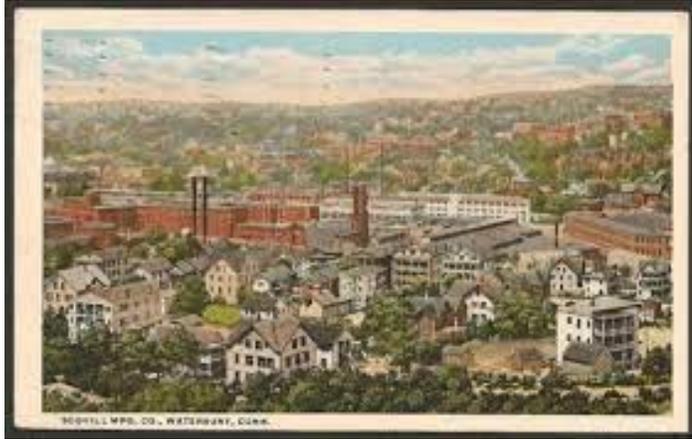
A Duffy

Civil War Tokens

by John Olson



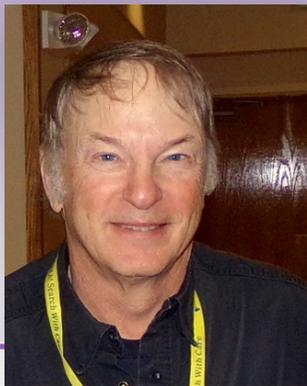
In 1862 the Civil War was raging, and gold and silver coins were being hoarded by people. Copper followed, and U.S. cents were becoming scarce due to the hoarding and from copper being used in the war effort to manufacture military field pieces. At



that time, copper cost two tenths of a cent to make an Indian Head cent. Merchants would pay nine tenths of a cent for a copper token, so private minters were hoping to profit from the scarcity of coins. Private die sinkers took advantage of this coin shortage by making copper tokens for merchants. Some had advertisements on them while others were patriotic tokens with symbols and quotes for the country. Civil war tokens were manufactured from 1861 and ended in 1864 when congress passed a law that forbade all private coinage. This spring, while detecting an old site, I was lucky

to swing my coil over a target that had the same VDI and tone for a copper cent. In the clump of dirt I could see the round edge and I thought maybe it was a Indian Head cent or a rare Flying Eagle cent. After brushing it off with a dry toothbrush, I could see strange images. It features a George Washington statue and 1863 on the obverse and the words "Union for Ever" and 'First in War, First in Peace' on the reverse. This George Washington Civil War Token was at a depth of about 3 or 4 inches. It was made by Scovill Manufacturing Company in Waterbury, CT who also makes military buttons. It does have some value but this token is priceless to me and I have it displayed with other artifacts of that era.





Mints & Mint Marks Quiz

by Chris Davis

I was talking to Joe Johnson last month, and the discussion digressed to Mint Marks on American coins. What started out as one simple question, quickly expanded. So, I decided to make up a quiz on U.S. Mints and see how many of you are really sharp on your coins. Go through and see how many you can get correct. If you ace it out, we will send you to buy coins for the Club next time. The answers to the quiz questions can be found in the *Mints and Mint Marks* article, located somewhere in the back of this Newsletter.



1. What Country is the largest producer of coins and medals in the world?
2. What was the first Mint in the United States, and when did it make its first coin?
3. How many active U.S. Mints are currently in operation?
4. Let us suppose you have 2 coins made in the 1850's. One has a "C" mint mark, the other has a "D" mint mark. At what mints were they made? What metals were used to make the coins?
5. What is the only Branch Mint with 2 letters for a mint mark?
6. Can you name a Branch U.S. mint which never made a single coin?
7. Suppose you have a coin made at a U.S. Mint with a Mint Mark of "M". Where was that mint?
8. Which Mints produce paper money?
9. Bonus Question: Who designed the Fugio Cent?
10. Bonus Question 2: What was the first American coin with the inscription, "In God We Trust"?

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AMERICAS CUP AND HUNT
Sunday July 11th
Hunt Starts at 11:00am

\$25.00

Majestic View Park
8998 W 72nd Ave
Arvada, Colorado 80005
Tokens will be planted for Lots of Prizes



If inclement weather hunt will be rescheduled.

