

Calgary Metal Detecting Club

# THE BUZZER

Volume 55 – issue 2 APRIL 2026

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Looking for old monarchs and round thrills -  
We all hope for a few silver coins under our coil!

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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](http://www.cmdc.org).

## 2026 CMDC CLUB MEETINGS

The Calgary Metal Detecting Club holds “in-person” meetings on the first Thursday of every month. We meet at the Horton Road Legion. The CMDC meeting will start at 7:30 and is planned to end by 9:00 pm. The Horton Road Legion is easily accessible from Deerfoot Trail, MacLeod Trail and Heritage Drive. The address for the Legion is 9202 Horton Road SW.

If there are changes and the meeting is not able to be held on the first Thursday of the month, or is to be moved to another date, the details will be published on the Facebook group page. They will also be emailed to club members.

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### CMDC Club Membership Renewals

With the arrival of 2026 – we are all looking forward to getting out there and finding new treasures. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club will start collecting 2026 membership fee renewals now that the new year is in full swing. We will be taking payment for club dues at the next few in-person meetings of the CMDC – but arrangements can be made for “e-transfer” if that is your preferred method of payment. Contact [cmdcfunds@gmail.com](mailto:cmdcfunds@gmail.com) to arrange for electronic payment options.

The CMDC annual membership renewal cost is:

<b>In-town membership</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Out-of-town member</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Out-of-town Family</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>Senior’s Membership</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>

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### Spring - Time for our Metal Detecting Club Event!

Planning for the CMDC Annual Awards event is in the works. Some recent events leave the date or type of event still up for discussion - further details will be sent out by email and posted on our CMDC Hunt Directory Facebook group page when everything is in place. In the past, the club has held a dinner where CMDC members and guests spent time getting together for a meal and conversation with other hobbyists. This year we might consider other options, like a lunch, or special club hunt event. This event is also where we would announce and celebrate the winners of the Best Finds of the 2025 Metal Detecting Season, and to recognize our CMDC Member of the Year. See below for more information about finds of the year!

### CMDC Finds of the Year Voting

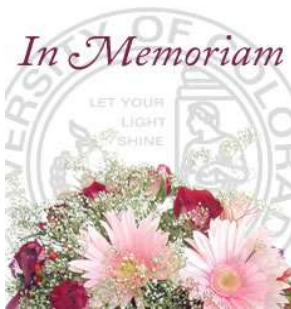
Finds of the Year Voting will take place at the May 2026 Calgary Metal Detecting Club meeting. This is always an exciting meeting for the CMDC, as people bring out their yearly personal bests. There are always amazing items to view and vote on. The prizes will be awarded at the club banquet on May 23, 2026.

Out of town members can enter finds of the year voting by sending a pdf photo with a description and category choice to the CMDC.org email address by May 01, 2026. Each member can submit one item per category. We will have the usual classifications of Best Gold Treasure Item, Best Treasure (not Gold), Best Relic, Best Coin, and Best Sundry Find (Trinket / Miscellaneous).

# RIP - Bill Jones



Born June 4, 1952  
Died April 07, 2026



We have some very sad news. The Calgary Metal Detecting Club lost one of its senior members in early April. Bill Jones passed away on April 7, 2026.

Bill was an energetic and passionate metal detectorist for many years, and a solid fixture at Calgary Metal Detecting Club meetings until his health took a turn in 2018. He took on several roles with the club over the years, including Club Hunt Director and helping out with many of our Rochon Lake seeded hunts.

Bill took this hobby to the next level, reuniting people with lost treasures while working as a Ringfinder and making several gold prospecting trips with Kevin Niefer. His passion for the hobby of metal detecting and his willingness to help out newcomers to the hobby were very much appreciated by CMDC members.

Bill is survived by his wife, and two daughters. Bill's family was the highlight of his life - He often spoke of how much he enjoyed time spent with them, especially after the job of 'grandpa' entered into the picture. In later years he blogged and sent out numerous tips as the Facebook entity "Thrifty Senior." He will be remembered for his positive nature and enjoyment of life.

