

# THE TINFOIL TIMES



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLD COAST TREASURE CLUB, INC.

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 6

JUNE 2008

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE 7:30 P.M. JUNE 12  
AT THE WEST PALM BEACH GARDEN CLUB IN DREHER PARK  
IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

*OUR CODE OF ETHICS: HAVE PERMISSION AND DO NO HARM*

## JUNE MEETING

Every active treasure hunter accumulates *volumes* of miscellaneous finds throughout his or her treasure hunting "career." In addition to all the trash that we recover while hunting, we also recover coins of all denominations, both old and new; jewelry; relics; collectibles; toys; etc. The categories of finds are almost endless! For many of us that creates a dilemma: HOW can I keep track of it all?

Club member **John Silling** has a creative solution that will help keep records of YOUR FINDS on track! John's June 12<sup>th</sup> presentation to the club, "Managing Your Finds," will demonstrate how to use the current version of **KollectAll!** to manage, track and inventory all types of THing finds. John will give a demonstration of the software and how he uses it to inventory and catalog his finds. This will be a most interesting presentation for our club members. We sincerely thank John for providing KollectAll V8 at a discount for members, with all proceeds going to our club! See page two of this newsletter for additional information about KollectAll V8!

Thank you in advance to **Mindy Spiroch** for volunteering to provide refreshments and to **Jim Sharp** for volunteering to try to stump us with the Mystery Item.

## JOIN US AT PA BBQ BEFORE THE MEETING!

A group of us get together for dinner at 5:30 p.m. right before each club meeting as a way to catch up with friends, old and new. Join us in the back room of **Park Ave. (PA) BBQ** in Lake Worth. (Dinner is Dutch Treat.)

**Park Ave. BBQ & Grille  
2401 North Dixie Hwy (US 1)  
Lake Worth, Florida**

**Please remember to return any library books or  
videos that you checked out last month.**

## CLUB HUNT AT SOUTH BEACH

Let's get together early Saturday morning, June 14, and take a road trip to South Beach! Carpooling is encouraged due to the high price of gas. Some of us may even want to plan on an entire day and metal detect from sunrise to sunset. Details, including what time to meet, will be discussed at the June club meeting.

Our meeting place will be at Lummus Park at Ocean Drive and 10<sup>th</sup>. Take I-95 to Miami. Exit east onto I-395, which will become 5<sup>th</sup> Street. At Ocean Drive, turn left, then go to 10<sup>th</sup> and Ocean Drive. Parking will be on the right hand side of the street at the curb. Be sure you park in a designated parking space. Parking is free until 9 a.m.

## ROAD TRIP TO ANA MARIE ISLAND

Posted recently on the Beach and Shallow Water Forum on The Treasurenets was information on a get together on Anna Maria Island with the theme *Md'ers Helping Md'ers*.

To see the actual posting, go to:

<http://forum.treasurenets.com/index.php?board=10.0>

**Date:** June 28, 2008

**Location:** South gulf side Pavilion on Coquina Beach, which is located on the south end of Anna Maria Island. Free parking, lifeguards, concessions, picnic tables, playground, restrooms and showers are all available

### Tentative Agenda:

Lunch at Noon: hot dogs, buns & condiments will be provided. Please bring a covered dish, your own plates, utensils and drinks.

After lunch: Round table discussion with the following topics: Equipment, techniques, tips, and show and tell.

More information will be available at the meeting.

For information on Anna Maria Island:

<http://www.annamariaislandchamber.org>

## THE GOLD COAST TREASURE CLUB, INC.

*Founded in 1973 by Ted Rudd*

### **President**

Ernie Bouyoucas  
561-968-1892

### **Vice-President**

Stacey deLucia  
561-687-2310

### **Secretary**

Jan Smirnow  
561-735-8921

### **Treasurer**

Ken Lubinski  
561-762-0116

**Hunt Master:** Linda Bennett

561-791-7682

Cell Phone: 561-352-4068

### **Sales and Raffle Promoter**

Gail Hoskins

**Photographer:** Steve Hoskins

**Librarian:** Cheryl Petenbrink

**Hospitality Hostess:** Betty Laur

**Doorprize Coordinator:** Karen Larson

**Membership:** John Lobota and Jim Sharp

### **Newsletter Co-Editors:**

Linda Bennett and Stacey deLucia

Email: [gctreasureclub@yahoo.com](mailto:gctreasureclub@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.geocities.com/gctreasureclub/](http://www.geocities.com/gctreasureclub/)

