



THE LEAVERITE NEWS



September, 2015

Rusk County Treasure Hunters Association * Henderson, Texas

Member of Texas Association of Metal Detector Clubs (TAMDC)

2015 RCTHA OFFICERS

President - Michael Heim (903) 241-4723
Vice President – Rick Hurlburt (903) 445-9691
Treasurer – Mary Hurlburt (903) 445-9591
Secretary - JoAnn Dunn (903) 392-3575

Hunt Master – Wayne Adkison (903) 928-9135
Board Member – Keith Wills (903) 734-7773
Board Member – Larry Wilkinson (903) 720-4808

Meeting Place: South Main Church of Christ (back parking lot building) 402 S. Main St. Henderson, TX
Meeting Time: 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Visitors welcome.
Email Contact: michaelheim39@gmail.com or rcthaclub@aol.com

TexasMonthly

X Marks the Spot

June 2009

By Skip Hollandsworth



Texas is full of buried booty—or, to be a bit more accurate, full of stories about buried booty that no one has been able to find. Here are six of the supposedly greatest Texas treasures still out there.

So read this, get up, and go after your pot of gold. Just let me know if you find anything so I can break the story first.

1. The Sam Bass Loot: In perhaps his greatest venture, Texas’s legendary stagecoach and bank robber Sam Bass traveled to Big Springs, Nebraska, with his sidekick Joel Collins and held up the Union Pacific Railroad. They got away with three thousand freshly-minted 1877 \$20 gold pieces. Although \$25,000 worth of coins and jewelry have been accounted for, no one knows where the rest of the loot went, and Collins and Bass were killed before they revealed anything. Legend has it that Bass’s part of the money is in Cove Hollow, about thirty miles from Denton.

2. East Texas Gold from Mexico: In 1839 Mirabeau B. Lamar, the newly inaugurated successor to Sam Houston as President of Texas, sent the Texas Army out to get rid of the Cherokees. A huge battle ensued between the two groups near what is now known as Tyler. The Cherokees started getting their butts kicked. As they retreated, they headed into what is now known as Upshur County. (All you English teachers out there, stop making fun of me for using the “what is now known as” phrase two sentences in a row.) A few of the Cherokees were accompanied by agents of the Mexican government who had promised a lot of money to the tribe if they were able to drive out the Texans. Eventually, the Mexicans unloaded the money—gold and silver coins—so they could make an escape. Many treasure hunters are convinced the money continues to lie beneath the mud of Little Cypress Creek in Upshur County.

3. Singer Treasure on Padre Island: In the mid-nineteenth century, a man named Isaac Merritt Singer made significant improvements to the sewing machine. He built a new kind of sewing machine, and in 1851 he started I.M. Singer & Co., which was renamed the Singer Manufacturing Company in 1865. Meanwhile, his younger brother John was exploring the coast of Texas. At one point, while wandering the beaches of Padre Island, he came across a bunch of Spanish coins. He also might have—(might have, I remind you)—come across a wooden chest containing what was then \$80,000 in jewelry and coins. According to legend, Singer hid the money he found in a large sand dune that he called “Money Hill.” But as fate would have it, he and his family had to abandon their Texas home during the Civil War because they were considered Union sympathizers. When they returned after the war, Singer could no longer find Money Hill because the sands had shifted and erased all the landmarks that he once knew. It is now thought that the money is on the southernmost tip of Padre Island.

4. The Lost Padre Mine: Somewhere in the Franklin Mountains overlooking the Rio Grande River in El Paso County is the Lost Padre Mine. Back in the 1580’s, Spanish conquistadors and priests often passed beneath the peaks of the Franklins on their way to New Mexico to colonize the Indian villages. According to one legend, a group of priests put about three hundred burro loads of silver in a mine on one of their expeditions to New Mexico. They then filled in the shaft. Another legend has it that in 1595, Juan de Oñate hid five silver bars, 4,336 gold ingots, nine burro loads of jewels, and four priceless Aztec codices (books or manuscripts) in the mine. My favorite part of the legend is that the Guadalupe Mission in El Paso was built in way so that the shadows of the mission point to the Lost Padre Mine.