If any club members (past or present) want to leave expressions of condolence for Bill's family, you may leave messages on his obituary site at on the McInnis and Holloway Funeral Homes obituary site at [www.mhfh.com](http://www.mhfh.com).

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## Metal Detecting Tips

Here's a tip that someone recommended for finding jewellery in popular parks. Discriminate out the iron, and clear the high-tones out - but while clearing the silver and copper tones, mark the mid-tones with poker chips or golf tees. Mid-tones do present a lot of trash, but this is where you find nickels and gold. Note that after you have used this method, scanning the area again may produce older/deeper finds.

If you find a ring, try to clean it a bit, and check carefully to see if it might have lost a stone. If it has, the gemstone may be in the plug, or still in the hole. Some hunters carry a small sieve, or a bit of screening. If the ring appears to have lost a stone, they sift through the soil to be sure they haven't missed a valuable part of their treasure.

Here's a trick that will make your detector's standard loop size more versatile when hunting trashy "hunted out" park areas while using a 8" to 9.5" size coil. When you hit a trashy area, raise your loop a couple of inches off the ground and scan the area again. This will narrow the pattern that your search coil sends into the ground, only allowing it to "see" a much smaller area (depending on how far you hold the coil away). This enables your deep seeking coil to act much like the smaller coil, giving you greater separation in areas of high trash (that can "mask" valuable targets), yet allows you to find the deep signals when conditions permit.

Janet Hoffart's entry for the annual Buzzer Contest is this incredible ring discovery from June of 2025. Thanks for taking the time to write down this story for the Buzzer, and enter our contest, Janet!

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## Family Ring Recovery

By JANET HOFFART



Back in June, Keith and I took a day trip to buy a painting that Keith found on FB Marketplace. It was an artist that we know and love and the painting was an exceptional price.

When we got to our destination and met with the seller, we met an absolutely lovely couple who took the time to visit and show us more paintings that they were considering selling. While Keith and Frank chatted about the artist, I talked to Beth about possible areas to metal detect. Beth directed me to a school she thought might be ok as it was an older school but was shut down due to a fire.

Keith and I went to the school and thought we'd give it a shot as there were 2 separate fields and a large playground. As usual, Keith kicked my butt with coinage and found a number of trinkets in the playground. While we were in the playground area, a young boy – 7-8ish – started following us around and chatting away with me. "What are you doing?" "What are you looking for?" "Have you found anything?" "I sure would like a metal detector!" "Can I help you dig?" It was getting close to the time we had to head home, and we'd covered a good portion of both fields so thought we'd work our way back to the truck.

We were almost done and I was definitely ready to move on – BUT – Keith had found another target that he was digging so I decided to detect under an old tree. I had a good sound and good number, not one that screamed – DIG ME – but I figured, what the heck, one more target before we leave and I found this! An absolutely gorgeous 10K gold ladies' family ring! As I had the young man following my every move, I quickly tucked it away and said – well, time to go. We didn't realize that it was missing a stone until we got to the truck but it was too late to go back to search for it. To quote Gary Drayton – it was a "top pocket find"!

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## London Ontario - Relics from the Old Factory

London Ontario resident Shawn Watson has been detecting around the edges of the abandoned McCormick's Candy factory. The factory was built in 1936 and provided candies and cookies to Canada for over 70 years, shutting down during the summer of 2008. The old property is fenced up, but the city of London started tearing up the sides of the road surrounding it, and left piles of top-soil rich in old finds.

As the property is fenced, Shawn was only detecting the areas outside the enclosed area. A few weeks ago, Shawn noticed that the city of London had started a tear-up of some of the roadsides surrounding the fence, leaving piles of top-soil rich in old finds. He ran home to get his detector. Watson dug up a few older buttons and coins, a 1924 dog tag, a commerce token, and a few cafeteria and retail tokens, some associated with McCormick's.

