HOW TO FIND
LOST AND HIDDEN
TREASURES

In YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Secrets of a Professional Treasure Hunter

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By

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About The Book

This isn't a book about finding lost pirate treasure or lost gold mines. It's a book about techniques and methods to help you find lost and hidden treasures in and around your everyday world.

Studies by the Federal Reserve Board since the early 1940's reveal a startling statistic: The amount of currency in circulation at any point in time is 10% less than what it should be. The figure has remained almost constant for the last 50 years. 4 billion dollars of the currency printed each year cannot be accounted for.

This figure is taking into account the currency circulating in the underground economy, crime money, drug money, and loss to fires and other disasters. The Fed has concluded we are a nation of hoarders and it seems that hiding money is a national trait.

The sum of 4 billion dollars yearly is a staggering fortune. The person who hid it usually recovers the hidden treasure. Plenty is left undiscovered due to death, accidents and forgetfulness.

Currency isn't the only thing hidden on purpose. Jewelry is a favorite item that people hide in secret places. Coins are also hidden away and often they are gold coins. You're going to learn how to hunt and find your share of these lost and hidden riches. You'll learn where to look, how to look, and more importantly how to think like a person hiding valuables

"Valuables" are defined as anything of value. Money, jewelry, old toys, old documents, memorabilia, stamps, coins, collectibles of any kind and antiques of all kinds are what we are looking for. Basically anything of value new or old. The words "Valuables" and "Treasures" will be used interchangeable in this book because they really do mean the same thing.

This book will open your eyes to a world of which you are probably unaware. For year's people all around us have been hiding and losing valuables.

Chapter One

Are There Really Lost Treasures Out There?

Let me begin with a story…

Several years ago an old gentleman, we'll call Mr. Raleigh, passed away. Mr. Raleigh had worked as a janitor for the same company for over 40 years. He lived simply, never married

and generally was a quiet and decent man.

His heirs were going through his possessions to close out his modest estate. Among the odds and ends of papers and receipts that make up any life, they found a shoebox full of old stock certificates with a company name they didn't recognize.

They almost threw the stock certificates away along with many other pieces of paper that had no meaning except to Mr. Raleigh. Just as our heirs will do someday. All of our lives are filled with such tiny pieces of memories.

Research revealed that Mr. Raleigh had gone to work for the company named on the certificates during an economic recession. The company like many others was struggling financially. It was a period of time when jobs were very scarce and any job was not to be sneezed at. The company made a deal with Mr. Raleigh. The company could afford to pay him very little. But, they would let him sleep in the boiler room and he could eat his meals free in the company cafeteria. They also agreed to give him small amounts of stock in the company in exchange for his janitorial services. The stock was virtually worthless so Mr. Raleigh just put it away.

You can see where this story is going. Research on the stock certificates revealed the company's present name is Xerox Corporation. The stock given to Mr. Raleigh had split 30 times over the years and was worth in the neighborhood of 20 million dollars.

These valuable documents could have easily have been discarded as worthless. Luckily the heirs were alert enough to take the time to find out their value.

To answer the original question, Yes! There are many treasures lost and hidden all around us.

Granted, few will have the value of Mr. Raleigh's stock but there are still untold thousands of small but valuable items to be found.

Looking for lost and hidden treasures requires A.K.A. These initials stand for Attitude, Knowledge and Alertness.

A strong positive Attitude is a major requirement of all good treasure hunters. This will allow you to eagerly accept that there are untold lost and hidden treasures around waiting to be found. The right attitude will keep you from getting discouraged and will keep you going rather than give up.

Knowledge is very important. The layout of the town where you live is valuable information. The location of old parks and playgrounds, circus and carnival sites are a few examples of valuable information.

Knowing the value of various items and especially collectibles is important. A successful treasure hunter is a warehouse of information about all sorts of odd facts. A small piece of information can turn out to be priceless in recognizing a valuable object.

You don't have to become an expert to learn to recognize a valuable item**. *You only need***

enough knowledge to become suspicious that an item may be valuable. Hang on to the item until you can research the value.

Alertness is absolutely necessary to recognize a recovery opportunity when it presents itself. Train yourself to "see" what others ignore. We all fall into the trap of failing to see things that are very familiar.

Try looking directly at things around you with a new eye. You'll be amazed at what will appear that you've never noticed.

