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Redwood Empire Coin Club

Volume 75, Issue 9, Meeting #862, September 14, 2022

Next Meeting: October 12, 2022

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The September meeting was a trip down memory lane- thanks to all who shared. Before we started the topic, Merle updated us on our upcoming **February 17-18, 2023 Coin Show**. **Gold Drawing** Tickets will soon be printed and hopefully available for the October meeting so you can all get started on selling those. It is one of our biggest sources of income for the show and helps cover our costs (and to be prepared to continue the show for another year). Don Rinkor has again generously agreed to donate slabbed silver dollars for the hourly silver dollar drawing, as well as donating gold coins for the gold coin draw! Please remember to thank him for his generosity.

The October meeting will feature our **4th Annual Lee Gong Memorial Benefit Auction**. It is hard to believe it has been four years since Lee passed away- we still miss him. Bring a coin (~\$10 value) to put in the auction. All proceeds benefit the club and help pay printing, mailing, room rent, etc.- it is appreciated! There will be no regular auction. **PLEASE** bring your items in early so Andy O has enough time to get ready for the auction. All the late auction entries have been stressing him out, and he is doing a great job for us.

In addition, **the club will provide** an awesome **DESSERT NIGHT** for everybody. Food and coins- can it get any better?

What Is Your Earliest Recollection of Collecting Coins?

Gary C (on Zoom from Peralta, New Mexico!) remembers a fictional pirate named Billy Bones in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel Treasure Island. His parents had friends named Bill and Muriel Bone who introduced Gary to Mercury dimes. They said (in the 1960s) to put those away because they weren't being made and were going to increase in value. He got a Dansco album when he lived ten blocks away from the Dansco factory in Venice, CA., and started filling it up. He still has the album! And that was the beginning of his love of dimes. He started filling the album by going to Sears, a block from the entrance to the Santa Monica Pier. Sears had a hobby section in its automotive department, where there were albums of 2X2 flips for purchase. His first Barber dime was a 1908-D. His dad advised to collect for condition, not just the oldest thing you could find. Gary also sent a note to the club about the Albuquerque Coin Club Great Southwest Coin Expo scheduled Nov 11-13, 2022 at Marriott Pyramid Hotel, Albuquerque. Come & meet the AMA Numismatist of the year 2022, Rod Frechette.

- Paul C- started a numismatic web site called GradedGoldCoins.com. The website was shown on the screen to the club, and he described his goal. Check it out!
- Guy S sent in the following on-line to the club since he couldn't make the meeting: Here's my story from my 1st encounter with coins at 10 years old. Thanksgiving 1952 my aunt & uncle came to our house in their 1930 Studebaker. My aunt brings a box with about 20 foreign coins dating back to 1811 for me. The rest is history...hooked forever! In recent years I have recovered most all into a small box like the original.
- Phil A remembers saving dimes in elementary school for the March of Dimes. He must have given away hundreds of Mercury dimes. When he grew up, he started seriously collecting coins- US, world, everything he could get his hands on. It all started with this 1937-S dime.



- Bill S and his brother were hired in 1950-51 to sell newspapers after school in San Francisco at the corners of Guerrero or Valencia and 16th or 18th Streets, for 7 cents. That is where Buffalo nickels and Indian Head cents were found. Then they were promoted to sell Sunday newspapers in front of the church at Mission Dolores at 16th and Dolores streets- and they got silver dollars!
- Ember S remembers Christmas 1968. She and her younger brother collected cents then. He was very competitive and asked his parents for a 1909-S VDB cent for Christmas! And their parents bought one at the *shoe store* where coins were also sold. Dad took a coffee can, stuffed it with newspaper, and taped the coin to the *bottom* of the can and wrapped the whole thing. Their sister, who could not stand to see anything wrapped, unwrapped the package, found the cent and took it, then wrapped the can back up! Her brother eventually got the coin (in mint state at the time and costing ~\$100, now worth over \$1,400). He still has it, as well as a 1931-S cent he got that year from their dad's business partner. They have been involved in coin collecting ever since.
- Bill Van V started working for the U.S. Mint in 1971 and became interested in Eisenhower dollars. He later expanded his interest to proof sets. He was able to take a few club members on tours of the mint right before retiring- and there are some great stories about that.
- David Young remembers getting silver dollars as a kid every time his family went to Reno. But he doesn't know what happened to all of those. In the early 1970s his mom worked as a waitress and brought him home silver dimes which he kept in a Sucrets box. He doesn't remember the dime dates, but it was the start of his collecting
- When Bob K was 5 years old in 1958, his grandmother moved in with them. She helped him get rolls of cents from the bank. They would go through the rolls together, and he put together a nice Lincoln cent collection- with good memories of his time with his grandmother.



