

# CENTRAL FLORIDA TREASURE TALES

CENTRAL FLORIDA METAL DETECTING CLUB

APRIL 1995

April should be the month we all start getting out more. With a little effort those good finds should start coming out of the ground. If you put a little time into research your finds will probably get better. Last month Rob Loucks took Jerry Hitson and me to a turn of the century park he had found. Between the three of us we found a number of good finds, including nine wheats all dating between 1912 and 1920, a mercury dime and a barber half dollar. What I think is most amazing about this site was that Rob's research could have been done by any of us. I'm not sure exactly how much time he put into it, but I think it was mostly a matter of comparing old maps with new maps. The thing to remember is it's all up to you. Some sites require alot of research, but alot of sites can be found with only a few hours of well spent time. If you can't find a site your looking for try getting together with someone else with a new view. It may be someone else already has information on your site and together you can find it.

GOOD HUNTING

THE EDITOR

New Members:

In March we had a mad rush to join our club. We now have three new members, Bill Bergdoll, Chuck Pastore and Dick Donovan. Everyone please give them a warm welcome.

\*1995 Club Officers\*

President.....Randy Settle  
Vice-President.....Jerry Hitson  
Second Vice-President.....Bill Ackerman  
Secretary.....Madeline Corder  
Treasurer.....Lonna Leist  
Newspaper Editor.....Ted Smith  
Refreshments.....Ron & Gerry West  
Lonna Leist  
Find of the Month.....Milton & Lorine Raw  
Prizes.....Fred & Nancy Schimmel

The Central Florida Metal Detecting Club meets the second Friday of each month. Meetings are held at the Goldenrod Civic center, close to the intersection of Aloma Ave. and Palmetto Ave., and start at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting: Mar. 10th  
Apr. 14th  
May 12th

## MARCH NEWSNOTES

The March meeting started as usual. Guests, birthdays and anniversaries. The minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a February ending balance of \$1503.69.

Ray Leist reported on the Southeast Councils hunt. It was a good hunt, the only concern was the hunt fields were somewhat small when 100 people got on them.

The Ormond Beach club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month.

April first was the Weeki Wachi hunt. Hopefully someone will fill me in and I can pass it along next month.

Everyone check your pennies. 1995 produced a double die cent with a mintage of about 300,000. It could be a valueable coin in the future.

\$28.00 was raised on the silver raffle.

\$8.00 was raised for the treasure chest from coins donated by Herb Phillips. Currently we have \$56.00 for our chest. Next month we will raffle a gold coin to raise money for the chest.

1/2 & 1/2 was won by Lonna Leist, \$18.50.

Bank night was won by #77, Jerry Hitson, \$20.00.

## FIND OF THE MONTH

Single Coin.....HERB PHILLIPS  
Group Coins.....HERB PHILLIPS  
Single Jewelry.....CHUCK PASTORE  
Group Jewelry.....ALDEN MITCHELL  
Single Artifact.....DAVE GASCOYNE  
Group Artifact.....JIM INGRAM  
Single Odds-N-Ends.....HERB PHILLIPS  
Group Odds-N-Ends.....HERB PHILLIPS

## THE COIN CORNER

The last time I wrote the Coin Corner I gave out some trivia, this month I'll pick up where I left off and throw out some more trivia. The design for the Jefferson Nickel was picked in an open competition. The winner got a prize of \$1000.00.

One of the reasons for the introduction of the three cent coin was the reduction of postage from 5 to 3 cents in 1851. It was thought people would like a coin the same denomination as postage. This is also the reason behind the \$3.00 gold piece. It made the purchase of 100 stamps easy.

In 1804 President Jefferson suspended the minting of the silver dollar, even though he didn't have constitutional authority to do so. His reason for doing this was because speculators were shipping them to the West Indies to trade for the heavier spanish dollar. Production of the dollar resumed in 1839.

The Peace Dollar was the first coin of any nation to have the word "PEACE" on it. It celebrates the return to peace after World War I.

During the Civil War the Confederate States tried to issue coins of their own. In 1861, Bailey & Co., Philadelphia jewelers, agreed to supply a minor coinage for the Confederacy and engaged the well-known engraver Robert Lovett Jr. to prepare the dies. Lovett executed dies for a cent piece, employing on obverse the same turband Liberty Head he had created for a Northern store card, and on reverse a wreath of cotton, sugar cane and tobacco enclosing the words 1 CENT. After striking a dozen specimens in copper-nickel, he had second thoughts about giving aid to the enemy, and hid the dies and coins. The Confederacy planned to issue a Half-Dollar using the facilities of the New Orleans mint. Only one die was ever prepared, a half-dollar reverse depicting the Confederated Seal. This was muled with an obverse die for the U.S. 1861-O half dollar to produce four patterns, which comprise the extent of Confederated coinage.

