

Where To Find *Treasure, Cash And Coins* Using A Metal Detector

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Introduction

You must be the adventurous type? Or you would not have purchased this ebook.

Maybe you're thinking about joining the hobby of metal detecting.

Perhaps you are involved with the hobby now and you'd like to expand your knowledge.

In either case, this ebook will help you. Everything that is in this ebook I myself have tried. I write from experience, as you will notice as you move through this book.

I'd like to thank you now for purchasing this information. I hope you receive as much enjoyment reading as I had writing this ebook.

To find treasures all you need is the right information.

And many, many, people do locate treasures of all kinds.

As a matter of fact, you don't even need a metal detector to find treasure, cash and coins. I'll explain how in this ebook.

However, the bulk of the information you'll be reading here has to do with how to find treasures, cash and coins using a metal detector.

All you need to get started is an inexpensive metal detector. I'll tell you how to purchase one.

The information in this ebook will also help those individuals who are already experienced at locating treasures. Those individuals may find some places to search out that they were not aware of.

You'll have my twenty-five years of treasure hunting experience as your guide.

Metal detecting or treasure hunting, whatever you'd like to call this great hobby, is a whole lot of fun.

I won't promise you'll get rich, but you'll find enough coins, cash and jewelry to pay for your detector. And perhaps you can pay for a trip with the coins and jewelry you find.

- *I know one enterprising fellow who takes his wife to Aruba every year. He uses the money he makes selling the rings he finds along the beach and in the water in Aruba.*

- *I know another individual who searches for buried caches and does quite well.*

People Still Hide Money Today

Since the beginning of time people have hid, cached, hoarded, secreted and buried money.

Banker magazine reported that \$20-billion of American currency in circulation, is used for daily transactions. A bit less than \$10-billion supplies the underground economy, and that \$3.3-billion has been buried by individuals in secret caches. All of this means that there is still \$144-million unaccounted for.

So where is that \$144 million that's unaccounted for?

Much of it is below the dirt.

That's right! People just like you and I have lost that money.

And people have been losing money since the beginning of time. Coins in England are being found that date to the first century.

I believe the above figure of \$144-million being unaccounted for is to low a figure.

Here Are Some Reasons Why People Hide Money

- *People don't trust banks or financial institutions.*

Many individuals who grew up during the depression are hiding money. They fear they may go through what their families went through. So they hide money as a way to feel secure.

- *Many people don't trust their spouses. I'm not kidding.*

I have been asked by husbands and wives to search for buried caches that were suspected hidden by the spouse.

- *People hide money and valuables because they don't trust their family.*

This is the same situation as the above example. There always have been and always will be internal money problems with some families. And for some, hiding their money so that no family member knows about it, is the answer.

- *Many people hide money with the intention of giving it to their family members or a spouse. However, they die first, and the hidden money is never found. It's not found because the hider never told the hidee where the money was buried. Happens all the time!*

You can find treasure for the above reasons, many people do. I'll show you how!

But first I will explain how to buy a metal detector, just in case you're interested in purchasing one.

You Don't Need The Bells And Whistles

You can purchase a metal detector for approximately two hundred dollars.

If you're buying your first detector, you don't have to spend thousands of dollars on an expensive metal detector. All of the major detector manufacturers have very good beginner's models for this price.

The metal detecting hobby is simple to learn.

Don't make it more difficult by purchasing an expensive detector.

My advice to the novice who is just beginning the metal detecting hobby is always the same.

- *Start with a less expensive detector.*
- *Learn how to use it...then...*
- *Upgrade to a more advanced detector only after you find that you enjoy the hobby and you know what your doing.*

So what kind of a detector should you buy?

The most common question people ask is:

"What kind of detector should I buy?"

My answer is always the same.

What kind of metal detecting are you interested in?

Is your intention to hit the beaches and search for coins and jewelry?

Or do you want to detect in parks and schoolyards?

Maybe you'd like to jump right into searching for large caches and buried treasures?

Perhaps you would like to detect old picnic groves and ghost towns, like I do.

- Yup! I gotta plug my metal detecting and treasure hunting TV series. I'm proud of what we do there. So if you haven't been to www.exploringhistorystreasures.com please visit me there.

