

Digging in Ancient Grave Mounds for Gold

(Copyright, 1912, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

PUNTA ARENAS, Costa Rica.—Costa Rica has one of the fabled treasure islands of the world. This is Cocos, which lies southwest of here in latitude 8 degrees 32 minutes and longitude 87 degrees 2 minutes. It is claimed that on the island is buried gold to the amount of millions of dollars. One of the treasures was carried there in 1720 at the time of the revolution in Peru when the people of Lima and Callao, chartered the little vessel *Tring* at the wharves and escaped to Cocos with their plate, bullion and other valuables. They were chased by a Peruvian man-of-war, but outran it in the darkness. They landed eleven boatloads of treasure at Cocos amounting in value, it is said, all the way from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Among the objects was a life sized statue of the Holy Virgin, made of solid gold, and there were smaller gold statues of St. Joseph, St. Peter and others. There was a great quantity of silver plate, and, in all, a vast treasure.

After burying this, the vessel started back to Peru, but on its way it met one of the revolutionary man-of-war and was bombarded. As a result every Peruvian on board was killed and only two men, an Englishman and an American, were saved. The American afterward disappeared. His name was Thompson. This left the Englishman, a resident of New-York, named Keating, as the sole owner of the secret. Keating went home and a short time later started out two expeditions to get the treasure. In one of these his vessel was wrecked and in the other he and his crew were arrested at Panama and sent back home. He left his charts, however, to his descendants, and some years ago they were still in the hands of one of them, a Mrs. Young, who was then living in Boston.

Hoards of the Buccaneers.

Another treasure buried on Cocos is said to have been left there by William Dampier, who blockaded Panama in 1694 and took during the year following a large treasure shipment coming from Peru, intending to send its silver and gold on horses across the Isthmus to Porto Bello and thence to Spain. Dampier, it is alleged, buried six boatloads of silver on Cocos and made several trips there after that with similar freight.

This is a third story which says that in 1821, during the revolution when the Central American colonies broke away from Spain, the native Spaniards living here in Costa Rica, loaded a schooner with gold coins and silver plate and sent it to Cocos to be kept there until the troubles were over. They gave the treasure over into the hands of six men, each of whom had a chart of the exact place where the stuff was buried. One of these men was killed during the revolution and two others died from natural causes before it was over. When peace was restored the remaining three started for Cocos to bring back the treasure, but their boat was driven on the rocks of the island and all on board perished. That was about 1830.

Hunting the Treasure.

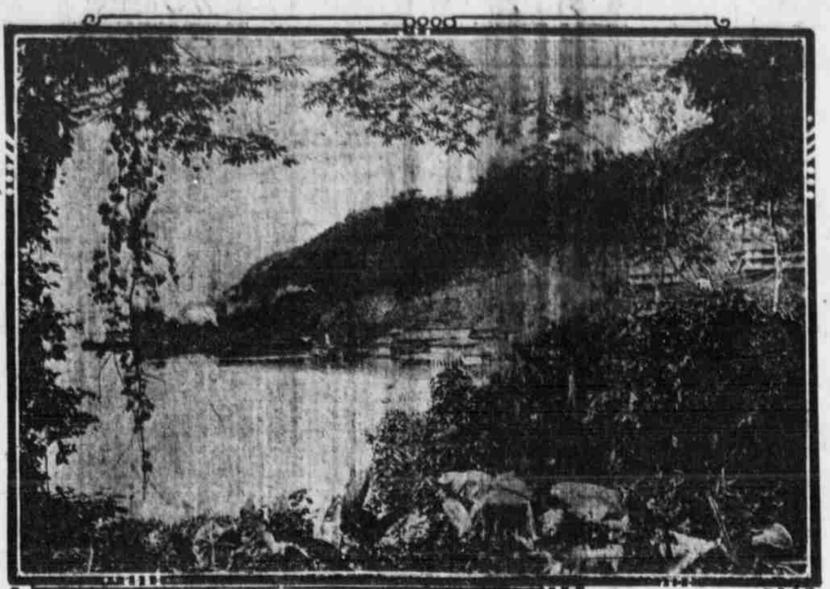
These facts have long been current in this part of the world and many people believe that the above-named treasures still exist there. The government of Costa Rica has given a number of permits to parties to hunt for them, and not long ago a squad of soldiers and a scientist in charge of the Costa Rican government survey went to Cocos accompanied by a Colorado man who claimed that he could hold a stick in his hand and that it would turn over and point down when he passed over gold. I have seen men looking for water in the mountains of Virginia, using the forked limb of a peach or apple tree in much the same way. Well, the Colorado man's charm did not work on Cocos. I don't know what was the matter. He went there, but claimed he had not a fair trial.

