

February 2010

The Scoop News

Tribute to Jack Short By Allan Holden

Many years ago I met Jack Short and Ernie Lawson (I just cannot think of one of them without thinking about the other). Jack and Ernie came to me when they both decided to look into the hobby of metal detecting. These two guys took to the detecting hobby like ducks take to water! Soon I got to know the two of them very well. I remember all-to-well that one of their favorite topics, when we got together, was one that they wanted to interest me in the worst of ways-- antique bottles.

I can remember when they talked me into coming to an antique bottle club meeting for the first time. The meetings then were being held in the Washington Square area at the big United Methodist Church on Stockbridge. That night the club was having a special guest speaker, Norm Heckler. Mr. Heckler is like "Mr. Antique Bottle" to collectors all across America! The club had a small turnout that night. I was sort of embarrassed for Mr. Heckler, but the excitement that Jack and Ernie had for antique bottles quickly took a strong hold on me.

Not really knowing where to start with my new bottle collecting hobby, Jack made

me an instant collector! Jack had just moved into the home on Owen Dr., where his wife Betty still lives. In Jack's mind, the moving wasn't complete - his amazing bottle collection was still packed in several boxes out in his shed. Not sure what he would do with all of them at the new location, he offered to sell them to me for pennies on the dollar!

To Jack these old bottles were precious treasure that he worked hard to find. These were bottles that Jack had spent countless hours digging with Ernie at old dumps and trash pits all around Kalamazoo! Jack wasn't trying to just unload them for extra cash, or to get them out of the picture; he took many things into consideration before offering them to me. Jack wanted the collection to be appreciated and displayed.

Thanks to Jack and Ernie, my vocabulary was expanded to include names and words like Moses Atwood, Seven Sisters, Scott's Emulsion, Dr. Kilmer, Spavin Cure, Warner's Safe, Mandrake Bitters and many more!

I heard first person how they came to see the area's first two newly discovered America's Best Bitters bottles. That all came about as the result of an article written about the two part-time dump diggers in the Kalamazoo Gazette! So, there I was with new friends, a new hobby, and an instant collection!

When I think back on it, my wife must have thought that I had lost my mind when boxes of old bottles showed up in the driveway! Jack and Ernie went out of their way to tell me everything there is to know about old bottles. Thanks to Jack and Ernie, I soon became the new owner of countless antique bottle books and

magazines and years of research material!

I put up several narrow pine shelves on the wall of my detector store, then I carefully put all of those old beauties on display. Jack was very proud of the way it turned out and I think he enjoyed the collection more than he ever did before.

Whenever I was busy at my store in the spring time, Jack was always happy to come in and lend me a hand. He really enjoyed talking to people about treasure hunting with a metal detector or digging old bottles!

One day I was sorting through some old photos when I found a couple that were taken back around 1973, when I worked for a machine shop in Kalamazoo called Wheeler Roll. I was trained by a retiring German master machinist. My job was building machines for the papermaking industry. Some of the machines took over a year to build. Before the machine was shipped out to its new owner, the company would call in a professional commercial photographer to take pictures of it. I happened to notice a stamp on the back of the photos that said, "Jack Short Photography!"

I didn't know Jack back when he took those pictures, but he sure remembered taking them, and he was sure surprised to see me back when I had still had hair. Jack went on to share many photos with me for years to come! Jack was indeed a great photographer and he loved to share his God given gift!

Jack truly invested his talent in others, just as the Lord Jesus taught his disciples! What I mean is this: Jack was always helping others by photographing items for the detector club, the bottle club, the local

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Tribute... (cont.)

university and the new Kalamazoo Museum. Those are just the areas that I know about! Jack was always busy at the metal detector and antique bottle clubs with his camera looking for that perfect shot. Then, no matter how late it was, the very minute he got home, he was at his computer posting his pictures for everyone to enjoy!

Jack was always thinking about others! One day the Kalamazoo Museum asked Jack to photograph some of their recent acquisitions. The now closed Kalamazoo Creamery donated dozens of tiny waxed product-sample cartons from the Michigan Cottage Cheese Company from Otsego, which was my grandfather's business. The museum only wanted to keep a couple of the sample cartons. So, Jack talked them out of the rest of the cartons for me! I was able to surprise my mother and my seven siblings with these family treasures for Christmas gifts--- all thanks to Jack!