Deciding what kind of metal detecting you would like to try is important to your purchase making decision.

Most metal detectors work well in every situation.

However, in certain areas some will perform better than others, for instance:

- If you want to detect along beaches or perhaps diving below the water to search lake bottoms or ocean beaches, you should use a water detector.

The detector should be one that is protected from the water pressure.

It should also come equipped with a set of headphones that are built into the detector.

- If you're going to search in salt water, then you need what is called a Pulse Induction detector (PI).
- If you are going to search for gold nuggets then you'll need a gold detector.
- If you will be detecting in all of the above areas then a few detector manufacturers will have detectors that are all purpose.

This is why I stress the importance of purchasing an inexpensive detector and then trying the hobby until you are certain that you enjoy it enough to make a larger purchase.

- The best detector a beginner should buy is what is known as a "turn on and go detector."

They are simple to use and to learn. Just like the name implies, you just turn it on, and start metal detecting.

Always read the owners manual that come with each metal detector. There is a wealth of information that has been written to help you get the best results out of your detector.

Next I will begin to give you some basics on how a metal detector locates stuff in the ground.

By the way, when I use the word stuff, I mean any metal content that is or could be found with a detector.

- *Therefore all iron, pull-tabs, wads of tin foil, coins, jewelry, buttons,*
- *metal scraps, nails, bolts, screws, washers, sinkers and fishing lures,*
- *horseshoes, bottle caps, small caches, large caches, old spoons, forks, and*
- *knives, old tools, axes and hoes, keys, door knobs, lantern parts, soda and*
- *pop cans, beer cans, old belt buckles, suspender buckles, and watch fobs,*
- *bullets, shell casings, civil war relics, pocket knives, thimbles, silver and gold*
- *Religious medals, farm equipment machinery, tootsie toys, hot-wheels and*
- *action figures, old harmonica reeds, pens and letter openers, shot gun shells,*
- *hinges, aluminum siding, and the unrecognizable piece of metal...whew!*

Get the picture? It's all "stuff".

If you are metal detecting correctly, you should be digging many of the above items, especially, pull tabs and bottle caps. Why?

- Because it means that you aren't missing any targets, and the more stuff you dig, the more good stuff you'll find.

In parks and schoolyards pull-tabs and bottle caps are plentiful. But because the metal content of most pull-tabs has the same conductivity as a gold ring, you need to dig every signal you hear; otherwise you'll miss those rings.

Many detectorists get tired of digging up all those discarded pull-tabs, so they stop digging every signal their detector gives them.

However, if you want to find the gold? You gotta dig the junk!

More on this later!

After reading the owners manual, and when you feel comfortable with your detector, head out to the nearest park or schoolyard. *The following information is for both the novice and the experienced treasure hunter.*

You will get better at metal detecting by getting outdoors and doing it. In time you'll pick up tricks and techniques on your own. You'll also discover new places to detect and different ways to research areas.

How To Detect In Schoolyards and Parks

Local parks and schoolyards are loaded with lost coins and jewelry. Now I know that some of you veteran metal detectorists are saying,

"Frank, are you crazy? Parks and schoolyards were hunted out years ago."

W-R-O-N-G!!!

I have had much success, and so have others, detecting parks and schoolyards that have been detected for years.

Here's why:

- *We detect the areas that are on the edges or the outer perimeter.*

Many old parks that were used years ago have been reduced in size and grown over with vegetation.

Those areas that were once populated by picnickers are now hidden by tall grass or scrub brush, and where people congregate, they lose stuff.

I love detecting in those areas. I know there are coins and jewelry there, and I know that no one else thinks of detecting those areas.

Everyone heads to the center of the park to detect. And this is the reason why there is less and less old coins found there.

Most times you need to detect those grown over areas in the early spring, or the fall when the vegetation is not as thick. However, it's even worth the effort to fight some scrub brush to get the good finds.

Of course if you like to collect modern coins, or the clad coins, or you enjoy finding the newer stuff to help pay for a detector, or some other item, go for it. There is always a plentiful supply of clad coins lost each year.

There is no way that I can guarantee how many coins you'll find, but with practice your finds will increase.

