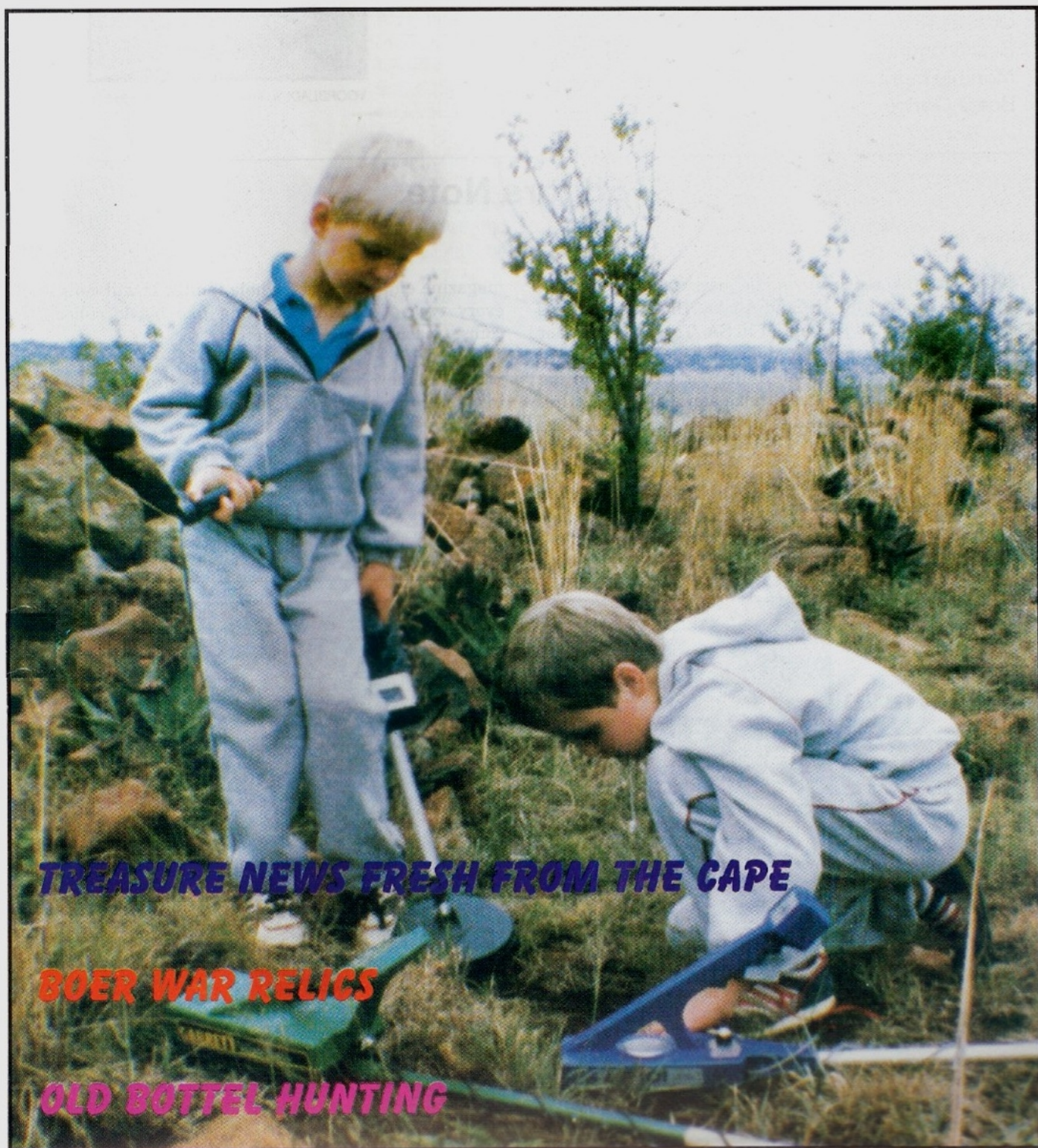


TREASURE TALK

BEST HOBBY BY FAR

Vol. No. 1

Dec. '97



TREASURE NEWS FRESH FROM THE CAPE

BOER WAR RELICS

OLD BOTTEL HUNTING

TREASURE TALK

TREASURE NEWS/NUUS

EDITOR LM VAN DER MERWE

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VOORBLAD: 'n Stokperdjie vir die hele familie.

Editors Note

Goeie dag

Metaalverklidders is een van die mees interresantste en groeiende stokperdjie in Suid-Afrika. Die stokperdjie is seker al meer as 30 jaar aktief in SA. Tot dusver is daar ie juis publikasies oor die stokperdjie nie, daarom wil ons daarna streef om al die nuus oor wt ookal in die land aangaan aangaande skattejag aan almal oor te dra. Daar bestaan heelwat klubs, en ons sal graag ook meer van hulle wil hoor.

Treasure and relic hunting is one of the more enjoyable and healthy hobbies and is wel within the range of most of our pockets. "TREASURE TALK" will be a family

magazine enjoyed by the whole family. It will consist of every type of treasure hunting like bottle collecting, coins, treasure relics diving etc.

