

Buried Treasure



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Drawing by Ray Walters.

WHO said that Romance is dead in these modern days, in this year A. D. 1927?

Pieces of eight! Doubloons! Treasures of the Spanish Main! Pirate gold! BURIED TREASURE!

Do these words bring back memories to you—memories of boyhood days when you first read Stevenson's "Treasure Island"? That was long ago, perhaps, and yet—

Here are three dispatches which have appeared in our newspapers within the last few weeks. Read them and see if they don't give you a sort of thrill:

NEW YORK—Residents of Asbury Park and nearby villages are warming up to a hunt for pirate treasure as the result of the discovery by Percival G. Utman, Jr., of Lake street, Asbury Park, in that city of a fossilized boat of the type worn by swash-bucklers two centuries ago. Embedded in the rock-encrusted boat Utman found a woman's gold ring, set with a large pearl.

The boat was found near the spot where a flintlock carbine was picked up a month ago. A band of sea marauders, led by a woman, took refuge at the spot. The woman cut her hair short and was a ruthless plunderer, the original "bobby-haired" bandit.

NEW ORLEANS—Mysterious bands of treasure hunters still range across the Louisiana marshes. They are seeking the buried spoils of the pirate Jean Lafitte.

The buccaneer is said to have cased vast stores of doubloons and pieces of eight along the great coastal stretch southwest of New Orleans.

Reported discovery of a buried treasure near Vermillion bay a year ago caused considerable excitement.

One party of treasure seekers went so far as to pull up a post set by government surveyors, evidently believing that the stake was one of the markings made by Lafitte.

It is said that two members of Lafitte's band once lived in the vicinity of the city of Lake Charles.

CLEVELAND, OHIO—Doubloons, pieces of eight, and other treasures of the Spanish Main, to the value of \$50,000,000, he buried on a South American island, ready for the person who is willing to dig, according to George Finlay Simmons, curator of ornithology of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, who has just returned from the island. The cache includes much golden plunder taken from the Incas Indians by the Spaniards, who in turn were robbed by the two pirates who buried the loot a century ago on the island off the coast of Brazil.

One of the hoards, Simmons says, amounts to \$40,000,000, and was buried by the Spanish pirate, Jose Santos, who captured a ship laden with gold and silver ingots, silver vestments and candelabra from the churches of Lima, Peru.

More than \$5,000,000 more was buried on the same island by an English pirate, who styled himself "Zulmoro." Records of this cache were

kept and were in the possession of the Russian quartermaster of the pirate ship until he died in the Far East.

Eight expeditions were made to find the treasure between 1800 and 1892, but most of them never reached the desolate coast of the island. Those that did found that the landmarks, marked on the map, had been wiped out by a landslide.

"Robert Louis Stevenson used the place as the scene of 'Treasure Island,'" Simmons says, "but the plunder found in fiction really is still there."

Such items are not at all uncommon in our newspapers and probably will continue to appear therein for many years to come. For, among our most cherished traditions is the belief that every pirate who sailed the main at some time in his career buried a part of his loot somewhere and never recovered it. And there (wherever "there" is) lies to this day awaiting the lucky discoverer, whom through blind chance or because he has come across some old document which puts him on the trail, it will enrich beyond his wildest dreams. As a matter of fact it is much more likely that the average pirate squandered more of his ill-gotten gains than he ever buried, that not one in ten of all the stories of buried treasure have the slightest foundation in fact and that more money has been spent in the efforts to find this hidden wealth than all the treasure which all the pirates in history ever buried is worth.

But these facts, even if they could be definitely established, probably would fall to dim the lure of the supposed buried treasure nor dampen the enthusiasm of those who go out to seek it. That lure and that enthusiasm are based upon a universal human weakness—the "get-rich-quick" desire. Perhaps Edgar Allen Poe is as much responsible as any one for nourishing the buried treasure angle of that desire. So long as the tradition of hidden treasure on our coasts persists and so long as his "Gold Bug" is read by successive generations of Americans, so long will we have the great American sport of hunting pirate gold.

Only a year or so ago a Canadian announced his invention of the metalophone, an electrical "Gold Bug" which could detect the presence of buried metals even though they were concealed beneath more than 500 feet of solid rock. Immediately the word went out that the metalophone was to be used to find the buried treasure on the historic Cocos island, which lies in the Pacific ocean about 500 miles southwest of Costa Rica and which was a favorite lair of pirates in the old freebooting days. In fact Cocos island has been a magnet for treasure seekers for many years because there

is an apparently well-authenticated story that the mutinous crew of the British ship *Mary Dear* hid on the island treasure valued at \$12,000,000 (some accounts put it at \$35,000,000 and others at \$60,000,000) more than a hundred years ago. Soon afterwards the secret leaked out and scarcely a year has passed since that time that someone has not tried to uncover this vast wealth. As late as 1925 a party of British scientists set out for that purpose, but if they or anyone else have been successful, the world is yet to hear of it.