- *I'll bet many of you lost your lunch money at one time or another while playing in the schoolyard?*

I know many detectorists who are happy with picking up all that loose change. I also know one woman who found a rare 1909 VDB Lincoln Penny in a schoolyard not far from her home.

The penny was located near the edge of the sidewalk that led into the school.

There is a constant flow of lost and dropped coins that are being found in local parks.

- Jewelry like gold and silver rings is also being located.

I also collect coins. One day I found a rare 1921D Mercury Dime in VD condition while detecting a local park. That coin had been a coin that I needed for my collection of Merc Dimes.

I've also found large cents, two-cent pieces, barbers and seated coins while detecting in parks and schoolyards.

Parks And Schoolyards Are Everywhere

You can go to any town, city or village and find more than enough parks and schoolyards to detect. It makes no difference if the parks and schoolyards have been detected before. Many of those detectorists missed the coins, and the new technology of metal detectors makes it more than likely you can come away from these two areas with stuff.

- Also, each year more and more coins are lost, which adds to the likelihood that you'll find dropped coins.

Be sure you follow any laws about metal detecting the parks and schoolyards in your area.

This next section will give you some ideas how to earn some cash from the hobby.

Earn extra money the fun way. Using a metal detector.

It has been said that there is as much money beneath the ground as there is in circulation today.

Between what's buried and what's been lost, that's a *heap of dough*.

If you're the kind of person who is willing to put the time and effort into finding some of that lost money, you can make extra money, fast, while having fun.

I'm not talking about getting rich here. Although I know of people who have, however, I am talking about literally picking up lost coins that have been dropped over the years.

- Do you want extra money without having to work at a part-time job you don't like?
- Do you need some extra cash to go to dinner, or to pay a bill?
- Are you a coin collector who wants to add to your collection?
- Or perhaps you just like the idea of finding lost coins.
- How about taking a trip and having your Uncle Sam help pay for it? More on this later.

Not only can you make extra money using a metal detector, but you'll also enjoy the benefits of exercise in the outdoors.

- I know retired individuals who earn extra money by using a metal detector.
- I also know a person who pays for his gas with the coins he finds.

Many people who purchase their first metal detector end up with a lifelong love of the hobby and become treasure hunters searching for buried caches and lost treasures.

My Treasure Hunt In The Western US

A few years ago I was asked to assist a treasure hunter out West. I can't mention where the search was. I think you can understand why.

Anyway, he found me through my TV show, ***"Exploring History's Treasures."***

He invited me to a site he had been working on for about eight years.

His treasure search led him to a cache of Spanish gold and silver bullion that was buried during the 1600's. This site was located deep in a cave in the side of a mountain. The mountain was in the middle of the desert, and the desert was in the middle of no-mans land. We had to ride by horseback in order to get there.

We hired an individual to pull a wagon by mules. The wagon was loaded with our gear. We planned on camping at the search site for two weeks. By then we figured we would have most of the bullion loaded on the wagon and then we could head back to civilization. We would then use the proceeds of the first treasure haul, after we paid the property owner, to buy the necessary equipment to spend more time at the site. In all we figured two months was needed to secure the total amount of bullions and move it out.

As treasure stories go, this one is loaded with thieves, dishonest investors, a gun-pointing maniac, and accidents that almost killed two people. My point?

- You can have all the adventure you want in this hobby.
- You can be as busy as you'd like with research and be traveling to all corners of the earth.
- Become an author and write about your experiences.
- Give talks to schools and colleges. They love to hear about our adventures.

However, if you are looking into earning a full-time living at treasure hunting, remember that it takes [money, commitment and patience](#).

If any one of these three components is missing, your chances of making any money are highly unlikely.

It has taken me more than twenty-five years to get to where I am in the hobby. However, I did not have the information available to me when I started out as a treasure hunter, so it took me a good part of my life to learn on my own, before I could reap any of the rewards.

You have more resources at your disposal today. [One of them is the Internet](#).

There is so much information on the "Net" that should help you get a moving start if you want to be a full-time treasure hunter.

My purpose here is not to discourage you, but to make you aware of the risks and the opportunities with this hobby.

- I have been rewarded with a very exciting life of treasure hunting.