So, let us know how you are doing by dropping us a line together with photos. Who knows, you could be in our next issue!

Baie groete, en ek hoop ek sien u sommer baie gou in die veld.

Lukas van der Merwe.

Cape Town Treasure Hunters

FROM TOP LEFT:
Lisa, Anthony,
Wolfgang, Simone,
Odet,

BOTTOM LEFT:
Peter en Shaun



BRIEWE



Beste Lukas,

Ek sien jou advertensie in die "keur" en reageer daarop.

Bestaan daar nie klubs vir ouens met metaalverklikkers nie? Indien wel, stuur asseblief adresse.

Ek het drie verklikkers - 'n White beachcomber, Garrett CX en 'n Fieldmaster. Omdat dit so onveilig is om alleen uit te gaan, lê die goed net in die kas en word dit nooit gebruik nie.

Die uitstappies wat jy reël, neem ek aan, is in jou omgewing. Indien dit hier in my omgewing kan wees, sal ek met graagte wou deelneem. Ek is 'n pensioenaris en my fondse is beperk hoeveel ek kan spandeeer op so iets. Het jy dalk voorstelle?

Jy 'n nuusbrief uitgee, sal ek dit waardeer om dit te kry en te weet van uitstappies en wat daar gebeur het.

Laat my asseblief van jou hoor.

Baie dankie en groete.

Dawie Fourie

Mnr Fourie

Daar bestaan wel klubs in SA. Die beste manier is om in u dorp se koerante te

adverteer en uit te vind of daar ander persone is wat die stokperdjie met u sal deel. Meeste van die klubs wat bestaan is in die groot sentra van ons land. Die naaste een aan u is in Randfontein. U kan hulle skakel by (011) 412-3533.

Die nuusbrief sal kwartaaliks uitkom, en sal oor al die nuus beskik wat daar oor die stokperdjie te skryf sal wees.

Hoop u kom reg, en geniet die stokperdjie.

Geagte Meneer,

Ek is baie gefasineerd met metaalverklikkers as stokperdjies. Dus stel ek daarin belang om een aan te skaf.

My kennis omtrent verklikkers strek ongelukkig nie so ver nie. Het u dalk vir my raad omtrent watter metaalverklikker die beste vir 'n beginner is?

Ek sal dit waardeer as u 'n artikel omtrent beginners en verskillende verklikkers (met hul pryse) kan publiseer.

Ek kyk uit vir die artikel in u tydskrif.

Groete Piet van Rooyen

Piet

Die beste verklikker om mee te begin is altyd die kleinste een op die mark, hang af van die verspreiders. Meeste entoesiaste begin met 'n goedkoop, maar gemaklike metaalverklikker. Wat die metaalverklikker moet hê is 'n diskriminasie, en 'n volume beheer, as ook 'n sok vir oorfone. Dit moet 'n muntstuk (R2) so min of meer 250mm onder die grond op tel. Die spoel moet water dig wees, asook 'n waarborg van min of meer 'n jaar plus. Indien iemand in die omgewing 'n metaalverklikker het, sal jy baie goeie raad van so 'n persoon kry.

Die verspreider moet ook alom bekend wees, asook die metaalverklikker wat hy versprei moet 'n bekende maak wees.

Ons sal meer besonderhede hê in die volgende tydskrif oor al die verspreiders en hulle verskillende metaalverklikkers.

Groete, en ek hoop ons sien jou gou in die veld.

Indien u as leser enige navrae, opmerkings, ens. het, en dus aan TREASURE TALK wil skryf, is ons adres soos volg:

**Excalibur
Posbus 3207
Randgate, 1759**



TREASURE ON THE BEACHES.

By Anthony Venish

Well it's another summer just about gone, and we will be back into my favorite time of the year, when the winds howl and blow. I am hoping that Mother Nature will be kind and release her hold on a few of the goodies that she keeps hidden from us imple people. I remember last winter when we went to the beaches, and found an abundance of old coins, gold items and plenty of silver jewellery, as this was most probably due to the fact the we encountered on of our worst storms.

It caused havoc to our coastline, some with advantageous effects while in other parts, it ruined all possibilities of detecting, as the sand was so high.

At this one productive beach, I found a number of the older coins, as the sand had dropped 1 meter and produced layers of black sand.