Shawn Watson has been detecting for almost twelve years, and these McCormick's discoveries have only whetted his appetite for old relics from around the London area. While Shawn still loves to find gold and silver, he plans to use maps from the 1800s to locate other old properties that are on public lands and is hoping searches there will lead to other great relics.

## JEWELLERY MARKS

When we find a piece of jewellery that has a hallmark it is pretty exciting. TREASURE!!! The next question is almost always "What does this mark mean?" The most common marks or stamps are used to identify things like metal type, karat weight, and sometimes country of origin or designer.

The hallmark will be in a different place dependant on the type of item found. In rings and bracelets, the mark will be found on the shank (in the side of the item closest to the skin), with chains the mark is most often found on the clasp, brooches or pins on the back, and earrings often on the hook or stud. Pendants or charms will usually have a mark on the back, or on the clasp.

The standard hallmark shows the amount of gold in the piece, and the karat Weight of the metal. If you look you'll usually see the karat Stamp. 10k, 14k, 18k or 24K are the most common marks used for gold. The K on gold rings stands for Karat Weight, which is the system used to describe the percentage of pure gold an item contains. The higher the karat number, the higher the percentage of gold in your gold jewelry.

24K gold is pure gold. This is very soft metal, and hard to work into lasting jewellery. 24K items are very rare.	12K gold contains 12 parts gold and 12 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 50% gold.
18K gold contains 18 parts gold and 6 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 75% gold.	10K gold contains 10 parts gold and 14 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 41.7% gold
14K gold contains 14 parts gold and 10 parts of one or more additional metals, making it 58.3% gold	9K gold contains 9 parts gold and 15 parts of one or more additional metals.

10K gold is the minimum karat that can be called "gold" in the United States. Anything lower than 10K cannot legally be called a gold item in the United States. 9K is the minimum karat that can be called "gold" in Canada, Britain and parts of Asia. European gold jewelry might also be marked with numbers that indicate their percentage of gold, such as:

18K gold marked 750 to indicate 75% gold	10K gold marked 417 for 41.7% gold
14K gold marked 585 for 58.5% gold	9K gold marked 375 for 37.5% gold

Other markings that you might on a gold ring or other piece of gold jewellery could be GE for Gold Electroplated, GF for Gold Filled (Usually has a fraction i.e. 1/20 10K GF), GS = Gold Shell, and GHE for Heavy Gold Electroplate. To be marked GF at least 1/20th of the weight of an object must be gold. Gold is not the only precious metal that is marked. Silver is another precious metal that has metal marks.

925 (92.5% silver) = Sterling	STERLING, STR or STER for Sterling Silver.
950 (95% silver) - fairly rare	835 - Silver (83.5%) - More common in Europe.
TAXCO or MEXICO for Mexican Silver, usually 925.	COIN or 800 for Coin Silver (80% silver)

Other metal marks on jewellery could include TUNGS for Tungsten, S.S. or St. Steel for Stainless Steel, or PD for Palladium. You'll also run across Titanium, Stainless Steel, Tungsten, Sterling Silver, or Platinum. Common platinum markings include PT (Atomic Symbol), IRID. PLAT, or PT 900

Hallmarks are a different type of Jewellery Mark. They are generally used on artisan or high-end jewellery, silverware or gold items, more commonly in North America and Europe. A row of symbols on a piece of jewellery will indicate the Metal type, Manufacturer, Country or Assay Office, and Date of the created item. These are marks agreed upon by countries for identification of gold and silver objects. For example, in the picture below, the Hallmark Anchor indicates UK manufacture, specifically Assay office of Birmingham, the Lion indicates sterling silver, and the "m" indicates the year the item was created. The other mark is for the manufacturer. There are also specific hallmarks for gold.