5. The Lost Treasure of Hendrick’s Lake: The infamous pirate of the Gulf Jean Lafitte took a \$2 million fortune in silver from a Spanish galleon and supposedly buried it in the Sabine River near the East Texas town of Sabine. Ho-hum, right? Just another myth? Well, according to a story by Mary Rogers of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, there is evidence that in the early 1800’s the theft did happen and that Jean Lafitte’s men, afraid that they were about to be ambushed, pushed several wagons loaded with silver ingots into the muddy waters. Some fishermen in the last century pulled several silver bars from those very waters with a hoop net. That set off a huge treasure hunting stampede. In 1884 treasure hunters were all over the Sabine and a nearby lake that had been fed by the Sabine. The story died down but regained momentum when treasure hunting became popular again in the fifties and when True West magazine printed an article about the long-forgotten silver prompting treasure hunters to flock to Carthage and Tatum. After getting some readings at the bottom of the lake (Hendrick’s Lake), two Dallas oilmen actually brought in a giant crane and attached a drag bucket to the cable. But they got nothing. More than once the crane almost toppled into the water. The oilmen then built a raft with a hole in the center and sank large pipes into the goop on the lake bottom. They lowered another contraption through the pipe to the lake floor. A light came on when the probe hit metal. But a giant storm hit the area, destroying the raft and washing away all the evidence. Later, someone else who got high metal

readings tried to dynamite the bottom of the lake. But alas, nothing came of it. There are still treasure hunters to this day who believe the Lafitte fortune would be found if the lake was drained.

6. The Lost San Saba Silver Mine: This lost mine, with its rich vein of silver, has been what one treasure hunter writer has called “the Holy Grail of Texas treasure seekers.” In 1756 a Mexican official traveling through Texas learned from Indians of an exposed strain of pure silver that ran through a certain hill in Central Texas. In the early 1800’s, Stephen F. Austin, on his first trip to Texas, also heard about a rich silver mine on the San Saba River and a gold mine on the Llano. He sent soldiers to look for it, but they found nothing. By 1829, the mythical “lost” silver mine of San Saba began appearing on Austin’s maps of Texas. More maps appeared showing various locations of a lost silver mine. Just about every book written about Texas in that era mentioned it. James Bowie went on an expedition to find it. So where is it? An historian named Herbert Bolton, using the original journals of the Mexicans from the eighteenth century, found what is now known as the Boyd shaft on Honey Creek. In 1909 members of the United States Geological Survey visited the site, which they described as being unproductive. But to this day, treasure hunters are unswayed. They know it’s there. They know it. And the search goes on.

If you would like to submit an article, story, or pictures of your adventures in metal detecting to “The Leaverite News” please submit to michaelheim39@gmail.com by the 1st of each month.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James & Vickie Pannel-Troup
Warren Garlock-Whitehouse

FINANCIAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2015



Previous Balance: August 01, 2015	\$1,462.72
Income:	
Aug. 2015	
Split the Pot	\$53.50
Membership Dues	\$50.00
3rd Quarterly Fundraiser	\$40.00
City of Gladewater Return Deposit	\$75.00
Bake Sale Fundraiser	\$35.00
BINGO	\$152.00
Meeting ticket fundraiser	\$166.00
Surf & Turf Hunt Entry Fees	\$180.00
Surf & Turf Ticket Fundraiser	<u>\$115.00</u>

Total Income: **\$866.50**

Expenses:

Aug. 2015	
Vista print website	\$17.99
Prizes for BINGO	\$130.00
Total Expenses:	\$147.99

Closing Balance 08-31-15	\$2181.23
Inventory Coins (in SDB) @ cost	\$500.00
Petty Cash	\$106.17
General Club Assets	\$2787.40

{ CALENDAR } OF EVENTS

Dates & Times are Subject to Change)

RCTHA Flag Hunt (club outing)	Sept. 19 th @ 10:00 a.m. @ Lake Hawkins
RCTHA Fall Silver Hunt	Oct. 17 th @ 10:00 a.m. @ Eastside Baptist, Henderson
RCTHA Syrup Festival	Nov. 14 th @ 8:00 a.m. @ Henderson Depot Museum
RCTHA Christmas Party/Awards	Dec. 8 th , 6:30 p.m. @ White Oak Baptist Church

2015 Club Service Projects:

Food Boxes: Bring can foods and non-perishable food items to each club meeting for food boxes to be donated by the club during the 2015 holidays.