- Stephen K talked about starting to collect in the 1950s as a young child. He would get a 50 cent allowance every two weeks. His father advised to look for 1955-S dimes, 1950-D nickels, and others- and he saved a bunch of them. He talked about learning about values, particularly since his parents lived through the depression. The Morgan and Peace dollars were of value, and 100 years later the silver eagles are also of value (and increasing since they started being minted in 1986).



- David S remembers going to Reno in 2012 at the age of 7. He was at a convention and took a day to go down to the Carson City Mint for a tour- and was impressed. Three years later he recalls seeing his uncle's collection, which included boxes of graded (slabbed) coins. That was something new to him, and he was also impressed with those. Shortly after he went to one of our coin shows and got a bunch of "freebies", and his collecting interests took off from there.

- William C told how his family was originally from Montreal. So, when family came down to visit in Philadelphia, he was the kid who got the Canadian coins since the Philadelphia transit system would not accept Canadian coins. He started collecting Canadian cents and completed a Canadian large cent collection. But when he really got hooked collecting was when he was going to San Francisco State University. In the Avenues was a shop that had import/export items,



and in the corner of the window was a rack of Russian coins, big “cartwheels”- the 5 Kopek coins. He was studying European history at the time. He talked with the shop owner, who for the next twenty years guided him in collecting Russian coins. When that man retired, he gave Bill the best advice (as a present): “before you buy the coins, buy the book”. Bill brought in that book he was given 52 years ago.

- Erik S remembers being about 6 years old in the 1980s, when he would go with his mom to the laundromat. He would look for loose change under the change machine or in the machines. One day he found a wheat cent and brought it home. When he looked at it closer, it was a 1914-D! He kept it and recently had it slabbed, shown here. That is what got him started with numismatics.



- Merle was 6 years old when he was working for his father, making 25cents/hour for a 40-hour week. With that \$10 each week, he would spend \$2 on crab (he loves to eat crab!), put \$2 in savings, and spend \$6 on coins! There was a coin shop in Sebastopol with all sorts of coins! He got a small bag of coins each week, even though his parents questioned if it was worth it. At around age 8 his grandmother was going to Reno/Tahoe and bringing back silver dollars. He offered to buy them from her, but she declined. A year later she gave them to him for Christmas, about 15-18 silver dollars- which he still has. At about age 10 he started buying coin collections. He started learning about collections and prices. He would go to people’s houses to buy their collection. He would take the best coin, set it aside, and then grade and price everything- and pay for it all. He would then take it all to Jack Beymer and sell it all, except for keeping that one best coin for himself. Once he was outside Beymer’s shop when someone was inside there to sell a collection to Jack. Not happy with the price offered, they left, and Merle asked what the offer was- and offered to pay *double* to the person, who accepted. Jack noticed and came outside and chewed Merle out. When Merle went to purchase his first house with his wife, he went to Exchange Bank (which would do valuations at the time)- and used his collection as the down payment! And it has been great collecting ever since, lots of fun.

- Charlie C recalls the first coins in his collection coming from his father. Dad grew up on the family ranch in Santa Barbara. Grandfather was mostly a farmer, but there were some cattle and horses on the ranch as well. Gophers were a danger to livestock (because of holes in the ground), so dad was given a nickel for each gopher he could trap. About a dozen extremely worn Liberty head nickels were among the first coins in the collection, as well as partly filled Whitman albums of Indian and Lincoln cents. Growing up in the San Fernando Valley, the first recollection of a coin shop was a special trip to downtown Los Angeles to Robinsons Department Store. That and the May Company were the two main department stores, and Robinsons had a coin department right at the top of either the third floor or fourth floor escalator. Inside the glass display cases were various individual coins. The first one purchased, probably at age 10 or so, was a silver dime-sized ancient Roman denarius of Septimius Severus, who died in 211 AD. It cost ~\$10 and looked beautiful. Only much later did I realize that there had been a hole which had been plugged. Unfortunately, that coin