Members Only

Route 66 Hunt

by Linda Frickson



It was a beautiful day to get some kicks at the Route 66 Rally on May 15. "Rally" is the term used by the British when they gather for a metal detecting hunt. This hunt was a year in the making as it was to have taken place in April 2020. We had 36 participants in the hunt and 5 fabu-



lous entries in the car show. The hour-long hunt started shortly after 11:30. There were approximately 1400 coins in the ground, along with 50 or so rings. Approximately a fourth of those were silver and most were from the era of the Route 66 hay days. There were ten tokens planted in the ground. Those who found a metal miniature Route 66 sign with a state abbreviation stamped on the back, won a 1 oz. silver round for that state. There were silver rounds for IL, MO, KS, NM and TX. There were an additional five Route 66 tokens with numbers 1-5 for prizes, including Route 66 coasters, a Route 66 Ghost Town book, a handmade Colorado wooden flag with a metal detectorist burned into it donated by Ron Erickson, a Route 66 sign and a finds box donated by Brian Henry. Each of these prizes came with a hat and a 1926 silver quarter. The Reeds donated two mint proof sets, Bruce Morton donated a Route 66 t-shirt, and Route 66 maps donated, and a Route 66 Poster was donated by the Ruggles. The token for the poster wasn't found but that great prize was given away by random drawing. Boots also



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donated a Spyderco knife for the hunt. I believe that token is still in the ground waiting for the next hunt. Boots also placed something else in the field. The person who returned that item would be awarded a silver dollar. That item was a beer bottle and under the lid of the beer bottle was a dollar coin. Unfortunately, no one returned that bottle. Lesson here is to pick up the trash in the field, it could be good for a special prize.

Five vehicles were entered into the "car show." Boots Lewis entered his 1930 Ford Model A, Ron Erickson entered his 1941 International pickup, the Muehlbauers entered their 1965 Thunderbird, Sallie Lewis entered her handicap scooter that burns out and does 30 miles an hour, and Laura Lewis entered her 2020 Blazer RS, fully loaded, top of the line. It was a close race but first, second and third place ribbons went to the Thunderbird, the International pickup and the Model A.

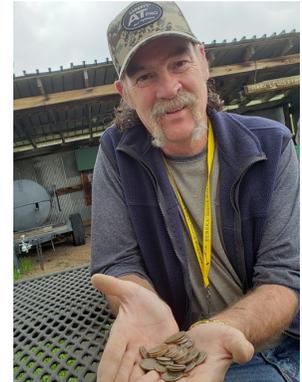


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The hunt was followed by refreshing root beer floats.

A big thank you to everyone who made donations—Bruce Morton, the Ruggles, Jim Merritt, Jeff Lubbert, Brian Henry, the Reeds, Ron Erickson and Everett Johnston. I'd also like to thank our photographers and the Lewis family for the use of the Lazy Heart Ranch. Last but not least, a big thank you goes out to Kevyn Llewellyn, Ron, Jeff and Boots for their assistance in planting the hunt field. That is a big job. I apologize if I left anyone out. I missed our club secretary Nancy Faires at the hunt. She would have kept me straight on winner's names and volunteers.



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Eureka! 2021 Calendar

June							July							August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

15 Year Gold Price in USD/oz

Last Close: 1907.75

High: 2070.05 Low: 563.11 ▲1275.77 201.87%



Thursday, June 3, 2021

GOLDPRICE.ORG

A LOST RING WITH SENTIMENTAL VALUE

BY NORM RUGGLES



Early on a recent morning, I was detecting at a park in Greenwood Village. It was quiet. The only other person there was a Greenwood Village employee who was working in a garden space. I saw that he was laboring hard, especially noticeable to me since it was so early and he was working alone.

I continued to detect, and in a while the solo worker passed by me as he was heading to his truck. We said good morning, and I complimented him on his good efforts. He appreciated that, and we talked for a few minutes. Right when I was thinking our conversation was over, he looked at my metal detector and asked, "Could that detect a tungsten carbide ring?"

He said that while he was working at another park some time ago, he lost a ring that had "sentimental value" to him. He had looked carefully around where he lost it, but could not find it. I told him I couldn't make any promises, but if he remembered the vicinity where he lost the ring, I might be able to locate it. I told him to write down his name and phone number, which he did — Daniel Kissinger (a Greenwood Village horticulturalist).

I called Daniel shortly thereafter and we made arrangements to meet in a couple days on his lunch break at a Greenwood Village equestrian park. I didn't even know this park existed. My wife Susan, being the good sport and detectorist that she is, said she would come along. In the meantime, to get prepared, Sue and I took some tungsten rings we have detected in the past and put them in our backyard grass. We practiced detecting them and determined the VDI numbers and readings shown on our detectors, to improve our chances of recovering Daniel's ring.