You can find more information on European Hallmarks at : [http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk/commemorative\\_marks.html](http://www.theassayoffice.co.uk/commemorative_marks.html) ., and <http://www.silvercollection.it/DictionaryEUHallmark.html> some Silver hallmark information from all over the world can be located at <http://www.925-1000.com/index.html> .

Angelo Ledda sent in our last entry into the annual Buzzer Contest with a story that dates back a few years. This was a recovery from a good many years ago, but is just as exciting to read about today. Thanks for entering your story in the Buzzer contest, Angelo!

## A Metal Detecting Find that Wasn't - My entry to Metal Detecting

By ANGELO LEDDA

Like every avid detectorist out there, we can all remember our 1<sup>st</sup> significant find with a metal detector. For me, it was a well worn 1962 Canadian silver dollar that I found in the back yard flowerbed of a house I had recently purchased. It was the early 1980s and the house was a fixer-upper 1958 bungalow in Glamorgan that had been neglected over time. But it was the perfect house for me as, at the time, I had youth, enthusiasm and more energy than money.



My Saturday morning began that day with a shovel digging weeds and quack grass from the flowerbeds that had once decorated the tiny home. After a few hours of turning dirt, raking and separating roots from clumps of clay, a friend drove up. He walked into the yard holding a metal detector he had just purchased that morning at a nearby garage sale. Each of us had small amateur coin collections and shared an interest in history and all things 'old'. Neither of us had ever used a metal detector previously, and his came 'as is' and without a user manual or instructions. It did, however, come to life after we installed new batteries, so we enthusiastically began pushing buttons and sweeping the device across the back lawn.

Every time the device beeped at a target, we dug, and after a short while we had an impressive collection of nails, screws, bottle caps and metal debris. It slowly became apparent, however, that further instruction might be required so we might understand the sounds coming from the device, and further differentiate between the sounds of garbage and those of elusive precious metals. We were undeterred however, and soon gathered some old silver/copper coins and a gold chain from inside the house to plant/test the detector. Again we swung the detector, listened and dug, convincing ourselves that we now understood the sounds of the targets we were digging. But as our nail and bottle cap collection grew larger, our enthusiasm slowly faded.

Long before the advent of the internet where information is a mere few clicks away, the conversation eventually turned to contacting the detector manufacturer to obtain a user manual via the mail, or going to the local library where one might gain some additional insight. Discussing a go forward strategy, I traded the metal detector for the shovel again and resumed weeding/digging my overgrown flowerbed. Seconds later back digging weeds, the detector turned off and lying beside me, I turned over yet another shovel of flowerbed dirt.

## ANGELO LEDDA - MY ENTRY INTO METAL DETECING (continued)

Breaking up the clay clumps with the shovel, I suddenly noticed a large coin partially exposed in one of the clay clumps and immediately recognized the classic voyageur canoe of our iconic Canadian silver dollar. In complete disbelief I pulled a 1962 dollar coin from the dirt and could see that it was well worn, leaving the imagination frantically seeking the story of where it had been and how it had found its current resting spot. After several minutes of cleaning, passing it back and forth, discussing how it got there, etc, we concluded that it might have been carried superstitiously in someone's pocket, not as pocket change, but possibly as a good luck token. Minutes later we had the metal detector once again hovering over the flowerbed, with enthusiasm levels fully recharged, searching and digging for more.

Although not officially a metal detector find, the detector was resting not two meters from the coin, and certainly played a role in the coin's ultimate discovery. The 1962 silver dollar is my 1<sup>st</sup> silver dollar find, and after more than 40 years passed, I have yet to find another. My daughter has, however, with her Garrett detector, found a centennial Canadian quarter and several older pennies nearby.

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### Metal Detecting "Code of Ethics"

With spring, we usually find a number of new hobbyists excited about their entry into our great hobby. It seemed prudent to remind people that abiding by the hobby's code of ethics not only helps the environment but also brings a better perspective of our hobby to the general public. We don't want to be like some areas in Ontario where detecting is prohibited in several towns and cities.