## 2nd Clue March

Code Words: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

JRRL YCDW DCB TPPNGT LENCDFYIDJ CVRY GIVP JRRL  
TDNCBJEVHR CVRY DCB JPDNK UVR DMU RU UDE  
TNEEDU UTRO ECDMUVRT DMU RU DCDM ORCK DPR  
UMLNP DMU RU UTBD GPBA UENRF LENCUBUT CVOY TM  
DIEBCUED DMU UB ELNT GCBF EDCCBA DMU

It looks like a number of people are working on staking their claim on the treasure. The weekend after the March meeting a number of tokens were found. At least five were found at the second site and two more were found at the first site. It appears everyone gave up on the first site a little too soon. What is even more interesting is the bonus finds that are being found. Gene Hitchew found a buffalo nickle at site #1, as well as a silver pin. I found a silver dime at site #2 and a couple wheats also. Jerry has picked some good spots to hunt for us, so go out and look.

## TREASURES OF GOLD, FIDDLES LOST IN LAKE

by EMMETT PETER

Who needs Lotto with all those gold and silver coins buried in Lake County. Legend has it that a fortune is hidden at Indian Springs, an old watering hole a mile north of Sorrento off State Road 46.

A company of soldiers carrying an Army payroll during the Seminole War was ambushed at the spring, the story goes, and a lieutenant hid the money either in the water or nearby to keep the Indians from finding it.

Supposedly the payroll consisted of about \$25,000. Since the rumor was that the Army was paying in gold coins, that would translate into much more at today's values.

The soldiers were carrying the payroll to Fort Mason, a mile west of present-day Eustis, and a badly wounded soldier told of the hidden money before he died, according to the legend.

But don't put too much stock in the tale. Historians point out that an Army soldier was paid \$11 a month back then, and the payroll would likely be a few hundred dollars, not thousands.

A less plausible treasure story tells of a wagon laden with gold that fell into Bugg Springs, near Okahumpka, and was sucked under the water along with driver and horses, never to be seen again. Pioneers dreamed of finding the gold sitting on a ledge along some underground river.

Then there's the story of the Confederate gold supposedly hidden off Sunnyside Drive after President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet fled Richmond.

Davis was captured in Georgia on May 10, 1865, but some of his members escaped and continued south to find passage to the Bahamas and Mexico.

En route, the story goes, they hid the gold, about \$25,000, intending to come back for it later.

The Sunnyside property was owned then by Moses Levy, a friend of Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin, one of the fleeing rebels. The gold still is missing.

A treasure of a different kind led to the naming of Fiddle Lake, near Eustis. Dr. William Kennedy, in his "History of Lake County", noted that pioneer merchant K.D. Smith was bringing a load of merchandise, including nails, groceries and fiddles, from the St. Johns River to Fort Mason.

Kennedy continues: "As the day was hot, the haul a long and firesome one, and the oxen very thirsty, they started a run when they sighted a lake. The driver was so startled by their stampede that he could not check them until they were almost completely submerged. The cargo, including the fiddles, was never found.

Don't bother looking. Those fiddles are waterlogged after more than a century. Come to think of it, maybe you'd better buy that lotto ticket after all.

# **\*CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT\***

To place an ad please contact Ted Smith, 291-3442. It would be best to submit your ad in writing to avoid any errors. When the item is sold or you want the ad stopped please let me know.

Thank you.

**For Sale: Whites Surfmaster in New condition. Only \$250.00. For info call Rob Loucks 896-1019.**

**For Sale: SEARCH SCAN MODEL 650 land or underwater metal detector w/8" coil. \$350.00 call Bob 425-7921.**

**For Sale: Jimmy Sierra Eliminator Magnum Force Coil for White's. \$50.00 Contact Jack Dee at (904)749-4459.**

**Minelab Dealer: Tony Krapil, 3257 Kew Gardens Lane, Orl. FL 32812. 407-859-9978.  
For Sale: Whites Spectrum \$350. Call Herb Phillips (407)880-3495.**