### **CLUB MAILING ADDRESS**

c/o Gail Hoskins  
206 Russell Dr  
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Dues are \$30 a year  
New members pay an  
initiation fee of \$5  
and \$30 if joining between Jan 1st  
and the end of June  
or \$15 if joining between July 1  
and Dec. 31

## MEMBERS BUY AND SELL COLUMN

**KEVIN REILLY** offers a complete line of new and used detectors, scoops, cleaners, tumblers and books. He also does custom metal working and laser detailing (call for details). 954-971-6102 or [www.rtgstore.com](http://www.rtgstore.com). Has low prices plus 10% discount to members. The new five-sided scoops are now available. See my website. For member discount, you'll have to go to the store to buy the scoop.

**TOM LIEBERMAN:** Ready to serve your real estate needs. Call 561-852-7409 or e-mail: [telieberman@aol.com](mailto:telieberman@aol.com)

**ED WESTON - WANTED:** Collectable and antique fishing tackle. Lures, rods, reels. 561-622-9282.

**FRANK AND PAULINE NASH** - Minelab and Fisher metal detectors for sale at [palmbeachmetaldetectors.com](http://palmbeachmetaldetectors.com). The owners are club members Frank and Pauline Nash. When you purchase a new detector from them or refer a customer to them, 10 % of the net profits will go directly to benefit our club and its members. Call 561-743-5248.

**JERRY LAUR** - For Sale - top quality headphones (Koss, Garrett, Whites, Radio Shack, etc.) \$10 each. Top of the line White's Beach Hunter ID metal detector water machine - \$500. Minelab Explorer II - \$800. Both machines in top shape with less than 10 hours usage. Manuals included. Call 694-7963.

**JOHN SILLING** - KollectAll V8! Software to catalogue anything and everything you collect. K8! has over 40 collectibles templates including the Treasure and Water Treasure hunter. K8! is an EZ way to inventory all your finds. Go to [Collectiblessoftware.com](http://Collectiblessoftware.com) to download a 30-day try-before-you-buy copy! Special GCTC member pricing, only \$10.00 per copy with all proceeds going to the club treasury. See **Ken Lubinski** when you are ready to buy your copy!

**DONNA RUSSO** has donated items for sale with all the proceeds going to the club treasury. Fifty "scary/horror" themed VHS tapes that are in good shape and some ledger books are being offered. Make your offer to **Linda Bennett** at 791-7682.

*Club members can advertise items for sale or items wanted, free of charge. Sometimes ads will need to be edited due to available space. These items do not have to be related to metal detecting. Contact Linda Bennett to place your ad.*

### **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS**

*Thanks to the following contributors:*

**Linda Bennett, Stacey deLucia, Jason Petenbrink,  
Jan Smirnow, Bob Weller, and  
Lorraine of The Treasure Depot.**

## GAIL AND BETTY'S CORNER

*AND THE WINNERS ARE!*

### DOOR PRIZES

1 oz Silver Bar – **Linda Bennett**

Angel Alert – **Jerry Laur**

Knife – **Jonathan Silling**

Zippered Bag – **Jonathan Silling**

Western/Eastern Treasure Magazines - **Bob Dobski**

Lost Treasure Magazines – **Ed Weston**

Note Cards – **Jan Smirnow**

Book by Bob Weller – **Ernie Bouyoucas**

Club Travel Mug - **Jerry Laur**

Poncho - **Elayne Lynch**

*Donations of items for our monthly drawings are always appreciated! Thank you for the following donations: **Bob Weller** donated one of his authored treasure books; Angel Alert by **Jim Sharp**; zippered bag by **Karen Larson**; knife by **Gail and Steve Hoskins**; notecards by **Elayne Lynch**; Lost Treasure and Western and Eastern Treasure magazines by **Don Caplinger**.*

Remember - you receive a free door prize ticket if you bring a guest, display your monthly finds on the Tall Tales Table, provide refreshments for the meeting or volunteer to bring the mystery item - that *potentially* adds up to **four free** tickets for the door prizes drawings!