At the agreed time Sue and I met Daniel in the park's parking lot. There was a certain excitement in the air as the three of us discussed the possibility of finding the missing ring. Sue and I geared up with our detecting equipment and proceeded to follow Daniel. It's a good thing Sue had total knee replacement surgery five months ago, because Daniel then took us on a long walk up a hill to an area where he had worked on a project 1 ½ years ago. I doubt there is a more remote public place anywhere in Greenwood Village! We got onto a small dirt path and Daniel pointed out an area on the west side about 75 yards long where he was working when he lost his ring. Sue and I began detecting along that side of the path as well as on the lower portion of the adjoining hill. The area is steep and covered in thatch. (See photo.) We kept detecting while moving north.

In about 20 minutes I heard a nice crisp sound on my XP Deus and saw on my screen the same VDI I saw when Sue and I practiced in our backyard. I was on the lower portion of the hill and quickly used

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my pinpoint and Lesche digger.

And there it was—Daniel’s ring under an inch of thatch and an inch of soil! I happily picked it up and showed it to Sue, and then hollered at Daniel who was further down the path. He returned and I had my hands behind my back. I told him to pick a hand, and then presented his ring to him. He was thrilled, as were Sue and I!

Then Daniel revealed to us that the ring had “sentimental value” because it was his wedding ring! He said he was going to completely surprise his wife with our discovery. Daniel, Sue and I “had a moment”, as they say, and then we briefly celebrated. (See photo of the 3 of us.) Daniel had to get back to work, so we parted ways, all three of us feeling the warm glow of success.

FOOTNOTE: Seemingly as a reward for her help, along that remote dirt path Sue detected an interesting gold-colored pin in the shape of a Christmas candy cane, with three red stones. It’s nice! How it got lost back there in that hidden location is anybody’s guess.



Breakfast Club

By Chris Davis



May 7, 2021

Our Breakfast Club was held on Friday, May 7, 2021. We had a good turnout and went to Montbello Central Park for our hunt. The weather was a bit warm with highs in the low 80's. It was fine when there was cloud cover, but downright hot when the sun came out. Soil moisture and digging conditions were excellent.



How did we do? Well, most of us can say we had a "quality outdoor recreational experience" (this is a diplomatic way of saying "we did not find much"). Most of us did okay on coins but found very little jewelry. As usual, Bob H. and Jeff M. were the exceptions. Bob got a very nice little silver ring, and Jeff picked up a silver necklace. Mike M. pulled 5 hoop bracelets out of one hole. Roy N. got a small charm. Lee P. found some interesting herbs over next

to the adjacent high school property. Bob H. did best on coins with \$9.76. Jeff M. had \$5.06, and I hear tell Marianne S. got a similar amount. I probably came in fourth with \$4.66. As usual, I did very well on bottlecaps and pulltabs, my specialty. I also picked up 5 keys. No, do not beg, I will not tell you my secret bottlecap settings.

Now that summer is upon us, we will be moving the Breakfast Club meeting time back to 9:00.



May 22

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As we had to cancel the May 15 Breakfast Club due to a conflict with our Monthly Club Hunt, it seemed only reasonable to re-schedule an impromptu Breakfast Club outing on May 22. So we did. It was a wonderful day. Temperatures were in the high 70's, but a nice cloud cover kept things from getting too hot. Recent rains put moisture in the soil and resulted in excellent digging conditions.



We had a very good hunt over at City Park. Some 20 members attended. And, some very good finds were made. We found quite a few flattened penny tokens. I had 4. Will K. found a token for a gentleman's establishment named "Kitty's". I can't imagine what he might be able to trade it in for, so we will have to inquire at the next meeting. Will also found a

1924 wheat ear penny. Roy N. dug up a silver Mercury dime (1942D). Marianne S. picked up a very nice Gerber knife. A total of 7 rings were recovered. Randy S. pulled 3 out of one hole. Roy N., Bob H. each got one, and I got 2. Nothing exciting, but, as they say, "a ring is a ring is a ring". One of the rings I dug up probably qualifies for the "large and gaudy ring" category. I was surprised to discover it was actually silver. I feel sure the stones are real diamonds (in my dreams anyway). In change recovery, Roy came out on top with \$8.64, pursued closely by Bob with \$8.16.



I had \$7.19 (including 89 pennies).



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Charles Garrett Memorial Hunt 2021 by Jeff Lubbert



For me the preparations for the Charles Garrett Memorial Hunt began during Thanksgiving of 2020. While out at Boot's and Laura's house helping prepare a feast for a few guests (which included Adam Lewis who works for Garrett metal detectors). We were discussing the plans for the CGMH, it sounded like it was going to be a REALLY good event to go to. Eureka has had as many as 18 members at previous hunts but due to COVID concerns many of our members were reluctant to participate. When I heard that many people from around the country had backed out for the very same reason, and thus there were

several openings to join in on the fun, I had to jump at the chance. Luckily Adam has a pretty good memory so when he returned to work the following week, he placed me on the attendees list and sent me all of the appropriate forms to fill out.