## **\*WANTED: Buy or Trade\***

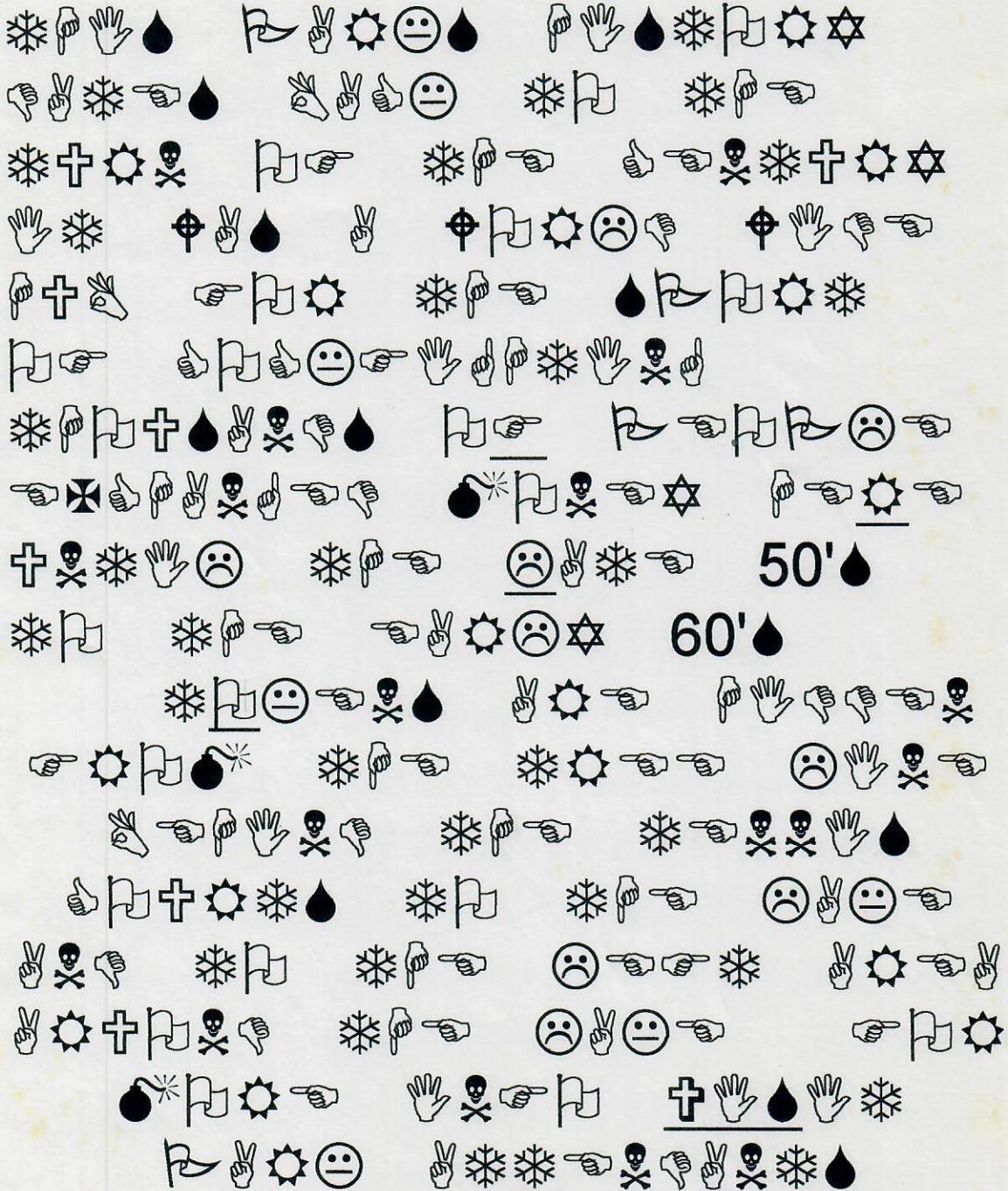
The Florida Yankee wants your Civil War and Seminole War Collectibles, especially **BUTTONS**. Call Dave at (407)767-0530.

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# PELEADE DE GALLO



PELEADE GALLO  
GAME COCK  
)O★ΔΛOΛ□

THIS PARKS HISTORY  
DATES BACK TO THE TURN  
OF THE CENTURY. IT WAS A  
WORLD WIDE HUB FOR THE  
SPORT OF COCK FIGHTING.  
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE  
EXCHANGED MONEY HERE  
UNTIL THE LATE  
50'S TO  
THE EARLY  
60'S

TOKENS ARE HIDDEN  
FROM THE TREE LINE BEHIND  
THE TENNIS COURTS TO THE  
LAKE AND TO THE LEFT  
AREA AROUND THE LAKE.  
FOR MORE INFO VISIT  
PARK ATTENDANTS