

Feb. 2021 Volume 3 Issue 2

*The Journal of Modern
Treasure Hunting.*



DIRT DIGEST MAGAZINE



Interview With
Treasure Hunter
Bill Marshall

THIS ISSUE

UK Detectorists Detecting Journey

Metal Detecting – What It Means to Me

Seven Sins That Can Rob You of Success

A Bucket List Find

Interview With Gypsy Jewels!

PLUS Several Articles for Beginners!



The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.

From the Editor

A lot of people received their first metal detector over the Christmas holiday. This time of year, I often receive a lot of questions from new detectorists about the hobby and their newly acquired metal detector, so the team here at Dirt Digest Magazine decided we would make an issue with helpful tips and suggestions for people new to the hobby.

For the seasoned pros who might find this issue a little on the boring side, we hope you will understand. We feel it is our responsibility and duty to help educate to ensure the hobby lives on. Those of us who have been detecting for a long time know all too well the damage novices can create for the hobby. Angry homeowners, parks being closed down to metal detecting and worse. Although we are happy to educate those new to our great hobby, we also want to make it clear your metal detector comes with responsibility and etiquette.

While we hope you enjoy this issue, we also hope you will learn things like how to dig a proper hole and the responsibility that comes with owning your metal detector.



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Thank you!!!

We would like to express our appreciation to all who make this magazine possible and for everyone's continued support, without you, Dirt Digest wouldn't be possible!

Getting Started Metal Detecting

Written by: Rich Creason

Over the past many months, a lot of folks have been getting bored sitting at home, watching TV, or reading a book, because the dreaded virus has us avoiding other people. An advantage of watching television is that there are a lot of treasure hunting shows now. The Curse of Oak Island (one of my favorites!) is very popular. Also, any show depicting searching for sunken Spanish galleons off the coast of Florida attracts a lot of viewers. There have even been some episodes showing sunken Civil War gold in Lake Michigan, strongboxes full of loot buried by Butch Cassidy, and many more interesting shows.



Maybe those are the reason many people received a new metal detector for Christmas, or perhaps dragged an old detector out of the closet, put in fresh batteries, and headed for the back yard. Whatever caused the recent interest in the hobby is welcome. Unfortunately, many of the new converts have little idea what to do with their new pastime. Perhaps, since my wife and I have been detecting for over 40 years, I can help with some tips for those who need some advice.

First, you need a detector which fits your needs. Frankly, most new (or fairly new) machines will do almost anything a beginner needs. If you already have a detector, study the owner's manual and begin to learn how to operate it. If you need a machine, I recommend going to a dealer. He can show you various models, give you instruction on how to use it, let you practice with it, and answer all of your questions, both now and later. If you purchase your first detector from a catalog, online, or in a discount store, the only question they can usually answer is the price.

After acquiring your machine, you will need a few more items. Some sort of digging tool is needed. This can be as simple as a flat bladed screwdriver or a garden trowel, but a long-bladed hunting knife or a digger designed specifically for treasure hunting is best.

Another necessary item is something in which to put all of your found treasures. A simple nail apron, often free from your local hardware store will work, or a new pouch from your dealer which fits on your belt and has pockets (usually one zippered) to keep your good finds separate from the trash you uncover.



Another item, which is probably optional, although most people who use a detector find necessary, is a good pair of earphones. These can be plugged in directly to your machine, or in better models, can be wireless. If you are detecting in areas of woods or brush, I would go with the wireless to keep from hanging on branches, trees, etc. Earphones also reduce outside noise such as cars, wind, or kids asking you what you are doing.

The last item, again optional, is a pin pointer. For my first 25 or so years of detecting, we didn't have them. When they appeared on the market, they cost around \$150 and I said I would never own one. Then, I won one in a seeded hunt and tried it out. The next day, I bought my wife one! A year or two later, they came out with a waterproof one, more expensive of course. I bought two. Then another for our grandson. Now, the price has reduced somewhat.

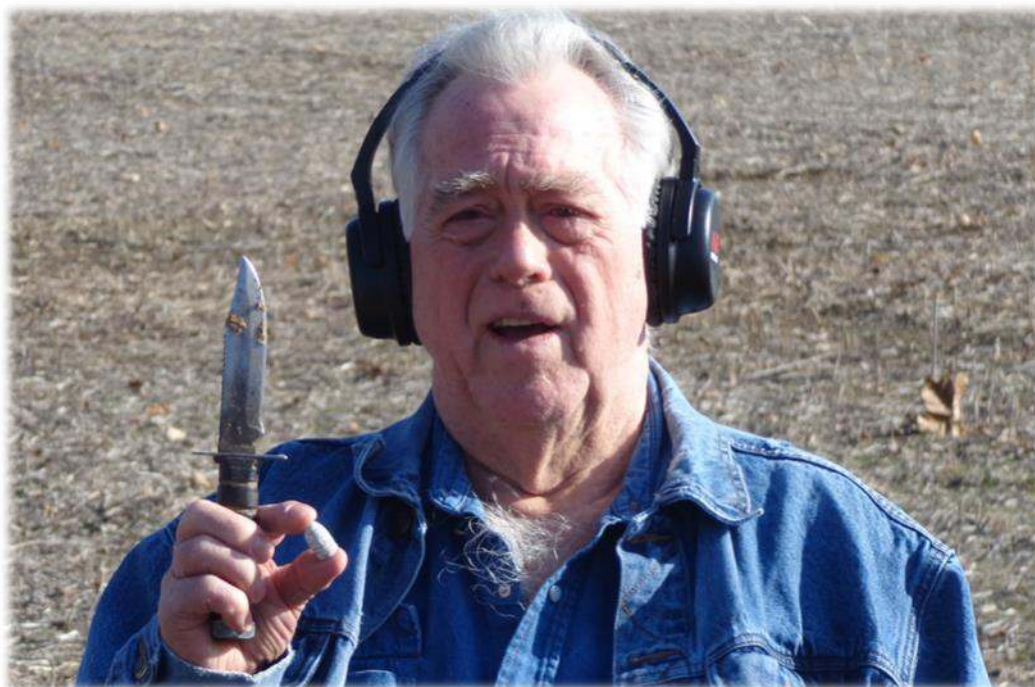
Once you have all of your new equipment, you need a place to hunt. Your own yard is probably the best. If your house is over 25 years old, coins, keys, toys, or something similar has probably been lost. Practice retrieving your target and soon you will be able to move on. Next, ask your friends, neighbors, or relatives if you

can search their yards. ALWAYS get permission before detecting any property which isn't your own. Then, you can move on to beaches, playgrounds, schoolyards, campgrounds, etc. Remember to ask first.

Your age shouldn't matter. We started both our daughter and our grandson detecting when they were four. We have several friends who are in their nineties who still hunt on a regular basis. Like me, they are just slower now than they were 20 years ago.

Fishing, hunting, golfing, bowling, and other hobbies require spending money to start, and then, more money every time you enjoy them. Metal detecting is the only hobby I know where once you purchase your beginning equipment, you actually make money almost every time you go out. A handful of clad coins dug out of the ground will buy enough batteries to last a year. A nice ring, a special coin, or an unusual relic can actually pay for your detector with one dig!

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.



Interview With Gypsy Jewels



DDM: How long have you been metal detecting and what got you into it?

My journey in metal detecting started a little over 22 years ago when I was visiting the gulf coast beaches and a couple was walking up from the beach with a metal detector in their hand. I spoke with them briefly and discovered that they had found many items on the beach that morning and I decided then and there I was purchasing a detector. I purchased one a few weeks later and boom! The adventures began!

I have to say that my love for searching for lost and found objects both new and old came about at a super early age when my father and grandfather would take me to the dump ground or on long adventurous walks in search of objects we might re-purpose or collect.

DDM: How did you get into making videos?

I went through some health issues and lost my right kidney to cancer. After my recovery I decided that my family and my passion for the hobby of metal detecting were the two most important things in my life. So, I decided one way to share my love for the hobby and share my metal detecting adventures was by starting a YouTube channel and making videos.



DDM: I see you often dig old dumps also, what got you into that and what other treasures do you seek out?

As I stated earlier, my father and grandfather used to take me to the dump ground when I was a kid. I can even remember going down the alleyways of our neighborhood with my dad and dumpster diving. I feel like their influence when I was younger greatly impacted me. Now I seek different items while digging in the old dumps such as old bottles, marbles, and buttons along with the types of items you find while metal detecting as well. I've found coins, jewelry and other relics in dumps.

DDM: Tell us about some of your more recent metal detecting adventures?

I guess one of my most recent adventures was a trip I took to Mississippi with some of the Garrett Metal Detectors crew and Jase Robertson from the TV Show Duck Dynasty. We got to metal detect in an area where over 10,000 Civil War soldiers had camped. I found several CW bullets among some other relics that were related to some of the houses and other structures that once stood on the property. I have a video available on my YouTube channel of this detecting adventure.

DDM: Have you worked on any projects recently you would like to tell us about?

One project I would like to mention is the TV show that recently aired that I am in one of the episodes. Episode 4 of Gold Rush Freddy Dodge's Mine



Rescue streaming now on the Discover+ channel. I hope you all get a chance to check out the episode.

DDM: Do you have any future projects?

As for future projects I have been asked to maybe come back for the new season of Freddy Dodge's Mine Rescue TV show. Possibly be featured in some more episodes. Also, I've been asked to be a part of another new TV show. They haven't started filming for that one yet so, we shall see what happens with that.



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FUN FACTS

Approximately one million
pull tabs = 800 pounds

Approximately 1,430
pull tabs = one pound

Approximately 63,360
pull tabs = 1 mile

PULL TAB INVENTORS

Ermal C. Frazee

In 1959, while at a picnic with friends and family, Frazee discovered he had left his "church key" can opener at home, forcing him to use a car bumper to open cans of beer. Frazee decided to create an improved beverage opening method that would eliminate the need for a separate device, leading to his creation of the pull-tab opener.



Interview With Bill Marshall

Recently, while checking out one of my favorite Facebook groups, "Dug Fur Trade and Contact Period Relics" I came across a post from Bill Marshall. Fascinated with the finds he posted I reached out to him to do this interview. I learned a lot about the ancient copper culture and the fur trade and contact period artifacts in his area.

Bill was absolutely fascinating to talk to and the passion he has for history, his artifacts, and metal detecting really showed through.

Below is Dirt Digest's interview with Bill Marshall, we hope you enjoy!

DDM - How long have you been metal detecting and how did you get into the hobby?

I started metal detecting in about 2015 after getting into coin collecting a couple years prior to that. I amassed a fairly large collection of US silver coins and naturally wanted to see if I could find any "for free." I did fairly well for Northern Minnesota, one of my silver half dollars, just a walking liberty, turned out to be a key date, 1921 P in "fine" condition (dug alongside an older Barber half dollar worth about 40 times less than the 1921. Interestingly, I discovered the site with the two half dollars by recognizing the shoreline of lake on an old 1895 postcard I purchased on eBay. The site is currently wilderness, and even the old-timers don't recall any structures or ruins on the site, but the postcard depicted a decent-sized cabin. I went looking for coins and dug about 6 silvers, a few V nickels, and a





couple Indian Head Pennies. The coolest thing I found was totally unrelated to the cabin though. I dug my first Old Copper Culture artifact, a 3" conical spear point, approximately 3,000-7,000 years old. 40 yards away I dug a 6" copper needle, coincidentally only 10' from where I had dug a 6" silver hat pin from the 1890's. Two similar items separated by 10' and thousands of years.

DDM- I have to assume by your collection, you focus a lot of energy on fur trade sites. When did your passion for that begin?