Another set of treasure hunters came here about five years ago from England. I was at Panama at the time their boat was in the harbor. That expedition was headed by Earl Fitzwilliam, who is said to have an income of \$100,000 a year and to own 10,000 acres of land in Ireland. He had bought a yacht named the *Veronique*, and had come out with Admiral Falliser, who at one time was the commander of the British fleet on the Pacific. The admiral had been sent to Cocos by the government some years before to investigate the claims of a man named Hartford, an Englishman, who had a concession from Costa Rica to hunt for this treasure. He was on the *Veronique* at the time, and then went away. Falliser, however, was confident that the treasure existed, and he got the earl to put up \$300,000 to purchase this yacht and equipment. They had a full corps of men, including sailors and diggers. They came around through the Strait of Magellan and made the island all right. In looking for the treasure, however, they used dynamite, and in the explosion which followed the earl and the admiral were so badly injured by rocks that they made a long story short, they went back to Panama with nothing but disgust for their pains.

Another party started out to look for this treasure was headed by a Newfoundland woman, the widow of a ship chandler. She went over to the Pacific and outfitted a ship from Victoria. Her captain was a man named Fred Hackett, and she had with her a transfer from Hartford of his permission from the Costa Rican government to search for treasure on Cocos, the understanding being that the latter was to have half of the find. When she came to Cocos the island was inhabited by a castaway who was dressed like Robinson Crusoe. He had nothing on but skins of beasts, and he looked crazy. At first he could not speak, but after they had given him some whiskey

Green Gables
DR. BENJ. F. BAILEY
SANATORIUM
London, Wis.

This institution is the only one in the central west with separate buildings situated in their own ample grounds, yet entirely distinct and rendering it possible to classify cases. The one building being fitted for and devoted to the treatment of noncontagious and nonfatal diseases, no others being admitted. The other best Cottage being designed for and devoted to the exclusive treatment of select mental cases, requiring for a time watchful care and special nursing.



Site of Porto Bello - now a quarry for the Canal

he told in broken language his story. He said he and others had a concession from Costa Rica to search for this treasure, but that the others had become disgusted and left. He could not say how long he had been on the island. At first he had stuck tally of the days by notching a stick, but he lost the stick and he had about given up in despair when the schooner arrived.

In the meantime other parties, including some of our canal employes, have been planning to excavate Cocos, but so far no one has discovered either the buccaner hoard or the Madonna of gold. I am told that concessions can be gotten from the Costa Rican government if any one cares to search.

Hidden Gold of Central America.

There is no doubt that there are great treasures hidden on the islands and also on the continent part of Central America. On Monte Island \$200,000 worth of silver is buried. This is not far from Porto Rico.

I have myself seen here and at Panama at least a half peck of solid gold images which have been taken from the old grave mounds of Central America. No one knows who buried them and some suppose that they date back for hundreds and even thousands of years. I saw a quart of these images in the bank of Ehrman & Co. in Panama City and I am told that Minor C. Keith has a collection of them in New York which is said to be worth several hundred thousand dollars.

I took a photograph of the images in the Panama bank. They are of all sizes from that of a man's thumb nail to the palm of your hand. Some are quite heavy and the gold in them must be worth several hundred dollars. Some represent frogs, other birds and some are women with a hawk head of Hathor, or what looks very much like it. Indeed, the most of the images have an Egyptian cast and they remind one of the treasures found in the pyramids. The most of these came from Chiriqui province in the northern part of the Panama republic, where it joins Costa Rica.

I am told that a large part of the Keith collection came from Costa Rica, and that they are now finding some about the Gulf of Agua Dulce. At San Jose there is a jeweler who has some of these images for sale, and down here at Punta Arenas I have been offered two very fine ones for \$30 and \$40 apiece. I should judge that this equals just about half the value of the gold in them. Dr. Spencer Franklin, who has them for sale for a native, says that they are probably 1,000 or 2,000 years old.

The workmanship on these images is exquisite. Some of them are beautifully carved and some are lifelike in feature. Among the treasures of Mr. Ehrman is a great many brass plates of solid gold. These are round disks with a nipple in the center ranging in diameter from two to six inches. The gold is a thin plate and is unalloyed. He has also a bracelet which would fit around the biceps of a prizefighter and which is about four inches wide. This is also of solid gold.