Trash Buckets: Don't throw away your metal trash after you're through detecting. Separate your aluminum, brass, copper and lead items and bring them to the club meetings and place in RCTHA Buckets. At the end of the year we will cash all the metals in and give a gift certificate for a kidney dialysis.



4th Quarter Giveaway

Predator Detecting Shovel Model 35 - Piranha \$112.00 Value

41" overall length with a 1" shaft * T-Handle measures 1 1/4" x 15 3/8" * Blade measures 5 3/4" wide x 11 1/4" long. Weight: Approx. 3 lbs 2 oz * This is a great digging tool for metal detecting, relic hunting, gardening, nursery, landscaping, and rescue work. It is a great tool for making clean-cut ground plugs. It tears right through the thickest of roots with its doubled-serrated edge. A great tool for relic hunters or for anyone else who needs a quality based digging tool. The Blade is Chrome-Molly 4130 Aircraft quality steel that has been heat treated and tempered, (one at a time) to give our customers nothing less than the best and strongest digging tools ever made.



Drawing will be December 8, 2015

PARK TOKENS REPORT

NOTE: Tokens are now placed in Longview's, Flewellen Park on Judson Road across from Posados Mexican Restaurant, Kilgore City Park, and Eastside Baptist Church in Henderson. There are 8-9 tokens in each park and are good for either silver dollars, silver halves, silver quarters or silver dimes. There will be a time at each monthly club meeting in exchange for silver coins. **If you find one of our old non-marked tokens you can turn them in for a silver dime.**

Park	Tokens	Found	Remaining	Special Tokens
Flewellen Park, Longview	8	4	4	0
City Park, Kilgore	8	3	5	1
EBC, Henderson	9	6	3	1

Leader Board:

Joel Barton (4) A.D. Clark (3) Bob Brown (2) Dorris St. Claire (2) Dana Logston (2)

WINNERS of the FINDS OF THE MONTH – August 2015

Coin-	1st	Joel Barton	1892 Indian Head Penny
	2nd	Terry Lemmon	1936 Walking Liberty Half
	3rd	Michael Heim	1917 Mercury Dime
Jewelry-	1st	Michael Heim	Silver/Citrine Stone Ring
	2nd	Michael Moore	Silver/Turquoise Ring
	3rd	Dorris St. Claire	Tungsten Ring
Token-	1st	Tom Moss	American Legion Token
	2nd	Jack Barnett	No Cash Value Token
	3rd	Mike Ross	Car Wash Token



Relic-	1st	Gene Richardson	1859-1863 Texas Star Button
	2nd	Tom Moss	CSA Button
	3rd	Michael Heim	1940's Toy Gun
Judges -	1st	Mary Hurlburt	1960's Toy Gun
Choice	2nd	Terry Lemmon	Civil War Suspenders
	3rd	Michael Heim	WW1 Eagle Button
Consolation Winner-		Mike Ross	Silver Necklace

* **The Consolation Winner** in the *Finds of the Month* is determined by the Hunt Master and 2 Board Members. This is an award given to a person whose object in the *Finds of the Month* did not get voted on, for whatever reason, but was worthy of a win. The Consolation Winner will earn no points for the Digger of the Year competition.

RCTHA Leading Diggers- Thru July

Leading diggers will change from month to month based on the points given with each win from the *Finds of the Month* competition. These points will determine in December who will be the *Digger of the Year*.



Tom Moss	68 Points	28 Wins
Michael Heim	59 Points	29 Wins
Mike Ross	24 Points	12 Wins
Joel Barton	22 Points	12 Wins
Terry Lemmon	14 Points	7 Wins

TICKETS, BINGO CARDS & SPLIT THE POT DRAWING

Each month we will have tickets and Bingo Cards (every other month) sales to raise funds for the club. Tickets and BINGO cards are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You can buy tickets for the following:

- Coins-** there will be 3-4 drawings each club meeting for quality coins and sometimes even a gold coin.
- Quarterly Giveaway-** each quarter we will have a drawing for great prizes such as detectors, silver bars and coins and other items.
- Bingo Cards-** Occasionally we will have a Bingo Night during the time allotted for a speaker. The cards are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. There will be nice quality prizes to be won.
- Split the Pot -** write your name or initials on a \$1 bill, or as many as you like, and place in the 50/50 Bucket and at the close of the meeting we will draw for a winner. If we draw your name you win and split the pot with the club.

