

Mystery of the Buried Keg of Gold Revived When Coins Were Found in the Old Murder-mansion



PIECES OF EIGHT!

Actual Photo of South American, Chinese, Mexican, Canadian, English and American Coins That Fell Out of the Walls, Bringing a Hurried "Gold Rush" of Claimants Seeking Riches.

EVERY so often you read about people going off on expeditions in search of some buried gold or treasure and find yourself wishing that you could go along too. Every child has read of pirates bold and treasure-laden trunks; of the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Recently, out in Arizoo, Missouri, as workmen were dismantling an old mansion, several dozen odd, misshapen coins clinked and tinkled to the floor. Almost before the clinking had died down, a hundred treasure-seeking people, claiming to be the heirs of old Doctor Talbott, who erected the mansion in the late 1800's, came from all over the country on a treasure hunt.

For hadn't old Doc's talk, in his lifetime, continually harried on the assertion that he had brought a keg of gold from the gold-rush in California, and concealed it on his grounds?

He was said to be rich, having acquired a moderate fortune as the only physician in the entire countryside near his home. Of course there's a possibility that the penal doctor, who had a humorous twist in his character, might have been telling a "tall" story when he spoke again and again of his gold. If such is true, this droll quirk brought him to a grim end.

One day in 1897, as he sat reading in a window of his home, his two sons murdered him by firing a shotgun charge into his stomach, so they would inherit his alleged fortune. A long-drawn-out legal battle ended with the conviction of the pair and they were sentenced to be hanged. It was the first double hanging in the state of Missouri; ten thousand people from as far as five hundred miles away were present to witness the execution.

Then commenced an endless search

after the keg of gold. For many months following the murder on Hoot Owl Hill, the neighbors of the surrounding countryside complained of nocturnal disturbances, flaring torches and furtive questioning of people hunting Talbott's keg. There's a chance that the coveted keg was carried off during one of these midnight gambols.

One former governor, Albert P. Morehouse, was continually pestered by persons interested in finding that keg. His opinion was that the Talbott gold, if it ever existed, had long before been hauled off and divided among the lucky finders. He received a continuous flow of annoying mail about the subject.

With the passage of time, the keg of gold seemed to have been forgotten. But lately they tore down Hoot Owl Hill mansion and the ancient walls and cran-

nies yielded real coins! So began the new "gold rush."

The long-sought after keg is estimated to contain approximately \$200,000. If each of the hundred people claiming to be the Doc's heir receives a share, each will be two thousand dollars to the good ... after paying their attorneys.

The gold-seekers are a little concerned, since some of the coins were Chinese, South American, Mexican, Canadian and English. You can't pay off a lawyer in money that isn't legal tender. Suppose, as Mrs. Grace Williamson, one of the women detectives formerly engaged to investigate the missing money, said: "From the evidence there is nothing to prove that such a keg ever existed." What then?

At least the heirs will have the consoling memory of having taken part in a treasure hunt, which, if unproductive financially, has added some zest to life.

REFUTED

The Attractive Woman Detective, Miss Grace Williamson, Who Investigated and Declared: "There's No Pot of Gold At the End of This Mental Rainbow."