I understand that many such images are being discovered and that in all cases they come from these grave mounds of the past.

Gold Buried in Lakes.

Some of the lakes of the Central American highlands are said to contain treasures put there by the Indians at the time they were persecuted by the Spaniards. There is one on the top of a mountain in Colombia, not far from Panama, out of which images like those I have described have been taken. The most of them have been found near the shore, and it is said that a party of Englishmen are now planning to drain the lake and mine the bed for the treasures. They are making a tunnel to let off the water.

I heard of similar treasure hoards in this same region of South America. There is one in Ecuador said to contain the treasure of the Incas, and another in Peru where it is claimed that something like \$100,000 worth of gold was thrown at the time Pizarro broke faith with Atahualpa and caused his death.

You may remember part of the story. Pizarro had conquered Peru and was taking away the silver by the shipload. That metal was so common that the Spaniards had their horses shod with it. It was at this time that Pizarro, the Spanish general, had captured the Inca king Atahualpa, who was also a sort of prophet and high priest of the people. He offered to ransom the latter if the Indians would fill the room in which the king was imprisoned with gold.

The room was seventeen feet wide, twenty feet long and nine feet high. The gold was brought in in great quantities. It comprised gold plates torn from the Temple of the Sun at Cuzco, gold vases wonderfully carved, immense gold basins and hundreds of drinking cups and dishes of various kinds. There was so much of it that it took the Indian goldsmith a whole month, working day and night to cast it into ingots, and so much that it filled the room, as Pizarro demanded. After Pizarro got the gold he treacherously killed the king, and it is said that

the Indians then gathered together such gold as they had left and buried it in that unknown lake.

There are said to be gold hoards at the bottom of Lake Titicaca, but that can never be drained. There are other gold hoards in the nitrate fields farther south, and indeed no one knows just where the greatest treasures of the past lie. It is very probable that there is some on the Isthmus of Panama, and the excavation of old Panama City, which is about to begin when the new road there is completed, will unearth some which were hidden at the time that Morgan took and destroyed the city. Morgan is said to have taken away a 175 horse loads of jewels, silver and gold, and he tortured the people to make them confess where the money was hidden.

Pearl Islands of Western Pacific.

If treasures are found at old Panama it is not improbable that jewels and pearls may be found among them. The waters adjoining Panama and other parts of Central America have long been noted for their magnificent pearls. Some of those in the crown of Spain came from here, and in the cathedrals in Seville and Toledo are strings and clusters of pearls which the early explorers took from the Indians. Columbus met natives wearing ropes of pearls while he was in this part of the world, and he took one pearl weighing 300 grains home to the queen. Cortez found black pearls which came from the waters of lower California, while Ferdinand De Soto is said to have robbed one of the Indian queens of a great string of fine pearls.

There are pearl fisheries just outside Panama bay and the diving is going on now. I find pearls for sale here in Punta Arenas and the waiters at the hotel tables will untie knots in their handkerchiefs and ask you to buy them between bites. Some of the pearls are only seeds, but others are as big as a pea. In the stores you will see little bottles of pearls which can be bought by the lot for all sorts of prices, but as a rule the pearls are either very small or not perfectly round. I was told that one was taken out a few years ago which weighed fifty carats and I have heard of another which a 12-year-old boy found in an oyster and sold for \$4,000. It was taken to Panama and there sold to a banker and in time it reached Paris, where it was valued at \$10,000. Not long ago some pearls were found near our canal sanitarium on Talaba Island, and one of them brought \$2,000.

The most of the pearls, however, come from the Pearl Islands, which lie on the west side of Panama bay, about thirty miles from the islands on which we are now building the fortifications which command the western end of the Panama canal. There are sixteen of these islands, the most of them small. They are populated chiefly by Indians, who are engaged in pearl diving. The men use diving suits and they bring up the pearls in a small bag. After the shells are on board the boats they are opened and the oysters are searched over for pearls. The shells being cleaned and sold to make buttons, knife handles and other such things in which mother of pearl is employed. I am told that the shells found are worth about as much as the pearls and that they are the sure part of the profit. The divers may work for days without finding a pearl, but the shells always sell, and it is on that account that the business is profitable. In talking with one of the dealers here I asked him whether it was true that pearls could be made by putting a grain of sand inside an oyster so that it irritated its flesh and made it secrete the solution which composes the pearl. He replied that he had no faith in the theory and that he had found pearls of considerable size in very young oysters, and that there was no rule as to just where they were. Said he: "A pearl is like an onion. It is made of a series of coats, and you can grind off the outside one to find those within intact. As a rule the pearls now found are small and not of great value, although there is no telling when fine ones may be discovered."