As the hunt grew nearer, I was in talks with Boots about being his roomie and travel companion. I had taken over Laura's entry into the hunt, she could not make it due to getting a new job, so things were starting to fall into place. Our car and hotel were reserved, entry fees paid and now we were just working on the fine details of what to take for clothes, detectors and other equipment.

Finally our departure date arrived and things were going well but we both were pulled from the security line to check our carry-on bags due to having detectors in the them. No big deal, the TSA agent just opened up the bags, looked at the detectors quick and we were on our way to our gate. Upon arrival in Dallas, it was late in the evening and there





were few people in the airport. We got our check-in bags and hopped the shuttle to get our car and were on our way to Canton, the town where the Charles Garrett Memorial Hunt was to take place in. The hunt site was on the "First Monday" flea market grounds, First Monday is the worlds largest flea market with over 200,000 visitors on an average weekend. The grounds included a large event center where many of the CGMH events were to be held. Imagine our state fairgrounds, but the site gets used several times a year. There are some natural finds to made at this site. There were over 400 hunt participants signed up to partake in the festivities so even with the large amount of land that was within the flea market grounds it was going to be a bit crowded.

Friday was the first day of the hunt, the first hunt was the token hunt. The Garrett team planted 5,500 tokens the day prior to the hunt. The tokens were aluminum discs approximately the size of a dime; they were stamped with letters and numbers. The prize tokens were painted and had numbers stamped into them. The object of this day was to get tokens which totaled to 21 with your numbered tokens. You needed at least one token of each "1", "3" & "5" to be eligible to get your 21. There were also a few tokens that were stamped "21" which was an instant win of the top prize. Also, tokens were stamped with "10", "J", "Q", "K" & "A" with which you make up poker hands with. Straights were the

best poker hand you could get, but three of a kind and 4 of a kind would get you prizes. Straights would get you a prize of your choice and a chance at a metal detector. Three of a kind would get you a Garrett finds box, four of a kind would get you either a Garrett hat or a pair of Garrett gloves. There were also



smaller tokens stamped "GC" that were painted gold which you would exchange for a chance at a gold coin. When you turned in the "GC" token you would reach into a bucket of foreign coins and pull one coin out. Some of those foreign coins were painted pink and if you drew one of those coins you won one of the gold coins. I can tell you for a fact that my six "GC" tokens added up to a grand total of ZERO gold coins. All of the tokens that were turned in after the first day were replanted for the upcoming silver hunt. During this first day of the hunt it started out with some heavy

rain; it continued raining for the better part of the day. What was normal grass parking areas turned into ponds and small streams. Obviously these weren't great detecting conditions but we were all in it together. Luckily Boots warned me about getting rained on almost every year so I was prepared with rain gear. Saturday was the relic hunt with thousands of relics planted. The majority of the relics were bullets, Indi-



head cents and buttons, but there were items such as cannon balls, belt plates, breast plates and even a Civil War sword planted in the hunt field. There were also tokens planted in the hunt field with numbers that corresponded with prizes that were on display in the event center. There were just under 200 prize tokens, so the chances of getting a prize token were good. Jase Robertson of the TV show Duck Dynasty was there to set off the starting cannon for this hunt. Jase ended up hunting in the same area that Boots and I were in so I talked with him a bit during the hunt. Civil War bullets were plentiful and they made up the majority of my finds for this hunt followed by Indian head cents. Both Boots and I managed to find two prize tokens each, and we were pretty excited about the prizes that were on the tables that we now had a chance to win. When we turned in our tokens, both of us received a nice relic. Boots got a US box plate and I received a Civil War horse bridle with US rosettes adorning each side of the bit. But in a completely ironic twist we both received Spyderco knives with the Lazy Heart Ranch logo on them. We ended up exchanging the knives for silver rounds.

Saturday night was the night hunt. Even though the majority of the items that were “planted” (they drove around on an ATV throwing handfuls of items out of a bucket) were either foreign coins, junk jewelry, tokens and copper rounds. There still were tokens for prizes, several of which were metal detectors. Neither Boots or I have had much luck during night hunts so our effort levels were below normal. There were so many people surrounding the hunt field I was in the 3rd row of detectorists prior to the start of the hunt. My strategy was to give everyone a 30 second head start and come in behind and hopefully clean up the targets missed by those running to the center of the hunt field. It wasn't a great strategy as I didn't hear a signal for at least a minute after I started into the hunt field. I spent more time talking during this hunt than hunting and therefore missed out on any of the prize tokens. That being said, I had a good time during this hunt. All of my foreign coins and junk jewelry were put into a jar that I set out; all of the items collected in the jar were going to a hunt for handicapped children.

