

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

THE BUZZER

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We have Roundness!!! Just a few items that we might like to find under our coils as we are enjoying the Summer Metal Detecting Season.

The Buzzer is published by and for the membership of the CMDC – Canada's oldest Active Metal Detecting Club.

Visit us on the internet @ www.cmdc.org.

ALBERTA'S OWN MYSTERY MINE

The story of the Lost Lemon Mine has been called “the greatest mystery of the Canadian Rockies”. As the story has been around for well over a century there are, by now, many versions of “the truth” but all begin in 1870 at Tobacco Plains, Montana and ends not far from Calgary.



Legend has it that a party of prospectors made their way from the outpost in Montana to the Highwood Range. Two men from the group, Frank Lemon and his partner, a man known as “Blackjack”, set out on a route of their own, and decided to hunt the foothills in the Southwestern part of Alberta. According to Dan Riley, who was Mayor of High River in 1906, Blackjack and Lemon found showings of gold in an unknown river. They decided to follow the mountain stream toward the headwaters, digging search pits along the river. Finally, as the two men made their way along the trail the pair noticed showings-outcroppings that indicated veins of gold below the surface of the ground that they were traversing.

Not wanting to share their find with anyone else from the original party, Lemon and Blackjack quickly gathered as many pieces of gold ore as they could. They knew they would need these samples in order to attract someone to bankroll a potential mining operation. Once they had amassed a sizeable stock-pile of ore samples, the pair set up camp for the night. They planned to head back to Montana early the next morning.

Several variations of the tale exist to explain what might have happened next. Some say Blackjack and Lemon got into an argument that escalated into a physical fight. Others say that the two were on good terms when they turned in for the night. What is known is that by sunrise Blackjack was dead – murdered by his former friend and partner, Frank Lemon. As for Lemon, overnight, he had gone stark raving mad.

According to one version of the story, the badly deranged Lemon left the body of his former friend where it lay and headed back to Tobacco Plains. When he got there he sought counsel from the local priest and confessed his terrible crime. He believed that this confession would free him from the ghost of Blackjack, which Lemon was sure had been haunting him from the moment that he'd killed the man. It would seem that Blackjack's ghost, not wanting Lemon to profit from his foul deed, had decided to spoil his former friend's plan by appearing as a ghost and frightening Lemon out of his wits. Throughout the long nights ever since he committed the murder, Lemon had been terrorized by ghostly moans and the sight of disembodied glowing eyes glaring at him. By the time he made his way to Tobacco Plains, the tormented Frank Lemon had gone completely insane.

The following spring, Lemon was thought to be well enough to join an expedition to stake a claim in the Highwood area. The party was not successful, for the closer Lemon got to the place where he'd killed his friend, the more deranged and unstable he became. Eventually the group gave up and returned to Montana where they made arrangements to send Lemon to his brother's ranch in Texas. It is said that Lemon lived there until his death many years later, but never recovered. To his death Frank Lemon believed that Blackjack was haunting him.



The story became a favourite told by the camp-fire, and caused much speculation. Some researchers believe it to be a fanciful tale, but over the last century thousands of expeditions have been launched to try to discover the location of this lost mother-lode. There are records of these searches in the Calgary Herald in the 1920s and 1930s. Many have searched for it, some have even died for it, but no one has found the infamous Lost Lemon Mine. Even today, almost 150 years later, prospectors go out each summer searching the area between Montana and the Highwood River. They all hope to discover their own place in history by being the one to locate the notorious “Lost Lemon Mine.”

THE REAL TREASURES

By Willy McQuillan

This is a story about the values and the things that the best treasure hunters look for when we're metal detecting. Some things we kind of don't realize their value.



Willy McQuillan

I was searching in a park in Calgary. And it wasn't the best search until I hit a signal on my machine. So I dug it up and I found my very first ring!!!

Now what was the value of that ring? It was a child's ring. It had a heart with a glass diamond in it. Off to my right there were a mother, father, and a little girl sitting at a picnic table watching me.