But I realized the time and the effort that was needed to be at the point of where I am right now.

I have also learned through experience that I can minimize my risk of failure in a search for treasure by researching properly. You should do the same.

Research Is The Key

Ask questions. Be a treasure-hunting detective.

If you look for treasure stories, you will find them.

- Read books and magazines about history.
- Visit the used bookstores that sell old history books of your locale.
- Visit your local Historical Society
- Talk to the elderly. Ask them if they know of any stories about buried caches close by. They are a wealth of information.
- And of course, use the Internet

As I mentioned earlier, you will become a better treasure hunter as you gain more experience. The more you learn how to ask questions and become a treasure-hunting detective, the more fun you will have, and the more treasures you will find.

Places To Use A Detector To Earn Extra Money

Once you purchase your detector read the owners manual and learn how to use it correctly. When you're ready to go detect'en, here's some great places to begin.

I can't guarantee how many coins you'll find, but over time, with practice your finds will increase.

- Parks
- Schoolyards
- Parking Meters
- Bus Stops
- Between The Curb and Side walk
- Fairgrounds
- Beaches
- Lost and Found
- Home Sites
- Old and new Church yards
- RV Parks
- Ball Fields

Parks and Schoolyards

As I mentioned earlier, Parks of all types yield a constant flow of lost and dropped coins. As an added bonus, lost jewelry like gold and silver rings are also being located.

Remember; detect those older perimeter areas of the parks. You won't be sorry you did.

How many of us lost our lunch money while playing in the schoolyard? It still happens today.

Again, schoolyards are a great place to find coins.

And like the Parks? Detect around the outer areas, especially when you're at an old school.

Parking Meters

I'm not talking about stealing them.

Seriously though, I know one fellow who metal detects the grassy areas around parking meters. Here is an overlooked area when it comes to metal detecting. People are dropping coins not only into the meters, but onto the ground as well.

Bus Stops

Here is the same idea as those parking meters. Many people lose change as they fumble in their pockets or purses looking for bus fare.

Between The Curb And The Sidewalk

Here's another area that is overlooked when it comes to metal detecting. That grassy area between a sidewalk and the curbing

holds many coins. And like parking meters and bus stops they are in every city, town and village.

I met a young man a few years ago who was swinging his metal detector along the edge of the sidewalk in a small, rural town.

I was coming out of a Convenience Store when I stopped to talk with him.

He told me he was driving through the towns on a stretch of back roads and that he was stopping to detect the areas between the curb and the sidewalk in each village.

He showed me a handful of old and clad coins he had located that day alone.

- One of the coins was a beautiful 1789 Silver Bust Quarter.

I had my detector in the trunk of my car, and because I was so excited to see what this young man had found, and how he found them, I headed in the direction of another area of old towns and villages.

Sidewalk Construction

If you really want to find old coins, try metal detecting the sidewalk construction areas.

Anytime you see a sidewalk being torn up to be replaced by a new one, stop and ask the construction workers if you can swing your detector over the dirt where the old sidewalk used to lay.

If that sidewalk was the original and dates back a hundred years or so, you'll have a field day finding old coins.

Remember this bit of advice; people walked those same areas before sidewalks were laid down, and when they did, they dropped coins. Then when the sidewalks went down, those coins were covered.

Now with the sidewalks being replaced you have a great opportunity to find old coins.

But you need to act fast.

Most times when the sidewalks are removed, it's just a matter of days, or a few hours, when the workers begin to lay the new walkway.

- I always carry my detector in my car. Just in case I'm driving through an area where I see sidewalk construction.

One time in particular I was driving through a small village. I was on my way to a business meeting. I was dressed in a suit and it was a pretty nice suit I must admit.

Anyway, I noticed some sidewalk construction in the center of the village. I also could see that the construction workers were putting

down the new sidewalk as fast as the old was being removed. There was no way I was gonna miss this opportunity.

I got out of my car and walked over to one of the workers and asked him if I could metal detect the sidewalk before they laid down the new one. I was careful to mention that I would not interfere with their work, and that if they asked me to leave for any reason I would do so.

The worker told me they were going on a lunch break and to go ahead, but when they returned for lunch, if I was not finished then I had to leave.