The Metal Detecting Code of Ethics has been around a long time - It's a basic common-sense approach to the hobby of metal detecting. I remember seeing it included in the instructions that came with my first metals detector over a decade ago - and know it has been around much longer than that. The future of our hobby is affected by public perception of it. Don't forget that our hobby will be judged by our behavior and activities.

- I will respect private property and do no metal detecting without the owner's permission.
- I will fill all holes and replace all plugs neatly.
- I will leave my digging area just as I found it.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural and cultural resources, wildlife and private property.
- I will use thoughtfulness, consideration, and courtesy at all times.
- I will make sure all gates are closed behind me.
- I will not litter. I will remove litter and trash recovered during my detecting, and properly dispose of all trash found.
- I will not destroy property, buildings, or what is left of ghost towns and deserted structures.
- I will not tamper with signs, structural facilities or equipment.
- I will return an item, by any means, if someone can adequately describe it.

Remember - We are an ambassador of a pastime/hobby that we love and want to protect. If we all abide by these basic "common sense" rules, Metal Detecting will be around as a hobby for our enjoyment for a long time.

Bill Jones, the CMDC member who passed away in early April, is the only person I know of in the CMDC who truly discovered a 'Coin Cache'. This story of his Coin Horde recovery of over 1600 coins (mostly pennies) was submitted to the Buzzer and published in January 2015. We are reprinting it this month in remembrance of Bill and his love for the hobby.

## Calgary Coin Horde Recovery

**By Bill Jones**

It was the cloudy day in June 2014, I decided to brave the weather which was showering on and off and take out my Garrett AT-PRO International. I decided to concentrate on a community close to center of Calgary. A particular vacant lot had my attention but last time I was there was winter and the ground was too hard to dig. The road this lot was on was noted in the history books as being the location of a number of brothels in the late 1800's and early 1900's so I was looking forward to finding some relics or coins dating back to that period.

I arrived at the hunt site around 10:30 am, and started hunting the perimeter of the lot close to the sidewalk and was finding a bit of clad and lots of junk. I was tiring of pull tabs, tin foil and bottle caps so decided to hunt around the two large spruce trees at the front of the lot, the base of the largest tree was piled high with dirt and rocks the size of my head and fist, up to about 2 feet up the trunk and a diameter of 4 feet across.

I started searching at the bottom of the largest tree and got a 77 - 79 VDI signal on my Garrett AT - PRO International which usually signifies a Canadian penny, upon checking It was just as I had expected but nothing old only 1979. I rechecked the hole, which is always a good idea, and got yet another penny signal. Now on my hands and knees with my Garrett Pro Pointer in hand I was getting signal after signal. Now realizing this was more than just a coin spill I was getting pretty excited digging and searching feverishly I plucked one coin after another for 3 hours - did I mention there was a LOT big rocks? At this point the skies opened up with pouring rain, thunder and lightning. I decided to pack up and come back the next day.

I had amassed over 200 coins the first day, but this time I came more prepared shovel and sifter in hand I got back to the hunt site at 10 am determined to clean it out. I used the Garret Pro pointer, Garret Retriever, my trusty shovel and sifter to liberate coins for another 3.5 hours and ended my day thinking I really had done a good job of cleaning out this coin cache. While I was thrilled about finding the coins I have to admit I was a bit disappointed that there was nothing older than a 1957 Nickel. The newest coin gave me the indication of when these coins were buried which was a 1999. Making this stash only 15 years old, but still a thrill to find.

My total number of I coins at this point was 660, but all low monetary value since it was only pennies, nickels and dimes. A week went by and I took my friend Jim, a fellow detectorist, down to the site of the coin stash. We hunted under the same tree for a bit and pulled out another 50 coins - then our probes went silent. I decided to try my luck hunting the more of the lot close to the hole, where the foundation of the house had been. Again, nothing old - just some clad. Jim was hunting the base of the second spruce tree and started as I had with the first tree finding coins one after another. I checked the opposite side of the tree he was working and started to find coins as well. Just as we were getting into the thick of things once again Mother Nature decided to give us a bath, so we filled in the dig and headed home, we hadn't counted the coins for that day.