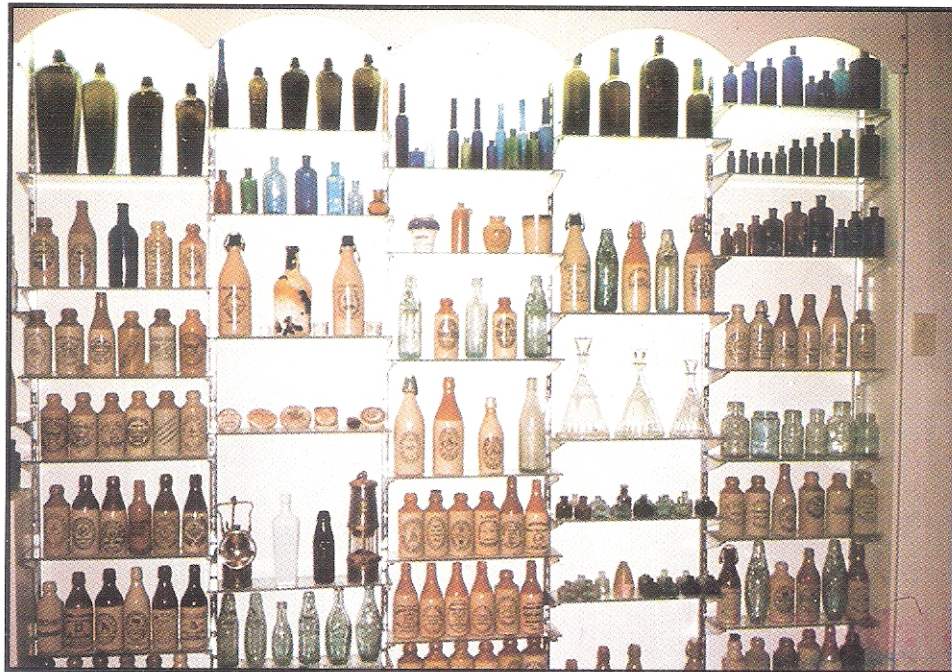
There was even those enormous concrete blocks that hold the sign boards up, lying at the bottom of the sand and you wouldn't believe that in summer you are actually lying on top of them.



A Couple of the older coins found

One day I walked off the beach with four gold items. I tryly was on a high and it was well worth digging up all those bottle tops which we hate to find. if that was the result. One of them was a nice man's 18ct gold ring with some sort of crest on it. When I get time I will go into trying to find out a bit more about the crest.

I have bought this wet suit to metal detect in the water and have on a few occasions, found some good finds. I usually do this when the sand is piled high on the beaches. At one time, while detecting in the water I came across this baby penguin that had been thrown off course by the stormy waters. She was totally exhausted and would never have survived. Today, she has been reunited to a colony of penguins at the Boulders. That really was a UNIQUE FIND! That is why I also enjoy metal detecting because you are so close to nature.



How To Get Started In Bottle Digging

Bottle digging is a fast growing hobby that attracts people from all walks of life. Some people do it for the pleasure of collecting old bottles while other do it for profit. Old bottles command good prices at flea markets, auctions and at antique shops, some of the rarer types fetching hundreds of Rands.

Getting started in the hobby is easy, all that's needed is an old dump site, readily available tools, lots of elbow grease and some common sense. Digging for bottles can be as safe or as dangerous as you decide to make it. Mike Conradie, a dedicated and successful bottle digger, has sound advice to offer any one contemplating this interesting hobby.

- 1) Obtain permission from the landowner before starting a dig.
- 2) Digging for bottles can be extremely dangerous, so caution and alertness must be exercised at all times.
- 3) Do not dig alone, where possible a digging party must consist of at least two people.
- 4) A compact first aid Kit can come in handy for blisters, and any cuts from rusty metal or broken glass. Serious diggers should consider having a tetanus injection. Precautions against snake and insect bites should also be taken.
- 5) Don't drink and dig. Alcohol and digging don't mix.
- 6) Wear comfortable protective clothing. A one piece overall, gloves and sturdy footwear are good protective items.
- 7) Take along enough clean water for drinking and washing any possible wounds.
- 8) Historical sites and National Monuments must be left as they are.
- 9) Tidy up the area before you leave.

Finding suitable dumps for digging relies on research. There are many ways of researching and each person develops his or her own method. The first thing to do is try and used to play on as a kid. Remember the bottles you used to pot at with your catapult, the glass marbles you found? If you can remember this you already have your first

site.

Listening to older people often reveals dumps that are long forgotten. Municipal officers are another source of possible sites, especially the engineers department. During excavation work for new buildings.

Every town and city have had and still have a dump site. Many mines, factories, farms and campsites are also likely areas for dump sites. Pay a visit to the library as it is a host of information to the bottle digger. River banks were often used as dumps and should not be overlooked. Keep your eyes and ears open for events that can lead to further dumps, ask other diggers, research and work together.

The proper tools make finding and retrieving bottles much easier. These are a spade, shovel, rake, garden fork and a custom made digging tool. The custom tool consists of a 1 metre length of steel rod, preferably spring steel, ± 1 cm. in diameter with a handle on one end and a slightly sharpened point on the other. This is used to probe for bottles.

There are two methods of working a dump. The first is for a dump that has not been opened and the other for one that has.

Once an unopened dump has been located, select a promising site by probing with the steel rod, with practice it is possible to tell when glass has been struck.

Dig a vertical hole until the bottom of the dump is reached. Exercise care in order not to break any bottles during the excavation. As the hole deepens layers of ash and earth will be seen, it's in the ash layers that the bottles are to be found.

