

Coin-Collecting Is Serious Business Even For Hobbyist

By Wally Trabing

Ever hear of people collecting money for relaxation?

One of every 40 persons in the United States is said to be doing it.

They're coin collectors, as opposed to hard earned cash collectors, to which, of course, these hobbyists probably also belong.

The idea is to collect one of each coin issued by the U.S. mint from the penny to the \$50 gold piece.

And although it's not too likely, some of the coins worth thousands of dollars on the collector's market, might be jingling in your pocket right now.

Dig for that loose change and see if you have any of these: 1894 "S" dime, worth \$2500; 1913 Liberty head nickel, worth \$12,500; 1804 silver dollar, \$10,000; 1901 "S" quarter, \$650; 1909 "SVDB" penny, \$90; 1914 "D" penny, \$25 to \$250.

The initial "S" means minted in San Francisco; and "D" means minted in Denver.

Colonel Oliver B. Combs, retired army officer of 4630 Opal Cliff drive, is an ardent collector. He is one of 49 collectors in this area who have banded together as members of the Santa Cruz Coin club.

"Most collectors start with pennies," he said. Combs' collection of some 200 coppers is almost complete.

The minting of coppers started back in 1793 with the half-pennies and an outsized penny similar to the type still produced in England. These series continued until 1857.

Pennies of the present size started in 1856.

The nickel came into being in 1866. A half-dime was on the market from 1794 to 1873 and the small, thin dime as we know it today came into existence in 1793.

From 1875 to 1879 a 29-cent piece was circulated. The well-known quarter was started in 1796 and the 50 cent piece in 1794.

On up the scale the presently disappearing silver dollar was first minted in 1794. The 1849 gold rush created the gold coins which came out in denominations of \$1, \$2.50, \$3 and \$5 pieces, and the \$10, \$20 and \$50 coins.

Between 1873 and 1885 the United States issued "trade dollars" for use in overseas business, according to Combs.

Collectors begin by filling special coin holder cards marked for each issue.

"The first idea, of course," he said, "is to fill the holes."

But the value of the coin is determined by scarcity and its condition. Coins are graded as follows: uncirculated, extra fine, very fine, fine, very good, good, and fair.

"As soon as you find a coin for your collection, that does not end it. You continue constantly looking for better grades," he said.

Where do collectors find their coins?

Well, in the first place Mrs. Combs wouldn't think of spending her loose change from shopping until the colonel has had a look.

