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VOL. 8, NO. 1

JANUARY, 1977

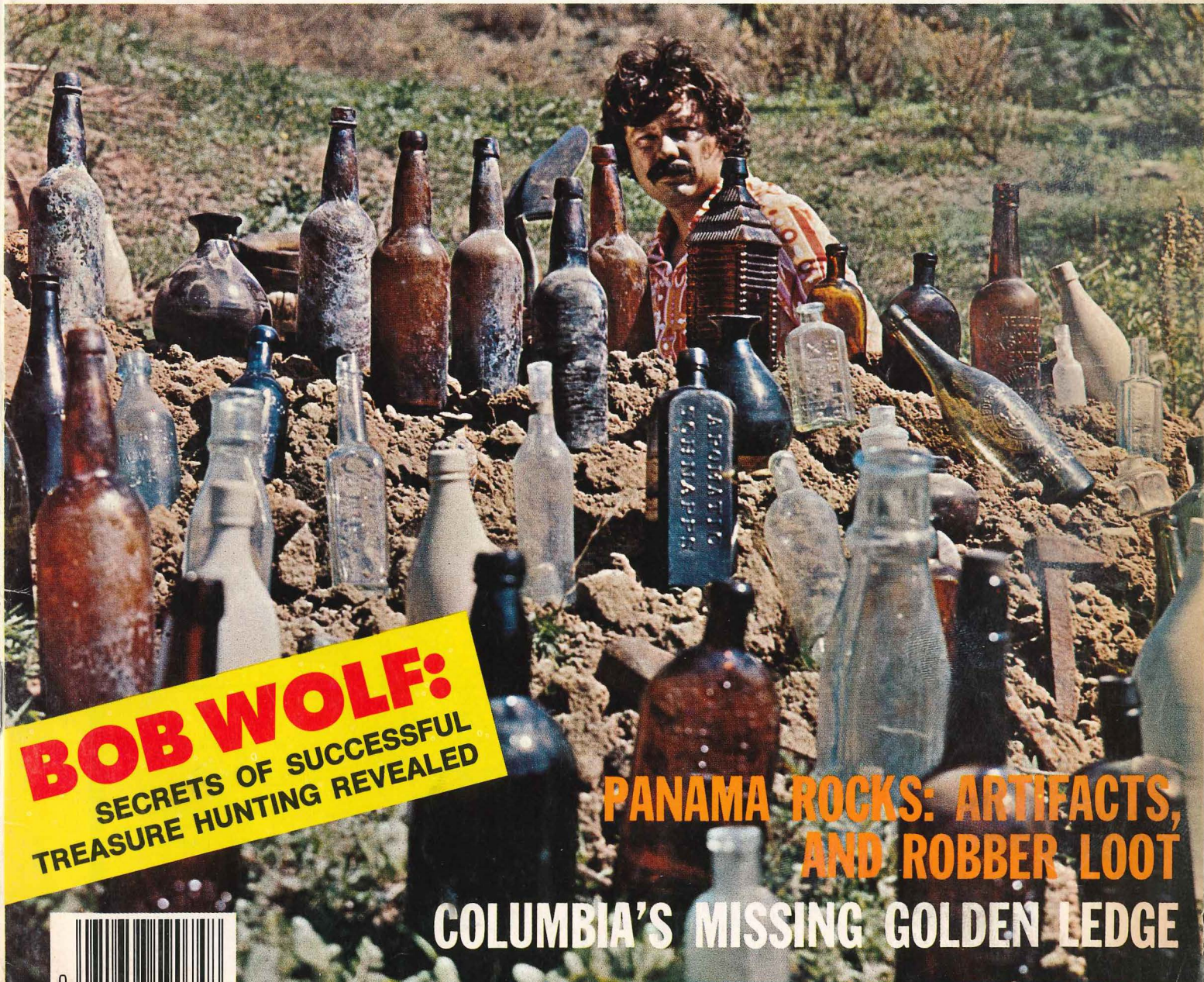
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BOB WOLF:
SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL
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**PANAMA ROCKS: ARTIFACTS,
AND ROBBER LOOT**