The deeper the hole gets the more difficult it becomes to remove the earth and this is where a bucket and rope come in handy. The hole will require widening as it becomes deeper to avoid the walls from collapsing.

If you feel that it is not possible to go further without a cave in then fill in the hole and start another one.

No two holes are the same. One may yield hundreds of bottles while the other will be dry, if you hit a dry hole you just have to try again at another spot. Perseverance in this hobby yields large dividends. Once a hole has played out refill it to avoid people or animals from falling in and sustaining injuries. This is particularly important on farms. The farmer won't be impressed if his prized animals have to be put down because of your negligence.

Dumps are sometimes opened by brick companies requiring the ash for their manufacturing process.

Digging this type of dump is much easier as you can start at ground level. Select your spot and dig into the face of the dump, creating a hole of approximately a half a metre deep by a half a metre high.

Do not try to go more than a metre at a time into the wall of the dump as the weight above the hole could cause it to cave in on top of you, remember safety is the rule. Having dug a safe distance into the dump and retrieved any bottles present the next step is to start caving in the hole in a controlled fashion. Stand clear of the hole you have just dug and start loosening the earth above the hole. This is the easy part of finding bottles as the earth falls to the bottom of the hole revealing bottles as you work your way to the top of the dump. Once the top is reached, clear the rubble taking extra care to remove the broken bottles and rusty metal as far away as possible from the work place. It pays to start as close as possible to the original ground level as this is where the oldest bottles will be found.

When a bottle is located the ash which can be extremely hard must be carefully removed until the bottle is loose, then and only then remove the bottle by hand. Many valuable bottles have been broken by not loosening them properly, much to the disappointment of the finder.

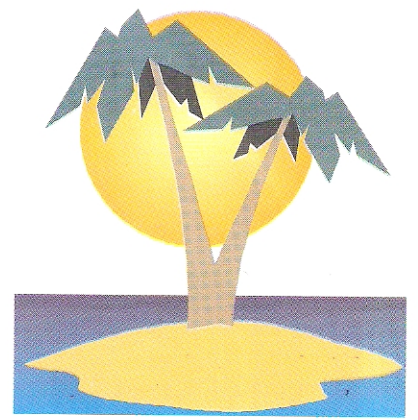
Bottles of all shapes and sizes are to be found, some are valuable and others quite common. The different types of bottle to be found include marble stoppered bottles many with embossing on the side, stoneware ginger bottles, beer bottles, earthenware casks, different coloured poison bottles, ink bottles of different shapes, the old familiar castor oil bottle, coconut oil, and wine bottles to name a few.

Bottles are not the only finds made while digging a dump. Pot lids, clay pipes, porcelain dolls, glasses, copper licence disks and other odds and ends are also to be found.

During the last 11 months Mike has accumulated over 250 bottles, although he says the greatest excitement occurs when objects you don't expect to find in a dump are unearthed. Like the two American Airforce buttons, 1913 bicycle licence, the back of a fob watch and silver spoons that have come to light.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the hobby should investigate purchasing "Bottles and Bygones" by Ethleena and Al Lastovica, a book dealing with dump digging in South Africa.

Skattejagter van die Kwartaal



EEN VAN DIE OPGEWEKSTE EN VRIENDELIKSTE SKATTEJAGTERS WAT EK NOG TEE GEKOM HET, IS OOM KOBUS NEL. KOBUS HET TOE TEEN 1989 SY EERSTE METAALVERKLIKKER GEKOOP, NADAT SY SKOONSEUN GEHOOR HET VAN DIE VERKLIKKERS. SY EERSTE VERKLIKKER WAS, EN WORD NOG AS 'N TWEDE VERKLIKKER GEBUIK, 'N GARRETT FREEDOM ACE. SY HUIDIGE VERKLIKKER, DIE GARRETT MASTER HUNTER CX2, HET AL HEELWAT OPWINDING VIR HOM VERSKAF.

BEROEP:

Pensioenaris.

BEGIN MET DIE STOKPERDJIE:

Ek het rerig in 1990 begin.

SPECIALISEER:

Boere oorlog, strande en ou munstukke.

BESTE FONDS:

Goue ring met 'n Britse vlag op die gesig wat by Balmoral (Transvaal) gevind is.

SNAAKSTE ITEM:

Indiese muntstuk op 'n Britse ashoop.

WAT WOU JY NOG ALTYD GEVIND HET?

Voorwerp met 'n inskripsie wat jou 'n aanduiding gee dat 'n bekende persoon aan een of ander slag deelgeneem het.

WAAR SAL JY DIE GRAAGSTE NOG WIL GROU?

Slag van Nootgedagt, as ek kan toestemming kry.

HOEKOM?