Well I gotta tell ya, I wasted no time detecting a two-block stretch of sidewalk construction.

I must of looked pretty peculiar to the people who saw me. Here I was dressed in a brand new, three-piece suit, and wearing shined shoes, and swinging a metal detector in the heart of town.

I didn't care. I found three old Large Cents, a Two Cent piece, and a Seated Quarter, all from the mid 1800's.

Oh ya, [I was late for my appointment](#), but I didn't care. Digging those coins was more important, and more fun.

Street Construction

Just like sidewalk construction, street construction can bring a lot of nice old coins to your collection.

- When the old roads of a city, town or village are torn up to be re-paved the old coins that have been lying beneath the road are there for your taking.

Again, make sure you ask permission and then stay out of the way of the workers.

You may have more time to detect the road construction sites. It takes more time for the construction crews to re-pave the streets after they tear them up.

More than likely you can detect in the evenings after the workers leave for the day, or even on a weekend when they are not working.

In either case, don't pass up the opportunity to find old coins on road construction sights.

Fairgrounds

How about detecting the area of the nearest fairground? If you can locate an old fairground, you'll have a great time finding both old and new coins.

Remember, anywhere that people gathered they lost or dropped coins.

Get your hands on an old map and try and locate the old fairgrounds in your county, and the surrounding counties.

Many times the old fairgrounds are shown on the maps. Try locating an old F.W. Beers map. You can usually find them in your local historical societies or your library. All you need to do is make a copy for your record.

Beaches

Any beach that has heavy use is a potential for finding lots of coins as well as silver and gold rings.

When people are at the beach they are usually using sun tan lotions. The lotions make it easy for rings to slide off. If you can detect the water as well as the beach your in for some great finds.

Lost and Found

How about running an ad in your local newspaper in the "Lost and Found" section. People who have lost rings or jewelry will often pay a "finders" fee to anyone who can locate the item.

And most often as you are searching for those lost items, you are also finding other items such as coins and jewelry.

Home Sites

If you get permission to metal detect the yards of homes, especially the older homes, you'll end up finding more than just lost or dropped coins. Artifacts of every kind can be found there.

You can always tell the homeowner that you will share the finds with them. This technique usually gets you the permission to search.

Just be sure you are fair and honest when you negotiate with the homeowner.

Old and New Church Yards

Wherever people gather they lose items. And church functions that are held outdoors are no different.

If you can get permission to search the older churchyards where many picnics were once held, you'll have loads of fun finding older coins and jewelry.

RV Parks

I know a few individuals who own RV's and they never fail to bring along a metal detector to detect the RV parks they stay at.

With gas prices as high as they are today, finding coins in RV parks help to pay for that gas.

Ball Fields

Just imagine how many coins are lost while someone is sliding into home plate, or any base for that matter.

How about lost coins while playing tackle football, or running around on a soccer field. Men and women do lose coins and jewelry while participating in sports.

- I have found coins and jewelry on the volleyball courts of parks and beaches.

Again, when suntan lotion is used, rings are lost during the game.

Unusual Places To Search For Treasure.

The following areas can be searched for treasure. These are hiding places where others and myself have located hidden loot.

The first few places require a metal detector.

Posthole Banks

Okay, you're asking what's a posthole bank?

Let me explain.

A posthole bank is the hole in the ground that is left after a fence post is dug.

Many farmers buried their coins beneath the fence posts of their properties. They simply removed the fence post, inserted the money into the hole, and then replaced the post.

Recently a friend of mine located 15 silver dollars from the mid 1800's that were buried in a posthole bank.

The silver dollars were stashed inside a leather pouch. The pouch had deteriorated years ago, only a few pieces of leather remained.

Near Big Old Trees

I've been lucky with this one.

- I found a small, Mason jar filled with old coins. The jar was buried at the base of an old elm tree.

Many times old trees are used as markers for the person who is hiding the money. Usually the old trees in backyards are where most treasures are found.

- I found my treasure at an old eastern ghost town site.

If you are interested in locating the old towns in the east, you can find more information at www.metal-detecting-ghost-towns-of-the-east.com

Gardens

People have always had gardens, and many have buried their valuables there.