COLUMBIA'S MISSING GOLDEN LEDGE

THE COINMASTER V G.E.B. DISCRIMINATOR



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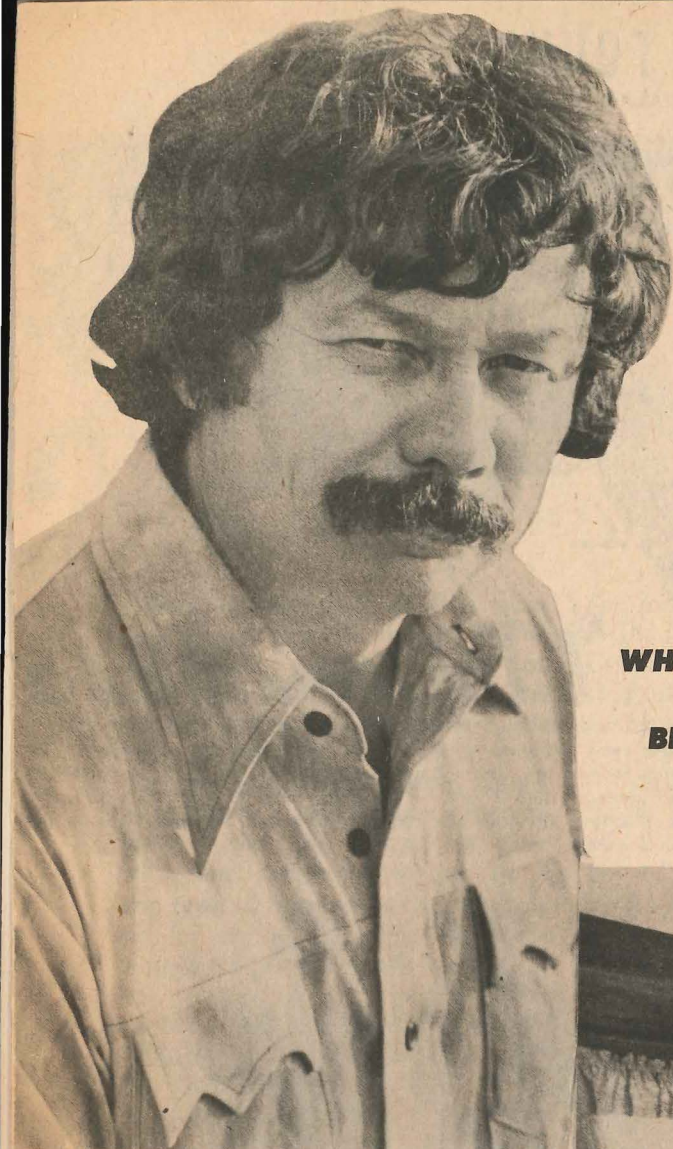
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PROFILE OF A TREASURE HUNTER:

BOB BY BOB GRANT WOLF

WHEN THE HIKE INTO A WELL-PRESERVED GHOST TOWN WAS TOO RUGGED FOR ANYTHING TO BE PACKED OUT, A HELICOPTER WAS RENTED TO LAND THE TREASURE HUNTERS WITHIN AN HOUR'S WALK OF THIS UNIQUE LOCATION



Bob Wolf has shared his coinshooting and bottle digging secrets with many other treasure hunters.

Coinshooting, bottle digging, relic hunting, and gold panning—to Bob Wolf these are all prime components of his first love—treasure hunting.

It takes a pretty serious TH'er to go bottle digging on his honeymoon, but that is precisely what Bob and his pretty wife Dale did. They didn't really intend it that way—it just sort of happened.

"I always keep a shovel in the car," explains Wolf. "You know, just in case I get stuck and have to dig my way out — through a bottle dump." And it was that same shovel that turned up some 40 bottles during his honeymoon, worth between \$600 and \$700.

"I had never been to Virginia City," continues Wolf, "so Dale and I thought it might be a nice



The decor of Bob's home office reflects his interest in history and treasure hunting.

place to visit during our honeymoon. As we were exploring the area, we stopped at one of the old mining sites down the hill from Virginia City."

In the course of their exploring, Bob fell into conversation with an

elderly man who had lived there for many years. He filled Bob in on some of the history of the area, and when he learned of Bob's interest in bottle digging, he told of a particular spot where a hole had already been started. The



The fine pot-belly stove is one of the prime finds from Granite City, Montana.

This is one of about 96 different varieties of historical Eagle flasks which were made from about 1820 through 1890. This one is dated around 1840 and is valued at about \$150.

man assured Bob that if he dug in a certain corner of the hole he would find bottles.