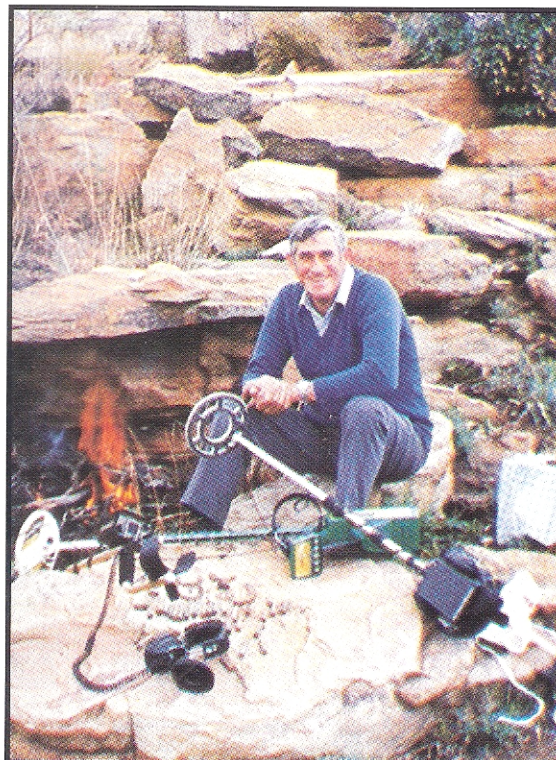
Want dit is een van die belangrikste slae in die stryd om vryheid in Transvaal.

IS JY NOG GELUKKIG MET JOU VERKLIKKER?

Ja, want ek is heeltemal vertrouwd met hom.

WAT IS DIE BESTE FONDS WAT JY AL GESIEN HET IEMAND UITHAAL, EN WAT JY SELF GRAAG SOU WOU GEVIND HET?

Ek is altyd gelukkig met wat ek gevind het, en gun die ander persoon wat hy gevind het.



BESTE FONDS OP DIE STRAND?

1937 tienie op Mosselbaai.

WAT SE RAAD KAN JY AAN DIE ANDER ENTOESTIASTE GEE?

Soek, soek en aanhou soek. Moet nooit opgee nie. Na al die gemors is daar tog iets wat die moeite werd is, moenie moed verloor nie.

WAT IS JOU BESTE GATGRAWER?

Baie gesluite graaf wat lig is om te dra.

WAT GENIET JY NOU EINDELIK VAN DIE METAALVERKLIKKER?

Eerstens al die fassette van die natuur en dan laastens die kameraadskap met die kosmaak na 'n harde dag se grawe.

Uitstappie na die Gatsrand

- DEUR MIKE CONRADIE

Vandag is 'n mooi sonskyn dag met 'n effense koelte in die lug. Ek bevind myself op die Pretoria Krugersdorp snelweg wagende op 3 entoesiaste vanaf Pretoria. Terwyl ek so sit en wag, blaai ek deur 'n boek oor die Tweede Anglo Boere oorlog en spits my aandag toe op die gebeurtenisse rondom die deurbraak gevegte tot die inname van Johannesburg. Ek raak so verdiep in die leeswerk dat ek nie die Kombi hier agter my sien stop nie. Nadat daar gegroet is, vertrek ons in 'n "konvoi" na ons eindbestemming, die Gatsrand.

Hierdie area was bedrywig tydens die oorlog met Britse kampe wat orals opgeslaan is. Skermutsellings het ook hier plaas gevind by Jachtfontein, Syferbult en ander. Die spesifieke area wat ons besoek, is bo op 'n koppie geleë, en hier lê die oorblyfsels van verskansings wat deur die Britte opgerig is.

Na ongeveer 'n driekwart uur se ry, arriveer ons by ons bestemming. 'n Paar motors staan in die veld geparkeer met nie 'n enkele siel in sig nie. (Dit is nou die ander groep wat deel uitmaak van ons uitstappie) Die stilte word verbreek deur 'n "peeeeeep" geluid en vir ons is dit soos

musiek in ons ore. Iemand het 'n sein gekry en ons loop in die rigting van die geluid, klim oor klipmure en bevind onself binne die vesting. Alles is toegegroeï, met "Black Wattle" bome orals, Voor ons op sy hurke sit iemand en grawe in die grond. 'n Lewendige Lee-Metford patroon kom te verksyn en aanskou die lig na 90 lange jare in die grond. Weer is daar 'n gegroet. Toe gaan haal ons, ons eie metaalverklikkers. Almal gaan in sy eie rigting, en die soektog na relike begin in alle erns. Soms as jy die skril "peeeep, peeeeeep" van die metaalverklikkers hoor weet jy voorwerpe word gevind. Die musiek het nou 'n orkes geword.

Dit word later, die dag gaan verby. 'n uur, 12 uur, een uur.... en toe, om half twee, kom almal bymekaar om te sien wat alles gevind is. Lee-Metford patrone, doppies, hempsknope, gespes en regiments knope is gevind. Nou word daar pryse uitgedeel aan diegene wat volgens almal die beste vir die dag gedoen het.

Steph van Rooyen kry die eerste prys 'n stel Phillips oorfone, geskenk deur Noel Swartz van Advico Electronics. Steph het onder andere die volgende gevind met sy C-Scope (CS2MX) verklikker: 8 lewendige

patrone en 8 knope, waarvan een 'n groot regiments knoop is.