Jack was always fascinated by my computer, especially when I got hooked up to the Internet. I've never considered myself all that good with a computer, but Jack was busy picking my brain to learn whatever he could. Jack went on to become a very active computer user, unlike many in his age group.

For several years Jack would send out little proverbs by email with a new one on every single day! I wonder to this day where he could find all of these things! They were the kind of clever sayings that you would find on those changeable signs in front of churches. Also, he would send many beautiful pictures that he would find, or many that he would take himself. Jack could see beauty in so many things that we all take for granted! For a while Jack would puzzle us by sending a little piece of a picture then ask his computer family, "What is it?" The next day came the rest of the picture.

Like I said, Jack and Ernie came as a pair!

They both looked forward each year to the Kalamazoo Antique Bottle Show and they both liked to help me with my detector display. I mean to tell you that they could not wait! They both looked forward to that weekend like a kid waits for Christmas!

I can remember when Jack and Betty used to take their motor home to Alabama each year. Ernie and I would miss Jack each winter, especially at the detector and bottle club meetings. It was always great to welcome him back.

I was at my store when the terrible phone call came and I learned about Jack's passing. In some ways it was rather shocking, but not totally. Lately, I must admit, like Ernie I was worried about Jack overdoing it. I was, and still am, very weak from my cancer treatments, while at the same time Jack seemed to defy his age! Since they sold their motor home and stopped going south for the winter, Jack was always busy stocking up his wood pile for winter heating. Jack was proud to be cutting, splitting and stacking firewood at over 80 years old and he went about this like he was 30!

I'm not certain why he sold his motor home and stopped those winter trips to Alabama. Jack even belonged to a metal detecting club down there. He was so proud that he was the only member of that club with his brand of detector, and he could keep up with the best of them!

I believe it was Gulf Shores, Alabama, where the Shorts spent their winter. Also, if I remember correctly, the area where they stayed was wiped out by a hurricane. That seemed like the end to their winter trips. Jack really loved to run his metal detector down there and he came back with some great stories.

When Jack had a brush with death just a few years ago after having a terrible internal infection, one of the things he was afraid of was that he wouldn't ever be strong enough again to do his metal

detecting! He sure did a great job of bouncing back! It almost seemed as if he was getting younger!

Jack was really taken back when he learned about my having cancer. He always showed concern for me and was always trying to cheer me up. Even though he sent out a lot of e-mail, when he wanted to tell me something he would either call me on the phone or drive to the shop. Jack's daughter lives in the Otsego area and he would rarely go to see her without stopping in to visit with me. Jack was very proud of his daughter, Spring. He used to mention her very often.

The evening before Jack passed away, I was busy in the store with a couple who was interested in buying a metal detector. Working alone, I sometimes get interrupted when the phone rings. It seemed as if I would get a phone call after about every ten words that I spoke to them. I had a feeling they were growing tired of my running to the phone every other minute. The last call to interrupt me that day was from Jack. He was wondering why I hadn't emailed him his detector club newsletter yet.

I was afraid that I was a little rude sounding as I explained my frustration to poor Jack about the phone interruptions. I explained that I would email him a newsletter as soon as I could get one put together as a web page. After the customers had gone, I called Jack back to apologize for my behavior and explain things to him in more detail. He was really glad that I called him back and so am I. I'm especially glad that I squared things with him now that he is gone. Do you have loose ends that you should tidy up?

I have always been outspoken about my Christian belief, and nobody knows that better than my close friends. I can tell you that Jack was one of those who shared my faith and I know, without any doubt, that I will see my friend again one day.

Jack Short Memories By Ernie Lawson

(The following was shared by Ernie Lawson at Jack's funeral.)

We all know Jack as an award winning, top-notch photographer, and I want to get back to that. Jack also had a whole lot of mechanical skills in his basket and you could tell him your problem and he would do his best to help you if he could.

I've had him install plumbing for me in our kitchen and give good advice on many other such problems that arose, and then offer to help do them. I believe you will agree with me that Jack was a very unselfish person, a person who would give, and not ask anything in return.

In addition to his superior photography skills Jack was good at so many other things.

I am sure I will remember him the most because of his very outward expressions of love for his wife, Betty, and his children Jeanie, Joan, Earl Jr., Mark and Spring, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Irene and I introduced Jack and Betty over fifty years ago, and you know the rest.