### MYSTERY ITEM

WHAT is a Mystery Item? Each month one club member volunteers to help stump fellow members by choosing a secret item that is revealed after the break. If an item in a member's Tall Tales Table display *matches* the mystery item, that member wins a silver half-dollar! So bring ALL your finds - you might just win a prize! Sorry gang...the person supplying the mystery item doesn't get the silver half-dollar if they stump the club. But they DO receive a free door prize ticket for their effort.

**Ernie Bouyoucas** stumped the club in May with a wing nut. Better luck next time, gang!

*Remember to bring ALL the items you find each month! You never know what will be that month's mystery item!*

### 50/50 DRAWING

**Elayne Lynch** won \$41 for her share of the 50/50 drawing. Congrats Elayne!

**IT PAYS TO PLAY, FOLKS!**

*And odds are a LOT better than the Florida Lottery!*

## MONTHLY BEST FINDS CONTEST

*(Winners receive a silver half-dollar and certificate)*

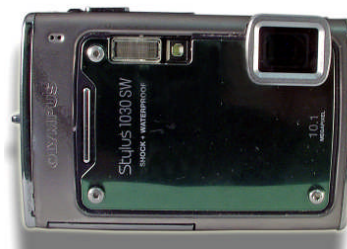
**BEST GOLD – NIKOLAY MALCHEV**  
**14k GOLD RING WITH MULTICOLORED STONES**



**BEST SILVER – NIKOLAY MALCHEV**  
**TIFFANY BRACELET**



**MOST UNUSUAL – NIKOLAY MALCHEV**  
**WORKING DIGITAL UNDERWATER CAMERA**



**COSTUME JEWELRY – GARY SPIROCH**  
**NECKLACE**



**BEST COIN – MINDY SPIROCH**  
**FOREIGN COIN - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**



## MAY MEETING

Thirty-eight of us attended the May meeting, including two guests. **Jim Sharp** reported that he will invite the media to the June meeting to view the amount of trash we have collected during our hunts. The goal is to generate some positive publicity for our club. With that in mind, members were asked to continue collecting trash and bring it to the June meeting. Let's show how much trash we remove while enjoying our hobby. Thanks, Jim, for carrying the club's trash collection home for next month's meeting! It's a dirty job, but somebody had to do it!

Our program was a lively recap of the Great Southern Beach Shootout with each participant sharing his or her experiences while narrating **Linda Bennett's** PowerPoint presentation. The 16 club members who attended the event in April took 950 pictures, many of which were shown. With so many big winners, our club dominated the Shootout! Members were encouraged to sign up early for next year's GSBS. We'll see YOU in the winner's circle!

Thank you, **Ken Lubinski**, for graciously provided delicious refreshments for our meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

May birthday celebrants **Lydia Cook**, **John Lobota** and **Elayne Lynch** each received a silver quarter for attending the meeting during their birthday month.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH TO:

**Paul Hamlin (6/9)**  
**Kenneth Lubinski (6/14)**  
**Margaret Weller (6/16)**

*If the above people come to the meeting during their birthday month, they each will receive a silver quarter.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## TALL TALES

**Frank Nash** and **Pauline Nash** answered the call for help to find a Platinum and Diamond toe ring that was lost while the owner bathed her dogs. Frank reported that the husband, who is a police officer, had used "CSI equipment" to try to find it in their backyard, which looked like it had been bombed 14 to 15 inches down! After an hour of searching, Frank located the object and Pauline helped with the retrieval. They received a \$100 reward from the happy owner! **Way to Go!!!**

## Good Will Ambassador Performing Random Acts of Kindness

The GCTC recognizes members who provide selfless service to our community. The first time a member returns an item, that individual receives a metal detecting pin (handcrafted by **Steve Hoskins**) to wear on his or her hat, in addition to a certificate of appreciation. Future returns are recognized by additional certificates. Kudos to all club members who go out of their way to return items to their owners, thereby advancing our hobby and putting our club in a positive light!