The accidental discovery of the Old Copper Culture (OCC) spearpoint and needle led to an immediate passion for OCC artifacts, which in turn, led to the accidental discovery of fur trade artifacts. I had dug two huge copper spearpoints (one 6.25" and the other 7.25") in a rare (for the area) plowed field on the Mississippi River (which is only about 30 yards across this far north) and while hunting for more, I dug a good number of tilled-up fur trade relics. Including part of a Robert Cruickshank silver brooch (Cruickshank was the most prolific silversmith out of Montreal), a couple hand-forged muskrat spears (a common trade item), and a very unexpected British 47th Regiment of Foot Revolutionary War pewter button in unusually good condition, likely traded west after the war by an employee of the Northwest Company or an unaffiliated trader. The site was a major multicomponent Native American habitation site, and in those days, military buttons were sought after by the local Ojibwe.



DDM- What state are you in and what other states are you aware of that have a rich history in fur trade?

I was born, raised, and currently reside in Northern Minnesota. Fur trade relics can be found in probably half of the United States, but the richer areas that I am familiar with is the Great Lakes area (the further east you go, the older). There are many areas with a much richer history than my region, but those areas have been in the spotlight for years and are more difficult to access. Even in my own area, I stay away from known sites and try to identify areas that are very likely to have fur trade artifacts just by looking at maps, waterways, LIDAR topography, etc. Later in 19th Century, the fur trade made its way out west, and I know it extended down south along the Mississippi as well, but I don't know that history very well.



DDM- You also have a lot of copper culture artifacts; can you tell us about those and for those who don't know can you tell us about the copper culture?



Believe it or not, the Old Copper Culture (OCC) artifacts are easier to find in my area than the fur trade relics, which is great because I have a slight preference for the much older OCC pieces. The OCC may be the oldest use of metal for toolmaking in the entire world, but that is not well known at all. The archaic peoples did not smelt the copper, they did not need to as it was 99% pure, they simply heated it in hot fires, pounded it, quenched it, reheated/annealed it, pounded it again, over and over again (10-30 cycles or so). Preserved organics (cordage, wooden shaft remnants, charcoal) have been carbon-



dated to over 7000 YBP (years before present) in some instances, the typical range is 3000-7000 YBP. Hundreds of thousands of TONS of copper were mined over the millennia in Michigan's UP and Lake Superior's Isle Royale. Comparatively, the fur trade in my area only lasted about 200 years.

DDM- Can you tell us about a few of your favorite finds and why they are your favorite?



I have 2 favorite Old Copper Culture Finds: In October 2019 I was searching for a mid-1800's market-hunter's shack site when I dug an extremely rare OCC bridge-tang crescent knife (like an ulu knife, if you know what that is). There are only 3-4 of this type known. Then in April of 2020 I discovered that a nearby lake was a major OCC locality, I dug about 75 pieces on 8 sites I discovered around the lake. The best one was an immaculate 8.75" triangulate style socketed spear point with expertly beveled edges on both sides, complete with a rectangular rivet hole. To the layman it looks 200 years old, not the 5000 it actually is! (I found it 20 yards from a well-used duck blind on a friend's private land, only 2" deep). Honorable mention is a cache of 7 copper spear points I found in early April, between 1.5" and 5.5" in length.



My favorite fur trade finds include: an Ojibwe-made thunderbird effigy cut out of trade silver; an immaculately carved love token made out of an 1858 (first year) Canadian dime; a brass trade kettle, from the French era, circa 1700-1750, complete with iron handle and dog-eared lugs; a mystery forged trade axe with a



very sharp and clear "SB" mark with the image of an anchor (no one has been able to identify its origin, or even if it is French or British); an iron trade spear point with 6" tang, of the type handed-out by the Jesuits to the Native Americans as gifts in the mid-1600's (my earliest fur trade site, confirmed by several other period finds); and a hand-forged iron lance (spear) for killing hibernating bear or snared deer.



DDM- Share your favorite metal detecting story with us.

I think I already told my favorite story (how I discovered an 1800's cabin site on a postcard and serendipitously discovered OCC artifacts while looking for coins there, which in turn led to fur trade finds; but here is another good one:



After kayaking to a very remote spot on a river near the Canadian border, I noticed a very large and hollow downed white pine on a point covered in dense (dark) coniferous forest at the junction of two rivers. Naturally, I had to look inside the 4' diameter pine, which had been laying on its side there for decades. As I approached, a stray sunbeam illuminated a bright white object at the base of the hollow tree that I immediately knew was a skull of some sort. I walked up to discover a 100% complete grey wolf skeleton from the winter before-- everything was there from the teeth to the ribs, to the claws. I imagined this elderly wolf (age determined later by a biologist who examined the teeth), struggling to





find enough to eat in the harsh winter and deciding that tree was a good place to call it quits. I wonder how many days he/she rested there.



COPPER CULTURE!



How to Dig a Proper Divot

Article by: Dirt Digest Staff

Before we begin, you see how the title has the word divot instead of hole or plug? This was a valuable piece of advice I received from Mr. Keith Wills, a long-time detectorist. By using the word divot instead of hole or plug when speaking to someone about metal detecting their yard, it makes them think of a small hole. Whereas if you say hole or even plug, often times their mental image ranges from a hole big enough to hide a body all the way to heavy equipment working in their yard. I will say in the past while trying to obtain permission I could see I lost any chance when mentioning I would be digging holes no matter how much I tried to convince them I would leave no evidence I was ever digging in their yard.



I wish I could remember who taught me my technique but it was so many years ago I don't recall who it was. Back 20 plus years ago I was taught by the dealer I bought my first metal detector from to dig a plug, literally a plug that I completely removed. Most people I hunted with did that as well. We were also taught to dig the smallest plug we could which would often lead to a not so pretty conclusion if your pinpointing was off even slightly.

I was metal detecting one day with someone and I noticed them digging big horseshoe shaped flaps, pulling back the sod and recovering the target. At first, I was almost embarrassed to be metal detecting with this person. These things were massive compared to what I was taught to do! What I started to notice though, was when they were done there was no evidence they had ever dug. More embarrassing was the fact that some of



mine didn't go back together so well and although not easily visible, you could find them if you know what you're looking for.

From that day on, I started using this method, the first place I tested it out at was my own yard. One of the great things about grass is even if you kill it, eventually it will come back but when you're digging on someone else's property you don't want to kill it! In the middle of a dry summer, I hunted my back yard. I would dig a plug on one target, then the next I would dig using the new method. After a few hours and many holes later, I waited to see the outcome.

Daily, I would check the progress and what I quickly noticed was the bigger holes with the flap all recovered instantly. The plugs though, every one of them looked rough and some even completely died off for weeks. I believe by keeping the back attached and flipping it over lets the grass recover much quicker and I've now used this technique for many years successfully.



1964 was the last year that US dimes and quarters were made of silver. Starting in 1965 they were minted from a copper/nickel alloy that metal detectorists call "Clad".

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Designed By A Metal Detectorist for Metal Detectorists

“Seven Common Sins”

Of Metal Detecting...

THAT CAN ROB YOU OF SUCCESS

Article by: Dorian Cook

I have had over 48 years to either make... or avoid... most of the mistakes that cause metal detectorists to miss great finds on the sites that they hunt while learning the “tricks of the trade.” And even if you happen to be a grizzled old veteran detectorist of many years-experience, reading this, that thinks you already know all of those I am going to write about and don’t have any problems with them... well... you just might be surprised!

Go ahead and read this article anyway and take a mental inventory to make sure that any of the seven I “spotlight” here, have not slipped back into your metal detecting without you realizing it. Besides... a little review never hurts anyone from time to time when it comes to *“Find or NOT to Find.”*

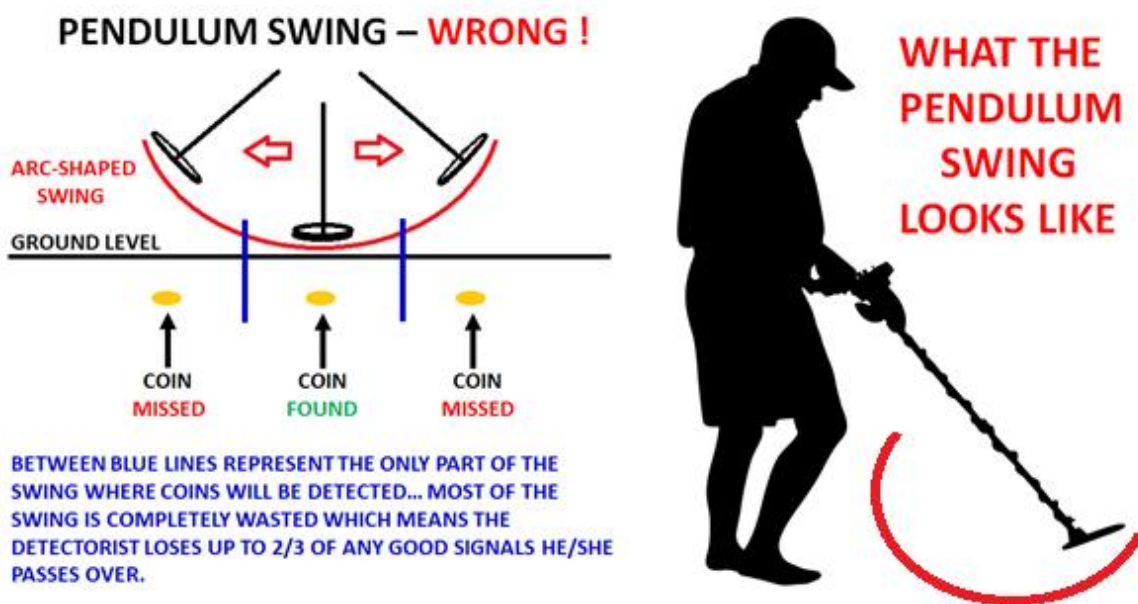
I grew up as a child of the fifties and the sixties and back then, at least, we not only were given the belief that the definition of “SIN” was doing something wrong that God did not like but that it was also something that carried a penalty after it was done that hung over one’s head like a sword that could fall at some time in the future. And so it is that the “Detecting Sins” I am going to list and talk about are also about doing something wrong that will carry with them the *penalty* of DECREASED AND MISSED GOOD FINDS. The sooner these “sins” are recognized and removed from your “detecting life,” the less they will rob you of finds you should have, and could have made, but didn’t.

“The sooner these sins are recognized and removed from your detecting life, the less they will rob you of finds”

It may come as surprise to perhaps many of you readers, to learn that only one of these mistakes has anything to do with how you set your detector. The price and brand of your detector, be it a \$60 "toy" or a \$3000 piece of advanced technology, has NOTHING to do with eliminating the problems I am writing about. All seven will still rob you of good finds, no matter how expensive your detector is, if they are present in the way you use your detector.

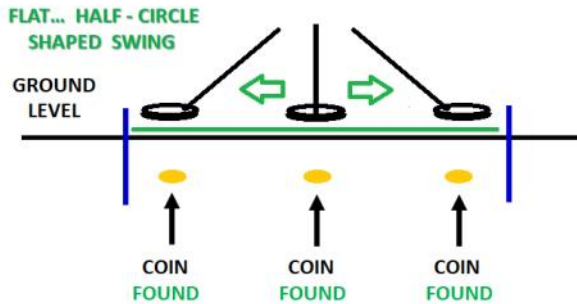
The very first "Metal Detecting Sin" that I want to discuss is one that not only afflicts a large percentage of beginners but also a number of treasure hunters who have been detecting for years.