It will take some time and work to train yourself to see differently and to be alert to recovery opportunities at all times. You'll enjoy the effort and the world will never be the same as you master this talent.

How many coins did you pick up in parking lots and sidewalks in the last week? How many rings and pieces of jewelry? If the answer is none you need to work on your alertness and probably your attitude. I can assure you that you have walked over several lost valuables.

Develop a habit of parking at the far end of the lot and keeping your eyes open as you walk to and from the stores. You'll find that in a very short time, you'll begin to find all kinds of items literally under your feet. They've been there all along. You just weren't "seeing" them.

This doesn't mean you should walk around with your eyes constantly on the ground. Quite the contrary, glancing down briefly as you walk is only a small part of being aware of your surroundings. Think ***"Look up, Look down, Look all around."***

Sidewalks are a good place to keep your eye peeled. Look along the edges where grass is thick. Be especially alert around bus stops, people drop lots of things around bus stops.

Look closely at the chain link fences as you stroll. They are natural collectors of debris. The wind will pile all sorts of litter against fences. Some of this litter can include currency.

Recovering valuable items is a terrific thrill and one I've enjoyed my entire life. You'll also experience the thrill of finding treasures if you apply the principles I'll reveal to you in this book.

On the subject of recovering lost items, I strongly recommend you return any item that's identifiable to the owner. Honesty is the best policy and will always pay off in the end.

I always return any item I find if I can identify the owner. It's a real kick to hand a found item over to the person that lost it. Often the owner lost the item years ago and long ago gave up any hope of ever seeing it again. Some times there's a sentimental attachment for the owner that far exceeds the monetary value the item might have.

Believe me the feeling you'll get by returning items like this will provide a much greater reward than the loss of the cash value.

Chapter Two

How to Pay for This Book in One Hour Without Leaving Home.

Well you can and here's how.

Let me tell you another story...

Several years ago we were having a birthday party at my home and we had 6 couples over. In the course of the evening the conversation got around to treasure hunting since several of the couples were treasure hunting buddies. I made the statement that lost treasures are all around us and was quickly challenged to prove it.

I had everyone sit around the dining room table and place their wallets or purses in front of them. I then asked them to empty everything out onto the table. Every scrap of paper, every photograph, every receipt, everything.

The guests were then to look through the material and see what was to be found. The results were startling! Nearly everyone found some "mad money" they had forgotten about.

Many lost phone numbers and addresses were found and lots of postage stamps. Some of the stamps were two postal rate increases behind.

The bottom line was that over $200 dollars in cash and change was found along with several valuable papers. Everyone agreed that I had proved my statement that there are indeed lost treasures all around us.

So the first thing I want you to do is search yourself. Pull out your wallet and/or purse and empty it completely. Examine each item, particularly between pictures and cards. Find enough yet to pay for the book?

If not, get all the old purses and wallets you can find around your house. Empty them completely and examine each item you find. Now can you pay for the book?

No.

Pull the cushions out of all the stuffed furniture throughout the entire house. Living room, den, family room, TV room, every room. You know what's coming: run your hand around the bottom cracks and recover everything you find there. Now look under the furniture, use a flashlight, and recover everything you find there. Got enough yet to pay for the book? No. Then continue.

I want you to go through the drawers of all your furniture and recover any valuables you didn't know were there. Put them with the other items you've recovered. The value of your finds is beginning to mount up right?

This includes kitchen drawers, utility room and any drawers that may be in your garage. Be especially careful to search drawers of any desks you may have and around where you write checks and pay bills.

"Junk" drawers are especially good for coins that have been dumped there over the years. No one cleans out junk drawers. Look in jars and containers where you may have stored coins or household money in the past. Have you collected enough yet? Well, let's continue.

Now I want you to look in all your suitcases, gym bags, duffel bags, and any other similar items you own. Go through all closets and search the pockets of your clothes for loose change and bills.

Old clothes you no longer wear are a great place to find forgotten money. Check all the pockets. Look in the bottoms of the closets while you are at it for spilled change, dropped jewelry, or any kind of lost items lying on the floor.

It's a good idea to remove all the clothes from the closet while you're looking so you can see the closet floor clearly.

Look around your house and use your imagination to find places that things could be misplaced. Every house is different and there are always nooks and crannies that collect odds and ends of lost and misplaced items. These places are often missed by your normal housekeeping and can be identified by the collection of dust to be found there.