Jack was very proud of all his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He kept me informed of their many accomplishments and adventures day to day. They were most always in our conversations each time we got together.

Jack readily accepted and loved his children, Jeanie, Earl Jr., and Mark who came into the family when Betty and Jack were married. Jack's daughter, Joan met her new sister and brothers and a family of four children started out together with their marriage.

This of course was the second marriage for Jack and Betty. Their daughter, Spring, was later born to them by God's grace to bring the offspring count to five.

Jack and I founded the Kalamazoo Antique Bottle Club over thirty years ago, and we spent many happy years together digging antique bottles

and providing antique bottle shows each year as our club grew in new club members.

In recent years, we both found digging bottles too strenuous for these aging frames, and found a new joy of Metal Detecting.

Finally, I would like to mention what I found out about Jack over the years concerning his faith. From my memories of Jack and I talking about our God and His Son, Jesus Christ, Jack acknowledged total belief, as I do.

More recently, Jack's daughter, Spring, had a conversation with her father, Jack (now timely) and he acknowledged to Spring that he had given his life to Christ in the past.

Jack certainly displayed a Godly attitude many times over the many years I've known him and to everyone he met along the way. I'm sure Betty was shown his love in many ways.

In the Bible book of Galatians 5:22 - 23, we find the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Jack showed these traits often.

On the lighter side (my fantasy): Haven't we all wondered what heaven is really like? No one knows, but we now may have our best opportunity for a view of heaven.

God now has the award winning photographer, Jack Short on board, and if there is a way to send back pictures, Hang on!!

I will miss my friend, Jack.

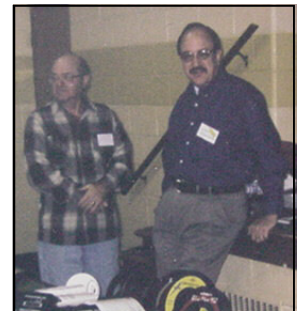
In the Bible book of II Corinthians 5:8, we're comforted and reminded as believers that absence from the body is presence with our Lord when we leave this old world.

Praise God, Jack is now with his Lord!

We will miss you, Jack!



Jack with Ron Davis at a bottle show



Jack and Al peddling wares

Cabin Fever By Mike Walker

So do you have cabin fever yet? Many of us do. This winter has not been all that snowy, but we have had cold temps that have kept the ground frozen for most of the winter. This keeps most of us from getting out to detect. The few of us that have braved the cold have had to deal with chipping away at the frozen dirt unless we have found just the right place. We did get one 50 degree day at the end of January that provided a small window of unfrozen ground. I know a few of us took advantage of that window and got out to dig a little.

Cabin fever does not have to mean no treasure. This is the time we can catch up on reading detecting related books, and magazines. We can also be doing research on sites that we hope to hunt come spring.

The library is a great place to look at old maps from your area. I call them treasure maps, because they do literally lead you to the treasure. The internet can also be very helpful in researching old sites and ones that are not so old, depending on what you are looking for. Once you have located that special spot, you need to find out who owns it. Always be sure that you have permission before going to a site to detect. Just because you think it is public does not mean it is, or that it is ok to dig there. Be sure of these things and when in doubt don't detect or dig at these sites.

I know of many old one room school houses and as far as I know most of them are owned by private individuals.

This is also a time when we can go through our finds that we have tossed aside to check later. Many times you will come across a surprise in there. We can also tumble our coins and get them ready to turn into cash. Some guys like to buy old coins from the coin shop with their clad they have cashed in. Others save it for their detecting fund, or just pay some bills.

Don't worry what the ground hog said, or that you are going stir crazy not being able to dig yet. There are plenty of treasure hunting related activities to be doing while you wait for warmer temps and soft ground!

As for me, don't be surprised if you see a guy that looks just like me out swinging that coil in the snow somewhere!

See you at the club meeting!



Just Let Me Know! By Anna Matecun



Do you have an interesting story that you would like to share with the club? Is there something related to metal detecting that you would like to know more about? Do you have a great detecting tip that you would like to tell others about? Just Let Me Know! I would love to be able to include stories, questions and tips from club members in our monthly newsletter. Items can be submitted via email to anna.swmss@sbc.global.net or just see me at the front table at the monthly club meeting.