## First time Ambassador



**Frank Nash**  
**Returned a Platinum and Diamond**  
**Toe Ring**

## Repeat Ambassador



**Pauline Nash**  
**Assisted in the Return of a**  
**Platinum and Diamond Toe Ring**

\*\*\*\*\*

## JASON'S TIP

If you don't find anything within 1 hour of hunting on the beach, move on to another beach. Always remember to hunt right in front of the entrance of the beach along the blanket line. That area tends to get the most traffic. Good Luck!

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## MEMBER UPDATES

Please remember those members who are not able to metal detect – **Don Caplinger**.

Calls are always welcome!

The Club expresses condolences to **Ken Lubinski** for the recent loss of his mother.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HAPPY TIDBITS

**Jason Petenbrink** was recognized for being the GCTC 2007 TH of the Year in the June issue of Western and Eastern Magazine. His recognition was in the "Club News and Views" column written by **Dick Stout**. WTG!

\*\*\*\*\*

## CELL PHONES, INK CARTRIDGES AND GLASSES ARE BEING COLLECTED

**Jan Smirnow** collects all cell phone and used ink cartridge donations while **Stacey deLucia** collects prescription glasses for the Lion's Club of South Florida. Recycling makes good sense and saves our landfills! Please bring your donations to the next meeting!

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## FOREIGN COINS

Our club, along with the South Florida Treasure Club, continues to collect foreign coins to donate towards a summer camp for handicapped children. This is a year-round project. If you have coins to donate, please see **Linda**.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DIRECTORY

*The directory is for the personal use of members only. Names, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses are to be used only for contact within the club. If there are any errors or omissions, notify **Jan Smirnow**, 561-735-8921.*

## NEW MEMBERS

**Della, Donald & Donnie Miller**  
7888 Rockport Circle  
Lake Worth, FL 33467  
Tel No. 561-649-5005  
[Dmill75957@bellsouth.net](mailto:Dmill75957@bellsouth.net)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

\$ 990.54

## TALL TALES TABLES TOTALS FOR 2008 AS OF MAY 2008

DOLLAR AMOUNT: \$1,768.97  
PLATINUM: 1  
GOLD: 37  
SILVER: 119

## MEMBER TIPS

**Jan Smirnow** offered several good tips this month: She reminded everyone to carry their club cards to hand out to those interested in metal detecting, or when you return an item to its' rightful owner.

She said that T Mobile phone owners are lucky; if you find a phone, return it to the nearest T Mobile store, they look up the owner, call and return the phone. Not every company does that!

**Jan** also shares this resource for older treasure hunting information. Check out this site, which has a good number of Treasure hunting DVDs available: <http://www.amazon.com/shops/twothumbsupdvd>

And you can go to the following youtube site to view some sample clips of many of these shows.

<http://youtube.com/twothumbsupdvd>

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## PULL TAB CONTEST

A new contest was initiated by **Ken Lubinski** at the April meeting. Ken personally counted a *gigantic* container full of pull tabs. As treasurer, Ken is the ONLY member to know the actual number of pull tabs in the container. Members and guests can donate \$1 per guess, for as many guesses as they wish. The person who guesses the exact number - or closest to it – **will win \$100!** Wow! Start guessing! No one but Ken will know what guesses have been entered until the end of the contest. See Ken at the next meeting to buy your tickets!

\*\*\*\*\*

## DISCUSSION TOPIC FOR MEETING

This post, taken from [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com), caused much concern recently:

## Have you lost rings and jewelry ?

Reply to: [comm-693688484@craigslist.org](mailto:comm-693688484@craigslist.org)

Date: 2008-05-24, 4:52PM

Found a great site where owners of lost jewelry can look for there jewelry.

Go to "treasure depot" and click on " sand and surf ". Then click on " ring daddy ". You will find pictures of jewelry and the people that found it.  
Happy hunting.