THE PENDULUM SWING... This big mistake has to do with how one swings their detector because your swing is what determines how much ground you actually cover. The more ground you cover with each and every swing, the more good finds you are

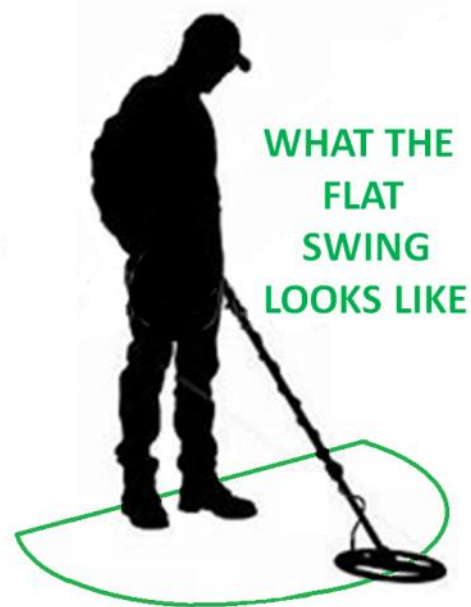


going to make. I know no one reading this wants to go out and waste about 80 to 90% of each swing you make with your metal detector and yet the MAJORITY of detectorists newer to metal detecting tend to do just that. Take a look at the diagrams here to understand why you NEVER want to use the "PENDULUM SWING."

FLAT SWING – CORRECT !



BETWEEN BLUE LINES REPRESENT THE PART OF THE SWING WHERE COINS WILL BE DETECTED... USING THE FLAT SWING WHERE YOUR COIL IS ALWAYS JUST BARELY ABOVE THE GROUND OR LIGHTLY "KISSING IT" WILL GREATLY INCREASE YOUR DETECTION OF METAL IN THE GROUND.



Okay... so what does a CORRECT SWING LOOK LIKE??? It looks like THIS...

Recently, I had the chance to go out detecting with a guy that had been metal detecting for a couple of years with some success. As we got on site and started swinging our detectors, to my surprise, I saw he was using the classic *PENDULUM SWING*. I pointed it out to him and he told me he had never realized he was doing that. The guy was a pretty smart fellow and he had a fairly expensive up-to-date metal detector but he had UNKNOWINGLY passed up 2/3 of the good signals that were present on the sites he had hunted during that time due to this error he had not caught. How about you... or you... or you way in the back there... could some of you be doing the same thing? Got the point ? Good... let's move on to the next mistake detectorists frequently make when searching.

D.E.S. – Stands for DETECTOR ELBOW SYNDROME.. this is a very painful condition, similar to common arthritis or bursitis, that occurs inside the elbow joint on the arm you mostly swing your detector with. If you continue to hunt once this problem appears it will continue to worsen and can make it too painful for you to detect very much... if at all. It has a simple cause... and... A SIMPLE SOLUTION that usually requires NO MEDICAL ATTENTION.

D.E.S. most common cause is extending the shaft on your detector out so far that you keep your elbow bent while swinging your detector. Your elbow joint was not designed to remain locked in any angle of a BENT POSITION for long periods of time. The continual stress of being bent while you do hours of metal detecting will soon or later (SOONER, if you are over 40.) bring on D.E.S. I am 72 and I do NOT have D.E.S. or any kind of pain in my arm or elbow joints when I swing a detector. The reason is I know the secret of avoiding it and I now share it with YOU.

I avoid getting D.E.S. by adjusting the length of my detector shaft so that with the coil flat on the ground about 24" in front of my shoes, I can hold my arm straight... but relaxed... WITHOUT BENDING MY ELBOW WHILE I SWING. I can swing my detector in a full 180 degree half-circle with the coil flat to the ground ALL DAY without putting any un-due stress on my elbow joint and cover a lot of ground in the process.

If you are an older detectorist and already have trouble with arthritis in other joints and get D.E.S. you almost certainly will also end up with that arthritis migrating to your elbow joint... making the STRESS INJURY caused by the way you swing your detector much harder to heal up.

I have personal history with this problem as back in my 30's I started using a 14" coil on my detector to hunt deep Civil War relics. I extended the shaft too far to cover more ground and THAT forced me to hunt with a bent elbow. And THAT gave me a SERIOUS case of D.E.S. after a number of all-day hunts doing that.

It was so painful I thought I would have to give up detecting altogether but, thankfully, an old-timer detectorist recognized my problem and told me what to do about it, as I now tell you.

In a couple of weeks hunting the new way with my arm relaxed and straight the D.E.S. went away and my elbow was fine... and is STILL fine... all these years later.

This "Detecting Sin" is one that the vast majority of detectorists... young and old... beginner or grizzled veteran... have a problem with. Do you think that too bold a



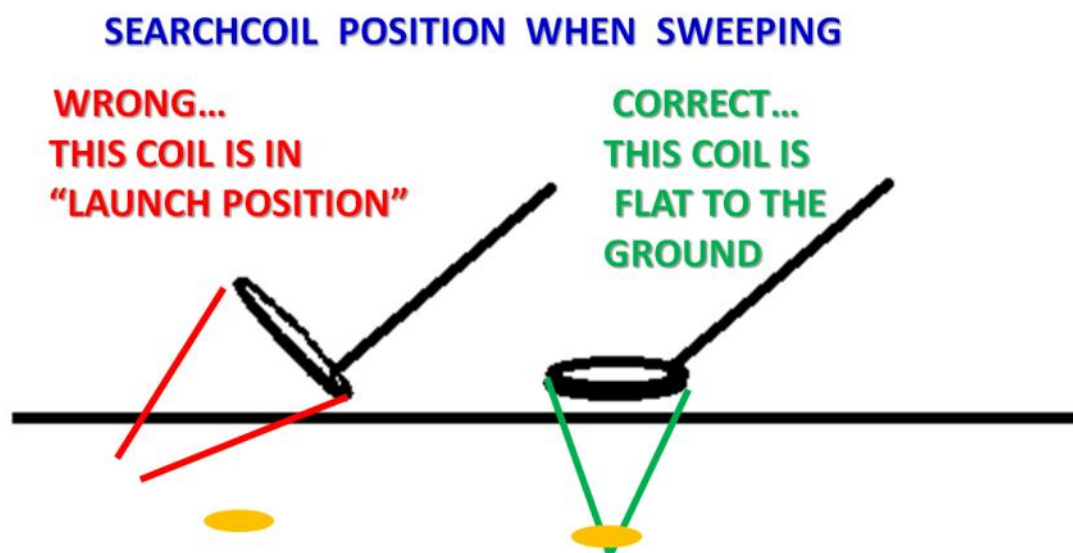
statement??? Do a google search for PEOPLE METAL DETECTING IMAGES and look carefully at all the pictures of people detecting... almost ALL are hunting with their elbow bent and MANY have their detector shafts extended too far and their searchcoils too high off the ground.

This is a simple one and easy to correct... FAILING TO OVERLAP EACH SWEEP OF YOUR COIL BY AT LEAST 50% CAUSES YOU TO NOT DETECT MANY DEEPER TARGETS UNDER YOUR COIL..

Why??? Because on almost all searchcoil types that I am aware of, the field of detection gets narrow towards the bottom of its maximum penetration. So while if, say, you have an 11 inch coil, you may detect every coin you go over that is at a depth of 6" or less the full 11"width of the coil, you will NOT get an 11" wide detection pattern on coins down around 8" to 12" deep. Your coil detection field may only be 3 or 4 inches wide at those depths... or at it's extreme detection depth... as little as only 1 inch wide. That being the reality, the only way to detect more of those deep coins is to SLOW DOWN and OVERLAP, OVERLAP, OVERLAP! Never forget... your searchcoil detection field may only be detecting a swath one inch wide at its maximum detection depth on small targets like coins. Where coins or artifacts have gone deep, the majority will only be found by the detectorist who understands that it will take more sweeps greatly overlapping each other to get the job done.

This is also a simple one to correct... but it is important! AVOID HUNTING WITH YOUR SEARCHCOIL IN THE "LAUNCH POSITION." I already touched on this problem that is more common among detectorists than you might think... I mentioned you should keep your coil "flat to the ground" when sweeping your detector. For unknown reasons, many will hunt with the front edge of their searchcoils tilted upward like an airplane that is launching itself off a runway into the air. It apparently never occurs to them that the higher that front edge of the coil is tilted, the less depth of penetration half of their searchcoil will have because its too far off the ground.

KEEP THAT SEARCHCOIL WITHIN A HALF INCH OF THE GROUND AT ALL TIMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE. FOR EVERY INCH THE COIL IS ABOVE THE GROUND, YOU



LOSE AN INCH IN PENETRATION DEPTH ON TARGETS YOU ARE SEEKING.

This is probably the easiest one to correct of the entire seven... MAKE SURE THAT YOUR COIL WIFRE IS WRAPPED TIGHTLY AROUND YOUR DETECTOR SHAFT AND SECURED WITH VELCRO STRIPS, IF NECESSARY, TO KEEP THE WIRE FROM HAVING ANY LOOSE LOOPS THAT DANGLE.

If your searchcoil wire is loose and dangling at any point... but especially near the searchcoil, it is, in effect, a charged piece of metal wire moving back and forth on its own from both your swinging of the detector and/or any brisk breeze that is

present. When any part of your searchcoil wire moves separate from the natural movement of the detector, it changes what is called the IMPEDENCE of the searchcoil, causing the coil to detect it as a piece of metal in the ground and giving you, the operator false info... or FALSE SIGNALS, as we call them. You can end up chasing signals that are hard to duplicate exactly and come and go like ghosts. This can be pretty frustrating if you don't understand what is happening and stop and wind your coil wire more tightly around the shaft.

This one is a little harder for detectorists to master because "natural logic" tells them

COIL WIRE EXAMPLES:

WRONG...
Guaranteed to
give the operator
false signals.

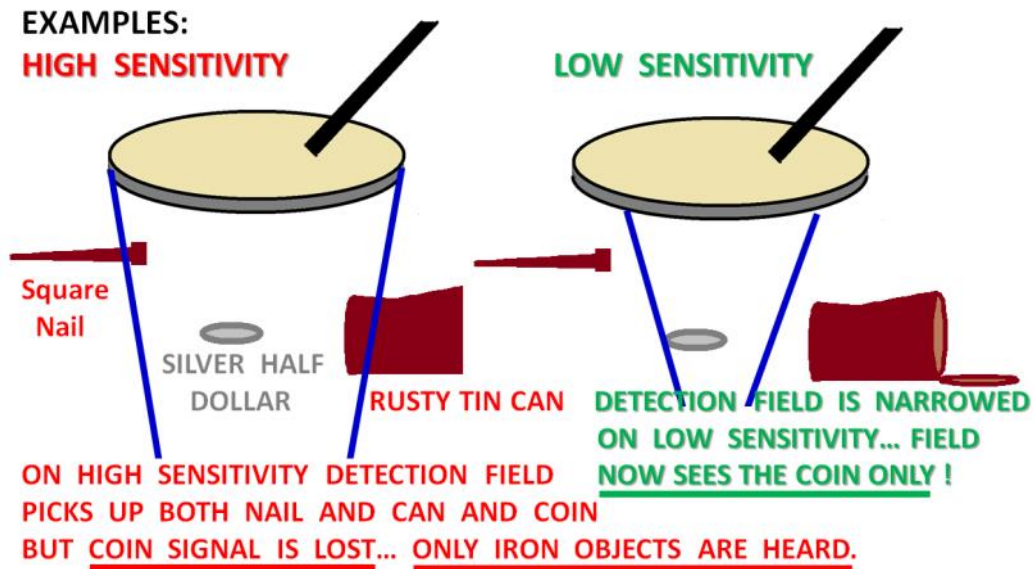


CORRECT...
Guaranteed to
NOT cause false
Signals.



the opposite of what they need to do. TURN THE SENSITIVITY ON YOUR DETECTOR WAY DOWN WHEN ATTEMPTING TO FIND GOOD TARGETS ON A SITE THAT CONTAINS HUNDREDS OF JUNK METAL SIGNALS such as square nails, old car part, bottle caps, etc.