So what I did was - I walked over to the little girl. I took the ring and put it on her finger. Her eyes lit up as if I gave her \$1 million! The smile went from ear to ear! Now you tell me what was that ring's value to that little girl?! That ring was priceless and it made me feel really good!

The parents smiled and were very happy as well. Sometimes I think we forget what values we have in our "treasures". And what we hold in our possession as a valuable. But it was sure nice to see the smile of happiness of that little girl!



I still say you shouldn't have glued that penny inside his search head cover.

Postcards from Calgary's History



Swimming Hole in Elbow Park 1940s



**Future Neighbourhood of Riverside
(now called Bridgeland)**



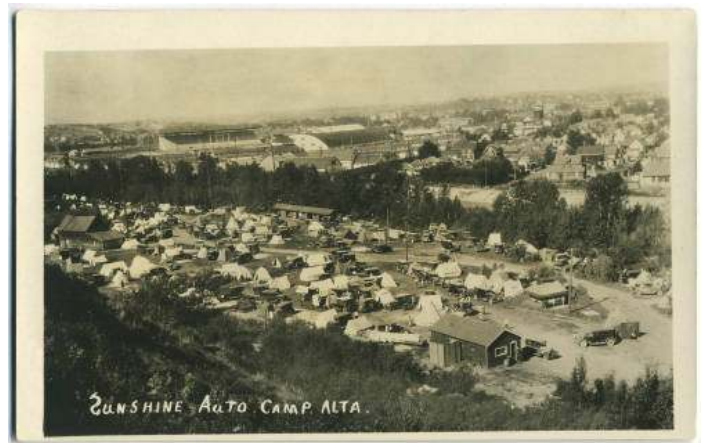
Calgary Town Center - circa 1906



Elbow Boulevard Park (now Woods Park), near Mission



The Neighbourhood of Sunnyside



**Sunshine Auto Camp (1920s)
located to the East of Stampede Park, near Victoria Park.**

Some of our recent finds show the benefit of researching Calgary history. Knowing where people congregated in the past is a big step in finding where long-lost items might be recovered. The postcards above all date from the early 1900s through the 1940s, and show areas of Calgary, and how they looked over 50 years ago. These postcards were found on the historical postcard archive of the Calgary Public Library. Another great place to locate historical photos is the Glenbow Museum photographic archive.

Glenbow Museum Photo Archive: <http://ww2.glenbow.org/search/archivesPhotosSearch.aspx>

Calgary Library Postcard Archive: <http://cdm280501.cdmhost.com/cdm/landingpage/collection/p280501coll15>

WAR NICKELS

Canadian 5-cent coins have not been silver since 1921, when the Canadian Government changed from the tiny fishscale type (about half the size of a dime) to the familiar size and shape we still use today.

In the United States, there was a period of time when the mint went back to silver nickels. During the second World War, nickel became a critical war material, because it was used for airplanes, boats and ammunition. When the United States entered World War II, and led to the creation of "War Nickels". According to Wikipedia, "Congress authorized a nickel made of 50% copper and 50% silver, but gave the Mint the authority to vary the proportions, or add other metals.

An alloy of 56% copper, 35% silver, and 9% manganese proved suitable to satisfying counterfeit detectors in vending machines, and was coined into nickels October 1942. These US nickels are easy to identify because of the large "S" over the image of Monticello. The original composition returned in 1946. So, check your finds if you dig an American nickel, to see if you have found one of these historic coins.



In Canada, we had the same issue with nickel being in great demand as a war material. This forced the temporary abandonment of its use in minting 5-cent pieces. However, the Canadian mint did not choose silver for their 5-cent pieces. The first substitute material used was a type of brass called tombac.

Tombac is an alloy of zinc and nickel with various other metals, and was only used for two years, 1942 and 1943. The 1942 coin was a Beaver nickel. In 1943 the mint developed the Victory nickel, rendering a patriotic "V for Victory" and a flaming torch in place of the beaver. The usual rim beads around the edge were replaced by Morse code, reading "We win when we work willingly."