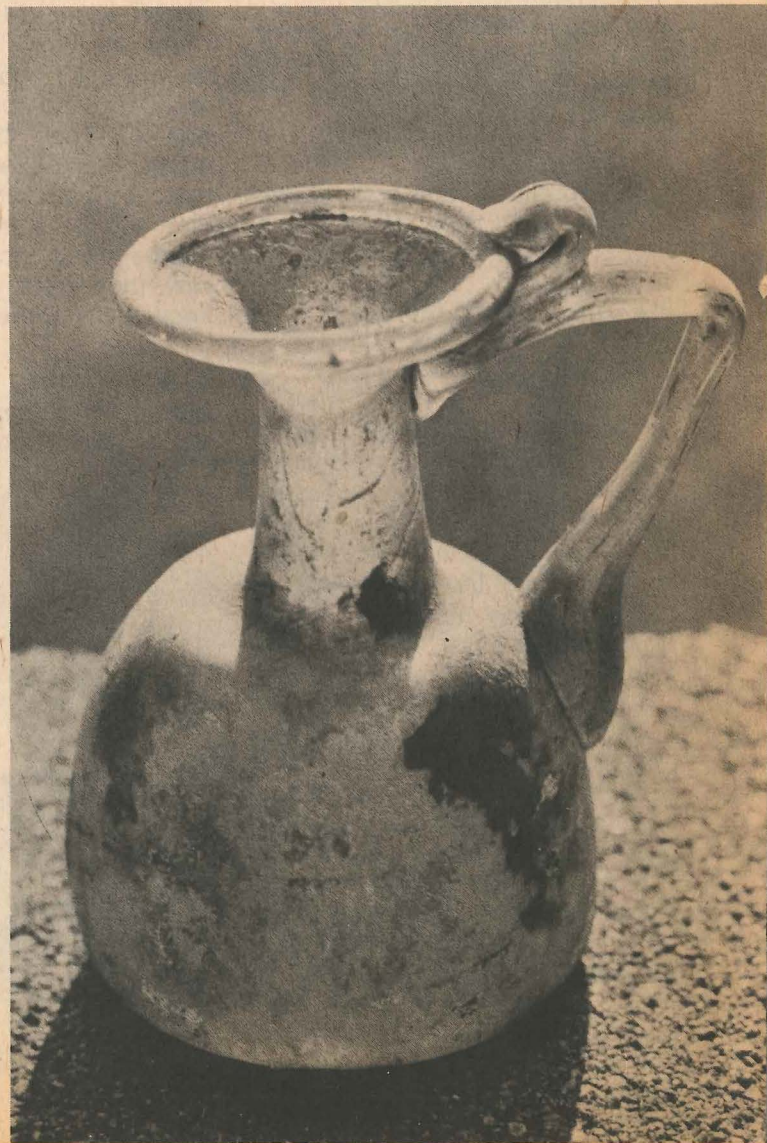
"Now any bottle digger knows that *nobody* can tell you where to dig to find bottles," says Wolf. "I thought the man was crazy, but I decided to give it a try anyway. I wasn't in that hole five minutes before I began to find bottles. I found some nice Virginia City medicines and perfumes—in all we dug about 40 bottles out of that hole including two very exceptional ones: a Warner's Safe bottle, very old and crude with a 'drippy top,' and a beautiful pontiled Phoenix Bitters. That was some honeymoon present!"

GETTING STARTED

In reality the honeymoon dig wasn't as one-sided as it may seem at first glance, for it was Dale who helped spark Bob's interest in serious treasure hunting.

"My dad started me very young by taking me out to a lot of ghost towns and desert areas," says Bob, "and while I was very interested in the tools and relics I brought back, it wasn't until Dale brought me a box of old bottles her cousin had discarded that I really became interested and began doing serious research." This all happened several years before Bob and Dale were married. With his interest aroused, Bob answered an ad in a newspaper for ghost town bottles, met some people who later became close friends, and found himself seriously bitten by the treasure bug. From that point on he began researching good sites and going on digs—the majority of which have been successful beyond

Bob's interest in historical glass extends even into early history as is evidenced by this piece of Roman glass, circa 1st Century B.C./A.D.





On his second trip into the rugged California mining camp, Bob hired a helicopter to land the party within an hour's hike of the main area.



The metal detector yielded a number of good finds around the old mining cabins reached by helicopter.

most treasure hunters' wildest dreams. And Dale accompanies him on nearly every trip.

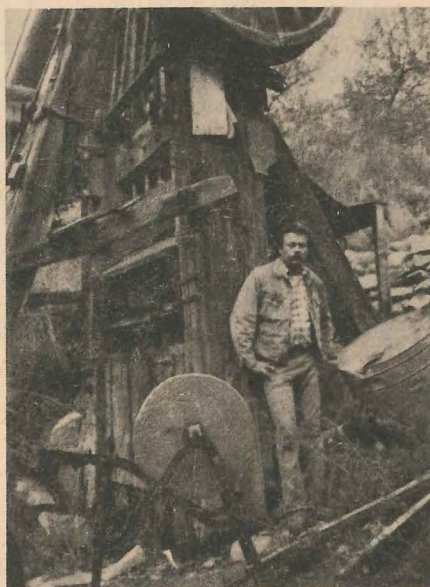
CLOSE-TO-HOME LOCATIONS

While it is a common misconception among many treasure hunters that most good locations are hundreds of miles from their home town, Bob has proved that is not always the case. And the old Red Rover mine near Acton, California, a mere 40 miles from Bob's home, is a good example.

