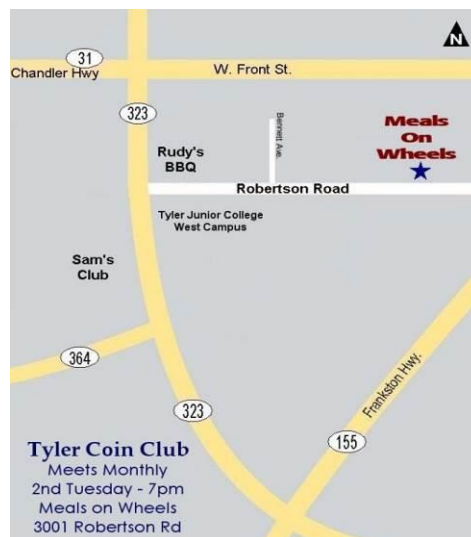


# YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH FOR JUNE 2015



**(Visit the Tyler, Texas Coin Club in person and on the internet at: [tylercoinclub.org](http://tylercoinclub.org))**

The Tyler, Texas Coin Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the Meals on Wheels Building located at 3001 Robertson Road. (Two blocks behind Rudy's BBQ) Club members and friends gather starting at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship. Meeting agenda will always include business and the most spirited auction in Texas. Special presentations and programs are also offered. A friendly welcome is to be had by all. TCC's next meeting is Tuesday, July 14, 2015.



## **A Few Words from the Editor**

As your editor sits down at keyboard in order to put a few thoughts together in introduction it is with an attitude of appreciation and in some ways one of relief because yesterday, June 13, saw the wrap up of another fine *Tyler Coin Club's Coin and Currency Super Show*. If I recall this correctly it is the seventh presentation since shows returned to Tyler and the extended area in 2010. Your editor spent much of Saturday wandering the floor and enjoying conversations where they could be found. I discovered that every dealer present had positive words about the experience. Some shared they had a "good show" in regard to sales and purchases. Other's thought about the concept of "good show" as a chance to meet some new folks, to interface with friends, both old and new, along with those who express their appreciation for the attitude and welcome received from club members.

Through these last five plus years your editor has come to look forward and to some extent even depend on the constant encouragement and challenge of our quality leadership team. Once again all eyes were on Barry as he shared the vision, and passed the gauntlet to us club members to make it all happen. The show was a blessing and joy to be part of. Thanks!!



## **Sowle Food: Words of Greeting and Celebration from our President**

*The Five State Coin and Currency Show 2015* is now history, with the operative word being “HISTORY”!!! With this show, the Tyler Coin Club becomes host to the 3rd largest coin show in Texas behind the Arlington based Texas Numismatic Association show and Great Houston Coin Club’s *Money Show*. I trust you are as prayerfully thankful as I am to see our hobby – and our club – flourish so well. God is good!

On behalf of the club officers, I thank those who worked so hard and did their part in making our show the success it was. From those who set up the show, took the show down, covered the tables, decorated, swept the floors, emptied the trash, worked the concession, hung signs, provided name badges, donated door prizes, generously gave to the three raffles, hospitality, worked registration, the pages, provided security, Kid’s Corner, unloaded and loaded the dealers goods, right down to Barry our Bourse Chairman who **OUT – DID – HIM – SELF – AGAIN!!!** Barry tells me plans for our 8<sup>th</sup> show next year have already begun. We, the officers, ask that you please express your appreciation to Barry for all his hard work in seeing we have a show to be proud of, one that brings respect to the Tyler Coin Club and to our hobby.

That’s it for this ‘portion’ of “Sowle Food.” Until next time, remember: *Coin collecting: The only hobby where you can go bankrupt and still have money.* ---Barry’s World biz

God Bless . . . Dwight

## **Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Meeting of the Tyler Coin Club**

Meeting called to order by President Dwight Sowle with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

**Attendance:** Members: 37 New Members: 1 Guests: 1 Total: 39

### **Discussion and Agenda Items (Dwight)**

- The club was lead in prayer by Richard G.
- Please keep families / friends of Dwight & Billie Sue, and Elizabeth in your thoughts and prayers
- Introduction / recognition of guests, visitors, and new members
- Recognition of members with birthdays and anniversaries in the month of June
- The *Introduction of Grading United States Coins* seminar was a huge success. Members learned about the history of grading coins and participated in multiple coin grading

exercises. A special thank you to Lane for a wonderfully executed and very educational seminar.