Annette en Anton van Zyl ontvang die tweede prys vir 'n familie poging en kry 'n proef silwer rand geskenk deur Lukas van der Merwe. Noemenswaardig van hulle fondse is 4 regiments knope. Annette gebruik 'n ADS 7 masjien en Anton 'n Garrat Grand Master.

Wim Vergeer ontvang die derde prys vir sy poging as 'n beginner tot die stokperdjie en kry 'n boek wat handel oor metaalverklikking. Hierdie prys is ook deur Noel Swartz geskenk. Wim gebruik 'n Garrat ADS7.

Na die prysuitdeling word die skottelskaar nader gesleep en 'n vleis gebraai.

Die son begin te sak, ons pak op en die dag is te gou verby. Met die terugry huis se kant toe, sit ek so en dink aan die opwindende dag wat ons beleef het. My hand kies koers na my sak, en ek voel die buitelyne van die patrone, gespe en knope wat ek gevind het. 'n Glimlag speel oor my gesig - wat 'n wonderlike klomp mense, wat 'n wonderlike dag.

How far will my detector go?

This is the question most frequently asked by metal detector users. It is also a question with no definite or absolute answer. In addition to the capabilities of your detector, the following situations will also have a bearing on depth.

1. CONDUCTIVE PROPERTIES OF THE SOIL

Heavily mineralized soil will tend to reduce the penetration power of your detector. This may vary greatly, and you will have to rebalance your instrument according to the soil conditions.

2. THE LENGTH OF TIME AN OBJECT IS BURIED

There are various chemicals in the soil that have a corrosive action on metal. Some metals corrode faster than others. A copper penny is attacked by chemicals in the soil quite easily, whereas the action on gold is hardly noticeable. As the soil chemicals eat away at the metal, oxidation takes place. These oxides are observed into the soil surrounding the

metal. This causes the soil to become more conductive, which in turn makes the metal object appear to be larger than it actually is.

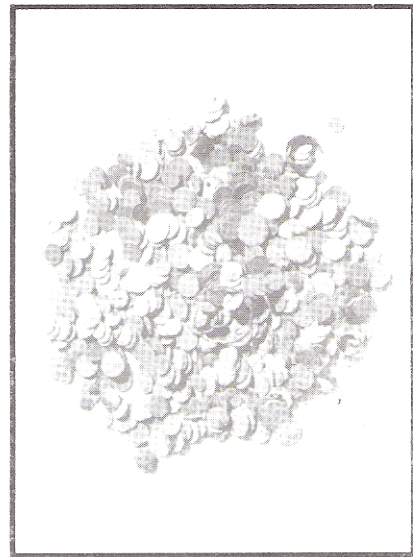
3. THE SIZE OF AN OBJECT

The larger the object, the easier and deeper it can be detected. For example, a pot or a bucket can be detected much easier than a single coin. The more surface area exposed to the search head, the easier it is to detect.

4. THE SHAPE OF AN OBJECT

Every object reradiates at least part of the signal transmitted by your instrument. In this way, the object functions like additional antennas, and consequently their shape becomes important. Ring-shaped or loop-shaped objects that are lying flat in the ground produce the best results; flat or dish-shaped objects are also easy to detect. Rod-shaped items, especially when scanned on end are very difficult to detect.

Beachcombing - The Bank Is Always Open!



A vast fortune in money, jewellery, watches and other valuables totalling hundreds of thousands of Rands are waiting to be recovered from beaches. Over the decades the beaches have become an underground bank which is growing larger with each holiday season.

Beachcombers have been dipping into this bank beneath the sands for years, retrieving coins, rings and much more. Some beachcombers retrieve is many coins that they no longer count them but weigh them instead. Coins are not the only things being retrieved, watches, chains, rings and other valuables are also found in abundance.

Beachcombing is not new, its been practiced for years by people using little more than their eyes to spot the wealth as it becomes uncovered by wind and sea. The problem with this method is that for every item picked up there are countless more just out of sight beneath the sand.

The guardians of this bank, the sand, wind and sea, do not give up their wealth easily. To be successful requires the right combination which includes choosing the right beach, the right equipment, knowing how to use the equipment and being prepared to persevere.

Choosing a beach is not that difficult. It's really just a matter of finding out which ones are the most popular, the more popular a beach the better your chances are.

Beaches that are serviced by vendors encourage people to take money to the beach to spend, so that these beaches generally have more coins lost than on beaches where no such service is offered.

Swimming patterns change and this can also influence the finds that are made. A beach that is deserted today may have been very popular decades ago. These older beaches can offer more because they have been searched less and also produce older finds.

The choice of a metal detector is critical as it is imperative to be able to

work both the dry and wet sand areas for the greatest success. The dry sand does not present much of a problem and most detectors can be made to work this area, it is the wet sand however that produces the greatest problem. The reason being that when the beach sand becomes wet, as between the high and low tide mark, it is conductive and makes operation of a metal detector extremely difficult if not impossible unless the metal detector is of a type that can ignore this ground effect.