Well, how did you do? If you're like the majority of readers, you've found more that enough to pay for this book. I'm sure you've at least found several missing items that you've been looking for.

Chapter Three

How to Search Your Motel or Hotel Room

Why would you want to search your room?

A high percentage of travelers hide valuables in their room for several reasons. These items are often forgotten when they leave. Some hide things because they fear being robbed while out and around the town. They like to know that they have reserve funds to buy food and gasoline to get home.

Many people hide things because they fear a robbery of their room while they sleep or are out. Some are criminals and don't want to be caught with money in their possession. Often men and women will hide their wedding rings and other valuables before a night on the town.

The reasons why people hide things go on and on. As treasure hunters we're more interested in the fact that people do hide valuables in their room and they do forget them. We're very interested in recovering them.

Valuable articles you find in a room should be returned if you can identify the owner. However, you can't assume the articles belong to the prior occupant. Valuables could have

been left weeks ago. I suspect any unidentifiable articles you find and turn over to the management of the establishment will just keep the items. So I don't have a problem keeping whatever I find if the owner can't be identified.

Any drugs or firearms found should be left in place don't touch--- and management notified immediately. I would also call the police if management doesn't, just to protect yourself. You don't want to take any items of this nature. They are definitely more trouble than they'll ever be worth.

When searching a room**, never destroy or damage anything.** Chances are slim you'll find anything in an article you have to damage to search. A flashlight is a great help in searching your room. Carrying one in your luggage for this purpose will pay off.

The Search

The first thing to do when you enter your room is to sit down and just look around. You can assume if the room is clean and tidy that the housekeeping department is doing a good job.

Try and identify places that are not cleaned on a regular basis. The top of freestanding closets is a prime spot. The maid is usually too short to reach or see there. You can tell by the dust. Look at the tops of such furniture and also between the back and the wall. Look behind tables and nightstands and any other furniture that is against the wall.

Check all drawers in the room, dressing tables, desks and nightstands. Pull the drawers out and check the bottoms and backs for taped material. Look in the bottom of the furniture with the drawers pulled out.

Riffle the pages of all magazines and books found in the room. This includes phone books and bibles. Many times people will hide bills in the pages and fail to recover them all. Look at the bindings of all books and magazines for material slid into the empty spaces that are often found between the binding and the pages themselves.

If there are folders of advertising material in the room go through each document carefully and check the folder as well.

Check the lamps in the room for material in the base or body of the lamps. If the lamps have any hollow tubing, check for currency rolled up and slid inside. Also check inside any clocks or radios in the room.

The TV is another item to examine carefully. Don't try and take it apart as this can set off an alarm in the office. Look at the base and see if anything has been slid under it.

Inspect under the sink and counter in the bathroom. There's sometimes a small lip at the bottom of the front of the countertop. Check this carefully but beware of old razor blades, needles and other dangerous items.

Take the lid off the tank in the toilet and look under the lid for taped material. Check out the tank itself as well as between the toilet and the wall. Sometimes articles are left floating in the tank or sealed in a zip lock plastic bag.

Go around the perimeter of the carpet and look for places where bills could be slid under the carpet. Look closely as this is a favorite hiding place.

Check all chairs carefully for slits or places where bills could be pushed inside. Look under the bottom of the chairs and tables as well.

Look for places where articles could be rolled up and slipped inside. Shower rods are a good place for this. Poster beds with hollow posts that unscrew are also likely places to check. Hollow rods are sometimes used in the closets for hanging clothes, check these out.

Look under the mattress, way under near the middle of the bed. Look under all the furniture in the room that would provide a hiding place. This includes the bed. Yes, I know everyone knows about this hiding place but you'll be surprised at what you'll find.

Look in any flowerpots in the room. They will usually contain plastic flowers and no soil. You can pull the plant out and look in the bottom of the pot. Do this carefully so you won't damage the arrangement.

If there's a balcony or terrace attached to the room, check the furniture. Especially furniture made of hollow tubing. Look at the ends for rolled up currency. Look under any outdoor carpeting and examine any potted or planted material.

When you've done everything I've suggested, sit down and look the room over again. Don't be in a hurry. Try and identify additional hiding places I haven't mentioned and search them.

If you go through all the steps in this chapter you can be sure there isn't much in the room that you've missed.

Chapter Four

Diamonds Under Your Feet.