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter via email (pdf format)? Just Let Me Know! Send an email to anna.swmss@sbc.global.net and I will add you to the email list. Remember - every newsletter sent via email saves the club 44 cents! And you'll probably receive it quicker than those sent through the post office!



Find of the Month Winners**Jewelry**

1. 13 gram, 14K Gold Ring (Eric Andrews)
2. Horse Cuff Link, "Patent MCH301880" (Anne Klein)

The winner was the 14K gold ring found by Eric Andrews. Congratulations, Eric!

Coins

1. 1816 Large Cent (John Assenmacher)

The winner was the 1816 Large Cent found by John Assenmacher! Good Job, John!

Fob, Badge & Token

(no entries this month)

Most Unusual

1. 1700's Coin made into a Spur Rowl (Jerry Lipscomb)
2. 1840's - 1850's South Carolina Militia Coat Button (John Assenmacher)
3. Bayonet Scabbard Tip (Anne Klein)

The winner was Jerry Lipscomb with the 1700's coin made into a spur rowl. Nice find, Jerry.

Miscellaneous

1. Roosevelt Dime - rounded edge (John Dudley)
2. One-piece Cyprus Basket (Wayne Marvin)
3. 1929 100-year Anniversary fob "Titus Bronson" (Mike Walker)
4. 1919 WWII Declaration of Peace Medal (John Assenmacher)
5. Harvest Festival Quilt (Ron Jenner)

The winner was the 1919 WWII Declaration of Peace Medal by John Assenmacher. Nice, historical piece, John!

Find of the YEAR Winners**Jewelry**

1. Man's 14K Gold Ring w/20 White & 1 Black Diamonds (Keith Payne)
2. 14K Gold Ring w/6 Diamonds (Deb Whittkowski)
3. 18K Gold Swiss Watch w/47 Diamonds (Mike Walker)

The winner was the 14K Gold Watch found by Mike Walker.

Coins

1. 1906D Half Dollar (Brian Matecun)
2. Roman Coin Dated 156-161AD (Nancy Lipscomb)

The winner was the Roman Coin found by Nancy Lipscomb.

Fob, Badge & Token

1. 1863 Civil War Patriotic Token (John Dudley)

The winner was the Civil War Token found by John Dudley

Most Unusual

1. Pipe Bomb (Jerry Lipscomb)
2. 1851 Officers Sword Belt Plate (Greg Stonerock)
3. 1874 Officers Sword Belt Plate (Shawano)
4. Early 1800's Brass Boot Pistol Barrel (John Assenmacher)

The winner was the Brass Boot Pistol Barrel found by John Assenmacher.

After voting on the four FOTY category winners, Mike Walker's 14K Gold Watch was selected as the overall FOTY winner.

Winners!

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was not present so it carries over to next month!

Our silver dollar winners were Rick Burch & Rick Burch (yes - he won both of them)!

Our 50/50 winners were Keith Payne & John Newman!

Congratulations, everyone!

Save the Date!

*We are planning our
Spring Seeded Hunt for
May 22-23. Watch for
more details soon!*



The Scoop News
6692 Whitehorse Ave.
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Look us up on the web!
www.swmss.org

The Scoop News is the official newsletter of the Southwest Michigan Seek & Search Club. The newsletter is edited by Anna Matecun.

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainwell Community Center.

From U.S. 131, take exit 49A and go east on M-89. go through three traffic lights, then another 1/8 mile. Turn right into the drive just before the second set of railroad tracks. The building is near the road on the south side of M-89. Parking is in the rear of the building. Enter on the west side.

Meetings are open to the public.

Winter Banquet

Be sure to join us on Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Stir Max Chinese Buffet located at the corner of S. Westnedge Ave. & Kilgore Rd. for our annual Winter Banquet.

John Dudley was able to obtain a 10% discount for each one of us - thank you, John for doing this! We all love to save money!

Remember, even if you are not a big fan of Chinese food, you will find something here that you like. They have a great selection of American fare on their buffet and even have

steaks that they will grill up for you!

Some of the Board Members are working on planning some games, trivia questions (some are about detecting, some are not!) and prizes that we can win and who knows what else! This is for sure - it will be a fun time for all.

And this is an event for the entire family, so bring your spouse and kids and **join us** on Sunday, February 21 at 2:00 p.m. at Stir Max for our annual Club Winter Banquet!