Many people complained about the similarity in colour to the penny, so tombac was replaced in 1944 and 1945 with chromium-plated steel, but still used the "Victory" obverse. 1946 saw a return to the beaver, and to the nickel in the composition of our Canadian 5-cent coin.

Detectorists - Helping the Environment

Detecting is a lot of fun, but we sure dig up a lot of not-so-fun stuff. We live in a "disposable" society, and a lot of trash gets dropped, and buried over time. While it isn't fun digging up pull-tabs, aluminum cans, foil packages, and other bits and bobs people toss on the ground - we know that the good stuff will come. Who hasn't cursed at a signal that came in so strong, only to have it turn into a bit of can-slaw, or a bic-type lighter - but that same signal could just as easily have been a ring, or a coin. So we dig it up, and we carry it out.

Detectorists don't get enough attention for what they do to help clean our trashy environment. But that doesn't mean we should stop. Our CMDC club members have quietly filled in old detecting holes they have found, picked up another detectorist's trash that left beside the hole, and picked up extra trash near their own hunt site. Kudos to all of you who follow our code of ethics! I think that we Detectorists are a lot more environmentally conscious, or "greener", than a lot of the general population, as we "clean the environment, one pull-tab at a time".

Baker Park - Watch for Treasure!

BY PEGGY KEMP

It was a beautiful Saturday in June of 2009, and the Calgary Metal Detecting Club was having a club hunt at Baker Park. There were a number of people at the club hunt, and everyone enjoyed the outing. I remember the current Buzzer Editor, Dale Downing, finding a silver locket with a 1970s photo still inside. James Belke and Andy Coward both found George V and George VI silver. My best find of the day was a brass soap dish for a claw-foot tub that I was able to date to the 1920s by using old mail-order catalogues.



Baker Park has a lot of history. The hospital was constructed in 1918, and started out as a rehabilitation hospital for veterans of WWI. Over the next 50 years, it served many purposes, and was used as a tuberculosis sanatorium, polio ward, and hospital for mentally challenged adults. It was torn down in the late 1980s, and the City of Calgary redeveloped it as a park area. Since that time, it has received fairly constant use.

Sometime during that 2009 hunt, and the digging of many holes the watch that I was wearing on my wrist slipped off. The watch was a gold-washed Bulova wrist-watch, with a black face. It had been a gift from my husband for our Anniversary a few years before. I didn't realize that it was missing until I got home after the hunt, and I was firmly convinced that that the latch had come loose, and that it had fallen into a hole when I attempted to recover a target. I was positive that I had buried it somewhere in the park. I hunted 3 different areas during the course of the day, and went back to Baker Park to look for it. I searched the areas where I knew that I had been digging during the club hunt, but my watch never showed up under my coil.

Flash Forward 8 years. On May the 27th, 2017 - it was another bright and sunny Spring Day. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club was looking forward to a great hunt day, with over 20 hunters scouring different areas of the park. This was the first time that the CMDC used Baker Park for a club hunt since that eventful hunt eight years before.

I chatted with a few people as I was getting ready to hunt, and I mentioned that I had lost my watch at the last Baker Park hunt. I certainly did not expect anybody to find the watch, and definitely did not expect to find it myself.

I started to hunt the area across from where the administrative buildings used to be decades ago. I noticed a beautiful flowering plum, and stopped to take a photo of it with my detector leaning against it. Behind the plum I noticed a large tree trunk. Now, I always like to detect around tree trunks. I enjoy sitting down and reading a book or having a picnic under a tree, myself, and I find a lot of nice items in shady areas around trees - so I assume other people like the same thing.