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Sunday brought about the silver hunt, once again the hunt field had the tokens that were turned in after the first two days were replanted for this hunt. Thousands of silver coins were planted in the hunt field along with the tokens, and of course, some natural finds. This hunt field was a portion of Friday's hunt field and also included the whole night hunt field as well. Hunters surrounded the hunt field prior to the start of the hunt, though the organizers let some of the more crowded areas know that at the north end of the hunt field was almost free of people. When the start cannon sounded once again, people moved quickly to the center of the hunt field. Targets were plentiful, silver coins were coming out of the ground. I overheard someone mentioning that they found a silver dollar just a few feet from the perimeter line, so I made my way back to that area. Sure enough I ended up finding a silver Kennedy half and a Peace dollar within a few feet of the perimeter of the hunt field. Later on during the hunt, I decided to check in front of the port-o-lets; there were two of them in the hunt field. I noticed that everyone that used them stopped detecting several feet before they reached them. I also noticed other detectorists standing around the port-o-lets talking and not detecting. I was rewarded with a silver quarter right in front of KG for that effort.

Like I have said before, I can find targets very well, but my luck in finding tokens is well below average. I found enough targets so that between the value of my bullets and silver, I could pay for my hunt. Unfortunately, I didn't come home with a new detector or any gold. With this being the 57th year for Garrett detectors they gave away 57 detectors and 57 gold coins. Win was fortunate enough to get one of the gold coins but none of the seven Eureka members who attended the hunt came away with a new detector.

The true value of these national hunts is getting to know some new detectorists or meeting some Facebook "friends" that you only have had interaction with on that social network. For me it truly is all about the social aspect of the hobby and the finds are just the icing on the cake.



Upcoming Events

NEXT EUREKA! MEETING

For in-person meetings, bring:
Nametags ~ thanks for wearing them to all Eureka! functions
Cash ~ for drawings, hunts, and Eureka! merchandise
Finds ~ to share
Ideas ~ for speakers and outings

A remote meeting will be held via Zoom. If you need training in using Zoom, contact Chris Davis, Bruce Morton, Alan Bravo, or Nancy Faires.

UPCOMING EUREKA! EVENTS

Breakfast Club (with precautions)

Friday June 4th

Contact: **Chris Davis 225.235.2642**

for details or to get added to the email list.

Coinhuna Hunt, Sunday June 13th
Robby Ferufino Park (see flyer in this edition).

America's Cup Hunt, Sunday July 11th
Majestic View Park (see flyer).

LINKED WEB SITES

www.mdhtalk.org Detecting Hobby Talk

www.fmdac.org Federation of Metal Detector & Archaeological Clubs

www.spreaker.com/admrr

Relic Roundup Radio Show (hosted by Jeff Lubbert, 7pm Mondays)

TenaciousTreasureTracker.com

See Brian Henry's website for the TTT Hunt clues, and new merchandise available.

www.Youtube.com/AdventuresInDirt

Compilation of the best weekly metal detecting channels and finds, by Ken King (Eureka! member). See his **Weekly Dirt** show at 3:00 PM on Sundays (and available thereafter)

www.Youtube.com/5280Adventures

A variety channel of metal detecting, coin hunting, and other outdoor activities by Tony Frangella (Eureka! member) with his son, Caden.





SECRETARY'S NOTES BY NANCY FAIRES

JUNE 2021

Eureka! THC Club Meeting
VIA ZOOM
May 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER Roy Neys, President
Time: 7:30 PM

The monthly Eureka! THC Club meeting was held Friday May 14, 2021 via Zoom. There were 33 “logged-in” participants including guests.

Welcome – Roy Neys

Thank you to Alan and Laura for the use of their unlimited ZOOM
Introduction of Officers and Board

REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report – Linda Kibler

Clement Center – Jefferson County is adopting “Level Clear” as of the end of May, if there are no changes in the Covid-19 reports.

“Level Clear” allows the Clement Center 100% occupancy, social distancing encouraged and masks are REQUIRED.

This means we will be able to meet F-2-F in June.

The ETHC Board has decided to continue contributing \$100 to our monthly Club hunts. Consequently, the hunts will be Member Only. Your membership dues and applications need to be current and up to date to be eligible.

Speaker Topic: Garrett Memorial Hunt, Canton, TX

Jeff Lubbert, Linda Erickson, Jim Merritt and Win Faires talked about their experience, prizes and the importance of attending out of state hunts.

HART – Norm updated the membership on Hart activities and future options.

Gold Panning Championships

June 11-13, 2021 9 AM – 1 PM. Western Museum of Mining and Industry

The Board is discussing ways to make our future F-2-F meetings available for everyone: for example: adding Zoom and/or live broadcasts.