The two types of metal detector that can do this most successfully are the new automatic ground eliminating metal detectors and the pulse induction type. The new automatic ground cancelling detectors such as the Garrett Freedom Ace contain the very latest technology and have proven themselves to be highly successful on the beach, often outperforming far more expensive equipment.

The popularity of these detectors can be appreciated when total strangers to beachcombing start finding coins and other valuables on their very first outing. One Durban beachcomber who decided to buy one of these detectors recovered the cost of the machine within a year with the items he found.

The other advantage of this type of detector is that it can also be used successfully for other treasure hunting activities such as coin and relic hunting.

Perseverance plays a major role in the results that are achieved. Contrary to what some people may tell you beachcombing is not a get rich quick hobby. There are those who have been fortunate and struck it lucky almost on the first time out but don't bank on doing the same. It's been proven time and again that consistency is the key.

One persistent beachcomber had only a few cents to show for four consecutive evenings searching, enough to convince many to give up. The next night he was down at the beach again when he hit the jackpot, four rings in the space of a few

minutes.

When people hear of these success stories they find it hard to believe that the beach can keep producing coins and jewellery year after year.

The secret is that more people come to the beach every year and together with the shifting sands and tides, objects are being continuously covered and uncovered. The more people go to the beach the more that is lost. When you think about it there are many ways in which coins and jewellery are lost. You more than likely have lost something at the beach yourself.

Loose change can fall out of a pocket when a hankey or keys are removed from the pocket, they can also get lost when people change or make a purchase from a beach vendor. The sand being soft, there is no sound to alert the person to the lost items. Playing games on the beach is another cause of lost items. Suntan oil causes many rings to easily slip off fingers adding to the many lost items on a beach.

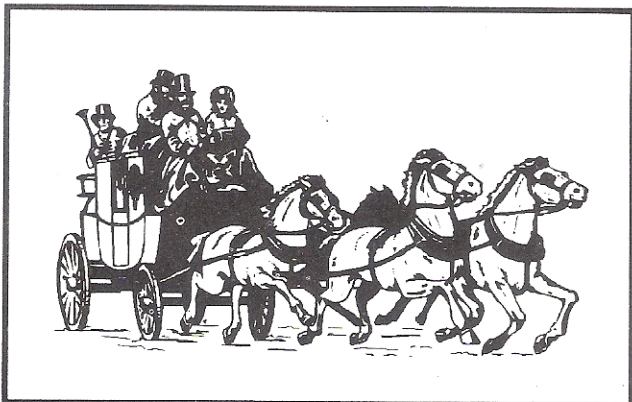
Choosing the right time of day is also important. Most people go in the early morning or evening when it's quiet and they won't get disturbed. Going during a hot day with lots of people on the beach is not good planning. Most of the area you want to search is covered with sunbathers, and trying to work in between everyone is not considered very good manners. Notwithstanding the fact that the beach inspectors will ask you to leave the beach.

Any valuable item's like gold and diamond rings that are found should be handed in at a police station. If they are not claimed within three months the articles becomes the property of the finder.

If you decide to open an account at the beach remember to use the right combination - research, equipment, perseverance and a respect for other peoples use of the beach and you will always find the bank open.

COACH ROBBERIES

The first coach robbery took place on the top of Pilgrims Hill, now known as Robber's Pass, in 1899. Two masked highwaymen stopped the coach, threatened to shoot the driver and passengers unhitched the mules and made their escape with gold to the value of 10 000 pounds



In 1912 the second coach robbery took place. Tommy Dennison, a well-known character in Pilgrim's Rest, was badly in debt. His attempt at robbing the Mail Coach, a few metres from the spot where the first robbery took place, was however not as successful. Instead of gold sovereigns, Dennison found only a case of silver coins. He was arrested while trying to pay his debts with the stolen money. After a five-year jail term, Tommy returned to Pilgrim's Rest where he opened THE HIGHWAYMAN'S GARAGE.

BELANGRIJKSTE VELDSLAE EN GEVEGTE. 1899 - 1902

(Dag van maand in hakies)

JUNIE 1900

Bapsfontien
Donkerhoek (11-12)
Elandslaagte (16)
Greylingstad (15)
Heidelberg (26)
Heuningkoppe (10)
Leeuspruit (14)
Lindley (7) (24)
Paardekop (13)
Pretoria (5)
Renosterriewierkoppie (14)
Rooiwal (7)
Sesmylspruit (4)
Tamboekiesbank
Vredefortweg (17)
Wilmansrus (12)

Rooiberge (28)
Rooiwalstasie (28)
Silkaatsnek (11)
Slabbertsnek (15)
Spitskop (7)

AUGUSTUS 1900

Amersfoort (4-7)
Berg-en-dal (31)
Brakfontein (5)
Dalmanutha (31)
Ermelo (11)
Kliprivierstasie (31)
Sandnek (7)
Spytfontien (25)
Tierfontein (6)
Vanvuurenskloof (3) (7)
Vanwyksrus (26)