Original URL:

<http://fortlauderdale.craigslist.org/laf/693688484.html>

The ad above had been posted on Ft. Lauderdale's Craigslist. It was quickly flagged for removal, but who knows how many people read that posting!

This subject will be discussed at the board meeting prior to the June meeting. But we also want your input, so this will be placed on the meeting agenda for June.

## HAVE DETECTOR, WILL TRAVEL



*Bob Dobski, Mindy Spiroch, Stacey deLucia, Linda Bennett, Gary Spiroch, Karen Larson, Gail and Steve Hoskins*

Eight members traveled to the Apopka area May 16-17 to join sixteen members of the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club for a weekend of metal detecting at Camp Joy. The weather was perfect and some older coins and jewelry were found. 100 tokens and 10 painted pennies were planted throughout the campground that was redeemable for prizes.

### OLDER COINS FOUND:

Gail Hoskins - 1944 Silver dime

Gary Spiroch - 1951 Wheat penny

Stacey deLucia - 4 Wheat pennies: 1937, 1957, 1952(2)

### PAINTED PENNIES WORTH \$5:

Karen Larson - 2

Stacey deLucia - 2

### TOKENS WORTH A SILVER DIME:

Linda Bennett - 7

Stacey deLucia - 4

Karen Larson - 3

Bob Dobski - 3

Mindy Spiroch - 2

Gary Spiroch - 1

### COSTUME JEWELRY:

Linda Bennett - Ring; earring

Steve Hoskins - Stick pin

Stacey deLucia - Angel pendant

### DOOR PRIZES:

Linda Bennett - Minelab Hat

Steve Hoskins - Garrett Hat

Stacey deLucia - Garrett Hat

Mindy Spiroch - Ring Display Case

Bob Dobski - Silver Dollar

After dinner on Saturday, awards were given for the five Top Best Finds. Also, tickets were drawn for door prizes. Bingo capped off the evening. Unfortunately, no one in our club was able to continue **Richard Zabriski's** luck at winning at bingo. Later, Steve and Gail took a group to downtown Eustis, where they enjoyed drinks and appetizers at the Crazy Gator on Lake Eustis.



*Mindy and Gary Spiroch*



*Gail Hoskins*



*Crazy Gator Group - Bob Dobski, Stacey deLucia, Gail Hoskins, Linda Bennett, Steve Hoskins*

After breakfast on Sunday, our group said our goodbyes and thanks for a great time, then headed to the Mt. Dora Flea Market.



**Karen** points out that **Stacey** now has to add "bears," along with sharks, alligators and snakes, to her list of dangerous animals to beware of while metal detecting!

*Photos by Steve Hoskins, Karen Larson and Linda Bennett*

## MAY HUNT HOSTED BY BEN SMITH

Club members who forgot the May 31 planted hunt at Jupiter Beach missed a great time. **Ben Smith** planted enough objects that it took almost the entire hour for the twelve members to find them. Pouches were overflowing with clad, foreign coins, tokens and other odds and ends that **Ben** had collected. Prizes were plentiful, thanks to donations from **Ben, Linda Bennett** and the club. The club's newest member, **Della Miller**, participated in her first planted hunt.

### WINNERS AND THEIR PRIZES:

**Donna Russo:** Lottery scratch-off ticket & hat light

**Mindy Spiroch:** Lottery scratch-off ticket & good luck charm

**Betty Laur:** Two lottery scratch-off tickets & silver foreign coin

**Jerry Laur:** Two lottery scratch-off tickets & singing fish

**Stacey deLucia:** Gold Flakes in a vial

**Linda Bennett:** Two lottery scratch-off tickets

**Ken Lubinski:** Silver dollar;  
Lottery scratch-off ticket;  
Loupe;  
Silver foreign coin

**Steve Hoskins:** Fools gold nugget

**Gary Spiroch:** Stress reliever ball;  
Talking pirate parrot;  
Lottery scratch-off ticket

**Della Miller:** Lottery scratch-off ticket

**Carmelo Basilico:** Lottery scratch-off ticket  
(Linda, Jerry and Della had winning lottery tickets)



Prizes

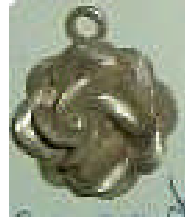
The talking parrot and the singing fish dueling it out



Unfortunately they are fake!