When the metal signals on a site are close together... say 2 feet or less... it also means that the good metal targets are VERY CLOSE to bad metal targets. The bad metal targets, being so plentiful will hide the good target signals pretty easily when you try to use MAXIMUM SENSITIVITY on your detector to "punch through" the iron. TURN DOWN YOUR SENSITIVITY so you will get "SEPERATION" of the good targets from the bad ones. When your detection field on your detector is narrowed down by setting the sensitivity lower, it is true that you detector will NOT detect as deep... but... NOW it will pick up good targets close to bad ones a LOT BETTER... it can "hear" the good targets without being blanked out by the mass of the bad ones so easily picked up when using MAXIMUM SENSITIVITY. This "TRICK OF THE TRADE" will often be the difference between whether or not you go home after hunting a trashy site with NOTHING to show for it or... bragging rights to a few great old coins and/or relics!



Okay... the last "METAL DETECTING SIN" we want to focus on in this article could be classified as, "OPERATOR ERROR." It occurs WHEN the detector operator DAMAGES A GOOD COIN, PIECE OF JEWELRY OR VALUABLE ARTIFACT like a Civil War Belt Buckle, in the process of locating it and removing it from the ground.

There are just two basic reasons in 90% plus cases of *FIND DAMAGE* that determine why it occurs in the first place. Those are the ones I want to be sure all our readers are aware of before we wrap this up. The first and foremost is simply THE FAILURE OF THE OPERATOR TO PINPOINT THE SIGNAL ACCURATELY ENOUGH TO AVOID STRIKING THE OBJECT THEY ARE EXCAVATING WITH THEIR DIGGING TOOL. The second is often tied tightly to the first... the old folks put it like this, "HASTE MAKES WASTE." Yep... getting in too big a hurry to recover the find is often the sole cause... or contributor to the cause... of doing damage that many years in the ground and a fleet of farmers, plows, disks and harrows could not accomplish.

I personally know of bottle diggers that broke \$3000 dollar rare and intact bottles because they did not behave like a surgeon doing a heart transplant in moving slowly to recover the bottle from the clay it was locked in. Another time, a detectorist I knew, failed to pinpoint his silver reading accurately and ended up putting a deep scratch right across the face of a rare 16-D Mercury Dime with his digging knife... took $\frac{3}{4}$ of the value right off the coin! And if THAT is not bad enough to make the point... how about this one... A young Louisiana man I hunted with found a \$4000 Confederate CSA brass belt buckle on a battlefield near Baton

Rouge and CUT IT IN HALF with his army entrenching shovel he used to dig it !!!

Every detectorist has a need to learn how to PINPOINT ACCURATELY WITH THEIR DETECTOR SEARCHCOIL... BEFORE THEY START DIGGING. This alone will go a long way towards avoiding damage to great finds. A hand-held pinpointer is really not much good until you get down pretty close to the object. There is a great technique for becoming VERY accurate at pinpointing before you dig but I will have to devote space to it in a future article.

“A young Louisiana man I hunted with found a \$4000 Confederate CSA brass belt buckle on a battlefield near Baton Rouge and cut it in half with his army entrenching shovel he used to dig it !!!
“

In the meantime, DO THE BEST YOU CAN... check the signal from both east and west and north and south BEFORE you dig. DO NOT LET YOUR EXCITEMENT AT THE PROSPECT OF A GOOD FIND CAUSE YOU TO MOVE TOO FAST IN RECOVERING IT... *BE SLOW AND METHODICAL LIKE DISARMING A BOMB!*

CLOSING NOTE: I won't tell you that I never made the mistake of marking a good coin or an occasional Minie Ball with a digging tool, but after hundreds of thousands of objects dug, I can say that the coins and relics I marked could be counted on the fingers of both my hands with fingers left over. Nobody bats a thousand when it comes to damaging finds with a digging tool but we all need to really strive to make that a RARE occurrence!



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Treasure's From The Dirt

Reader's Submissions



I was out recently hunting a wooded area around a pond with my Simplex when I got a find of a lifetime. A seated coin love token bracelet. Ten coins in total. Found in Massachusetts

Found by: Kevin Maliff

Treasure's From The Dirt

Reader's Submissions



FOUND: Civil War Artillery shell shrapnel from 10 lb. Parrot shells fired at Perryville, KY battle by Union cannons.

Found by Dorian Cook



FOUND: Assorted Indian Artifacts from Ohio River Beanfields, near Vanceburg, Kentucky.



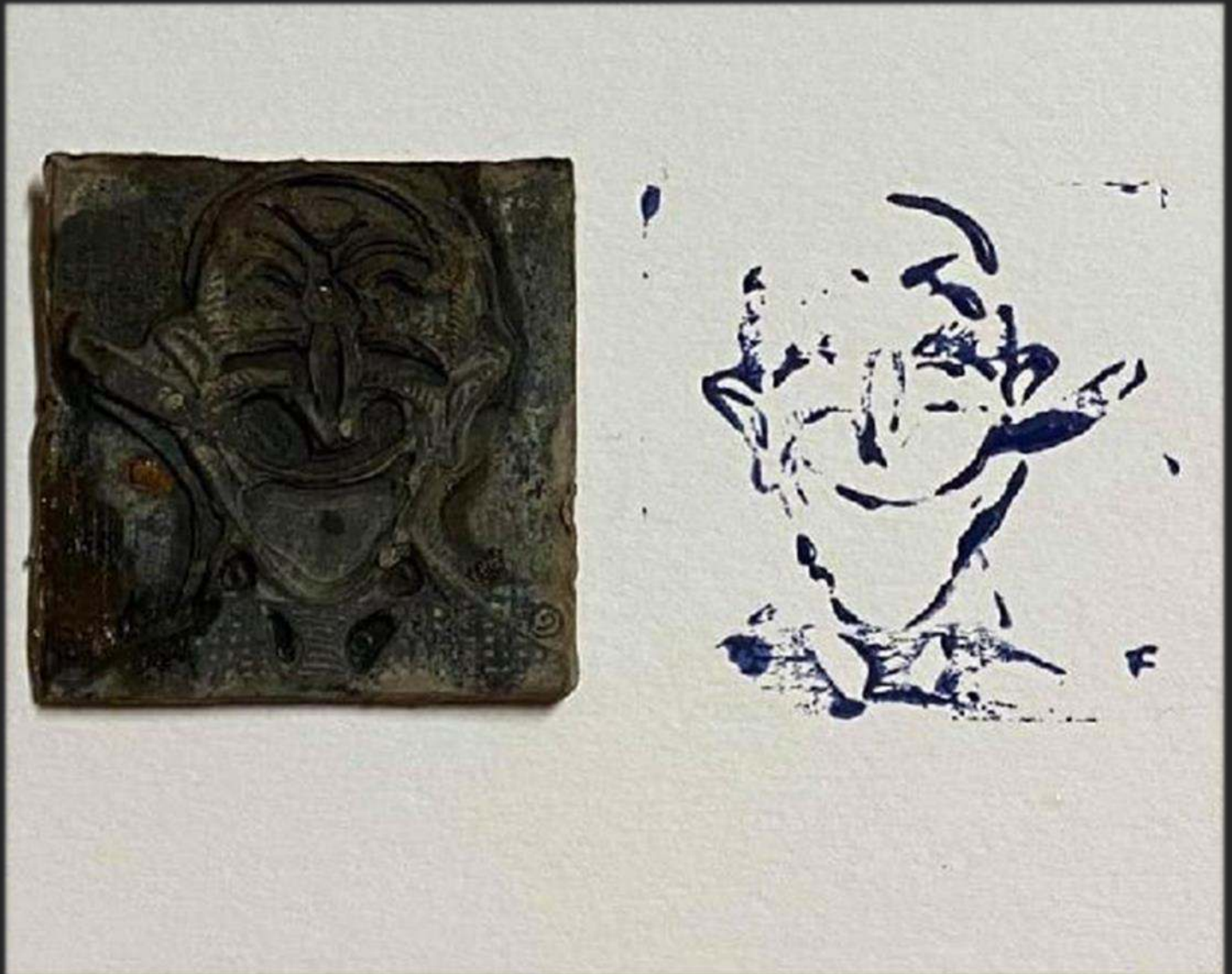
FOUND: During a 4 hour hunt in a previously unknown Civil War prostitute's camp near Annapolis, MD. that serviced the local Union Army camps.



FOUND: Dropped and fired Civil War Minie Balls from Union Campsites on the hills of Northern Kentucky.

Treasure's From The Dirt

Reader's Submissions



While dump digging recently I came across this printing plate that turned out to be a man smoking a cigar

Found by: Gypsy Jewels

Treasure's From The Dirt

Reader's Submissions



While metal detecting a field site we found 11 large cents. I found four and my friend Randy found 7 and I found 4. No other coins came from the site, just the large cents.

Found by: Scott Smith & Randy Haslett

How to Submit a Find

Would you like to see one of your finds in Dirt Digest Magazine?! We would love to put it in! Please include a description of the find, which State, what kind of site you were hunting and any other detail that is relevant. Please include your full name and which metal detector or equipment you were using. Email your find to mhaer@dirtdigestmagazine.com

Metal Detecting Etiquette

Article by: Dirt Digest Staff



This article might not inspire you to get out metal detecting and there are no pictures to make you drool over, but in my opinion it's the most important article in this issue, if you only read one I hope it's this one.

The truth is, the metal detecting hobby has been under attack since it started. We lose more public land yearly due to people not being responsible while metal detecting. It seems like every few months a story is passed on to me about another site

shutting down, a farmer who has allowed metal detecting for years having enough and saying no, and new parks on the "metal detecting banned" list.

One of the biggest things to shut down metal detecting at a park is not filling in holes or at least not properly. It's so important to be an expert at filling in your holes. Once the hole is filled back in there should be no evidence you were ever there.

“One of the biggest things to shut down metal detecting at a park is not filling in holes or at least not properly.”

It is also important that when you're in public spaces metal detecting, to understand you are representing the hobby. Treat people with respect, be polite, and stay away from others. Don't hunt close to the soccer fields while a game is going on and stay away from schools during school hours for example.

Removing trash is another important part. It sounds simple enough, but anyone who has hunted long enough at public places has come across holes dug with trash

laying on top of the ground. If you want to ruin the hobby for yourself and everyone else, this is a good way to ensure it.

I couldn't tell you how many times I've run across social media or forum posts from detectorists complaining about seeing someone at a park metal detecting and practicing one or more of these bad habits. It's always frustrating to me they take to social media to complain but only on a few rare occasions have I ever seen a post where they took the time to educate them. I feel it is our duty to educate at every chance we can. It can and should be done without a conflict.

If someone does take you to a place, they have to metal detect you don't go back without them, PERIOD!

When you can, help people in your local community. Finding lost rings, property markers, and other lost items will go a long way with community perception. Although I've never charged money for locating lost items, it has led to some awesome places to metal detect and even a few free meals. Its always paid off one way or another.

While we are at it, lets talk about how you should be treating your fellow detectorists and go over some do's and don'ts. Especially if you are new to the hobby, teach you to spot people that you want to stay away from.

One of the biggest red flags for me is when someone tries to invite themselves to go metal detecting with me. If you want to hunt with someone you should either invite them on a hunt with you or try to meet somewhere mutual.

If someone does take you to a place they have to metal detect: you don't go there without them, PERIOD! Personally, I will not even go to a public park I wasn't aware of without that person or at least their permission, it's just bad taste.

Whether it is your own site or you go with someone else to private land make sure

permission has been obtained. Although it has never happened to me, I have talked to several people over the years who have gone to a site to metal detect where the person they went with told them they had permission when in fact they did not. Not only is it important to have permission, make sure it is from the right person who can grant permission.