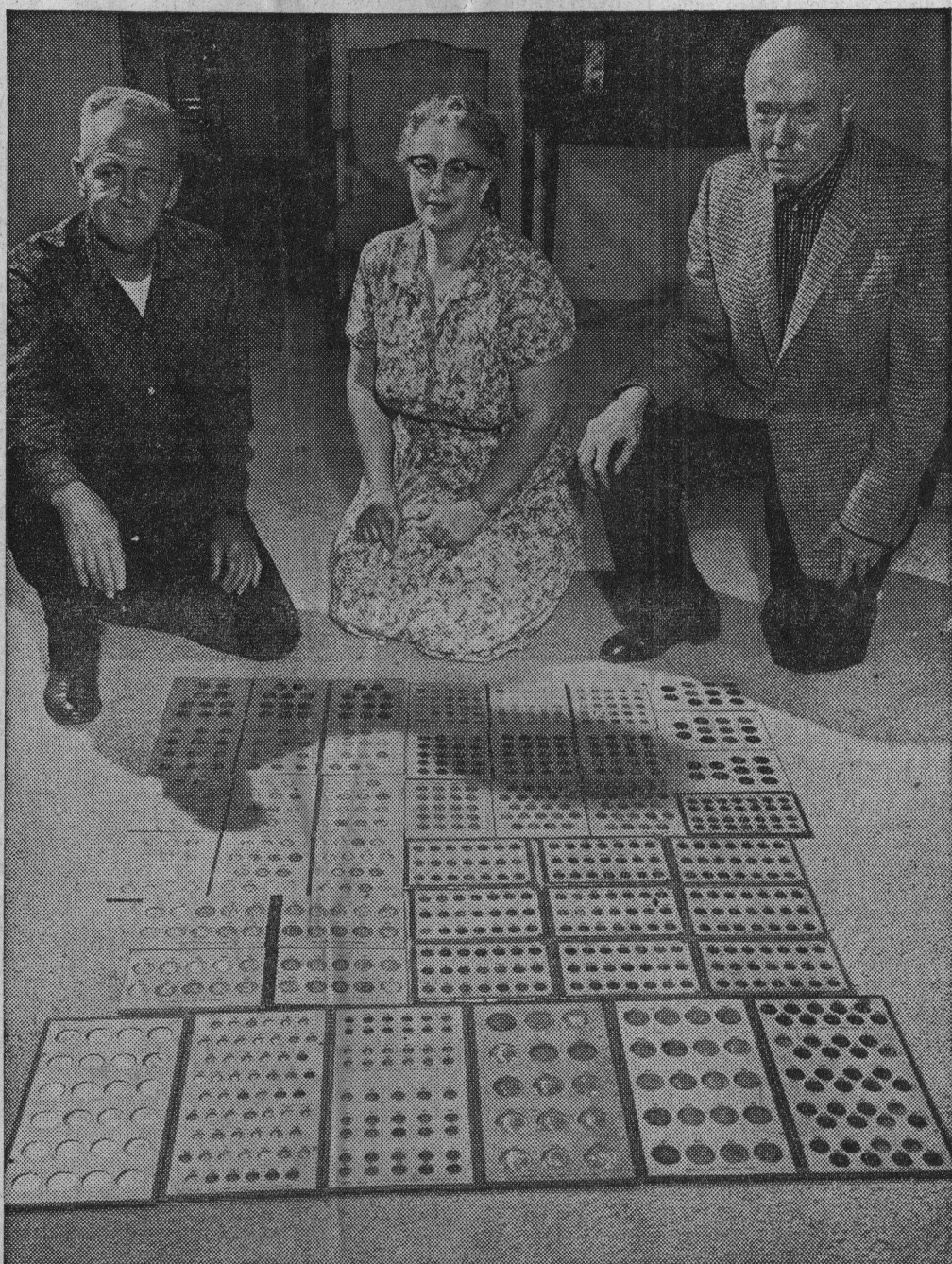
Many of the coins come from the dealer, from trading at the coin club.

One of the largest sources, however, is the bank. Combs and other collectors will buy \$50 worth of pennies or other denominations, then spend some 25 hours a week poring over each individual coin in a feverish hunt for a missing issue, duplication of valuable coins and coins of a better grade than those resting in the collection.

"The practice is so popular," said Combs, "that we now seldom make any real finds."

"About the only really valuable coins that you'll find in circulation nowadays are those placed there by a youngster who will

Coin-Collecting Is Fascinating



There's nothing unusual about saving money, but these three collect it with a special fervor. Also unlike those who develop ulcers in their feverish quest

for a pile, these folks do it for relaxation. Colonel Oliver B. Combs, 4630 Opal Cliff drive, left; Mrs. Elvin Huckins, 246 Market street; and Fred I. Len-

zi, 711 East Cliff drive, are coin collectors, a breed of hobbyists in the U.S. who are surpassed perhaps only by stamp collectors. On the floor are collections ranging from pennies to dollars.

Lecturer Will Discuss Work Of Famed Clairvoyant Edgar Cayce

Hugh Lynn Cayce will discuss the life, work and philosophy of his father, celebrated clairvoyant

Edgar Cayce, Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Santa Cruz Woman's clubhouse, 306 Mission street.

The talk on "The Case for Reincarnation" will be presented here under the auspices of the Theosophical Society in Santa Cruz, and is open to the public. A collection will be taken to defray expenses.

Elsie Seachrist, who has devoted many years to the study of readings left by Cayce, who died in 1945, will discuss "Remembering Past Lives" as a second part of the program. Both Cayce and Mrs. Seachrist are sponsored by the Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc., of Virginia Beach, Va.

Edgar Cayce assertedly could enter a self-hypnotic state of will and, in this trance, discourse at length on any question. His primary field of application was medicine, where incredible accuracy in diagnosis and the effectiveness of sometimes unorthodox treatments marked him as a phenomenon.

Cayce reportedly required only the name and current location of an individual to give a searching diagnosis of his physical condi-



Hugh Lynn Cayce

spend part of his father's collection at face value for a spree of

Morris
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