I am told that the Pearl Islands have been fished for pearls for almost 300 years, and that pearl fishing is carried on all along this coast from southern California to Mexico. The black pearls of the Gulf of Lower California have been exported since the days of Cortez, and more than 1,200 ounces were shipped to Spain in one year. That was in 1715. About two years ago a diver found a pearl as big as a partridge egg, and it was sent to Paris, where it sold for \$5,000. That pearl was of a light steel color, but greenish black at the base.

On the other side of the isthmus pearls have been found off the coast of South America. It is said that Venezuela is producing something like \$600,000 worth every year. It is that region which is called the "Gulf of Pearls" and it was from near there on the island of Margarita that a pearl of 30 carats was taken in 1578. That pearl was worth perhaps \$50,000. It became the property of the king of Spain. Another gem which adorns the Spanish crown came from the waters of Mexico. It weighs 60 grains.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

BIG STORE IS REMODELED

Orkin Bros. Company to Have Grand Opening Tomorrow.

INTERIOR IS ALL REARRANGED

Departments Are Provided with Special Equipment for Handling the Large Volume of Business of the Firm.

Decorators and carpenters have put on the finishing touches at Orkin Brothers' store, preparing it for the grand opening Monday.

The store has been refurbished and rearranged throughout and the interior has the appearance of a new store. Each floor has been gone over by the decorators and the new stock laid neatly in place.

Special stress has been put on the arrangement and decorations of the second floor of the building, the ladies' ready to wear department. Like the other departments it has been refurbished in mahogany, fine cases for stocks and display being arranged in a way to combine the artistic with the convenient. Beautiful fitting rooms, lined with mirrors, framed in heavy mahogany, are features of this department, which distinguish it as one of the finest in the middle west, and huge mahogany cases in which will be shown some of the finer stocks to be had at the store are placed about in such a way as to give a pleasing surrounding to spaces equipped as rest rooms for customers.

Finished in Mahogany.

On this floor is located the offices of J. L. Orkin, the head of the department. They, too, are furnished with mahogany and located at the north side of the floor, so that his services may be secured with the least difficulty.

The millinery department is also on the second floor, and some of the new ideas brought here by the Orkin brothers are to be seen in the equipment of special rooms, where women may decide upon their millinery before a dressing table and mirror under the light of day.

For the opening Monday the company has secured an orchestra to entertain the visitors on each floor. The third floor is decorated with paintings, three of which have been prepared for special display within alcoves of black draperies.

The basement of the store has been enlarged and the crockery and grocery departments planned to be most convenient.

The store throughout has been equipped with new lighting and ventilating systems. Every place in it will have sufficient sunlight to satisfy the customers and large electric globes hung from the ceilings will supply the store with as much light on cloudy days and at night as if the bright light of day were beaming through it.

Over \$60,000 has been spent in alterations and repairs for the store.

Why the Mule Stood Still.

An old negro, with an old gray mule hitched to a ramanack wagon, stood on the incline of Capitol Hill in Washington. In one of the worst sleet storms in January.

The old man huddled in his rabbit skin cap, shivering, the mule was trembling with the cold. Two congressmen, waiting for a train, were attracted by the strange outfit and wondered, as time went on and the negro made no effort to depart, what ailed the old fellow.

One of the congressmen walked over and said: "Why don't you move on, uncle?"

The old negro pointed a trembling finger at the man and replied: "Cause dere mule won't go 'less I whistle at him, and it's so cold I cain't whistle."—*Everybody's Magazine.*

Financially Foolish.

First Official Member—What do you think of the new preacher we tried out yesterday?

Second Official Member—Wont' do! We'd never lift the debt with him on the job. Why, yesterday, when there were strangers present, he had them sing "I'm Glad Salvation's Free," while the collection was being taken!—*Judge.*

Youthful, Beautiful Skin Easy to Have

(From The Clubwoman.)

You may be as healthy as a bird in the air and still have a poor complexion. Changing seasons and temperatures, wide dust, and dirt are apt to injure any skin, even though the general health be good. When these external influences spoil the complexion, the natural thing is to remove the spoil by external means. Ordinary mercurized wax will do this. It will actually absorb the weather-beaten film-skin, a little each day. In a week or two you'll have a brand new complexion, a new skin. The exquisitely beautiful and youthful complexion thus acquired, comes so easily, without harm or discomfort, there's no reason why any woman should not adopt this simple treatment. Get an ounce of mercurized wax at any drug store, apply nightly like cold cream, washing it off mornings. This will not fail in any case.