It is estimated that over 2000 diamonds and other precious stones are lost from their settings daily in the USA! Very few of these stones are ever recovered. In this chapter you are going to learn several techniques to hunt and find lost stones.

Precious stones are under considerable stress in typical jewelry mountings. There are usually several prongs around the stone that are in tension to hold the stone tightly in the setting.

The prongs in these mountings are subjected to severe stress and like any metal over time fatigue sets in. Eventually when the prong is bumped against a hard object or caught in a fold of clothing, it gives way and fails. The stone is suddenly released and the tension in the remaining prongs will literally fire the stone away, in some cases a considerable distance. The stone is seldom found.

Lost stones that have color like rubies, emeralds and sapphires have a higher recovery rate than colorless stones because they are easier to see.

Diamonds are almost invisible when lying on the ground and are very difficult to spot. Therefore they are seldom found. There are couple of methods you can learn that will make them stand out and easy to recognize.

Let's talk about where to hunt for lost stones. Large paved parking lots are a premier place to look. There's a lot of foot traffic and getting in and out of automobiles. This activity offers the opportunity to bump rings against doors or catch on clothing and send stones flying. A paved parking lot will prevent stones from sinking into the ground. Gemstones are very hard and very sharp. They will cut their way into soft ground.

Jewelry, earrings, bracelets and the occasional watch can also be caught and pulled off clothing when entering or exiting a car.

Get yourself a pair of polarized sunglasses. They will help cut the glare from the broken glass, foil, and other shiny trash you'll see all over the parking lot.

Place a loose diamond on your driveway early in the morning or late in the afternoon. We want the sun at a low angle. If you don't have a loose diamond you can use a diamond ring but the effect is a different. Put on your polarized glasses, stand with your back to the sun and look at the ring.

Move slightly to one side and notice how the stone flashes as you move. It only takes a slight movement to make the stone flash. Move all the way around the diamond and notice how the intensity of the flash changes as your angle with the sun changes.

The reaction of the diamond ring with the sun will be different than a loose diamond because of the mount but it will help you recognize the characteristic quick double flash of a diamond. Because of the faceting of the stone, you'll get a flash with very little change in your position.

Scatter some broken glass, foil, and other assorted reflective material around the diamond. Walk around the assortment and notice the flashes of the diamond as opposed to the other material. The diamond will stand out from the trash because of its characteristic flash. There's a distinct difference in the pattern of flashes from the other material. The trash will disappear at various angles but the diamond won't. The diamond is very distinctive in the way it flashes and this is how you separate it from random trash.

Put the assortment in a shady spot and repeat your walk around. Observe the reflections from the trash and the diamond. Most of the reflections from the trash will disappear in the shade but the diamond will still flash only not as brightly.

Practice locating the diamond with different trash around it. Try different times of the day. It will take some time for you to get really good at this but it's a skill that will be very rewarding. Try different diamonds, rings with colored stones, different assortments of trash until you can pick out the diamond with little difficulty.

Now let's get down to the nitty gritty. Go to a large parking lot in a shopping mall or supermarket when it's mostly empty. Early in the morning is a good time. Remember to stand with your back to the sun and with your glasses on and take a look at the lot. You'll

see a lot of glitters and flashes from the junk scattered around the lot but don't get discouraged.

Take a small section of the lot and concentrate just on that area. Change position slightly and look for that characteristic quick flash, which some people describe as a double flash.

When you're satisfied there are no diamonds in the area you are checking, pick another area and repeat your scanning. Don't expect the parking lot to be strewn with diamonds. Be patient and persistent and you will begin to recover stones.

When you've recovered several stones and have learned to distinguish the diamond's distinctive flash, you can work without the polarized glasses if you wish.

Gemstones are easily moved around the lot by wind and rain. If there's a slope to the lot, concentrate on the lowest side especially around the edges. Cracks in the pavement will accumulate stones and should be examined thoroughly. Traffic bumps are also great at stopping stones. Look around any storm grates in the lot. These usually have small crevices all the way around and diamonds are washed into these crevices. Think about other places that would be good candidates for losing diamonds. Church parking lots are good, Sports stadiums inside and out, racetrack parking lots and many others. Use your imagination and you'll come up with dozens more.

I know of one couple who travels around the country harvesting diamonds as a hobby. They have a route of favorite places that have been richly rewarding in the past.