HUNTS

Hindsight 2020 – Jeff Lubbert April 11 42 participants

Route 66 – Linda Erickson May 15, Lazy Heart Ranch, Golden \$25 members only

CoinHuna – Roy Neys June 13 members only

Membership Discussion:

Due to the price of gold, should we remove the gold coin from the monthly drawings and add a gold nugget instead?

Add the gold coin to the Holiday Fund drawing monthly?

Attendance Drawing (you must be a paid member, logged in with your name and be present online to win)

1964 Kennedy half dollar – Tom Gray

1913 Barber quarter – Win Faires

1903 O Barber dime – Brian Henry

Prizes will be available at the Breakfast Club for pick-up or Roy will hold until our next F-2-F meeting.

Show-N-Tell - Chris

Next meeting: June 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM

ADJOURN 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Faires

Secretary

Eureka THC

Mints & Mint Marks

by Chris Davis



(Continued from page 6)

Now that you have had time to take the Mint Quiz, let us see how well you did. The first question should have been easy. The United States of America is the largest producer of coins and medals in the world.

The second question was not too difficult either. The first mint in the United States was located in Philadelphia and the first coin was made in 1792.

There are currently four actively coin producing mints in the United States. They are located in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco and West Point.



Philadelphia. Our first Mint was created by the Coinage Act of 1792 and located in Philadelphia, which happened to be the capitol of the U.S. at the time. This Act also adopted a decimal system based on a dollar unit. We wusn't gonna use that Pound system, like England. But, I guess while we are on the subject of English coins, where did the term "Pound" come from? Back in the old days, 240 silver penny coins weighed 1 Pound (1 lb.), hence the term, 1 Pound Sterling.

The first official coin minted by the United States was the Half Disme, or Half Dime. These coins were said to be cast from silverware belonging to Martha Washington. I have not found one of those yet, but I am sure John Hinton has.

The first coins that actually went into circulation were 11,178 copper cents minted in 1793. The location of the Philadelphia Mint has moved 4 times over the years. The first mint was built on the site of an abandoned whiskey distillery, and named, "Ye Olde Mint". The first building was 37 feet wide, 35 feet deep and had 3 stories. You might think the mint mark for Philadelphia would be a "P", and it is. But, as we only had one mint way back then, I guess they figured we did not need a mint mark, so they did not make one. And so it has been ever since. Well, mostly. Philadelphia coins, as a rule, do not have a mint mark. As one might expect, there are always exceptions. From 1942-45, Philadelphia War Nickels had a "P" on the reverse. In 1979 a "P" has been placed on our modern clad dollar



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coins. Starting in 1980, all coins from all the mints had mint marks, except the Philadelphia cent. However, there is a “P” on 2017 one cent coins, in honor of the 225th anniversary of the Mint. Got all that? It is clear as mud.

Denver. In 1860 a private company, Clark, Gruber and Co., purchased a building in Denver and opened a mint during the Colorado Gold Rush. In 1863 the U.S. Treasury purchased this same building for a U.S. Mint which then served as an Assay Office. The purchase was fairly easy, as the U.S. Government merely printed up the \$25,000 payment in the building. Just like the Government does nowadays. As all this occurred during the Civil War, and there were concerns about Indians and Rebels, no coins

were produced. In the following years, gold resources in nearby streams were exhausted. Eventually, gold production picked back up, and the Mint started producing coins in 1906 with a “D” mint mark.

As a side note, there were two robberies of interest at the Denver Mint. In 1920, a Mint employee, Orville Harrington, somehow managed to sneak out \$80,000 in gold from the facility. He was caught by a Secret Service Agent who witnessed Mr. Harrington burying the gold. Mr. Harrington received a 10-year sentence, but served only 3 ½ years in prison, so the effort was certainly worth a try.



A more high profile robbery occurred in 1922. At the time, the Federal Reserve, not having secure storage facilities for its printed paper currency, stored the money in the Mint vaults. When the truck carrying \$200,000 of freshly printed \$5 bills stopped at the Mint to make a delivery, a vehicle with 3 robbers also pulled up. There was a gun battle and one guard was mortally wounded. The robbers grabbed the money and ran. Eighteen days later, police found the getaway car with the frozen body of one of the robbers, mortally wounded in the gunfight. In 1925, \$80,000 taken in the robbery was recovered in Minnesota. While law enforcement had several suspects, no-one was ever charged in the “Great Denver Mint Robbery”.

The Denver Mint currently produces the most coinage of any facility in the world. They produce circulating coins, proof sets and commemorative coins.