I hunted around the plum tree, in front of the flowering plum, I found a wad of tinfoil, but didn't find anything else. I moved on to the big tree. As I hunted around it, I got a really nice crisp mid-tone signal. It was my second target of the day, and I was amazed when I dug the target, and pulled out MY OWN WATCH. I found the watch that I had lost in Baker Park - 8 years before. The day got even better when I also recovered a silver charm, an Engineers pinkie ring, and a copper ring.



The Bulova watch still looked great, but unfortunately, the watch was not repairable. In Aviation terminology, I would call it BER (Beyond Economical Repair). It is pretty-well toasted - with rust showing around the face, and the dial-hand pin - I'm not surprised at that, as the glass face-plate was loose when I dug it up, and it spent a good amount of time during the 2013 flood under water. But it is still an incredible find. I'm still shaking my head over the fact that I dug up my own watch 8 years later. How crazy is that ?!!!!?!

FINDS OF THE MONTH CATEGORIES

You've found our great hobby, and had fun digging something up – Now it is time for the Calgary Metal Detecting Club meeting, and you are wondering just what category your treasure fits in – The CMDC has four categories that are voted on each month for "Best Find of the Month." Each member may enter one item in each of those four categories – their own personal best choice for "Find of the Month."

BEST COIN

Best Coin includes any piece of metal that represented legal tender for the nation or region in which it circulated. If the coin has been incorporated into a piece of jewellery, it could go into the Treasure category instead. Upper Canada and Maritime Bank tokens and jetons were all considered legal tender, so they would be considered coins. The coin can be made out of any metal. Any attempts to sneak in wooden nickels or Canadian Tire money will be frowned upon.

BEST TREASURE

If it's made out of a precious metal (gold, silver, platinum) and isn't a coin, it belongs here. Gold rings, silver rings, gold bracelets, gold bars, gold dust ... you get the idea. Club members in the past have brought in gold nuggets, and Silver Victoria Jubilee teaspoons. The best way to tell is if your item is "treasure" is if it has a hallmark, but that isn't going to present in every case. Some jewellery is Artisan crafted, or was created in a country where hallmarks are not the norm. Note that the club does have a gold-tester, so ask, and we can test if your item actually is gold.

BEST RELIC

The CMDC considers relics as items over 35 years of age. That doesn't seem very old, but Calgary is a fairly young area. If your item is a non-precious metal, is over 35 years old, and it's not a coin or piece of jewellery, this is where it fits in. Tokens, buttons, bullets, militaria, watches, tools, antique toys, medals ... anything that is over 35 years old is welcome.

BEST TRINKET



Any other item that you find can be entered under Best Trinket. This can include Costume jewellery, modern toys, newer tools, nifty gadgets, fishing lures, or anything that just doesn't look old enough to be really considered a Relic. Think of such things as being "Relics-In-Training".



LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the Brentwood Co-op store which is located just off Crowchild Trail between Charleswood Drive and Brisbois Drive N.W. You have to enter the store and go down-stairs (door by the Bakery) to find the meeting room.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p>GPS Central & RadioWorld Central</p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment & tools.</p> <p>4120 8th Street SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 3A7 403-239-1400</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The CMDC's yearly dues are:</p> <p>In-town membership : \$25.00 Out-of-town membership: \$20.00 Family Membership \$40.00</p> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) c/o 6201 Penedo Way SE Calgary, Alberta T2A-3N2</p>
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Kevin Niefer <i>See Below</i></p> <p><i>Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i> 403-720-9501</p> </div> <p>Your RE/MAX Realty Professional</p> <p>To view Kevin's listings visit him on the internet @ www.kevinniefer.com - or give him a call at 403-720-9501 Email: kniefer@calgaryrealestatepros.com</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">BONNA-JEAN CAMPBELL</p>
<p>Cochrane Dental</p> <p>311 1 St E, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z3 403-932-5498</p> <p>Dr. Dwayne Hinz</p> <p>Find us on the web at cochranedentists.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have an interesting story, idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in "The Buzzer".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Write it down and email it to kemp@telus.net with METAL DETECTING STORY in the subject area.</p>