"As a kid I used to go up there a lot. The headframes were still standing, and the shafts were open at that time. We used to run around in the tunnels and think nothing of it," Bob explains.

While the headframes are still standing today, the shafts and tunnels have been covered over for safety reasons.

"I have looked around there many times for old stuff but never had much luck," Bob continues.



Many unique items still remain in the old mining camp due to its inaccessibility.

"Until one day, that is, when we were digging around one area that was somewhat sunken. Suddenly we hit some old trash."

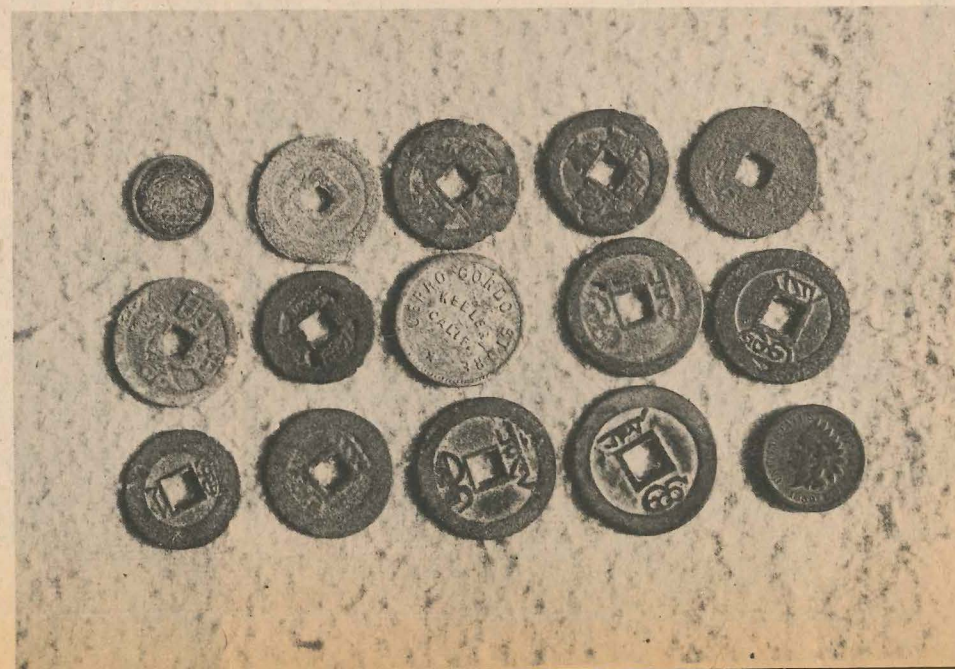
By the time the diggers had gotten down about six or eight feet they had found a number of bottles. Then they came upon boxes and boxes of old wooden matches still in their cases. The matches were in square clumps, maybe three inches square. Just why they were discarded is unknown, but there were thousands

Chinese coins, a half-dime, an Indian Head penny, and a Cero Gordo trade token are among



Wooden water pipe installed around the turn of the century to serve Phillipsburg, Montana, is still in use today.

Wolf's interesting coinshooting finds.

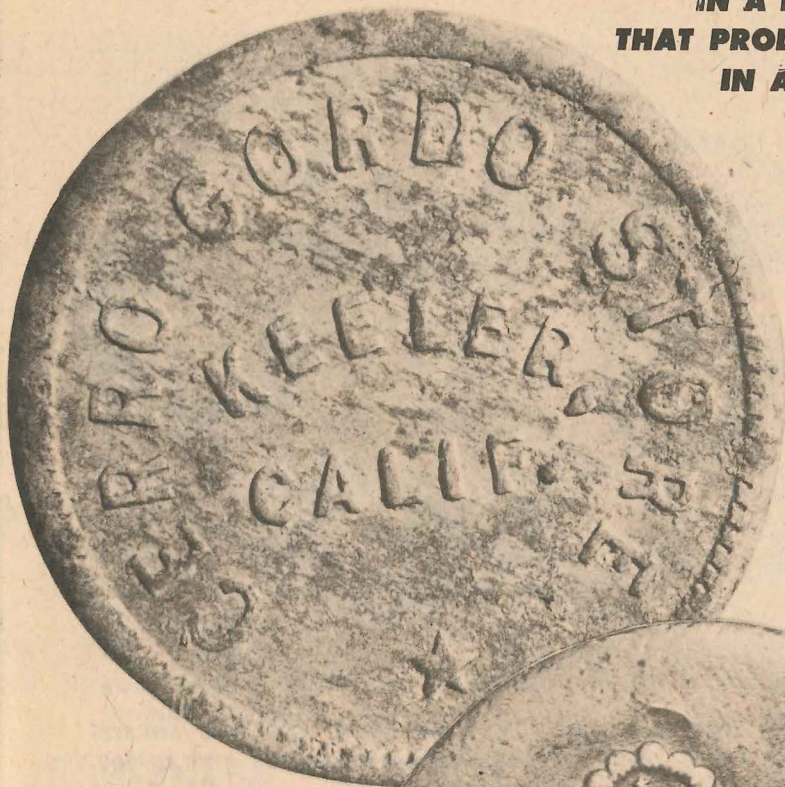


upon thousands of those matches.