San Francisco. The San Francisco Mint was established in 1854, as a direct result of the California Gold Rush of 1849. In 1874 the mint was moved to another location and known as “the Old U.S. Mint”. The mint was also known by the nickname, “the Granite Lady”, which is somewhat odd, seeing as all of the building, except for the base/basement, is composed of sandstone. This mint was one of the few buildings to survive the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake. In 1937 the mint was moved to its current location. The mint mark “S” was placed on these coins, (with the exception of a 13 year period from 1955 to 1968 when no mint marks were used. The mint stopped producing coins for circulation 1975. The Mint still makes Clad and Silver Proof sets and Commemorative coins as required by Congress.



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West Point. The West Point Mint was opened as a bullion depository in 1937. From 1975-1986 the Mint produced cents, without a mint mark. The only circulating coin produced at West Point with the “W” mint mark was the Quarter, in 2019. Other specialty coins produced include: American Eagle proof and uncirculated sets, American Buffalo gold coins and commemorative coins.

Okay, let us say you have 2 coins, both made in the 1850's. One has a “C” mint mark. The other has a “D” mint mark. The Mint Act of 1835 authorized Branch Mints at Charlotte, NC, Dahlonega, GA and New Orleans, LA.

Charlotte, NC. The first U.S. Branch Mint authorized was located at Charlotte, North Carolina and was in operation from 1838-1861. Many folks are not aware, this area was the first documented find of gold in the U.S. Due to difficulty in transportation of this gold to the Philadelphia Mint, the government authorized Charlotte as the first U.S. Branch Mint. The mint mark was a “C”. Only gold coins were produced at the mint. The Charlotte Mint was closed at the start of the Civil War and never reopened.



Dahlonega. [The Mint Act of 1835 also authorized a Branch Mint at Dahlonega, GA](#) as result of the Georgia Gold Rush. This mint was in operation from 1838-1861. Coins minted at Dahlonega all bore the mint mark “D”. (The Denver Mint did not open until 1906). Gold from the area was used for the gold leaf on the roof of the rotunda at the Georgia Capitol in Atlanta. The locals still ask of politicians, “What is going on under the gold dome?”. Only gold coins were produced at the Dahlonega Mint. This mint was also closed at the start of the Civil War and never reopened.

New Orleans. The 3rd Branch Mint authorized was in New Orleans, LA. At the time there was a shortage of coins in the United States. New Orleans was a major trade center located on the Mississippi River. Coins produced at the New Orleans Mint carried the mint mark, “O”. Both silver and gold coins were minted. The Mint was opened in 1838 and ran until the start of the Civil War in 1861, when it was taken over by the Confederacy. The Confederate States of America designed a Confederate half dollar, but was never put into circulation. Only 4 specimens are known to exist. Unfortunately, I have not found number 5 yet. The Mint was reopened in 1879 and ran until closed permanently in 1909.



And that ain't all, folks.

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There was also a Branch Mint located in Carson City, Nevada. The mint mark was “CC”. This is the only Branch Mint with 2 letters for a mint mark. The Mint was open from 1870 to 1893. The Mint was established to handle the largest silver strike in the United States, the Comstock Lode. It was cheaper to mint the coins in Carson City, than to ship the silver to San Francisco. The Mint produced primarily silver coins, due the abundant silver boom, but also made some gold coins.



But wait, there is more.

A mint was planned and approved for Dalles, OR. Construction on the Dalles Mint was conducted from 1864 thru 1870. The building was constructed, and still stands, but no coins were ever minted there. Just as well, Denver would have had to come up with another mint mark.

The only U.S. mint ever established outside the continental United States was in Manila, Philippines. The mint was in operation from 1920-22, and 1929-41. This Mint closed down, permanently, when the Japanese came for a visit in 1941. I have actually found one of these coins, coincidentally, in the yard adjacent to Chuck H.’s house. Apparently, an old soldier lived there. When he moved out, he gave Chuck permission to search, and I came over to help him and found a Manila Mint coin. Much to my surprise, the Manila mint mark was an “M” (for you English language teachers, it is correct to use “an”, instead of “a”, before M when it is in its initial form).



The U.S. Mint produces coinage, not paper money. Paper money is produced by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



All modern clad dollar coins in current circulation have mint marks, but some are harder to find. On Presidential dollar coins, the date and mint mark (and “In God We Trust” and “E Pluribus Unum”) are located on the outer rim of each coin. Some of the Sacagawea Dollar Coins have the date and mint mark on the obverse (front), while others have it on the rim.

Who designed the Fugio Cent? Okay, this is not a Mint question, but it is still interesting. The Fugio Cent, minted in 1787, is also known as the “Franklin Cent”, and to no surprise, was designed by Benjamin Franklin. Inscribed on it is, “Mind Your Business”, which doesn’t have anything to do with personal privacy, but is meant to encourage folks to take care of their business operations. The name, Fugio is Latin and means flee or fly, and refers to time flying by the sundial on the coin.