Within a few days Jim and his roommate John went down to the site to complete the excavation and spent many more hours digging coin after coin - still nothing old but had a great time. The total from the two trees came to 1620 coins all in small denominations between 1 cent and 10 cents, plus an old broad axe head from early 1900's, a fossil of a snail that a local rock shop said could be millions of years old and a few marbles and other kids trinkets. All in all, this was a fun time for the 3 of us, and I'm sure rates among one of the unique detector finds in Calgary.



## METAL DETECTING FUNNIES



**What did the old coin say to the metal detector?  
...Don't take that tone with me!**

**What did the hypochondriac metal detectorist say? "Oh No! I think I have "Gold Fever!"**

**You might be a detectorist if - your spouse hints at wanting jewelry, you grab your detector and go to the beach rather than going to a jeweler.**

**Why did the Metal detectorist put his clad in the freezer? ... He wanted cold, hard, cash.**

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## CANADIAN SPY COIN? NOPE!



In 2004, Canada issued a very special coin. The 2004 Canadian quarter featured a bright red poppy, and was issued in honor of Canada's 117,000 war dead. The coin's red poppy emblazoned across the obverse came with a protective coating so the color wouldn't wear off easily. Canada, known for innovation in many areas, was the first nation to issue a colored circulating coin.




The quarter nearly caused an international spying incident when several U.S. military contractors working in Canada acquired some in their change. They thought that the coins unusual appearance might have been some sort of plant, with nano-technology transmitters on them. The contractors reached out to the U.S. Department of Defense. It caused a minor kerfuffle, but eventually the U.S. armed forces were able to assure the contractors that these were not espionage equipment!

Since 2004 many other colored coins have been issued for common circulation by the Royal Canadian Mint. There have been dimes, quarters and toonies with designs commemorating Canada's national parks, the Bluenose, Indigenous artwork, the northern lights, and more. Many of these have found their way into coin collections across Canada.

## LOCATION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

CMDC meetings will be held at the Horton Road Legion and are scheduled for the first Thursday of every month. Any changes will be published on the CMDC.org website calendar, on the CMDC Facebook group page. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

<p><b>GPS Central &amp; RadioWorld Central</b></p> <p>Metal Detectors, GPS Units, Radios, and other electrical equipment &amp; tools. Visit them on the web at <a href="http://gpscentral.ca">gpscentral.ca</a> , or the store at:</p> <p>#8, 711 - 48 Avenue SE Calgary AB Canada T2G 4X2 403-239-1400</p>	<p>The CMDC annual membership renewal cost is:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td><b>In-town membership</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$30.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Out-of-town member</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$25.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Family Membership</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$45.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Out-of-town Family</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$35.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Senior's Membership</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$20.00</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Contact the Calgary Metal Detecting Club (CMDC) By email at <a href="mailto:cmdclub@gmail.com">cmdclub@gmail.com</a></p>	<b>In-town membership</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>Out-of-town member</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>Out-of-town Family</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>	<b>Senior's Membership</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
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<p style="text-align: center;">CIR Realtor – Relocation Specialist</p> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;"><b>Kevin Niefer</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;"><i>See Below</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><i>1Finding Houses - Creating Homes</i></p> <p style="margin: 0;">403-968-1496</p> </div> <p>To find out more information send Kevin an email @, or give him a call at 403-968-1496</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOU COULD BE A PUBLISHED AUTHOR!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have an interesting story, An idea for an article, or a comment that you would like to see in “The Buzzer”? Write it down and email it to <a href="mailto:cmdclub@gmail.com">cmdclub@gmail.com</a> with <b>METAL DETECTING STORY</b> in the subject area.</p>										
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