To quickly remove wrinkles, signs of age and age, bathe the face occasionally in a solution of powdered scollite. It is dissolved in 1/2 pt. witch hazel. The result will surprise you.—*Advertisement.*



This illustration shows three overcoats which will be most generally popular this season. The *Mansfield*, at the left, is a trim coat, conservative and dressy. The *Franklin*, in the center, is the popular, loose-hanging, belted-back coat, and the *Kingsbury* with its sweeping lines is a coat of unusually distinctive style. We are showing these and other styles in all the new fabrics and shades. They belong to our assortment of

Adler's Collegian Clothes

These are the leading style clothes of America, and every garment is a value which will give good wear and satisfaction. The most famous designers and most skillful workmen give Adler's Collegian Clothes the style which is seldom equaled even by the most expensive tailors of made-to-measure garments. They are clothes of distinctive and sound value, as an inspection of our assortment will show you. Suits and overcoats \$15 to \$35.

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by Dr. Lewis Baker

(not sulphur tablets) They can be bought at any drug store in Omaha, and with full directions for using. I have found them the most reliable and gradually curative.

A. L. U.—I advise you to get the following ingredients and mix at home to cure your child of bed-wetting: Tincture cubeba, 1 dram; compound salivator, 1 oz.; and tincture rhin aromatic, 2 drams. Mix in water and give 10 to 15 drops one hour before meals.

"Miss Anna" writes: "I suffer with very severe headaches which also affects my eyes. My throat and nostrils are affected by catarrh and my breath is very bad. Could you prescribe a cure?"

"Answer: I have cured hundreds who suffer as you do. Presenting the following for you received many letters from grateful people which indicates that it is speedily curative. Purchase 2 oz. of original package of siline powder, to a pint of warm water add one-half teaspoonful and swallow the mixture from the palm of the hand through the nostrils two or three times a day or until they are thoroughly cleaned; then apply siline powder to the nostrils twice daily the following catarrh balm: To one level teaspoonful of siline powder add one ounce of lard or vaseline. If used according to the above prescription your catarrh should soon vanish. This should be used occasionally to prevent its return."

"Mildred K." says: "Please advise what I can use for a good hair tonic. My hair and complexion are in a very bad condition and nothing seems to help."

"Answer: The best hair tonic on the market is sold in 4 oz. jars and is called plain yellow nitrol. Apply up-to-date dropper once daily. This is better than anything known for the treatment of the disease of the hair and scalp. Two or three applications have been known to cure while it makes the hair soft, fluffy and makes it keep its natural color."

"Harry" writes: "My nerves are in a dreadful condition, my appetite is very poor and I am extremely thin. My face is so thin that it makes me very unhappy. I would like you to tell me a true remedy."

"Answer: If you wish to become stouter, improve your appetite and your nervous system, I heartily recommend the use of three grain hypnosulphate tablets which you will find in our well-stocked drug store. It is a most reliable and safe preparation for taking. Hypnosulphate tablets improve the nutrition, add red corpuscles to the blood, strengthen the nervous system and improve the general health. Many people report that they have gained from 10 to 20 pounds in two months."

"Harry" writes: "Both my wife and myself suffer with rheumatism. We would appreciate a reply telling us what to take."

"Answer: Mix the following at home or have the druggist mix for you: 2 drams of iodide of potassium, sodium salicylate, 4 drams; wine of colchicum, one-half oz.; compound turpentine, 1 oz.; camp fluid balsam, 1 oz.; and syrup saccharine comp., 2 oz. Take a teaspoonful at each time and bed time. Always shake well before using."

Send \$1.00 for Dr. Lewis Baker's Book on Health and Beauty.

"77"
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Coryza-Influenza.

The uncertainties of autumn weather have caused an epidemic of influenza and Coryza according to the Health Department.

It especially affects persons of advanced age and men and women whose constitutions had previously been weakened.

It is known by lassitude, shivering, weight in the head, sneezing, watery eyes, obstruction of nostrils, followed by cough, hoarseness and sore throat, pains and soreness of limbs, fever, loss of appetite.

It is not when the body is hot, but when it is cooling that it is most susceptible.

Dr. Humphreys' "Seventy-seven" preoccupies the system, prevents and breaks up the Cold. All druggists 25c or mailed.

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