The treasure which the famous Captain Kidd is supposed to have buried somewhere along the New England coast is nearly as famous and as much sought after as the Cocos island wealth. It is true that he did bury a part of his loot on Gardiner's island, off Montauk point on Long Island, N. Y., when he returned from his trip a-pirating, but that was recovered soon after his arrest. And that is all of Captain Kidd's gold that has ever been recovered.

The famous Blackbeard is said to have buried part of his piratical wealth in New Jersey. Wherefore "gold diggers" have made the dirt fly at various places in New Jersey but more particularly at Burlington. Legend says that Sir Henry Morgan hid part of his loot beneath the soil of Oak Island, off the coast of Maine, and more than \$200,000 has been spent from time to time digging on Oak Island to recover it. So far the net result has been nothing.

The gold of Jean Lafitte has kept treasure seekers busy at various places along the coast of Louisiana and Texas. This legend is almost a perfect buried-treasure yarn. There is a document, bequeathed by a father, about to die, to his son, bearing the date of 1813, which tells of the burial by Lafitte and his men of 70,000 doubloons and a bar of silver. It is signed by a number of the pirate's followers and has as its seal the usual pirate marks, the skull and crossbones and a dagger. There occur also the words "mutiny," "cruelty" and "inquisition" and on the other side is a rude map which is the key to the location of the hoard. There is a story of a party of men who stumbled upon the place where they were sure that the treasure was buried, then went back to get spades to dig and could not find the place again. So there (wherever "there" is) lies Lafitte's buried treasure worth \$1,120,000 for someone.

But, in the argot of the day, "try and get it."

T. R.'s Diplomacy

"I remember once, while serving as a correspondent in Washington," said Sam Langdon of St. Louis, "how I chanced to be present at a diplomatic conference in which intrigue and guile were so manifest as to be almost an affront. Finally Mr. Roosevelt, having stood it as long as he could, jumped to his feet and exclaimed: 'Gentlemen, you can't get away with it! Let me say in plain United States

that a flush in the hand is worth two on the face, and for that reason, the United States of America is standing pat."

Harsh Puritanism

In 1659 the Puritans, through the general court of Massachusetts, are said to have enacted an ordinance providing "that everybody who is found observing by abstention from labor, feasting or otherwise, any such day as Christmas day, shall for every such offense be fined 5 shillings."

First Golf Club

The first golf club used on the first golf course west of the Mississippi is to be enshrined in a place of honor at the Wichita Country club. Prof. C. P. Clark was the first one to introduce golf to the residents of this city in Kansas.

Which Is Worse?

We ask you, man to man, which is worse, profanity, or declaring that something is "perfectly darling?"—Little Rock Democrat.

Scraps of Humor

BEST RECORD YET

An old gentleman, watch in hand, stopped a passing instructor at a bathing pool.

"Instructor," he said, "what is the longest time anybody ever stayed under water?"

"Why, about five minutes, I guess," said the instructor.

"Then," said the old gentleman, "there's a fat business man over there in the deep part of the pool who has broken all the records. I've been timing him. He's been down over nine minutes now, and you can see for yourself, that he shows no signs of coming up yet."

FAIR ENOUGH THEN

"Bill plays a pretty fair game of poker don't he, Joe?"

"Yeh! If yuh keep yer eye on him."

A Bad Effect

"Revolving doors I hate," said Ladd;

"You cannot slam 'em when you're mad."

Chorus Girl Archeology

The chorus girl had picked up a scientific work. Her roommate thought it was a novel and wanted to know what it was about.

"Well, it seems we all emerged from the primal ooze—"

"But who's the hero?"

"Seems to be a party named *Algae*."

That's a Thought

A man had been visiting a certain widow every evening.

"Why don't you marry her?" asked a friend.

"I have often thought about it," was the reply, "but where could I spend my evenings then?"—Kasper, Stockholm.

Just the Thing

A society woman was taken into one of these quick and ready restaurants where you rest your provender on the broad arm of a chair.

"It's an admirable idea," she declared, "I'll have some of those chairs in mahogany before I give another tea."

Realism

"What are you doing these days?"

"Broadcasting with an opera singer."

"But you can't sing."

"I supply the coughs."

RUIN IVY

"She clings to him like ivy,"

"Well, he's an old ruin."

Forgotten Lore

Of wisdom China has a lot. The records plainly show— But most of it those folks forgot Some centuries ago.

Circumstances Unfavorable

Doctor—You have a strong constitution, and under favorable circumstances you ought to live to be nearly a hundred.

Henpeck—Yes, but I am married doctor. I am married, you know.

Barred

"Would you like two balcony seats for the opera, Nora?"

"Thanks, ma'am, but my friend wouldn't sit upstairs, him bein' so musical."

From Bad to Worse

Frank—The doctor told me that I'd have a tobacco heart if I didn't stop buying cigarettes.

Fred—Yes?

Frank—So I started buying chocolates, and now I have a sweetheart.—The Progressive Grocer.

Linger Longer

Clever Actress—Oh, I'm getting terribly old. I've just reached twenty.