- A Texas – sized *Thank You* to Don H., David and Sherry, Richard L., Tracy N., and Dwight S. for their research and contributions to the ANA National Coin Week Club Trivia Contest. Although our club did not place among the victors this year, your efforts and representation of the Tyler Coin Club are much appreciated!
- Members brought items from their personal collections to include in the “*A Piece of East Texas Collections*” raffle for the June coin show
- Howard volunteered to manage the show concession this year. The club is very appreciative of Howard’s dedication and commitment to this important aspect of the show
- The club continues its search for someone interested in assisting as program director; duties range from securing member and external speakers for club meetings to gathering prayer list requests and volunteers for refreshments
- The Tyler Coin Club is celebrating the 100 member milestone. More details soon
- Meals on Wheels (MOW) donations for June - \$30
- Next meeting is July 14

### **Coin Show Update (Barry)**

- Barry gave members a quick update on the coin show preparations including the various advertising avenues used this year. Barry also finalized dates and times for volunteer assignments. The officers thank all members that volunteered to assist at this year’s coin show. Every role is critical to the success of the show.

### **Club Auction (Tom)**

- 25 auction items sold for \$313.00 (Includes 4 donated items - \$8.50)

### **Door Prize Winners**

- Allen, Bruce, Davis, Horst, Howard

### **Refreshments**

- Richard L.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carl S., Tyler Coin Club Secretary



(Pictures above from our most recent coin show courtesy of Royce J. who we “get to know” following)

## Getting to Know You:

### This month collector and new club member Royce tells his numismatic story

The opportunity to become a coin collector for me had a rather unusual introduction. As an only child in the late 1940's, I had to accompany my Mother on the grocery shopping trips. On one trip, while we were checking out at the Brookshire's in Bergfield, an un-attended, open cash register was handy for me. So, with an extra 10 cents in my pocket, we go home. Bragging about my new found coin collection did not go over very well with my Mother, nor did the switch and a trip back to the store go over very well with me. A stern lecture gave me guidance to find another avenue to start this hobby.

A new form of collecting was next on my horizon. Now a little older, in the early to mid 1950's, a few of the kids my age found collecting pennies and putting them on the railroad track was a rewarding and exciting experience. The Tyler to Troup train ran several times a day and the track was less than a block from my house. The problem was finding them after the train passed. Surprisingly, the collectability of these coins was not good.

The details of what started my first real venture in coin collecting fades somewhat, but I gathered \$2.10 and sent it off to the US Mint and bought my first coins – a 1958 proof set. I am sure that I sent cash, as that was OK back then. I followed the next year and again in 1961. I recall having a coin book and would routinely go through my Mother's loose change looking for certain coins, mainly nickels and dimes. I was fairly successful in finding more valuable dates.

I was accepted for Pharmacy School and headed to the University of Houston in the fall of 1964. My parents sold the house in Tyler that I grew up in at the same time and they built a house on 200 acres my Father had "in the country". The proof sets are all that remain from that move. All those other coins I collected are gone.

I graduated Pharmacy School in 1967 and passed the licensing exam in June of that year. After 5 years in Houston, I moved back to Tyler. I practiced Pharmacy in Tyler for 37 years and during that time, numismatics was not high on my "to do" list. When the US Mint began the state quarter series, I did my homework and began buying the annual proof sets. I was not interested in the clad sets, so I only bought the silver proof sets. The option to sign up for automatic shipment made it easy.

My interest today is in proof coins and silver bars. I also am interested in the Silver Eagle series and the Gold Buffalo series. I now buy these every year and send them off to be graded. I believe that silver bars are a good investment long term also.

I was unaware that Tyler had a coin club. In November 2014, my wife passed away. I began looking for something of interest to occupy my time. I saw the notice in the newspaper for the Tyler Coin Club and I attended my first meeting in April. I could tell immediately that the Tyler Coin Club is a well-organized. I feel welcome. I joined the club and now look forward to the monthly meeting. While my knowledge is limited, my desire to learn is there and, the club provides friends who are willing to help me learn. Thank you Tyler Coin Club. Interestingly, my club member number is 104 and my birthday is 10-4.



(One of collector Royce's first numismatic purchases was a 1958 proof set order from the US Mint.)

# NUMISMATIC EDUCATION

## A Visit With Dr. Coyne

### Questions for Dr. Coyne

- 1) What is a “milled coin”?
- 2) Did the U.S. Mint ever do any work for Canada?
- 3) When did Canada transition to a non-silver circulating coinage?
- 4) What is the “Population Report”? Who uses it?
- 5) What is the most recent issue of red seal U.S. Notes for our currency?
- 6) Which coin series are primarily associated with these terms:  
Full bell lines . . . Full head . . . Near Date . . . Full steps
- 7) Is this piece a U.S. coin?