was lost in the Tubbs Fire in 2017. Soon after, the second coin ever purchased was a 1794 halfpenny, also for ~ \$10. This was a Conder Token from England, featuring Lady Godiva, and I still have it pictured here. There was no way to afford a U.S. coin which was that old. And it relates to an old English legend. Lady Godiva was a real person, born in 990 AD, the wife of the Earl of Mercia. The taxes he imposed on the citizens were extremely high, and she sympathized with them. She repeatedly asked him to lower the taxes, and he repeatedly refused. She persisted in asking, and he finally relented and said he would lower taxes if she would ride naked on horseback through the town (Coventry). So, she agreed, warned the townsfolk to all stay indoors, and rode through town naked. Only one person stayed outside to watch, a tailor named Tom- dubbed "Peeping Tom". Lady Godiva did not likely ride through town naked, but she was very pious and donated generously to charity. The reverse of the token features Coventry Cross, a large monument with a cross on top that has come and gone over the centuries. A second version of this token features Lady Godiva on the obverse and an elephant carrying a castle on the reverse, which were the Arms of Coventry. If you show up to next month's meeting, one of this type of token will be in the auction!



- I also remember a small coin shop on the side of the Topanga Plaza as a kid. There was a "coin board" with weekly auctions. Coins in 2X2 PVC flips (those were common in the 1960s) were tacked on bulletin boards with a bid sheet below each one to write your bid down. At a certain time, no more bids were accepted. I was always outbid! That shop is long gone, with the plaza going from one level to three levels, and a five-story parking garage now. Another small coin shop in Reseda was a total mess, though the dealer knew where every single coin was. I got some Lincoln cents to add to my collection there. Unfortunately, that dealer was murdered in a robbery. One final coin dealer I went to in the late '60s and early '70s was Danny B Crabb in Van Nuys. He had local arrowheads and other interesting things, but mostly coins. I remember when gold became legal to purchase again. English gold sovereign coins were \$11, and I could afford one. It wasn't in great condition, but it was gold. Today the melt value is ~\$400. St. Gaudens \$20 gold coins were only \$60, but I didn't have that much to buy one. And unfortunately, Danny Crabb died suddenly of a heart attack. So, my teenage coin collecting continued with auctions every other month in Van Nuys at the Golden Valley Auditorium. George Bennett was the auctioneer, a crusty old guy but good at the trade (he also did big Beverly Hills auctions, among others). I was able to get more old coins and some odd and curious ones there as well. Now that I am older and a bit odd and curious, you can see where my interests started.



KIDS CORNER

At the September meeting Ember showed juniors how to properly mount coins in 2 x 2 holders. Thank you, Ember.

At the October meeting, we will select some of my items for the Lee Gong auction. We will also reflect on the great person that Lee was.

See you at 6:15PM- Rich



DRAWING WINNERS

Membership: Gary C, Tiffany S, Roger N, Glenn M, and Ember S

50:50 pot of \$68 was split with Deanna J

Raffle: William C, Gary C, Kim S (4 times), Roman S, Chris H, Andy O, David Y (3 times), and Glenn M

September Attendance: 40+

New Member: Chris H, # 996- WELCOME!

Guests: Phil A's friend Pat from New York; Chris (who joined!); and Bill S Junior

Auction: 38 exciting items.

Adjournment was at 8:58 p.m. sharp!



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UPCOMING SHOWS AND EVENTS

October 7–9, 2022. Diablo Numismatic Society’s Contra Costa Coin and Collectibles Show. Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek

October 15, 2022. Delta Coin Club Coin Show. Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton

October 21-22, 2022. Fresno Numismatic Society 55th Annual Coin Show. American Legion Post #509, 3509 N. First St., Fresno

October 29-30, 2022. SF Area Coins, Stamps, and Collectibles Show. Doubletree Hotel South San Francisco, 275 South Airport Blvd, South San Francisco

February 17-18, 2023. REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB’s 53rd Annual Coin Show. E.L. Finley Building, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa

The Redwood Empire Coin Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Club’s meeting location is the **Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa** (opposite the County Fairgrounds across from Highway 12), in the “**Dinner Room**” on the east side of the building, at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

Check out our newsletter at: **Redwoodempirecoinclub.com**

Thanks for reading. Corrections? Additions? Questions? E-mail us at:

newsletter@Redwoodempirecoinclub.com. See you **in person at the Vets Building** October 12, 2022—
Charlie