"Still we kept digging," says Bob. Soon the hole got too deep to dig by hand, so I hooked the winch of my four-wheel-drive truck to an old 'Fresno' and kept dragging the dirt from the hole. The Fresno, which is a digger the old-timers hitched behind horses to make furrows for trash dumps or to dig gullies, did an excellent job for us, and by the time we were done, our hole was about 18 feet deep!"

It turned out the hole was actually the mouth of an old pros-

This rare trade token was found on a treasure outing to the Cero Gordo mine.



A well-preserved U.S. Cavalry rosette was found at a military post site in New Mexico.



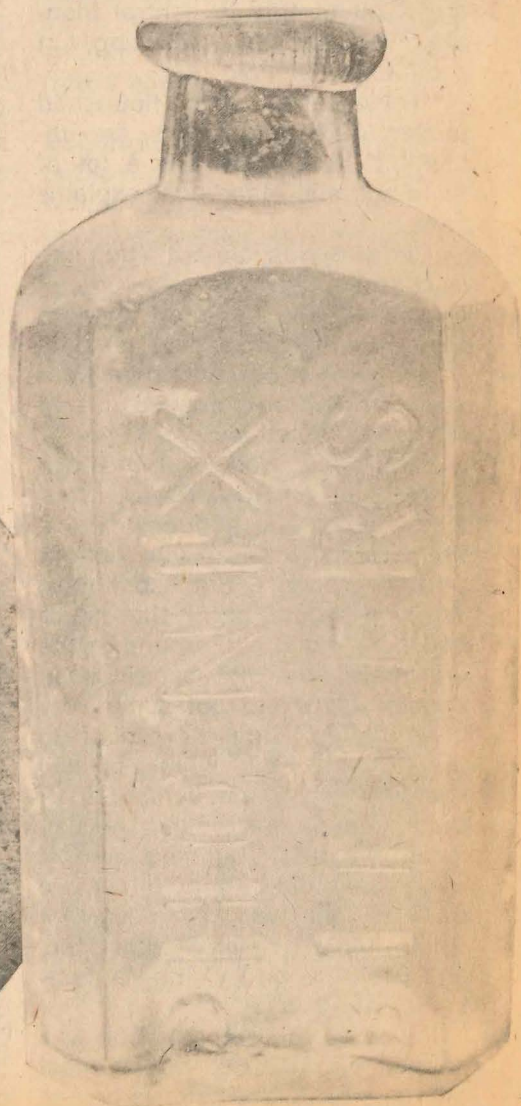
pect hole which went in about 15 feet and played out. When it was abandoned it was filled with trash, and by the time the treasure hunters got to the end of the hole they had recovered 80 or 90 old bottles, jugs, and an old crockery bean pot. And all within a stone's throw of home!

DISTANT GHOST TOWNS

While the Red Rover Mine dig was an excellent example of good finds made close to home, there

AN OFF-THE-CUFF CONVERSATION WITH AN OLD TIMER IN A NEVADA MINING CAMP RESULTED IN A DIG THAT PRODUCED \$700 WORTH OF BOTTLES IN A FEW SHORT HOURS

This beautiful pontiled Phoenix Bitters was dug by Bob and Dale in Virginia City on their honeymoon.



A few of the many finds made by Bob and Dale include old silver and copper coins, trade tokens, Chinese coins, soap and tobacco tins, a Chinese gold-rush era lantern, powder flash, rings, locks, a Civil War Kepi and a hand-engraved brass jewelry box.



These two early coins, an 1875 half-dime and an 1859 Indian Head penny, were found in the San Fernando Valley with a metal detector.



This old outhouse in Granite City, Montana, yielded a number of good finds.