It's also important to stay out of the way of others. Don't cut them off and if there is a clearly a better section to metal detect don't rush to that area and try to cherry pick. Its rude and a sure way to not get invited back.

If you're new to the hobby you want to start off on the right foot, the last thing you want to do is get a bad reputation within your community and with other detectorists.

Do You Need Headphones to Metal Detect

A good set of headphones will improve the number of your good finds and greatly reduce the time you spend digging trash



20

APRIL 8-11

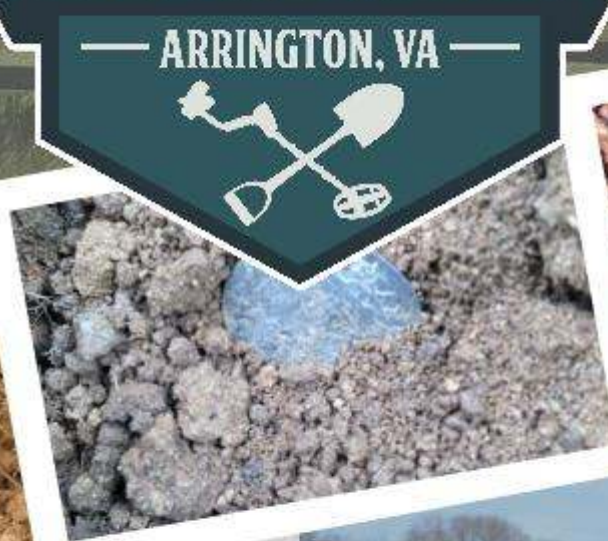
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Learning Your New Metal Detector



Article by: Mike Haer

I am so often adding a new metal detector to my arsenal that it is to the point that I have to hide it from my wife. I have metal detectors stashed everywhere from under the bed to behind clothes in the closet. Even the kids are sick of my obsession and from time to time run across metal detectors stowed away in their rooms. I can however proudly say I only

hoard metal detectors!

Currently I only have one metal detector that I have not had a chance to pick up and use yet. I wouldn't say I am an expert on every metal detector I own but I know them all and how to run them efficiently.

Although this article is geared toward someone new to the hobby, I'm amazed at how many experienced detectorists struggle to learn a new machine. I know of detectorists in this hobby who are experts on the single detector they run but with anything else in their hands they are completely lost.

It's important when starting out in this hobby to learn your machine. Although metal detectors are becoming more versatile, if you're a serious detectorist you should know there are detectors suited better for different jobs.

I used to fall into the group that "it's better to know one metal detector really good than to own several machines and not know any of them." Truth be told, I fell into that category because I struggled to understand any of the other metal detectors I tried to use and more often than not I would give up way to soon.

It was not until I took the time to start understanding that the settings of metal detectors changed how the metal detector functioned. The more I researched and changed the settings and used the metal detector myself, the more I understood. The thing is that most metal detectors share the same basic functions and although each metal detector has its own characteristics, I found that by knowing the basic functions I could quickly learn the intricacies of each new machine.

[Here you can find a link to terminology and basic functions.](#)

Learning Your New Metal Detector

Whether you're brand new to the hobby or a seasoned relic hunter, I suggest finding a park with a lot of targets. Most likely you will find modern trash and coins, but this is where I always start with a new metal detector.



I consider myself a relic hunter and I have little interest in finding new coins and trash, but what a park offers me is many, shallow targets to start learning my new metal detector. Before the metal detector ever leaves the house though, I like to familiarize myself with the manual. I do not read page per page, rather I skim over it ensuring I know how to navigate the controls in case I feel they need changed while I am out in the field.

The Nautilus DMC II-B is a very intimidating metal detector. If you don't know the basic settings of a metal detector you will struggle to learn it.

Now that I have skimmed through the manual and I have a general idea on how to navigate it, I will head to the park to start really learning it. The first thing I do is throw a coin on the ground and start pinpointing it to make sure I know exactly where the center of the coil is for pinpointing.

I will scan slowly, listen to the tones, and watch what numbers appear on the screen. Starting out I won't dig anything that jumps a lot or doesn't repeat really good each time I swing over it. When I feel like I have a signal worth digging, I will keep scanning over it, close my eyes and listen. I don't try to memorize it or anything I just want to listen to it and take note. I will then keep swinging over the target while watching the numbers on the screen. Taking note if they jump around slightly, what number am I seeing the most of etc.

Once I have done this I will pinpoint and dig it. I will make sure to take a moment to pinpoint it and make a good mental note of where that is so I should not be off. If I am off, I will note that and try to adjust where the center of my coil is again. I will then try to remember the target and what sound and numbers it provided but this takes time, it takes digging several of the same before you really start picking it up.

It's also important to note that I dig everything that repeats and numbers aren't too jumpy. This many years of metal detecting on several different metal detectors I will have a good idea whether I'm in the junk range or good range but I still dig everything to verify and learn my new metal detector.

After a few hours of metal detecting, I will go home and read through the manual, concentrating on questions that arose from metal detecting that day. I will refer



Most modern metal detectors can be used right out of the box with very little adjustment but like my Rutus Alter 71, the more you understand it the more versatile it becomes. The Rutus has many settings to tackle many different user preferences and different conditions.



Here is a few of my metal detectors. Pictured, are very different types of metal detectors including both analog and digital. Although very different detectors they all share similarities and once you understand the basics that each metal detector shares it is easy to learn a new metal detector.

back to the manual many more times and will often read it a few times and certain parts of it several times before I consider myself a master on that metal detector.

Depending on the metal detector and how complex it is, it might take me months to fully understand it. More often than not I'm pretty proficient with it after just a



few times out. Once I start understanding what it's telling me at parks and I'm starting to recognize targets simply by sound or the numbers, then I will start taking it to different sites and dialing it in for whatever kind of metal detecting I'm doing.

It is a long process, especially to master a complex metal detector. It takes basic understanding of how a metal detector works and hours upon hours on that metal detector learning the characteristics and how to adjust it for different conditions.

Short Cuts

Because of the internet and so much information just a click away, so many people are losing the ability to learn for themselves. They get a new metal detector, rush out to YouTube and see what settings their favorite video maker is running on their metal detector.

The Simplex is a fairly simple metal detector and easy to learn. Taking the time to learn the programs and settings on even a rather simple metal detector will ensure you get the most out of your metal detector for every situation.

There are so many problems with this. First, I could not tell you how many times I've come across people eager to share their settings that aren't what I would consider ideal for what they are doing. Many times, they did the same thing you're doing, relying on what someone else advised them on how to set up their metal detector! Let's say the person did take the time to not only learn their metal detector but they

understand the basic settings and how to make changes to optimize it's performance. In many cases they are hunting in different conditions. We are also all different, our reaction time to signals, our hearing, our site, and what works for one person might not work for you.

In the end it comes down to, do you want to be an ok detectorist or do you want to learn your metal detector the right way and get the most out of it because there are no shortcuts. The good news is though, if you put in just a handful of hours, possibly digging targets that you do not enjoy and a little reading, you will be ahead of so many people. It still amazes me how many people, even seasoned detectorists who although in most hunting conditions they are great with their metal detector do not know how to make the adjustments for when the ground conditions change or a particular site throws them a curve ball and struggle.

If you want to get the most out of metal detecting one of the most important aspects is knowing your metal detector inside and out. Knowing its language, its weaknesses and where it excels. When you understand your metal detector, and metal detectors in general, you will ensure you get the most out of your metal detecting experience!



It doesn't get much easier than My Tesoro Mojave detector yet I know seasoned detectorists who would struggle to learn it because they never took the time to learn basic settings and how they effect their metal detector.



SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity control on metal detectors is probably the most misunderstood control by detectorists. Sensitivity is usually set to its maximum level and ignored. This does not always allow for the best operation of the detector and therefore missing good targets.

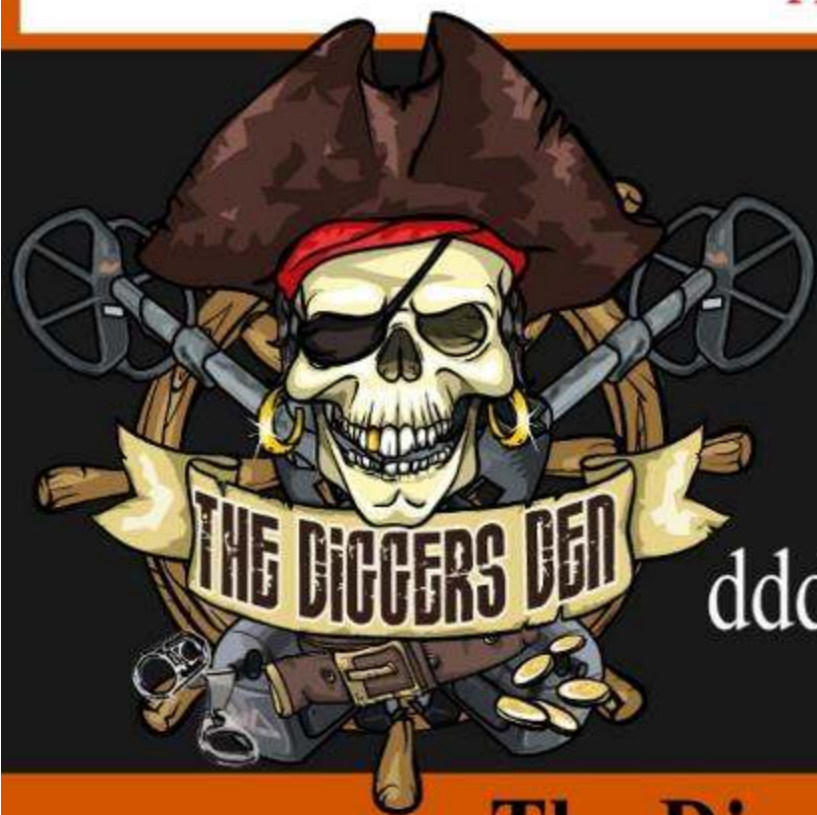
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Sometimes the treasure is the hunt.

Bucket List Find

Article By: Mike Clutter

As the sun rose, it was like most days: A road trip to another small town, not knowing where we might end up or what we might find along the way. Ready with our detectors, the CTX 3030 and the Equinox 600 by Minelab were my weapons of choice.

As we pulled into the first small town, the ground was saturated with the 5in of rain they had received the night before. Our first house was a 1900s home and looked very promising. After a short time of hunting, my CTX was giving me a solid signal between the sidewalk and road. I dug it to find a newer dime and quarter shortly after.

As I moved into the yard, I uncovered more newer "clad" money before landing a deep signal. I dug it to find an interesting-looking pocketknife. It wasn't old, but it was very deep. As I stood wondering how this newer knife could have made its way so deep in the ground, my friend Jeff noticed I had found something and signaled to me, asking if I had found anything of value. I shook my head and propositioned that we stay another 10 minutes and go. He nodded in agreement. Next and not too far from a big tree in the yard, I dug a Missouri tax token at 6 inches.

A tax token is usually a good indicator of more treasure, as they were only made until the 1950s. After a while later with nothing to show, we headed to the next spot. In the next town over, we began by maneuvering through the narrow streets. We noticed several older homes, but the yards weren't suitable for hunting. We finally found an older home with a nice yard, but no one was home, so on we went.