JULIE 1900

Amersfoort (24)
Bankstasie (19)
Brandwaterkom (29)
Bethlehem (6-7)
Derdepoort (11)
Elandfontein (3)
Elandslaagte (16)
Klerksdorp (24)
Kosterrivier (23)
Krugersdorp (11)
Palmietfontein (20)
Renosterkop

SEPTEMBER 1900

Barberton (7)
Carolina (14)
Driefontien (Swarberge) (1)
Elandfontein (5)
Gatsrands (5)
Kromspruit (22)
Lichtenburg
Pienaarsrivier (27)
Sandrivie (4)

Treasure Tip

Dawie Berg is 'n bekende wat op die Natalse Suid Kus besig is om sy stokperdjie te beoefen. Dawie wil net graag aan die al die besoekende verklekker entoesiaste vra om asseblief die strande skoon te hou. Dawie dra 'n plastiek sak saam met hom, en gooi al die gemors daar binne. Die rede hoekom Dawie dit doen is dat hy nie twee maal oor dieselfde gemors loop nie. Die volgende keer wat hy uitgaan, weet Dawie dat dit weer nuwe vuilgoed is, en kan met 'n geruste hart na sy skatte soek. Dit wys ook vir die mense en lewensredders dat ons darem positief tot die stokperdjie bydra.

Nog 'n voorstel is dat ons asseblief nie op die strande moet gaan gedurende die dag nie. Dit is so tussen 7:00 en 17:00 dit lyk nie baie goed nie. Die nadeel is ook, dat as mens iets optel wat waardevol is, 'n persoon net kan sê dat dit sy elendom is en dan kan jy dit nie hou nie...

Relics Of The Anglo Boer War 1899-1902

By Dr. O.E.B. Timmermans

The Anglo Boer War of 1899 to 1902 ranks among the so called forgotten or minor wars of the world history, but few incidents of this nature have had a more profound effect on the future cultures and fate of a nation than this troubled time.

Britain expected the war to be over within six months at the most! In actual fact it lasted another two years after the fall of Pretoria.

How did the Boers manage to continue the struggle against such a formidable enemy, being outnumbered 6:1?

They invented guerrilla warfare, they used what was cheap and at their disposal - rocks, koppies, ridges, mountains and above all plain common sense of which the Boers had plenty. The majestic Magaliesberg range became their greatest ally.

Those of us who make use of that magic wand - the electronic metal detector - will find trips to the Magaliesberg interesting and rewarding.

During a search which consisted of roughly 500 trips spread over a period of 32 months, the author discovered over 100 sites of battles, skirmishes, garrisons and camps. Many of these are found near passes affording to men easy passage across the mountain range, such as Hornsnek, Silkaatsnek, Commandonek, Breedtsnek and others. Extensive fighting took place in all these areas.

Towards the end of the war, block-houses and sangars built by the British controlled these necks, and treasure hunters climbing the range will easily find their ruins.

They can expect to find military buttons, large and small, Lee-Enfield cartridge casings, an occasional Lee-Enfield cartridge, donkey shoes, heel plates ex soldier's boots, brass and iron buckles and of course the famous or perhaps infamous food tins. These are identified by the large mass of solder used in their manufacture.

Another interesting relic is the forged steel tent peg, interesting because of its excellent workmanship, date and name of manufacture punched into its surface.

A metal detector is quite essential because most relics are buried under one to two inches of soil. In the Damhoek area the author was lucky enough to find several Lee-Enfield cartridge casings where they had fallen during a skirmish over 80 years ago.

One treasure hunter, digging a hole next to the ruins of a block-house on top of the Magaliesberg near the Hartebeespoort dam discovered an ammunition box. It contained over 500 Lee-Enfield cartridges. The cordite, when ignited with a match still burns, but the cartridges failed to fire when tried in a suitable rifle.

The Boers were equipped with an assortment of rifles such as the Mauser, Martini-Henry and the

into the head. It denotes Cordite MKII throughout. Cordite was of course the new smokeless propellant of that time.

The headstamp also provides identifying marks of the manufacturers. The letter K stands for Kynoch, R & L for Royal Laboratories, Woolwich etc.

Mauser casings always give the date and many of the Martini-Henry and Guedes do so too.

It is very disappointing that after all these years, the author has found neither Victorian nor Z.A.R. coins on these war sites.

Perhaps this is not so strange in the case of the Boer Republic currency as the Boers were always on the move and carried little money, but the British had large garrisons and camps and after all the average trooper of which there were tens of thousands all earned one Royal shilling a day.

Austrian Guedes. It is not so easy to find casings of these rifles and very difficult to locate any unfired cartridges in the Magaliesberg area because the Boers were short of ammunition and took great care not to waste any.

Lee-Enfield casings show no date but can be identified by the CII stamped



The Author holding several live cartridges and cases found on one of his many excursions.

TREASURE TALK

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