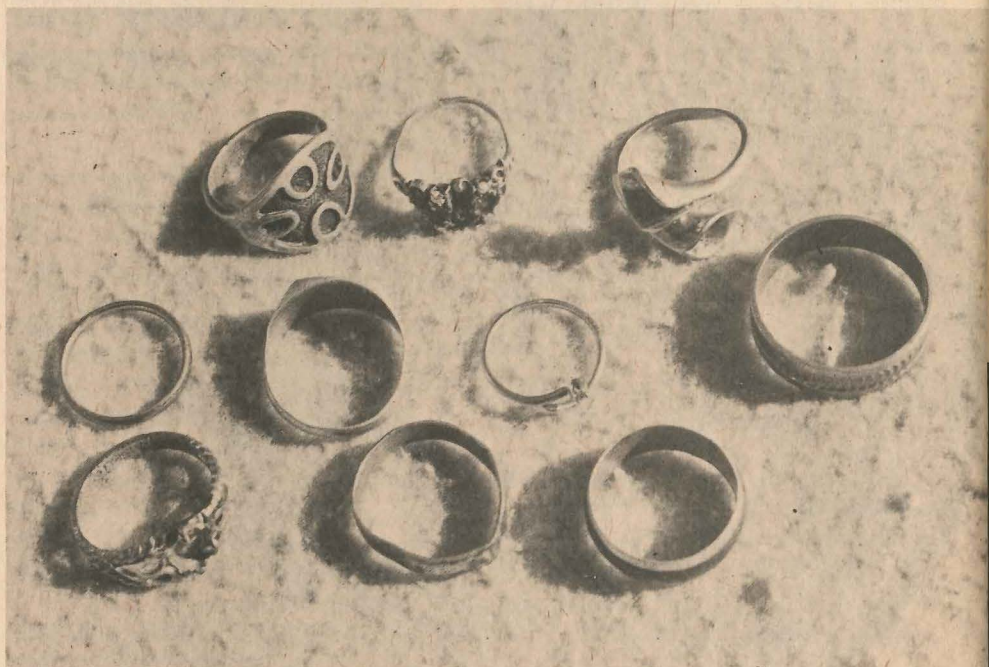
is certainly no advice against visiting interesting ghost towns or other treasure sites farther from home. If you do your research properly, these more distant areas will produce on a par with any other location. For example, the old mining camps of Phillipsburg and Granite City in central Montana were not only interesting, but productive as well.

"These camps, which flourished in the 1890's and 1900's, are unusual in that there are a lot of buildings still standing," explains Bob.

The area was laid out much like a modern city. Water was pumped to most of the buildings through wooden water pipes. The hospital had running water, and there were even fire hydrants spaced in and out of the mountains.

"You could walk over the tops of the hills and down into a 'nowhere area' and suddenly find a fire hydrant just sticking up out of the ground," Bob continues, "so you would know that there had been buildings around in the old days. We hit several good dumps there and got some very nice bottles. Right next door to the Miner's Hall, which is still standing, we found a number of bottles, relics, and coins. The Hall is an old brick building, and is really beautiful. Apparently there was an old walkway beside it which had been filled with trash, and this area also yielded a number of good finds."

It was on this trip that Bob was able to pick up one of the most interesting cast-iron stoves he has



Among the rings that Bob and Dale have found are a very old 24 karat gold ring and several containing diamonds and rubies.

yet chanced upon.

"It is over five feet tall and three feet in diameter," Bob explains. "It is the original 'pot belly stove.' I also got several other stoves on that trip, plus a lot of good finds."

TREASURE HUNTING BY HELICOPTER

When his research turns up a potentially good treasure location. Bob utilizes whatever means necessary to reach the area. In one instance a helicopter was the only practical means of retrieving rel-

ics from an old ghost town in an extremely inaccessible area of California.

"I had heard a lot about this particular area, and extensive research showed the site to be an excellent treasure location," says Wolf. "We first made a trek in on foot, but the terrain was so rugged we couldn't pack anything out. In fact, we were lucky to get out without serious injury."

It took two days to hike in. The camp was located at an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet, and the hike was extremely rough. On the way out Bob's foot became very badly infected. In fact he considers him-



Treasure hunters recover one of the old fire hydrants from Granite City.

self lucky not to have lost his foot. But the excitement of having been able to get into such a well-preserved ghost town, still intact with buildings, stoves, cooking utensils, and all kinds of tools and equipment, made the trip worthwhile, and even with the hardships encountered, Bob's enthusiasm to get back to the camp never waned.

In order to be able to recover a few of the many unique items at the camp, Bob and two of his friends decided to rent a helicopter.

"It was quite a trick to find someone willing to fly us into the area," explains Wolf. The canyon

Bob and Dale find many good local coinshooting hotspots through extensive research.



walls were extremely steep and it was a very difficult place for a chopper to land."

Fortunately the TH'ers were able to find a landing spot within an hour's hike of the main camp.

"We spent three days there and came out with a number of good items including tools, old coins and excellent bottles and relics," says Bob. "My real prize, however, was a very, very nice cast-iron stove."

The items were carried back to the chopper and loaded aboard, but the difficulties did not end there.

"We had to climb over the 10,000 foot level to get out," explains Bob, "and the strong downdrafts nearly swept the helicopter into the mountains a number of times. We came within 50 feet of doomsday."

The pilot was finally able to move along the mountains until he caught an updraft and was able to gain sufficient altitude.