## SILVER CLEANING TIPS

Posted by "Lorraine" on:  
The Treasure Depot, Sand and Surf Forum



Before



After

There are three methods that work well for me depending on the severity of the encrustation.

**The first method** (for not too thickly tarnished coins) involves the use of the product "Tar-Nex" which can be purchased at Wal-Mart or a store like that in the cleaning solutions aisle; and baking soda. Soak the coin in Tar-Nex for not more than 3 minutes at a time. Take the coin out of the Tar-Nex and rinse it under cool water. Then with a Q-tip dipped in Baking Soda, gently rub the tarnished surface of the coin. You will see the tarnish coming off on the Q-tip. (I go through boxes of Q-tips like my husband goes through a bag of potato chips). Keep repeating this process until all the tarnish is removed. To shine the coin, I use "jeweler's rouge" rubbed on a "shammy" cloth. There are various colors for the different metals. I use the black rouge for silver.

**The second method** uses baking soda, boiling water, aluminum foil, and a glass or Pyrex bowl. Line the bottom of the Pyrex bowl with aluminum foil; place the coin on the foil; cover the coin with baking soda; pour boiling water on the baking soda. Watch it bubble. When the bubbling stops, remove the coin, rinse under cold water and repeat the process as many time as it takes to remove the tarnish. (The aluminum foil gets holes in it from this process so you have to change the foil after each "boiling process".) If necessary, you can use q-tips to finish the cleansing. And then shine the coin.

**The third method** I use for the thickest encrustation: this involves the use of Ammonia. Soak the thickly encrusted coin in ammonia for a few hours or overnight. Then remove the coin and gently rub the heavy encrustation and you will see that the crust comes off in large pieces. Rinse under cold water and clean with baking soda/Q-tips as in the other method. Also if necessary, you can dip the Q-tip in the Tar-Nex, then in the baking soda, and gently rub the coin.

If the item is a really old, valuable coin and not heavily encrusted, I try not to use Tar-Nex, or ammonia, or baking soda. I just gently rub the coin with my fingers after dipping my fingers in a mild liquid soap.

## Panning For Gold Dust..... On the Bottom of the Ocean! By Bob "Frogfoot" Weller

I'm not sure who saw the gold dust first; whether it was **Whitey Keevan**, **Gene Evans**, or **Richard MacAllaster**, but before the day was through we all had a chance to trace the trail of gold dust. It lay like a road map, filling the cracks and fissures of the hard marl and coquina bottom we call the "Rio Mar" site. Within a few yards lay the huge ballast pile, two large 16' Spanish anchors, and nineteen 8' iron cannon that mark the final gravesite of General Echeverz' *Nuestra Senora del Carmen*, the capitana of the 1715 Spanish treasure fleet. **Mel Fisher** had recovered quite a number of gold coins, and several pieces of exquisite gold jewelry from around the ballast pile in 1969. It hadn't been worked much since then, and now here it was 30 years later, and our group stopped to take a look.

Normally the water visibility in this area leaves a lot to be desired. It may be the east coast of Florida where the Chamber of Commerce brags ashore what beautiful clear waters we have, but most of the time we accept this as tourist bait. Yet today, as we headed northward towards our normal destination which was "Corrigan's," about 5 miles further up the coast, we could see the bottom everywhere we looked. It was an exceptionally clear day. As we passed near the "Carmen" site the ballast stood out like a sore thumb, so we decided to stop and take a look.

The water was nineteen feet deep, and the ballast pile rose up from the bottom as much as five feet. It was a large mound of river rock, because the *Carmen* was the largest galleon in the 1715 treasure fleet at 1,052 tons. It lay about 900 feet offshore, directly opposite the first green of the Rio Mar Golf Course in Vero Beach. The cannons and anchors are probably the most spectacular photographic opportunity for underwater shutterbugs of any shipwreck along the east coast of Florida. I was certainly impressed.