*"A TAX TOKEN
IS USUALLY A
GOOD
INDICATOR OF
MORE
TREASURE"*

**DEEP IN THE
GROUND I FOUND A
COIN COVERED IN A
GREEN PATINA**

After some more searching, we finally came across an older home with cars in the driveway. Jeff made his way to the front door to ask permission to metal detect. The homeowner was already waiting in the threshold to greet us. Jeff explained to the older gentlemen that we would like to metal detect his yard, and he was more than welcoming, but cautioned that his yard had been hunted several times in the past and the chances of us finding something were slim to none. He then regaled us with the history of a civil war skirmish that had occurred just a few blocks away. Considering the age of the home and the area's history, Jeff and I knew that we might uncover something worthwhile, in spite of the homeowner's doubts.

With the knowledge that the yard had been previously hunted, I decided to use my Equinox 600, as it provides greater depth at the expense of a faster return. I started again with the strip of grass at the edge of the sidewalk and found an old key, possibly 1920s. I moved further down until I landed a signal on the Equinox 600. It was faint but consistent, so I decided to dig it.

Deep in the ground I found a coin covered in a green patina from years of oxidation. I was hoping it was an Indian-head penny. After cleaning it up a bit, I realized my instincts were right. Not only that, but it was also dated 1906! I filled in my plug and on I went. By then, the wind had increased to about 40 mph and was cutting through my hoodie like a cold knife. A few steps further and I had another same-signature signal on the Equinox, only a stronger this time. Kneeling down to cut my plug, I could feel the effects of my age as my knees creaked and back ached. I uncovered yet another green Indian-head penny dated 1907.

I moved on a little further and dug an old silver spoon. I looked to my right and noticed Jeff giving me a thumbs up sign, meaning he had found silver. I walked across the yard and he had dug a small plug near some bushes. Not wanting to damage the coin in any way, he pulled out some coin cleaner. A winged lady quickly

appeared on the 1941 coin. He lifted the coil of his machine and quickly hit another high tone, only not nearly as deep. Another squirt of the special formula and out



came President Roosevelt. Both great finds! As I was returning to my section of the yard, I picked up a few more neat items. A small button with a shield at about 4 inches, a few wheat pennies, and some clad.

After a few more hours of hunting with nothing spectacular to show for it, we

decided to head home, hoping to hit a yard or two on the way back. We decided to pull into the next small town to look for houses. With the wind blowing hard and the temperature dropping rapidly, we finally spotted a home that looked very old.

The door was answered by an elderly lady. She explained that while she wasn't the homeowner and was only watching the house, that the owner wouldn't mind.



Jeff and I started by claiming side of the yard, him on the left of the paved walkway and me on the right. His first find was a 1902 barber dime. Already set up with the

Equinox 600, I decided to keep using the machine, walking lengths of an imaginary grid across the yard scanning for coins and relics. As I'm moving along, I get a solid

reading of 23 on my detector. After digging, I suspect it to be a fairly corroded wheat penny. Jeff manages to get my attention again and calls me over. Under some older brick that had collapsed years ago, he dug a quarter. After cleaning it with some of the coin solution, he discovered it was an 1897 Barber quarter! I congratulated him on his find and continued with my grid scheme on the other side of the yard. After only a few minutes, my machine produced a reading of 22. About 3 inches deep, my pinpointer locates a small coin about the size of a quarter.

After some closer inspection, I noticed a large "2" on one side. My heart rate increased a bit at what I suspected it could be. After some cleaning, all of my suspicions were validated. I had just uncovered an 1864 2-cent piece! In all my days, I never thought find such a rare treasure. A bucket-lister for sure!

Another hour of hunting and some added layers of clothing later, we finally decided to turn in. As the last flecks of light were fading from the sky on our drive back, I was proudly telling Jeff the story of my find and thinking what an awesome day of detecting it had turned out to be.

I'm incredibly thankful to have discovered the sport of metal detecting and to have one of my very best friends to share my successes with. It still amazes me to this day the amount of treasure that lies beneath our feet. You truly never know what you are going to find!



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My Metal Detecting Journey and Getting My

Article by: Dean Stainton

First Permission in the UK



As I sit at my kitchen table looking out over the beautiful Dorset hills. Locked down in the UK once again and unable to detect in England. As we exit Europe, Covid-19 vaccinations fly around the globe and our American cousins swear in their 46th President. I find myself looking back on how I got started in the incredibly addictive hobby of Metal Detecting.

It was at about the age of 10 or 11, so in the late 70s. I received a metal detector for my birthday and I loved it. I know it was brown, but that's all I can remember if I'm honest. I used it as much as I could all around my parent's house and a little

beyond. I had no idea about permissions and landowners at that time. It was just my new toy and I wanted to get out and use it. The very first thing I found was a 1911 King George V One Penny on an old dirt path by what we called "The Allotments". although I have no idea what happened to it, I was absolutely over the moon. My joy was short lived however, as one day, rushing home with another hand full of metal oddments to show my parents, I left my detector propped up against the gate post at the top of the garden or yard and went inside. After pushing bits of rusty iron and tin in my Mum and Dad's



faces for what only seemed like 10 minutes, I came out to find that my sleek, brown treasure machine was gone... and I was devastated!! Well, I thought, that's that then and it was. We couldn't afford another one so it was back to making go-carts and climbing trees in the graveyard for this city kid.

Anyway, I grew up, moved on, joined the Royal Air Force, travelled the world, got married, had children, finished my Degree in Engineering and generally lived my life as many others do. Until one day, I found You Tube. Fast-forward from the brown machine around 25 years and picture me sat in some decidedly dodgy accommodation the middle-east, looking for something to pass the time and, as I say, I discover this "You Tube" and a chap called Deep Digger Dan, living in Germany and metal detecting!! Now, I know he wasn't everyone's cup of tea and now drives around in a camper van with his girlfriend, but I found him to be very watchable. So much so that after he hooked me in with his 'Live Grenade' video, I watched his whole back catalogue. Well, I did say that I had a lot of time to kill.

He had such an impact on me in fact, that as soon as I returned to good old Blighty (that's the United Kingdom btw), I went on line, found a shop called Regton Metal Detection Specialists and ordered a Garrett Ace 250 searcher bundle. The dream of finding treasure, once again became a reality and although not brown but yellow, I felt that, once again, I had the right tools for the job.

At first I didn't have much luck with permissions, as where we lived didn't seem to be very detectorist friendly, a reason for which I still cannot tell you to this day. So I spent what time I could detecting our little back garden and a strip of grass down

the side of the house. This is where I found my first coin with the mighty and now legendary Ace 250, a 1950 King George VI shilling. It was also around this time that I thought I might have a go at starting my own You Tube channel but what name could I use?? This is always the point at which most new creators get stuck, and I was no exception. Thankfully I got past what some might call writers block, and



thinking of my first good find, went for, the now ubiquitous, "Shilling King Metal Detecting" adding the "UK" suffix at a later date. Yes, it's a bit of a mouth full and if truth be told, I'm still not happy with it and wish I'd gone for something like "Deano Digs" or "Digging with Dean" but it is what it is and to change it now would be too much of a hassle. Just so you know, my first ever upload is still on You Tube for all to see if you fancy a laugh!!

Anyhoo, rolling forward a little more, to when we bought a house in and moved down to Yeovil in Somerset to prepare for future plans, things changed significantly. One day, a good friend and work colleague, Mr. Trevor Hann, passed me a story he'd printed off about a portable steam engine (a steam train on wheels not tracks) tragedy, where four men, including the driver or operator, had sadly been killed when it exploded whilst powering a threshing machine back in the February of 1895. As I read through the article I suddenly realized that the driver of the engine was none other than Trevor's great, great grandfather!! This article is on the Archeology and Metal Detecting Magazine website and the new App if you fancy a read.

Intrigued, I set about researching what had happened. As I do like a bit of history and it turned out that the boiler explosion had actually happened on a farm only half a mile from the building we were both sat in!! After further research I found where all four men were interred, which allowed Trevor and his family to pay their respects for the first time in a very long time. I then made a visit to the farm in



question and spoke to the tenant. She introduced me to the local Church warden, who in turn, introduced me to the local museum curator, who finally introduced me to the land owners. After a brief conversation, I secured my first ever real permission in the County of Somerset (UK). The best part about it, is that it has never been detected,

or so I thought at the time. What I now know is that some fields had been detected whilst others had been subject to what's called an archeological recovery dig, where they clear the area of any artefacts of significant historical interest up to a depth of 12 inches (I think). No matter though as I've still had many great finds from this permission and continue to do so while also adding to local history.



An example of me adding to local history is the first field, in which I started the search for the site of the 1895 boiler explosion. I found a lot of WW2 artefacts, Cap Badges, spent .303 cartridges and the like. Anyway, spring forward a few years to me finding something called the Somerset HER. Within this excellent free on line resource, I found aerial photographs the Royal Air Force photographic reconnaissance people had taken in 1946 to map the UK after the Second World War ended. Imagine my surprise when I found a picture of this very field...with 5, yes 5, Nissen huts in it!! This was news to both me and the local residents, who were blissfully unaware of what had been going on right next door. I suppose that during the war, everything was a little hush hush but it did explain the reason I'd been finding what I had in field.

So here we are in 2021, several years down the line, fully conversant with the UK's metal detecting code of conduct, insured with the National Council for Metal Detecting, swinging the Garrett AT Max International with NEL Tornado coil. Enjoying the fact that some of my finds are now recorded on the UK's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database. Another 6 small but perfectly formed permissions acquired and with an extremely eclectic mix of finds from this one permission alone, including 4th century Roman coins, a 13th century Edward 1st hammered coin, 3 George III bull head shillings and ironically, one or two small jet engine parts but what's the moral of my tale? Is there a moral I hear you ask?

Well I would say there is and that it is this, "Never give up". It took me a great deal of time and effort to secure a proper and legal permission. Whereas others might manage to get several in what seems like no time at all, but don't be disheartened by that. Sometimes people can just be in the right place at the right time. Like meeting a farmer on a beach while walking your dog with your wife and moaning about the lockdown on video for You Tube and swapping numbers with him, which a friend of mine did just this week! That's how it can be in this weird and wonderful hobby sometimes. Just keep at it and don't be tempted to stray off the righteous path by "just going out anyway". They do say that nothing comes to he or she who waits. So if you work for it, the spoils and indeed the finds will be yours. Well, half yours and half the landowners (UK Law) but you get the picture and if you've got some research to show the landowner, then your chances of building a rapport with them and getting that all important permission are very much improved! I find that at Christmas, wine & chocolates with the odd find in a display case can also help.

I once found an engraved silver fruit knife on one of my permissions and gave it to the landowners in a display box as the initials on the knife suggested that it was once owned by one of their ancestors and I thought it should be returned to the family. They couldn't have been more grateful and that knife now sits on their mantelpiece above the fire in pride of place!! That's what it's all about for me and the reason I am a member of the UK National Ring Recovery Service run by the effervescent Mr. Morley Howard, a free service to recover lost personal items such as wedding rings whilst raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis charity in the process.



It's also good to be able to show the landowner what it is that you'll be doing. To be able to point them in the direction of your Facebook group or your You Tube channel and say "This is what I'll be doing in your fields" and although not a pre requisite, it is in

itself, yet another key to unlocking that first, second or even third permission. I personally have a You Tube channel, a Facebook group, a Detector Network account, a Twitter account and an Instagram account. All of which I use to promote detecting in a positive light and allow my landowners to see (if they so wish) exactly what it is I'm doing on their land because at the end of the day, you're digging for things in their back yard. Your hobby takes place in their world and it's a good feeling to be able to show that you're giving it the respect it deserves and leaving it exactly how you found it...excepting for the odd evicted earthworm of course.

So, whatever it is I'm trying to convey with this short piece, I'm sure you'll agree that, although my long suffering and loving Wife calls it my geeky pastime, the extremely addictive hobby of metal detecting or time travel as the creator of "The Detectorists" TV show, Mackenzie Crook would have us believe, is one of the most addictive and fun things any man or woman can do with their clothes on. They do say that you've got to walk over it to find it and metal detecting allows me to walk over happiness and has it ringing up as a gold sovereign at around 6 inches.