These garden hiding places are the most prevalent. I know others who have searched gardens and found everything from mason jars full of coins to large steel boxes of jewelry.

In The Outhouse

Don't laugh; but do think about this one.

How many of you would think of searching an outhouse for a buried treasure?

Many old timers cached their coins in the outhouse because they knew people would never think of searching there.

The old out houses can still be found. If you want to give this one a try, look beneath the *seat*. The wooden frame the seat sits on can usually be removed.

Don't worry, unless the crapper is still being used, the bacteria and stuff is no longer there. If it were, I would have died years ago.

As a side note:

- If you are interested in collecting old bottles, then the outhouses are a good place to search.

The first settlers of this country did not have a recyclable law, so they tossed everything into their outhouses, including pottery and bottles.

I know many people who have a collection of bottles and pottery that are not only old, but also valuable. Most of the items were located in old outhouses.

Beneath Barn Flooring

Here's another area I have first hand knowledge of.

Many old barns have wooden floors that sit on top of a crawl space. Often time's money and valuables were hidden below the floor. Look for loose floorboards as a good sign that a cache is there.

A few years ago I was asked to locate a buried treasure.

An elderly woman and her family owned a farm in a small town. The woman had suspected that her deceased husband had buried a cache of coins on their property, but after months of searching they could not locate it.

- After two days of searching I located the buried treasure beneath the floor of the old barn.

I also know other treasure hunters who have uncovered hidden loot beneath barn floors.

Rivers and Creeks

Where do you think most thieves throw their loot when fleeing from the law?

I've heard many stories from treasure searchers who have dragged river and creek bottoms and have found cash, coins and jewelry.

Some of these finds have been old. Coins and paper currency dated in the 1850's were recently located in a creek in Pennsylvania. They were cached inside what looked like an old bank safety deposit box.

All you need is a rope tied to a grappling hook. You'll uncover many items, mostly junk, as well as getting the hook stuck on tree limbs time and time again.

If you're the enterprising kind, research the robberies in your area, especially the ones where the money or items were never returned.

Beneath Bridges

This also has to do with thieves on the run.

When you are searching those river and creek beds be sure that you also take the time to search beneath the bridges.

Search the bridge itself as well as the ground beneath it.

And remember; when thieves are on the run, they don't spend a lot of time hiding their stolen goods. So look in the obvious places like between the joists of the bridge, or the steel girders.

If it will take time to climb up to, or it's too dangerous, then you're wasting your time.

By the way, I know an adventurous individual who has recovered large amounts of cash from beneath two bridges, less than two miles from each other.

Why was the cash beneath those bridges?

Most likely it was drug money and the drug dealer was caught before going back to retrieve his stash.

Speaking of drug money?

Hey, It's All "Finders Keepers"

I also know an individual who searches for the drug money that was buried by the criminal.

This idea stems from the days of the "gangster".

During the early 1900's when notorious criminals like Al Capone, John Dillinger and Dutch Schultz were embezzling, stealing and killing for money they were also on the run.

There have been many stories about these gangsters hiding large amounts of cash and jewelry in case they were caught and sent off to jail, because they trusted no one. They wanted to make sure their

nest egg was placed in an area they could come back to once they were out of prison.

It's the same today with criminals trafficking drugs.

Many of these individuals do the same as their predecessors and hide their money in hopes that it will be there when jail time is over.

WARNING

This is a risky game indeed and I don't recommend that you follow the drug money to its hiding place, but I know it's being done.

This kind of treasure hunt takes lots of courage and research before the hidden hoards are uncovered. However, like the above example where the fleeing criminal is tossing drug money into rivers and creeks, places abound where this money is being secreted.

Let's Look At Auctions and Flee Markets

Of course you won't be using a metal detector in these places. But you should not miss the opportunity to cash in on some great finds at these places.

Hey, any treasure found is a good treasure. So don't be picky about where to find them.

Picture Frame Backs

If you enjoy going to home auctions or flea markets, then make sure you pay special attention to those old picture frames.

The frames themselves may be worth lots of money, but you can also find treasures on the back of those frames.

Many individuals used to hide money between the picture backing and the frame. Others just stapled an envelope with the cash directly to the frame back.