Manager—Huh, dearie, what detained you?

Carrying a big load? SHREDDED WHEAT

will lighten it by insuring easy digestion and bodily strength—crisp shreds of baked whole wheat

English Criminal Custom

Hue and cry is the old English common law process of pursuing "with horn and with voice" from township to township, and county to county all robbers and felons. The pursuit of a felon was aided by a description of him in the Hue and Cry, a publication established for advertising felons in England in 1710.

NOTICE!

To Livestock Owners

If You Own Any Horses, Cattle, Poultry or Hogs, by All Means Read This.

Safeguard your stock against the costly ravages of quick-spreading disease. Nature has provided wonderful health-giving roots and herbs which have proved unerring in thousands of cases. These are combined in a time-tried, reliable remedy, Porter's Pain King—the standby of hundreds of farmers in this community. They recommend it highly for sores, colds and distemper in horses and for soreness of the udder, caked teats, and blast in cows. Every day chickens are becoming better money-earners, and there is an increasing use of Porter's Pain King by careful poultry raisers everywhere. It is a positive relief for gapes, roup and parasitic growths. Sick hens are not good layers.

Use Porter's Pain King at the slightest sign of trouble. Just follow the directions with each bottle. It may save you several hundred dollars. Your dealer guarantees satisfaction or money back. Made and guaranteed by The Geo. H. Rundle Co., Piqua, Ohio, since 1871.

Private Gas Well

E. C. Hamilton, who lives east of Independence, Mo., has earned a name as a resourceful fellow. He decided that a gas well would be a handy thing to have about his yard, so he went about 50 feet from his house and dug one. His well, which has a pressure of 475 pounds, has been used and the gas is piped to Hamilton's house, being used for heating, cooking and lighting.

DEMAND "BAYER" ASPIRIN

Aspirin Marked With "Bayer Cross" Has Been Proved Safe by Millions.

Warning! Unless you see the name "Bayer" on package or on tablets you are not getting the genuine Bayer Aspirin proved safe by millions and prescribed by physicians for 26 years.

Say "Bayer" when you buy Aspirin. Imitations may prove dangerous.—Adv.

Fashion Note

There is only a year's difference in the ages of Thelma and Edna, so Edna usually falls heir to Thelma's outgrown dresses.

As her mother put another one on her she sighed: "I wish I'd grown faster than Thelma's dresses!"

One More

Sennett—Just because I held 13 spades four times in succession, all 7 of them thought I was cheating! (Grimshay—And if I had been there, I would have thought that.)

There's a "PINE TREE" Dealer Here

It Will Pay You to See Him

Before you buy your seeds this spring it will pay you to call at your "Pine Tree" dealer and inspect his stocks of Timothy, Alfalfa, Clover and other seeds. You can have clean crops this year if you insist on Genuine "Pine Tree" Brand.

Watch your favorite farm paper for an interesting series of "Pine Tree" advertisements showing how reclaimed seeds are produced.

"PINE TREE" FARM SEEDS

Improving Physically

The public health service says that as a whole American children of today are probably a little taller than the children of the same age were one generation back, because of improved sanitary conditions and health habits.

Mothers, Do This—

When the children cough, rub Musterole on their throats and chests. No telling how soon the symptoms may develop into croup, or worse. And then when you're glad you have a jar of Musterole at hand to give prompt relief.

As first aid, Musterole is excellent. Keep a jar ready for instant use.

It is the remedy for adults, too. Relieves sore throat, bronchitis, tonsillitis, croup, stiff neck, asthma, neuralgia, headache, congestion, pleurisy, rheumatism, lumbago, pains and aches of back or joints, sprains, sore muscles, chilblains, frosted feet and colds of the chest (it may prevent pneumonia).

To Mothers: Musterole is also made in milder form for babies and small children. Ask for Children's Musterole.

Jars & Tubes

Better than a mustard plaster

Cord Wood Saws

Raw Tables with Dutton Peerless Saws, Wade Gasoline Saws, White Gasoline Log and Tree Saws, Witte and Jumbo Jr. Gasoline Engines, Aeromotor Gasoline Pumps and Wind Mills, Pump Jacks, Wood and Steel Tanks, Gohl and H. V. Feller Cutters, Corn Shell-ers, Duplex and Star Feed Grinders, Daisey Electric and Hand Churns, Ohio Colony Brooder Stoves, Catalogue Free.

Write for prices or see your dealer. RAWLINGS IMPLEMENT CO., Baltimore, Md.

Children like KEMP'S BALSAM for Coughs!

SALESMEN Wanted To Sell Our West Virginia Grown Nursery Stock.

Fine canvassing outfit FREE. Cash Commission Paid Weekly. WRITE for terms.

THE GOLD NURSERY CO., Mason City, W. Va.

CHERRY-GLYCERINE COMPOUND

FOR COUGHS, COLDS

FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS

A Wonder

"I understand he's a model husband." "Must be. He comes up to the expectations of his wife's relatives."—Boston Transcript.