"But then going down into the landing field we were flying directly into the sun and almost hit a power line. If my buddy hadn't spotted it" Bob says, "it would have been all over. It was a rough trip, even with the use of the helicopter, but our finds made it well worthwhile!"

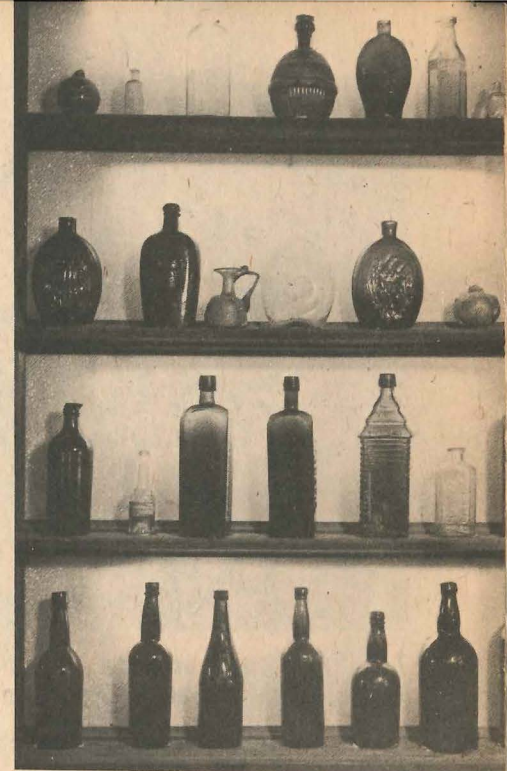
RESEARCH PAYS

Research comes easy to Bob Wolf, primarily because he is interested in history. And research, as we have seen, has paid off handsomely.

The main downtown library in Los Angeles is one of Bob's favorite spots. It is an excellent library for research and contains a wealth of information. But Bob has other sources as well, which he has developed over the years.

"My great grandfather was an early pioneer photographer in Los Angeles during the 1860's and 1870's," Wolf explains, "and some years ago I went to see an exhibit of his works at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. I introduced myself and from then on I became involved with the museum. Fortunately I am able to use their reference material as research sources."

Library research has permitted



A few of Bob's more interesting bottles include several historical flasks valued at better than \$150 each, a Drake's Cabin Bitters, and unusual black glass bottles (lower shelf).

Bob has been on many interesting bottle digs throughout the western United States.





The informal attitude of the well-stocked Treasure Emporium offers a relaxed atmosphere.

Wolf to pinpoint a number of good treasure sites.

"One time I happened across a photograph of an area I was interested in," he says. "The photograph was so well-detailed that in addition to the old building it also showed the dump site. It is unusual to find a photo with that

much detail, but by putting forth effort for research you'd be surprised at what you can find. Searching for good sites without research is just wasting a lot of time. I accumulate as many good books as I can for my personal library. Every time I find a book that has additional information I

may need at some future time, I purchase it. If the book is out of print, I go through a bookfinder."