Last Month's Ticket Winners:

Ticket Drawings: Rick Hurlburt, Michael Heim (2x), Margaret Logston

Split the Pot Drawing: Terry Lemmon

Door Prizes Winner: Judy Barnett, Sherri Russell, Terry Lemmon, Rick Hurlburt, John Ramsey, JoAnn Dunn

Park Tokens: None

Quarterly Prize Winner: Next Drawing September 8, 2015

Cake Auction: JoAnn Dunn, Steve Weir

BINGO Winners: Mike Ross, Dorris St. Claire

RCTHA Rules for "Finds of the Month"

- 1) To enter any item(s) in the **Finds of the Month** you must be a member of RCTHA and club dues must be current for the year.
- 2) Finds of the month consist of what you have dug or found while metal detecting from the club meeting of the previous month to the current club meeting. For example, you cannot use an item that you found in June 2013 to be placed in January 2014. Finds of January 2014 must be found between club meeting in December 2013 and club meeting in January 2014. Only finds found from the monthly meeting until the next monthly meeting will qualify for the Finds of the Month. **Finds of the Months can only be used once.**
- 3) Any item in any category may be removed by the Hunt Master and one other Board Member or Officer at their discretion if the item does not comply with the Finds of the Month rules. Only one item per member for each of the categories will qualify.
- 4) Any bottle found while in the process of metal detecting on the surface of the ground needs to be placed in the JUDGE'S CHOICE category. All other bottles dug while metal detecting is to be placed in the RELICS or JUDGE'S CHOICE categories. If placed in RELICS, it must be 75 years old or older.
- 5) If you find multiple items of the same category, the first one must go in the applicable category. The additional item(s) can be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS. If placed in RELICS it must be 75 years old or older.
- 6) Pictures and descriptive materials may be substituted for an item if the item is unavailable for display.
- 7) Any current member can vote on Finds of the Month. You are allowed ONLY one vote per category.
- 8) **You must be present at the club meetings** to submit your finds for The Finds of the Month.

FIND OF THE YEAR: Only items entered in the "Finds of the Month" and winning **first place** during the year may be entered in the Find of the Year competition. This runs December through November each year and the Board Members will elect and announce the winner during the December club meeting.

DIGGER OF THE YEAR: The Digger of the Year Award will be determined by total amount of points won from the years Finds of the Month competition. First Place = 3 Points, Second Place = 2 Points and Third Place= 1 Point. There will be a monthly score sheet listed in the newsletter who the leading digger is.

COINS: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. No coins found in planted competition hunts or won by previous wins in the Finds of the Month can be used in this category. If more than one coin is found, one coin must be placed in the COINS category. Additional coins may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE of any

JEWELRY: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. No jewelry found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category. If more than one piece of jewelry is found, one piece of jewelry must be placed in the JEWELRY category. Additional pieces of jewelry may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS if it is 75 years old or older.

TOKENS: Must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. No tokens found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category. If more than one token is found, one token must be placed in the TOKENS category. Additional tokens may be placed in JUDGE'S CHOICE or RELICS if it is 75 years old or older.

RELICS: Anything 75 years old or older and must be dug while in the process of metal detecting. No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

JUDGE'S CHOICE: Anything dug while in the process of metal detecting, bottles, relics, additional coins, additional jewelry and additional tokens. No items found in planted competition hunts can be used in this category.

METAL DETECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS



1. Respect the rights and property of others
2. Do not detect without the land owner's permission
3. Observe all laws, whether National, State, or Local
4. Aid Law Enforcement Officials whenever possible
5. Never destroy historical or archeological structures
6. Never destroy, damage or deface public or private property, or what is left of ghost towns or deserted structures
7. Leave land and vegetation as it was
8. Remove and properly dispose of all trash and litter when you leave
9. Leave gates and enclosures as found
10. Do not tamper with land owner signs, structural facilities, or equipment
11. Take precautions when digging towards a target where underground conditions are unknown.
12. You may be judged by the example you set so always be courteous with consideration for others.
13. ALWAYS COVER YOUR HOLES!



NEXT MONTH'S MEETING

October 13th @ 7:00 p.m., 402 South Main, Henderson, TX.

Speaker: RCTHA V.P Rick Hurlburt

-RUSK COUNTY TREASURE HUNTERS ASSOCIATION-