We decided to spend the day here instead of continuing up to Corrigan's. "May as well dust a few holes here; treasure is where you find it." We anchored up just inshore of the pile and lowered the blowers over the *Bamboo Bay's* props. Our salvage boat was a wooden hulled "old timer," built somewhere back in the 1930's. In the slightest seas she rolled like a long-necked bottle, making use of "flopper stoppers" (para-vanes on outboard booms) the plan of the day to keep from getting a weak stomach. But she was reliable and roomy, so there were no complaints from the divers. The first few holes didn't turn up much, but about mid-day we recovered a few bronze crosses, medallions either worn by sailors or else trading material.

It was sometime after lunch that one of the divers came back to the stern of the boat and made the announcement, "You have to take a look at the gold!" That was enough of an inducement to scramble everyone still on board. We swam over towards the south side of the ballast pile, and skinned down to the bottom where the diver was pointing. It was something else! The cracks in the hard marl bottom seemed filled with sparkling gold, like small necklaces stretching out in all directions. I tried picking some of the small particles up with the tips of my fingers but couldn't reach deep enough into the cracks. The others had the same problem.

Back on board someone came up with a coat hanger and straightened it out. Then it was back on the bottom coaxing the dust along the edge of the cracks until there was space enough to touch the sparkle with the tips of your fingers. It proved frustrating because it was impossible to pick up. It was almost like trying to pick up a drop of mercury, only with a lot more reward. The rest of the day was spent trying to solve the dilemma as we continued to work the site. On the way back to the Fort Pierce inlet **Gene Evans** came up with the best solution. "I've got a Keene Engineering dredge and riffle box back home. Suppose we put it on our pontoon boat and tow it out to the site?" That brightened everyone up as the most logical solution.

And so it turned out, three weeks later, when the weather cooperated and we had flat calm seas, that the *Bamboo Bay* headed back to the site of the *Carmen*. Behind it we were towing an eighteen-foot pontoon boat with a canvas covered top. Under the canvas top was mounted the Keene riffle box with a "gold" carpet, a carpet that would trap gold dust from being washed out the back end. There was a six-inch suction dredge powered by an eighteen-horsepower, gas driven engine...enough power to work easily in nineteen feet of water. On board were Gene's two sons, **Geno** and **Todd**, and their wives **Dann** and **Linn**. **Brad Barker** rounded out the barge's salvage crew. It took us almost an hour to reach Rio Mar, and we cast loose the barge close to the location of the field of gold dust. After that it was up to the barge crew.

They had a ball. One diver worked the dredge on the bottom, while another sifted the sand and shells across the riffle box. At first the wives peered intently over the edge of the riffle box, half expecting to see piles of gold dust. There was a trace of color almost immediately as the dredge sucked up the dust from the bottom and deposited it in the steps of the riffle box. We were anchored about 100 feet away and heard the sounds of hushed excitement as we went about our business.

Sometime during the day we heard a squeal of delight, and we knew they had recovered something special. It wasn't until we were getting ready to tow them back to Fort Pierce that we saw the gold perfume stopper. It was a nice artifact, used by seamen in small vials around their necks. Without fresh water to bathe on board ship, the body smells became a bit overwhelming after a month or two in close quarters. The perfume vials were worn to make life a bit more bearable. But it was when the Evans crew cleaned out the gold carpet that they became excited. They filled a small container with over two ounces of gold dust, not a bad day for their first attempt at panning for gold on the bottom of the ocean.

The weather stopped being cooperative, waves rolled across the reefs as the wind picked up from the northeast, and the mining operation was brought to a quick ending. In the weeks that followed, the Evans crew would take the barge out to the site of the "*Nieves*," the 1715 Spanish *patache* that sank 2 ½ miles south of the Fort Pierce inlet. Using the same technique, they were able to sift through the sand close to shore and recovered fifty to sixty silver coins using the Keene riffle box and dredge. As long as the weather remained fairly calm the barge worked well. The Evans crew still thinks about the gold dust on the *Carmen* site. The sparkle on the bottom is sort of a haunting reminder that it's more fun prospecting the bottom of the ocean than somewhere up in the Superstition Mountains.