Don't be concerned about the powered sweeper trucks you see cleaning the parking lots. They seldom recover stones but do collect some coins and jewelry.

One guy I know hit on a brilliant idea. He followed one of the sweeper trucks that are contracted to clean parking lots. He found where they were dumping the sweepings and he searches through their trash for valuable stones, coins and any other valuables he can find. He does very well.

Diamonds tend to stick in oil and grease patches. Dirt and dust will soon cover the diamond and it will disappear from view. To check these greasy spots for stones, use a walking stick of softwood, pine is good. Leave the grain exposed on the bottom end and simply press the stick straight down on suspected objects in the greasy stain. If the item is a gemstone it will cut into the staff just like spearing paper with a nail. Pretty neat! You don't get your hands dirty and this method also has the advantage of attracting little notice.

Chapter Five

Hunting for Caches.

What's a Cache?

A cache is: "A hiding place especially for concealing and preserving valuables, provisions or implements."

A cache is what you buried in the back yard when you were playing "pirate." It's what your mother created when she put her spare change in a cookie jar.

Large segments of the population don't trust banks so they do their banking at home. This could be the proverbial sock in the back yard or a specially constructed hiding place within the house or garage. Those of us, who have a bank account and use it, still create caches when we stash coins or currency in some hiding place. These caches could be large or small.

The contents of even small caches created many years ago may now contain quite valuable items. A handful of old coins could be very valuable in today's market even if the face value of the coins is small.

Searching for caches is fun and exciting and often quite rewarding. This chapter will list several of the common hiding places people have chosen over the years. Try and think of additional hiding places as you go over this list.

Check all the places in your own residence that have been mentioned in the previous chapters. One additional place to check is the attic. It's incredible how many homes are sold with things left in the attic. Often the new owner will never examine these items but add to them. Then the house is sold again and the cycle repeats itself. So by all means check the attic.

Check under any flooring in the attic. Look along the cross bracing between the rafters. Small boxes and envelopes have been found fastened along these braces and to the rafters themselves.

Search out along the eaves; it's often hard to get out there and that's what

makes it attractive as a hiding place. Look under the insulation in any area that appears disturbed.

Look around any metal plates on the rafters and supports for any magnets holding items to the metal. This is popular.

The cellar is another good place to find hidden valuables. The many dark and corners and exposed piping and wiring make excellent hiding places. Look also in the ceiling many small items can be stuffed up into the joists. In cellars with dirt floors check the floor any signs of digging. Many caches have been found under "patches" in cement floors.

Check any crawlways that lead off the cellar for signs of patching and digging. Look for pipes that don't go anywhere. Items are often stuffed inside. The same goes for electrical conduit. Fake faucets sticking out of the wall are not uncommon. They unscrew easily and valuables could be stuffed inside.

Homes built in the 1950's and up until a few years ago had a one-piece medicine cabinet installed in the bathrooms. The unit I'm talking about has a slot in the back for, "Used Razor

Blades." This is one of the most popular hiding places in modern times.

Everyone thinks they are the only ones to see the possibilities of using this slot as a bank. People who used this slot as a coin bank often widened the slot to accept coins. This is the tip-off that the cabinet is or has been a cache.

The whole cabinet can be removed from the wall by taking out 2 or 3 screws or nails inside the cabinet. This will expose the inside wall and you can look down between the studs and see the pile of coins, razor blades or both.

Look under the sink below the medicine chest at the wall. Sometimes the owner of the bank will cut a small door in this wall which allows easy access to the storage space. This small door is usually painted over, sealed in some way or otherwise camouflaged. Check carefully for seams and other indications that there is a door.

Check banister railings for hollow spokes. Check the newel posts particularly; these are the posts at landings and the first post. They are usually larger and often have a removable hollow knob.

Everybody loves the magnetic key box that was originally intended to hide an extra key to your car. These have been used extensively to hide small caches. Look behind and around hot water tanks, behind appliances, inside appliances and anywhere else the magnetic box could be attached. Magnetic devices in metal enclosures, like appliances, will eventually magnetize the area where they are attached. A compass will be deflected by these areas and can be moved around the surface to indicate a magnet inside.

Check the garage out thoroughly using the methods already detailed in this chapter. The same goes for any outbuildings. Greenhouses in particular offer many hiding places in the soil of pots and in dirt floors. Check these carefully.