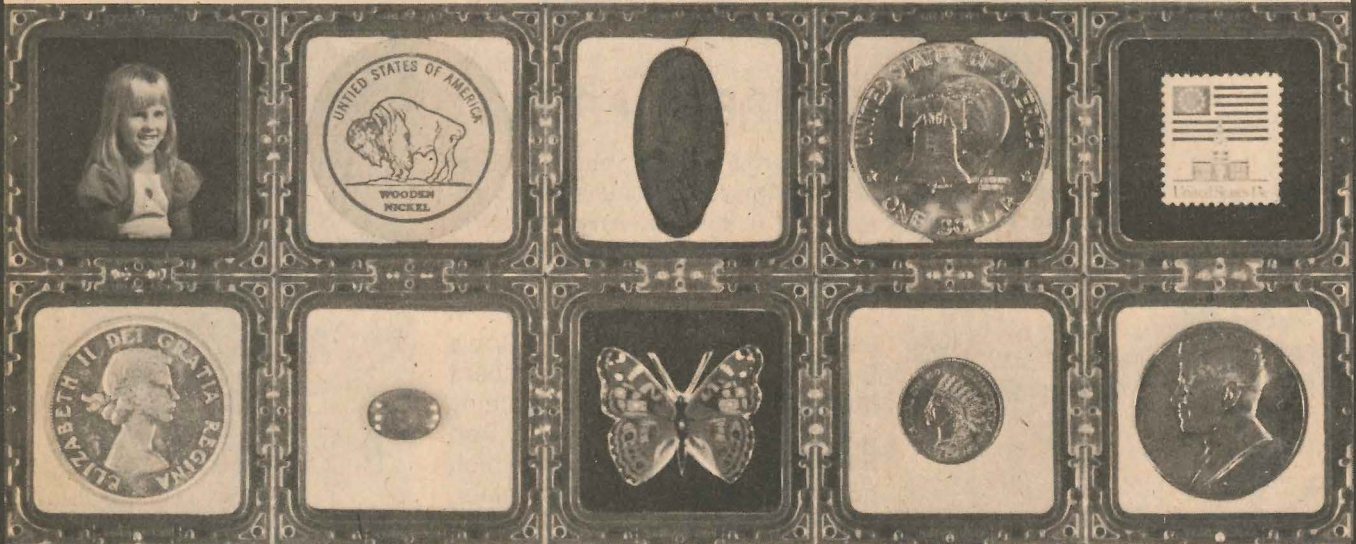
COINSHOOTING RESEARCH

Research has also aided Bob in finding many good coins with the aid of his metal detector. He found a location on a main Los Angeles street that research showed was an old dump site. He came up with a number of early U.S. coins as well as Chinese coins and an excellent whiskey token worth about \$40.

"I've spent a great deal of time researching good coinshooting areas—areas that have not been 'polluted' with modern trash, or worked out by other treasure hunters," says Bob. "These were the sites of old fairs, factories, or buildings—any place where people once congregated and lost coins. Today these spots are nothing but vacant lots, and every city has its share of them. I have

(Continued on page 57)

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BOB WOLF

(Continued from page 14)

found Indian Head pennies, half-dimes, large cents and a great number of silver coins. Look for the old parks—the ones that contain the really valuable coins.”

THE TREASURE EMPORIUM

About a year ago Bob Wolf became interested in starting his own treasure shop.

“It happened when I discovered it was practically impossible to find all the supplies and services a TH'er needed all in one store,” says Wolfe. “Metal detectors, books, relics, bottles, gold dredges, TH'ing tools, detector repairs—but even more important, someone to talk with who really *knows* treasure! Someone who can answer a TH'er's questions and give intelligent advice. I just never found the shop that I felt was really an all-around store. The more I thought about it the more I thought I could start a store that could do that very thing—so the Treasure Emporium was born!”

In keeping with his plans for a complete treasure hunting center, Bob regularly invites pros in various treasure hunting fields to give talks and seminars; asks manufacturers to demonstrate products and explain how to get the most out of them; and makes displays of interesting finds TH'ers have made so that others can come in and see what is being recovered.

In addition to local sales and service, the Treasure Emporium is also a nation-wide mail order service so that people from all areas of the country can get metal detectors, supplies, and equipment. And a complete line of CB radios and Scanners is also in stock.

The attitude of the Treasure Emporium, which is located at 6721 San Fernando Road, Glendale, California 91201 (phone 213-247-6571) is strictly informal.

“People can come in, sit around, and exchange ideas,” says Bob. “The coffee pot is always on, and everyone is welcome to come in and talk treasure!” ■

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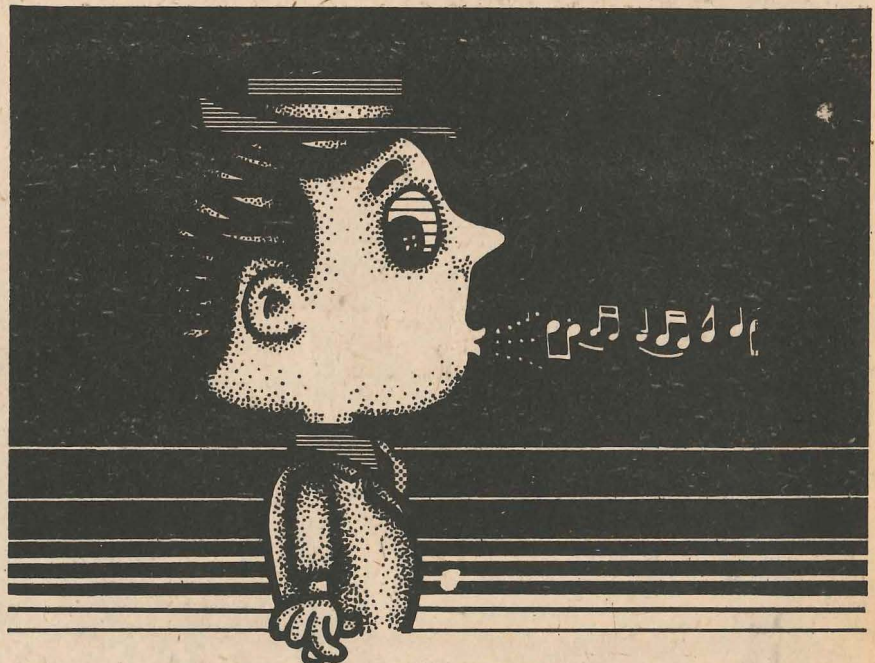
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