### Dr. Coyne Responds:

1) The term “milled coin” has at least two meanings in numismatic. The general meaning is that the coin was produced using “machinery”, such as a screw press or modern hydraulic press and not “hammered” by hand between dies. The other common use is to describe the edge of the coin as “reeded” or having grooves across the edge, originally as a deterrent to clipping or shaving.

2) The most recent U.S. Mint work for Canada came in 1968 when the Canadian mint was unable to keep up with demand for domestic coinage, particularly quarters. They asked our Philadelphia mint to produce dimes for them using Canadian-made obverse and reverse dies. Many millions were made. We can distinguish the Philadelphia-made ones from the Canadian-made ones because Philadelphia used the regular U.S. collar dies, and they have a different shape to the edge reeding than the Canadian ones. The U.S. dime also has more closely spaced reeds (118). Side by side comparison shows up the difference.

3) Canada transitioned to a non-silver circulating coinage at approximately the same time as the U.S. Their pre-1967 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents, and dollar were 80% silver, with 0.6 fine ounces per \$1 face. The 10 cents and quarters dated 1967 came in both 80% and 50% silver versions. The 1968 10 cents in silver continued for a small part of the production. The end of silver halves came in 1967. Later pieces of each denomination were nickel, and are magnetic, making them easy to distinguish from the silver ones.

4) A “Population Report”, such as that issued periodically by PCGS, NGC, and ANACS shows how many “grading events” have taken place for each coin (by date, mint, variety, etc) by that firm. Over time, this valuable data has exposed which coins are truly rare and which more common. But a “grading event” is a submission which resulted in a slab tag being issued. Thus it suffers the defect of failing to account for prior submissions of the exact same coin. We know that some coins have been submitted multiple times (after being broken out of the prior slab) in an effort to “score” an upgrade. Also, there is no accounting in the population reports for coins submitted and rejected for cleaning or other defects in the time period before the grading companies began issuing “details” or “qualified” slabs.

5) The most recent issues of a Red Seal U.S. Note came with the Series 1966A \$100 note, showing Ben Franklin in the traditional “small portrait”. For many years now, all we have seen on new notes of all denominations has been green seal Federal Reserve Notes.



(Editor’s Note: Even though the date is “1966” the last of the last United States Notes continued to be printed by the Bureau of Printing and Engraving and released by the government well into 1971. The reason for the One Hundred Dollar denomination note comes because of an interesting United States law which wasn’t repealed until after 1971.

The law stated that there had to be a specific dollar amount of United States Notes in circulation in the United States. Owing to the fact that the familiar and previously available red seal Two and Five Dollar United States Notes were rapidly being removed in order for those of the green seal Federal Reserve series to circulate the choice was made, in order to fulfill the letter of the law, to issue these 1966 and later 1966A series One Hundred Dollar United States Notes, thus absorbing the face value lost with the decline in the presence of Two and Five Dollar bills bearing the red seal of the Treasury Department.)

6) The term “**full bell lines**” is associated with Franklin halves as a measure of good strike. **Full head** is associated with Standing Liberty quarters as a measure of strike. “**Near date**” is associated with Anthony Dollars as a die variety. “**Full steps**” is associated with Jefferson nickels as a measure of strike.

7) The illustrated piece is not a federally issued U.S. coin or an official pattern for one. It is a 1925 commemorative Norse Centennial medal, authorized by Congress, and coined at Philadelphia on the presses that usually struck half dollars. But unlike the rest of the classic commemorative series, this piece is not a coin as it has no denomination and was never intended to circulate as money.

## **Upcoming Collector Opportunities**

**Texas Coin Shows** – July 10 – 12 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas

**Denton County Coin Show** – July 18 . . . VF@ Post # 2205 – 909 Sunset Dr., Denton, Texas

**Shreveport Coin, Stamp, and Card Show** – July 25 – 26 . . . Bossier City Convention Center – 620 Benton, Bossier City, Louisiana

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Plano Coin Show** – August 14 – 16 . . . Richardson Civic Center – 411 W. Arapaho, Richardson, Texas

**Lee Street Coin Show** – August 22 . . . Exchange Building – 2608 Lee St., Greenville, Texas

**Cowtown August Coin Show** – August 28 – 30 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area) (Also December 11 – 13)

**Greater Houston Stamp Show** – September 18 – 20 . . . Humble Convention Center – 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas

**Texas Coin Shows** – October 2 – 4 . . . Grapevine Convention Center – 1209 S. Main, Grapevine, Texas (Also November 20 – 22)