Many people in the past have used "Pipe Banks." These consist simply of a pipe driven in the ground. The bottom end is closed and coins are dropped in the open exposed end. These banks are often driven in the ground near a tree and look like a watering device for the tree. They are simple and easy to use and are very popular.

Phony water faucets are an extension of the pipe bank. They have heads that unscrew easily for a deposit. These are not common but many have been found.

Chapter Six

Searching Thrift Shops, Estate Sales and Flea Market Items.

Many valuable items are found in objects for sale. Knowing how to search these items before purchasing them is a very useful ability.

When you find a hidden valuable in an article for sale, buy the article. This will establish your ownership of the article and anything hidden inside.

A quick word before we begin this chapter. If you are planning to spend much time searching through thrift shops, estate sales, etc. it would behoove you to learn something about the value of various antiques.

Identifying antiques is beyond the scope of this book but there are plenty of books on that subject on the market. In fact there are literally libraries of books on antiques. While searching old objects and furniture, it would certainly be wise to recognize an object that has antique value.

Educate yourself on the value and identity of various antiques. You wouldn't want to pass up a valuable item by not recognizing it's antique value.

A small flashlight and a small hand mirror are essential tools for performing searches on items suspected of containing a cache. Using a flashlight and a mirror in a thrift shop or at an estate sale will draw little comment these days.

Everyone's an expert these days and you see many people with flashlights and magnifying glasses looking over items at sales. Some of them may even use thermometers for all I know. These people are not looking for the same thing we are but it doesn't hurt to be thought some kind of antique expert instead of a treasure hunter.

Some items will have to be purchased to search them thoroughly. However, the searches outlined below will eliminate many items as containing caches right on the spot.

The rest of this chapter will contain brief instructions on how to search many items. These instructions are not in great detail. By now you should have absorbed enough from previous chapters on searching to be able to add the details yourself.

Look in the spines of old books and between the pages. Flip through and look for paper items taped or glued to pages inside the book.

Check all lamp bottoms and any hollow stems. Look in the bulb socket as well. Some shades are opaque and items have been found taped inside.

Examine all furniture looking for drilled out banks, (hollow places). Check legs and arms that pull off easily to reveal unnecessarily deep holes that make great hiding places.

Pull out all drawers and look under them and the back panel for any items taped there. Look in the false bottoms formed under the bottom drawer. These can be seen with the drawer removed. Use the mirror and light to the front edge of the false bottom in particular.

False bottoms of filing cabinets are famous as hiding places as well as for material that has fallen outside the back of the drawers in the cabinet. Desk drawers are also noted for this phenomenon.

The pencil drawer that is found in the middle front drawer of desks is also a common place to hold many small items. This hollow platform is mounted against the front of the drawer. It's usually grooved to hold pencils and other small items. This platform often snaps in and can be easily removed. Look under it.

Desk sets offer many hiding places and should be examined closely. Desk blotters have large felt-like writing surfaces, look for paper items that have been slipped behind the felt. Check paperweights for hidden recesses or bases that can be unscrewed. These items are often hollow and make excellent hiding places.

Unscrew pens and look inside them for rolled up papers or currency. Look closely at any statues or trophies for removable bases and hollow areas inside. Desktop clocks often have hollow areas and should be checked carefully.

Artificial flower arrangements should be checked for items in and under the flowers. I once found a small cache hidden in the sand of a small desktop cactus garden. The cacti are alive and thriving today.

Radios should be checked closely. You can usually see through cooling cracks into the back of the cabinet. Check the bottoms for taped material.

It doesn't hurt to shake any small object that shouldn't rattle. If it does, you know what to do. Find out why.

Religious statues of all kinds should be shaken and examined closely. These are often hollow and offer excellent hiding places. Ceramic statuary of all kinds is usually hollow and should be searched well.

Old phonographs, sewing machine cabinets, and other similar items offer many excellent hiding places and should be closely examined. Your flashlight and mirror will be very helpful.

Fishing rod handles are hollow and should be checked carefully. Tackle boxes are favorite hiding places of avid anglers. Look under the trays.

Typewriters, Dictaphones, scales, adding machines and most other office machines offer many cubbyholes for hiding things.

Dolls and other toys that have hollow spaces within are a favorite hiding place both by children and adults. They are handy and offer easy concealment.