Old Medicine Cabinets

When you're at the flea markets and auctions, check those old medicine cabinets. They used to have slots in them to dispose of used razor blades. It's been known that many individuals have secreted their coins into those slots.

If you get permission to treasure hunt old abandoned houses, be sure to search those medicine cabinets as well as the following places.

Pipe Safe

Look for piping that leads nowhere and that has been capped off.

If you're in an old house and you notice a large pipe that looks like it doesn't belong where it is, another words, there are no valves to it, and it's capped? It's probably a pipe safe.

There have been people who stashed all kinds of money from silver dollars to paper money inside piping.

Beneath Attic Floors

Be sure to check the attic flooring of old homes.

Look beneath any loose flooring between the joists. This was another common hiding area.

Basement Floor Joists

The same as above look between the joists.

Loose Stone Basement Walls

When you're in the basements of older homes, be sure to look for any of the basement stonewall that may be loose, for easy removal.

Small and large caches have been located there.

Inside the walls

People have also used the walls of their homes as a hiding place for money. I've seen everything from holes on the walls covered by a picture, to lath and plaster walls with slots cut into them for coins.

Always ask for permission before you attempt to go into any abandoned property. And be sure to respect the rights of all property owners.

Metal Detecting Laws

Perhaps now is a good time to mention that you should be somewhat knowledgeable about the laws having to do with the recoveries of artifacts/and or treasures.

Although there are no metal detecting laws, there are laws that cover treasure searches on public lands. Each state has their own modifications of the ARPA law that regulates our hobby.

If you have not been to my website that explains this law in detail then you should. You don't want to end up in a situation where your detector and your finds have been confiscated, as well as you having to pay a large fine and thrown into jail.

Believe me, its happened.

For more information.

Visit my website at <http://www.metal-detecting-ghost-towns-of-the-east.com/metaldetectinglaws.html>

How To Turn Your Hobby Into An Exciting Business.

- For years I was paid to locate lost jewelry. It was both exciting and rewarding.
- My searches led me to places that I had never intended to go.
- You can do the same.

Here's how:

Contact Insurance Companies

Some Insurance Companies will pay you a fee if you locate lost items like jewelry.

They would rather pay you a percentage of the appraised value for locating that lost item, then pay the full value to the owner.

Insurance companies are always receiving claims from people who have lost jewelry. Just have them provide you with the names of those individuals.

Then call that person and tell them that you are working as an outside locator for the Insurance Company, and that you would like some information about where the item in question was lost so that you can search for it.

To get started, all you need to do is start a small business and contact the insurance companies in your areas.

You can call your business something like, *"Bob's Lost Item Recovery."*

Or,

"Ann Marie's Lost Jewelry Search Service."

You need to go to your local county clerks office and file what is called a *DBA Form, or "doing business as" form.*

It usually costs about twenty-five or thirty dollars to file this form with your business name. But you'll need it in order to get a bank account set up for your business. That way the insurance company can pay you as a business, which will enhance your chances of landing an insurance account for searching.

Have some business cards made up. You can use a computer and simple office software to create your own cards. Office supply stores carry a large selection of business card stock to print your card layout on.

You want to be sure that you call *"Property & Causality"* Insurance Companies. These are the companies that insure personal items.

By the way, the items you purchase for your business are a tax deduction: More on this in the following section.

How Much Do I Charge?

There are a couple of ways to charge the Insurance Company for your searches.

- The first way is by charging a flat fee. For instance:

You can charge by the hour.

Twenty-five dollars an hour is a good starting point.

Just keep in mind that if you are searching for a lost school ring that costs \$150 and you charge Twenty-five dollars an hour, if it takes you 8 hours to locate the ring, the Insurance company will have a real problem with paying you more than the appraised value of the ring.

You need to be flexible in your pricing.

Which leads to the second way to charge Insurance Company.

- Take a percentage of the appraised value.

Suppose your searching for that school ring that has an appraised value of \$150. If you charge a percentage of that value, lets say 50%; you'll receive \$75 for locating the ring.

If it takes you two hours to find the ring, then you made a bit more than \$37.50 an hour. That's not bad for a few hours work.