Take care, good luck and happy hunting to you all.

Deano

Shilling King Metal Detecting UK.



SEATON DOWN HOARD

Is a hoard of 22,888 Roman coins found in November 2013 by metal detectorist Laurence Egerton near Seaton Down in Devon, England.

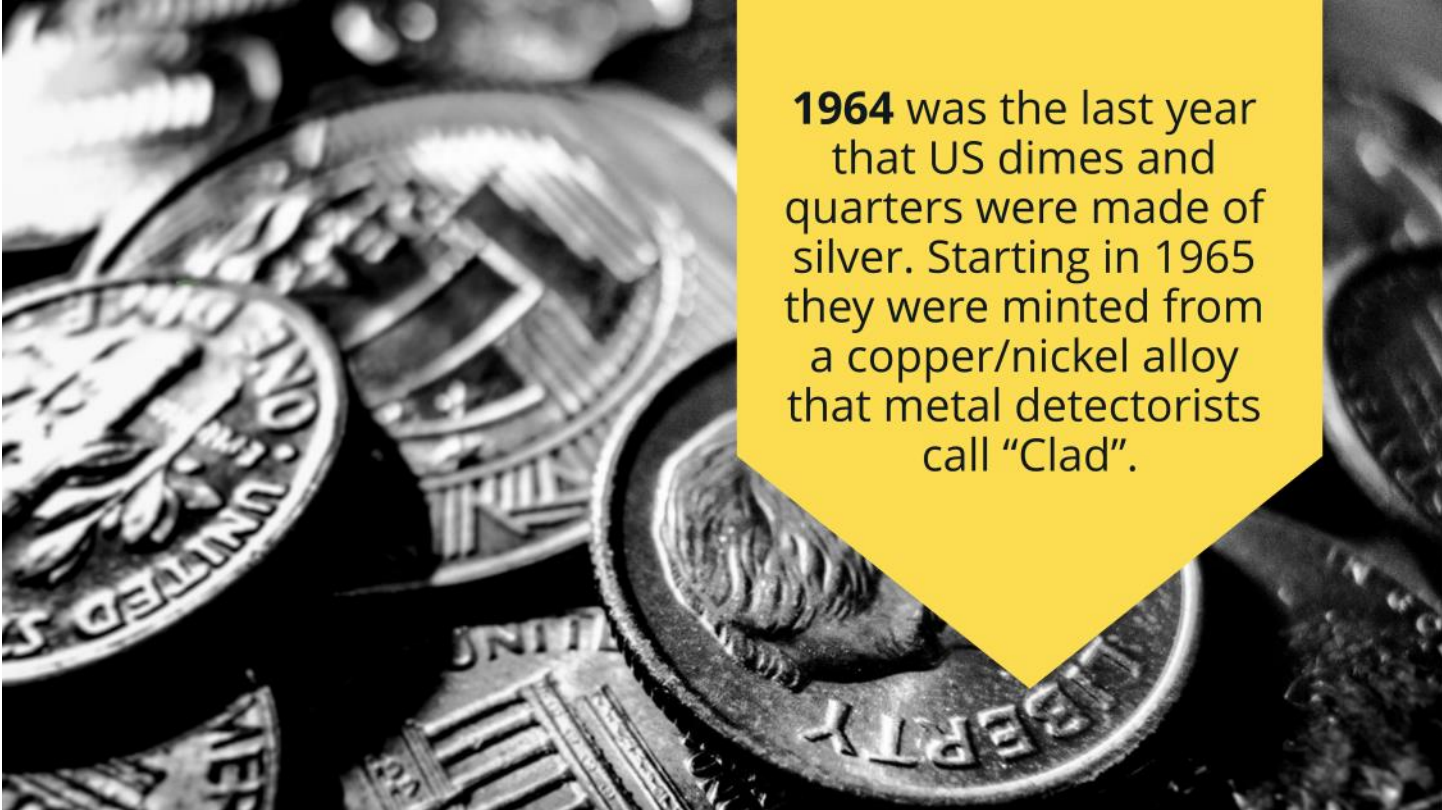
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1964 was the last year that US dimes and quarters were made of silver. Starting in 1965 they were minted from a copper/nickel alloy that metal detectorists call "Clad".

Metal Detecting Accessories

Article by: Gypsy Jewels

So...You bought a metal detector? Now you may be wondering what other essentials you will need to get you on your way to finding treasures.

Let's Start With the Basics!



First and foremost, you need a digging tool. Your collection of digging tools will grow over time according to your needs depending on where you are searching, beaches, fields, woods, etc. Knowing what kind of metal detecting you plan on doing will determine what kind of digging tool you need.

If you are searching fields or wooded areas you might want to purchase a long handled shovel. When I first got started 22 years ago I started with an inexpensive spade I picked up at the hardware store. Perfect if you are on a budget! Usually priced from \$10.99 to \$15.99.

If not on a budget, I recommend Predator Tools. They are made in American using American steel. They are a small family-owned company. Best part, George and Pam Lesche are also long time detectorists.



Another tool you might want to consider is a small hand-held digging trowel. The better quality hand digger you get the less wear and tear on your hand, arm and wrist. Again, Predator Tools offers a great hand digger.



George was the first one to come up with this design and it has been copied by many other manufacturers, often made in another country with inferior materials.

If you're a beach or a water hunter you might want to consider a sand scoop for your digging tool. There are many options available from plastic sand scoops to long-handle scoops that are perfect for detecting in the water, on a beach, or perhaps in a lake. A good sand scoop can save you a lot of time and hassle.

Another essential is a pin pointer! When I first got started in the hobby, I didn't use a pin pointer. It was not until probably about 15 years ago I started using one. A pin pointer can make a world of a difference! The pin pointer will help you to recover your targets so much faster and help save you a lot of frustration when trying to locate the target in your plug or in the hole. For instance, if you have dug your plug and you're not sure if your target is in your plug or still in the hole or perhaps it's in the sidewall of your hole. The pin pointer will help you



determine location much quicker so you can recover your target and move on to the next.



Now that you have the essentials, one other thing you should consider getting is a goodie bag to put treasures in. You can purchase a waist apron at your local hardware store for about \$3.00. Some people even use tool belts that



they already have. Most metal detector manufacturers offer finds pouches as well at reasonable prices.

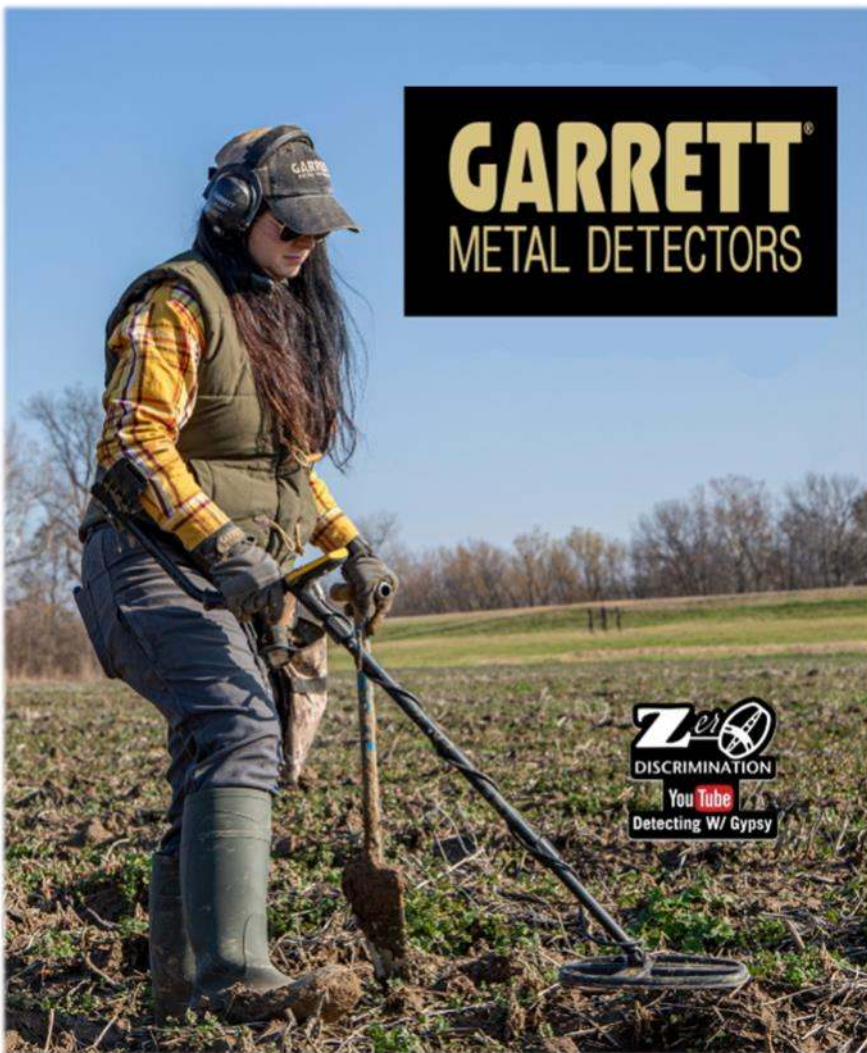
A few other things you might want to consider are knee pads and gloves. You will be kneeling often and it never



feels good to kneel on a rock or other hard object just under the grass. We also often find glass and other sharp objects while recovering targets. I've seen some pretty nasty cuts over the years from not wearing gloves.

Now these are just some of your basics to get you started. You can add more supplies as you progress and get more experience metal detecting and figuring out what other items you may need in the environment you're detecting in.

Wishing you all the best luck in your future quest for treasures!



Visit Gypsy's YouTube channel and follow her along on some great adventures!





ALL METAL MODE

METAL DETECTING PODCAST



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8pm EST

Monday

Hosts:
Amanda "Digger" Degaz
Gypsy Jewels

8pm EST

Tuesday

Hosts:
Dennis Wynn
Doiron Cook

Metal Detecting

Article by: Peter Schichtel **What It Means to Me**



Although you wouldn't normally associate the first-time experience of turning on a metal detector as being mortifying, mine was. Most have fond memories of getting a metal detector for Xmas or from Uncle Billy and venturing out to the back yard and finding their 1st find - a matchbox car that some long-forgotten hooligan, long ago had stepped on and relegated it to a quiet grave undisturbed for 40 years. Not me. My first metal detector experience was more of a nightmare for a 12-year-old kid. My dad was a good man who always seemed to cater to our interests and at this time, 48 years ago, I was beginning a lifelong interest in the Civil War.

So, there I was, in Gettysburg, Pa, stoked on battlefield juice. My Dad had stopped at the coolest store I had ever seen. It was a huge Civil War relic shop and I was in my glory. The shop had a bunch of veteran collectors talking in a group near the main counter and there were numerous customers buying Rebel hats and bumper stickers. As I was standing there in the middle of the shop, I was hoping to catch some secret info or tip from these " pros" chatting with the owner. I hoped that if I made eye contact, they might take interest in me and include me in on their conversation. I glanced over next to me and saw a metal detector sitting on the counter. In those days, a metal detector looked more like a space devise from a Star Trek episode, not exactly like the light, hi tech pieces we deftly swing these days.

Everything seemed to go blurry around me. All I saw was the " on / off " switch. I lost all sense of reason. I mindlessly reached for that switch. "Don't do it" briefly



entered my mind. It was too late. I was past the point of no return.... I flipped the switch. The shop suddenly became filled with the loudest BEEEEEP I ever heard. Everything stopped and everyone looked at me - an old lady holding a straw hat - a big guy holding a rusty pistol - some kid with a wooden rubber band musket and finally the

owner who shouted out " hey kid, don't touch that, it ain't no toy "! I was totally humiliated and all my thoughts of me becoming a famous relic hunter flew out the window that day in Gettysburg, Pa. one thousand and nine hundred and seventy-two.