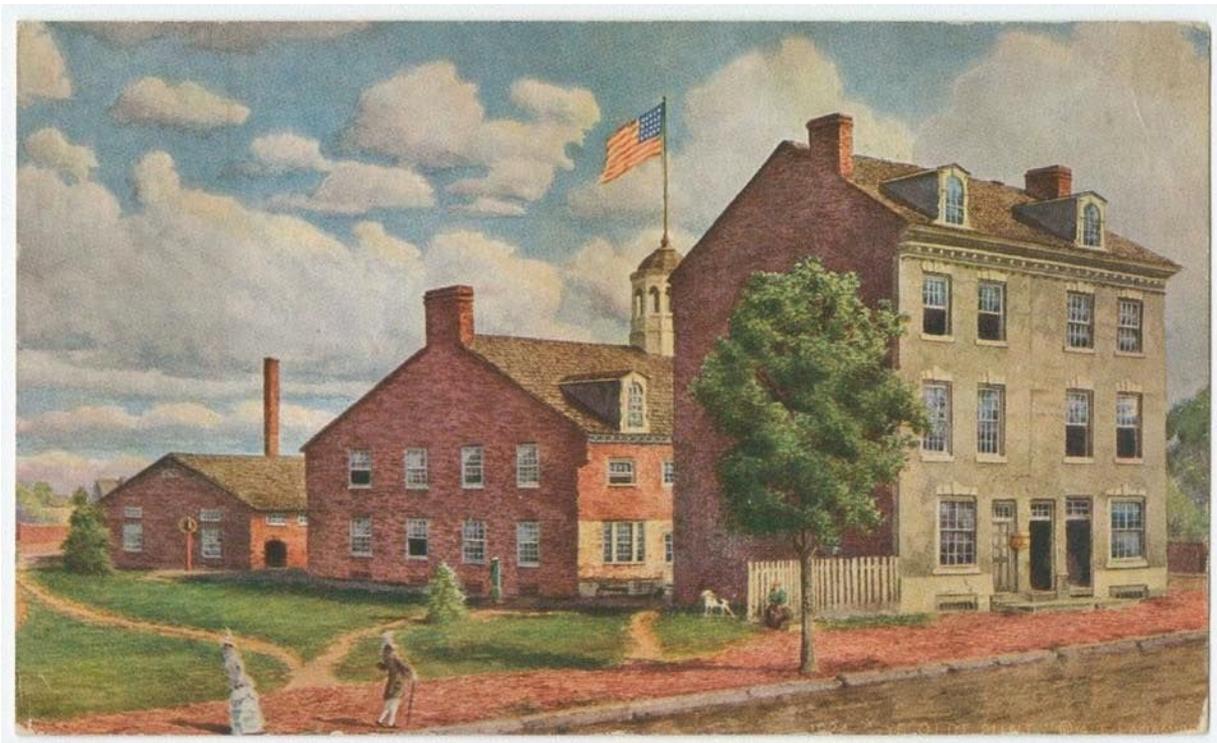
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What was the first American coin with the inscription, “In God We Trust”? If nobody else, Jeff L. should get this one. The two-cent coin with “In God We Trust” was minted from 1864-1873.

Unlike many countries, America has never demonetized its currency. A “penny” (actually, a “Cent”, America does not have “pennies”) made in 1793 is still legal tender and worth a whole “penny”.

It costs the U.S. Government 11.18 cents to make a Nickle, but only 5.65 cents to make a dime. Is America great, or what? So, now you, me and Paul Harvey know..... “The Rest of the Story!” Good day!



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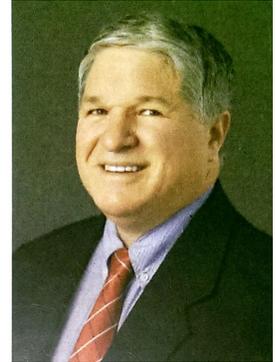
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Eureka! is a Denver-based, Colorado nonprofit organization established in 1973 for the enjoyment of metal detecting, electronic prospecting and treasure hunting. Its purpose is to provide an educational and social forum of mutual benefit for members. Eureka! holds a monthly meeting and conducts various special presentations, hunts and seminars. Members have voting privileges. Membership includes access to all general meetings, selected seminars and outings. Annual dues run April to March and are \$33 for single adult membership, \$42 for a family membership and \$15 for Junior membership. Pro-rating of dues are done for new members joining the club after the April 1 dues date. Club meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Clement Community Center, 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, Colorado. Come early to socialize.

Next Club Meeting

The **June 11th** meeting will be held at the Clements Center, at **7:30 p.m.**

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