By talking with the individual who lost the ring, if you can get good information as to where the ring was lost, then you'll have an easy search and you can find the item in a few hours.

I was searching for a lost diamond ring at a local beach. The appraised value was \$10,000. The woman who owned the ring met me at the beach and showed me where she thought she had lost it.

She knew she went into the water without the ring because she removed it and left the ring on the blanket. At the end of the day she forgot the ring was on the blanket and shook the blanket off before folding it.

- I located the ring in twenty minutes. My percentage was 50%, so I received \$5000 from the Insurance Company for twenty minutes of work.

The Insurance company was very glad to pay me that fee verses what they would have had to pay for an insurance claim.

- And the woman who lost the ring was so happy to have it back that she gave me \$100 for my time.

Working With Others Leads To More Finds

One of the benefits of working with an Insurance Company to locate lost items is the opportunity to gain access to places to metal detect.

Once you locate a lost item for a person they become very grateful and will most times give you permission to search their properties for your pleasure.

Take advantage of this opportunity, especially if you can gain access to older homes. There is no telling what you can find in the front and back yards of these homes.

Another time I was asked to locate a diamond ring by a different insurance company. I went to the home of the woman who lost the ring. She told me she lost the ring in her yard, but was not sure if it was lost in the front or the back yard.

I began to search the front yard. After two hours of no success, but I did find some old coins like two-cent pieces and seated coins, which dated her home to the mid 1860's.

I asked the woman if she had a garden, she told me she did and she showed me where it was.

The garden was in the backyard in the far corner of her property. Within five minutes I located her diamond ring. I then asked her if I could continue to search her garden and the rest of the backyard and that I would share with her any finds I located.

- Within another five minutes I dug up an old mason jar full of old coins.

Apparently this cache was a "Granny Cache." The woman had no idea that the jar of coins was even there.

The jar was buried by one of the previous owners, possibly the original owners.

- Most of the coins were seated coins with Indian Head pennies and V-Nickels mixed in as well.

So be sure to take advantage of any opportunity to work with insurance company claims departments.

You can get paid well and also find some great old stuff.

If you really want to get the best detect'en in, ask your friends and family if you can metal detect around their properties, especially if they live in older homes.

If you share your finds with them, which you should, after-all it is their property, you'll then have people calling you who heard about you from your acquaintances.

If you work this right, you'll never run out of good places to detect.

Let Uncle Sam Help Pay Your Way

There is no reason why you should not take advantage of your good old Uncle Sam. Here's How!

If you set up a business such as *John's Treasure Search*, or *Mary's Recoveries*, you can use whatever name you like, and you make an attempt to get business, then you have legally qualified as a business.

You also need to file what is called a **DBA (Doing Business As) form**, as I mentioned earlier, with your local City, village, or town office and open a business bank account.

All you need to do is run some ads in your local penny-savers or post brochures announcing what you do and your ready to get the tax benefits of the business.

What's this mean?

It means that you can buy your,

- metal detectors,
- or digging tools,
- or anything you need to use within the hobby and deduct those costs from your taxable income at the end of each year.

In essence your letting Uncle Sam help you purchase your metal detect'en equipment for you.

You can even deduct your gas expense, or any meals that you use while you are on your way traveling to and from your customer's homes.

If you need to travel many miles and stay in hotels to search for lost items for customers, the expenses you incur, may be used to offset your total annual income.

Other possible deductions are:

- Automobile mileage and maintenance
- A home office deduction
- Medical expenses
- Postage
- Computers
- Printers
- Copy machines
- Fax machines.

Remember, you need to use these items in your business. Even if you only use the above a portion of the time for your business, you may still take a part of the costs as expenses.

When you file your tax return, you or your tax preparer will use "*Schedule C*" of IRS Form 1040. This Schedule will list your expenses.

You should consult your tax adviser to learn more about the deductions you may take against your new business.

Contact Me

If at anytime you have questions about any of the information in this ebook, please contact me at my email address detector99@yahoo.com

Be sure to visit my two websites:

www.metal-detecting-ghost-towns-of-the-east.com

And

www.exploringhistorystreasures.com

Both of the above websites are constantly being updated with new and exciting information for the treasure hunter.

Thanks again,

Frank

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