Time heals all wounds and I eventually did pick up a metal detector again and quickly found that something happened to me. Something almost mystical. Every time I turned on my machine and the beginning tones would chime in my headset; I would be transported back in time to wherever my finds would take me.

It's an incredible feeling to find something that has been frozen in time since the day it was lost. Sometimes stories can be pieced together. Finding a musket ball in the woods is not such a mystery but catching an event "in time" is a real thrill. A good old friend of mine had been detecting in a patch of woods some years back and found a NJ Horsehead copper. About 10 feet further he found another and 10 feet more, another. This continued 5 times. when he calmed down and stopped shaking, he realized that they were in a straight line. The poor guy that lost them must have had a hole in his pocket or purse and away they slipped one at time. Not everyone takes this type of look at the " what", "where " and "why" they have found something. Finding something that can be identified to a particular person is especially rewarding.

Resurrection. Most associate the term with the significant biblical event but the basic meaning is somewhat lost in the miraculous happening almost 2000 years ago. The term "resurrect" is defined "to revitalize or restore something to former status". It really isn't a stretch to me to view the finding of lost items and bring them back into the light of day again as a mini resurrection. Think about it , most of the crusty old bits that we find once had use, purpose, ownership, and were most likely valued by someone until they slipped from their hand long ago and ended up keeping company with worms. We bumble along swing, our electronic gadgets scanning for whatever may lie beneath and we find things. Maybe the act of Resurrection should be preceded by the act of "Liberation ". As we sink our digging tool into the earth, we pull up clods of dirt until we see what our gadget told us was there. We extract the item from the hole and it's free. No more dry, hot summer days and no more being frozen for 125 winters. Free at last!

Now the Resurrection. We carefully wrap our new friend in something protective



and we bring it home into our warm house. We clean it and lay it in a way that it can be seen. People come to see it. People praise it and wish it was theirs. It has life again and now holds a place more important than it ever had. The cycle is complete. Metal detecting is much more than swinging "one of those things" on a beach or in a park. It's not just about that goofball in shorts with black knee socks and sandals. A metal detector is a time machine of sorts that can not only bring us back to a fixed point in

history but can also retrieve history and bring it back to the present. It's more than finding junk, metal detecting is a personal experience that has as many meanings as there are detectorists.

Treasure Legends

OHIO – Morgan’s Raid Treasures

On June 16th of 1863, the Confederate General, John Hunt Morgan entered Ohio with 1800 soldiers to disrupt life in the North and pull Union troops North from the battles raging in the South during the Civil war.

During Morgan’s raid into Ohio, it is estimated him and his men raided close to 4,000 homes and businesses. There are many tails of silver, gold, and other valuables being plundered by the confederate troops. When the raid finally came to an end days later at Buffington Island where the majority of Morgan’s men, including himself were captured, there were very few plundered items to be found.



Some might have made it across the river and back to safety with Morgan’s men who were able to escape but it is believed much of it was buried by his men to come back to retrieve at a later date. There were accounts of raiders who were so exhausted that some were falling asleep while on their horses and falling off. Being such a taxing raid, it’s not farfetched that the raiders would bury valuables to come back to. With a little research you can find the general route of Morgan and his men.

Many years ago, when I was a very young man, I met a distant relative with property Southeast of Bainbridge Ohio. I remember the story that while they were making trails on their hundred plus acres, they recovered a rifle leaning against a tree on their property. It was suspected by a local gun collector who preserved the gun for them, to have been left by one of the raiders. This might be a great place to start a little research. I do remember the family member saying a road used to go through his property that is no longer there.

Kentucky – Sprinkle Dollars

In the 1830's, there was a man who lived in Lewis County Kentucky, by the name of Josiah Sprinkle. He was known to pay for items with dollars he had made himself. It is said that Sprinkle Dollars featured a star on one side and an owl on the other.

Government officials put him on trial over his coins but since they were pure silver weighing more than a dollar and they were not counterfeit he was let go. It's said



that in the courtroom he pulled a leather satchel out and paid his attorney with 50 of them after the trial.

It's said that Josiah Sprinkle used his dollars for over 20 years yet none are known to exist. If the story is true you have to imagine there must be a few in the ground around where Josiah lived. One had to

have been lost in the ground or maybe Josiah buried some away. It is believed that Josiah was mining silver from a local cave which could be another great treasure waiting to be found.



ON THE GOLD

with

THOMAS "PENNYWEIGHT" FOWLKES

How I Got the Fever

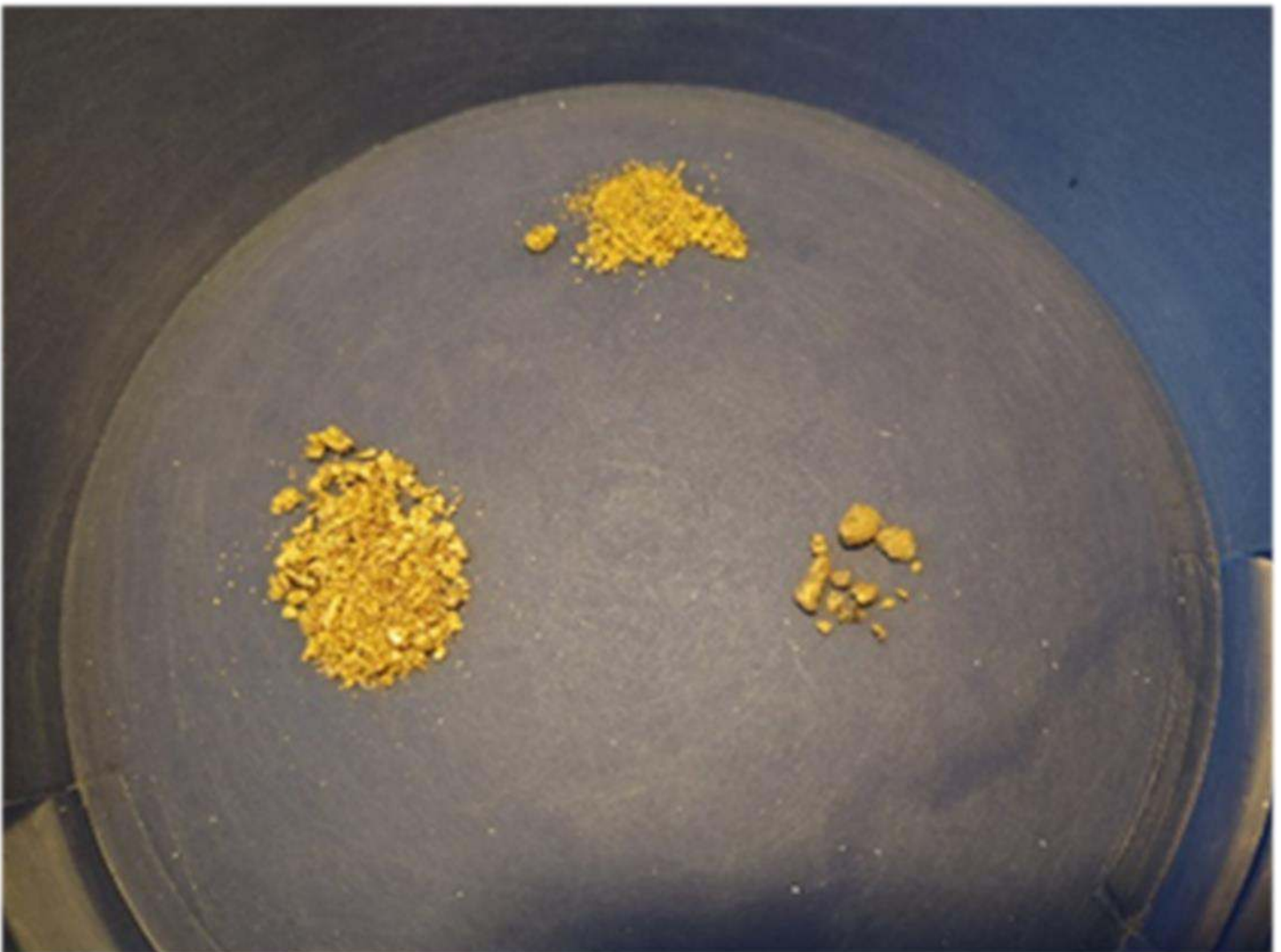
I had been watching Gold Rush Alaska and loved the show. It portrayed guys down on their luck and they headed to Alaska to make their fortune. This did not really get me interested in gold, I just thought it was a good show. No, I got curious one late night while flipping through TV channels. A weird guy caught my eye. I believe he was in Kentucky and he was looking for gold. I pulled up the info on the TV and the show was called Gold Fever. Its host was Tom Massie. On his show, Tom was a kind of dorky, intelligent guy. A pretty good entertainer.

Well, I immediately looked up when it came on next time and set my DVR to record, any new shows. After watching this show, it got me to thinking, I wonder if there is any gold in Indiana. I jumped on my computer and googled "Gold in Indiana". I was surprised at the results. Staring back at me from the screen were several pages on the subject. All kinds of information from books to YouTube videos. I was amazed. I knew enough to know that landscape didn't support natural gold. I've known that since I was a kid. That was the extent of my knowledge. But now with the aid of my computer I discovered that there was gold here.

I also found possible locations to go to find some. Well with that the wheels started spinning. The guys in Alaska getting hundreds of ounces. I'd be happy if I found an ounce during a weekend. Ahhhh the mind of the inexperienced. So, I figured if I'm going to get that ounce, I need to know how. I was in luck. Google had pulled up lots

of information on how to pan for gold. I'm a visual person, so YouTube was my friend. I watched lots of how to pan for gold videos. The process seemed simple enough. Dig dirt, classify dirt down to ½ inch. Put some of that dirt in pan. Put pan in the water, swirl and work lighter materials out. Leaving only the heavier material to include gold in the pan. Simple. Now earlier in my young man days I had attempted this while in the Army. I went to a buddy's family home near Liberty, Washington. He tried to show me how. I was more interested in just getting away from post than finding gold. So I didn't catch the fever then. But now I was very interested in finding gold.

So the next thing I needed was a pan. Well the computer came to rescue again. I found the garret panning kit. A trip to the local Home Depot gave me the buckets and shovel I needed. A trip to Gander Mountain to get some rubber boots. Next I needed a place to go. Well there were several places that came up in my search. The



one I picked was Gatesville Country Store in Nashville, IN. After all, everything I've read said go to where gold was found before, and this place had come up several times.

The creek runs behind the store. I stopped in and asked if could down to the creek and look for gold.

The owner, a very nice lady named Robin said sure. I looked around before leaving and saw pans and classifiers for sale and thought to myself I could have saved on shipping if I had known. I thought oh well and off I went. I made it down to the creek and followed the guidelines in finding gold that the experts recommend (i.e., digging the inside bend). I started digging and classifying. After I got a little more than half a bucket. I found a nice spot where I could sit and pan out my material. I panned until I had about a quart of material left in the bucket with no gold. Then on the next pan, there is it was. About 5 tiny flakes of bright buttery color. I silent shouted. Not wanting anyone to know I was on the motherlode. Gold, I had found it. With no previous hands on experience. I had found it. Now, now I have the fever!

So, don't be afraid to try looking for gold. Take the family out and make it a camping\gold mining adventure. Heavy Pans!!!

For great prospecting videos find Thomas on :



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Is the largest known gold nugget ever found in California, United States. It was found in the Stringer district near Randsburg by prospector Ty Paulsen in 1977 using a metal detector.



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