Record albums and individual records in their dust covers are commonly used to hide currency. Bills can be folded and slid into the dust covers by using the records themselves to push them in. Remove the record and look in the bottom of the dust cover or album for the bills.

Birds aren't as popular as pets as they once were but plenty of old birdcages are still around. Many of these have false bottoms and were very popular hiding places. When they were in use there was no way you could get anything out without the bird in residence sounding an alarm.

Walking sticks and canes were once very popular and many them contained weapons, booze and other interesting hollow places. Check them out carefully. Some unscrewed and others just pulled apart.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It should, however, give you a good idea of some items to look for and some hiding places within them. People with the desire to hide things are often very creative. You will find more caches as you learn to be creative yourself. Practice makes perfect in this as in all endeavors***. Get out there and search!***

Chapter Seven

Searching for Criminal Caches.

Searching for hidden criminal stashes can be DANGEROUS! Be very careful while searching for this type of cache. Be alert to the people around you and be discreet. Don't search for this type of cache except in daylight hours. It's also a good idea to have a partner with you.

Criminal activities generate a tremendous amount of cash, obviously one of the big attractions to a life of crime. The cash generated by criminal activities is both a blessing and a curse. It's nice to have a pocketful of money but most criminals have learned that carrying large amounts of cash is undesirable and dangerous. If they are arrested, the cash can, by itself, cause lots of trouble and questions by the authorities.

Do criminals hide cash and other valuables? ***You bet they do!*** Where would they hide such items? Anywhere but their residence! They wouldn't hide cash at their residence because the police would search it thoroughly when they are arrested. Their accomplices may also try and rip them off.

You could also fall into conflict with some of your criminal associates and they could be a far greater threat than the police could. This kind of dispute is common and has to be planned for.

But you are a smart criminal-if there is such a thing-- and have anticipated this event. You have prepared by having "getaway" money hidden where you can get to it easily and quickly any time of night or day.

Criminals many times have multiple stashes just in case one or more is found. Let's look at some of the places cash has been found in the past. This will help identify other likely places cashes may be found.

Bridges have been a favorite hiding place for decades even centuries. High under the bridge is a private and out-of-sight place ideal for hiding things. The loose dirt found there is easy to dig. Caches have been found buried close to one of the support columns.

Historical markers and monuments along highways are likely locations. These places are easy to find and suspicions are not aroused by someone parking and strolling around the monument. The caches are usually buried behind the marker a few feet and very shallow. Using a shovel to bury something would draw attention so the holes are just scratched out and sometimes covered with a rock to hide the signs of digging.

The fringes of public rest stops on interstates are another fruitful place to search. Sometimes the cache is buried just outside the fence. Again a rock or other marker might be placed on top of the burial site. Stroll around the outer boundaries of the rest stop and look for any kind of markers just outside or beneath the fence.

Some service stations have restrooms in the back or on the back edge of the building. It's easy to step behind the building out of sight and quickly bury a cache. These are favorite burial places if there's a grassy.

Restaurant parking lots are also popular sites if they have parking areas in the back out of sight of customers.

Criminals favor burial sites located along highways leading out of town. It's essential that they be able to stop and recover their stash without arousing suspicion. This means the burial site must be a place where people frequently are seen stopped and out of their cars. Any conspicuous landmark should be considered a likely place for a cache. It's even better if it's lighted at night and people are in and out at all hours.

Some sites violate the requirements we've just listed. Cemeteries have been used many times even though it's difficult to enter and recover a stash after dark. Favorite sites within a cemetery are along a road or path and beside or near a landmark particularly around any kind of statue or fountain. Stashes are never found in a grave so never disturb a burial site.

Public parks are popular hiding places but recovery may be a problem after dark. Even so, many stashes have been found around statues and fountains, behind restrooms, under bleachers, along fences of athletic areas and around the fringe areas of the park. Keep a sharp eye out for recent digging and any kind of marker.

Let me warn you again of the danger involved in hunting criminal loot. Be extremely careful and don't relax your guard. You never know who might be observing your actions. Be discreet and alert. A partner is advisable in this type of search.

Closing Remarks

I hope you've enjoyed this book. Please read it several times until you have a firm grasp of the principles involved in searching for lost and hidden treasures.

If you're anxious to go out and started looking for lost treasures, then I have succeeded in my reasons for writing this book. The first cache you find will be a thrill you have to experience to understand and it will hook you on treasure hunting for life.

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