**Collin County Coin Show** – October 10 . . . Quality Inn – 1300 North Central Expressway, McKinney, Texas

**Fort Worth Coin Club Show** – November 6 – 8 . . . Forest Hill Convention Center – 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, Texas (Fort Worth area)

**59<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Money Show** – December 3 – 5 . . . George R. Brown Convention Center – 1001 Avenida de Las Americas, Houston, Texas (Sponsored by the Greater Houston Coin Club)

**Hot Springs Coin Show** – January 15 – 17 . . . Hot Springs Convention Center – 134 Convention Blvd., Hot Springs, Arkansas

**National Money Show** – March 3 – 5 . . . Dallas Convention Center – 150 South Griffin St., Dallas, Texas (Sponsored by the American Numismatic Association)

## **Our Next Time Together**

The Tyler Coin Club will meet again on Tuesday, July 14, 2015. See you at 7:00 p.m. Come enjoy a positive numismatic experience, along with great fellowship and the most spirited numismatic auction in Texas. Members and friends of the club are encouraged to gather at 5:00 p.m. on the evenings of the meeting to enjoy a dinner together at Rudy's BBQ.

## **A Visit to Your Editor's Coin Cabinet**



(Result of your editor's visit to the "Palmito Ranch" area in nearly extreme South Texas. Not much left today except cactus, salt grass and an official State of Texas historical marker. Palmito Ranch, also known as Palmito Hill, had its prolonged "fifteen minutes of fame" on May 12 and 13, 1865.)

Even though the American Civil War was officially over on April 9, 1865, it took a few weeks for word of the signing of the Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia accord to percolate through the ranks down to the troops in the field, especially those situated in obscure locations such as very far south Texas where the last recognized battle of the Civil War occurred in Cameron County on May 12 and 13. Even though the exact details of the conflict are sketchy history does recognize the last casualty of the war as a Union soldier by the name of John J. Williams, one of four who perished at what is now known as the Battle of Palmito Hill or Palmito Ranch.

Those who survived the rigors of four years of war welcomed an official muster out which led them homeward. It goes without saying that these war-weary veterans were ready to get on with their lives and had no particular interest in seeing either musket or cannon. For these folks there was no interest in any sort of military action, including “martial” activity.

A decade or more passed and a new crop of young men came of age. Many of these, not having had the experience of war in an up close and personal way, sought the thrill of combat. These same looked to a tradition of old in order to satisfy their hunger; formation of “Light Guard” units. Members of these local protection and defense organizations had involved themselves in the 1850’s and before in defending the frontier, and serving much as a State National Guard does today by being ready for on call when needed.

The Light Guard of post – Civil War times, in the 1870’s and 1880’s, were at first more for show. Members drilled and practiced for their own entertainment and sport more than with the thought of being involved in any sort of conflict. The author from whom your editor gleaned much of his material referred to these as “play soldiers.” There is one thing to affirm before we move forward; it is important to note that many of these “play soldiers” were so effectively drilled and efficiently prepared that when the call came to arms in what we know as the “Spanish American War,” they were fully disciplined, equipped, and ready to go.

Starting in the late 1870’s a practice of Inter-State Military Drills was born. The procedure was simple; a town, city, or region, would raise funds for hosting a gathering of as many guard units as would choose to come. The largest drill participation your editor was able to read about was in 1888 when seventy five teams gathered in Philadelphia.

One of the more prolific and successful of teams was the Houston Light Guard, founded in the city of the same name back in 1873. Their first appearance was a fourth place finish, out of five teams, at an Inter-State Drill competition in 1881 in New Orleans. In the next few years Houston and Houstonians came to embrace their team. With enthusiasm city business leaders offered the “city where railroads meet the sea” as host for the event in 1884.

According to my major firsthand source, Dr. S. O. Young, author of *The Thumb – Nail History of the City of Houston* (self published in 1912) . . . “*The business men of Houston raised a large sum of money to be used as prizes and to pay other expenses and issued invitations to all the military companies in the United States to come to Houston for a great interstate drill. A number of crack companies promptly accepted the invitation. The War Department at Washington appointed three army officers to attend the drill, act as judges and make a report of results to the Department . . . (the drill) took place at the Fair Grounds Addition and lasted a week. The first prize was \$5,000. From that sum the prizes were reduced so that the last prize was only about one-quarter of that amount.*”

And the winner; The Houston Light Guard, naturally!!



(The Houston Light Guard saw to the construction of this building in near downtown Houston as office, dormitory and armory. The structure, completed in 1925, was later used by the Texas National Guard. Sadly in more recent times this significant building was left deserted to face the ravages of time. Within the last decade it was acquired, and renovated, as the home of the *Buffalo Soldier National Museum*. Your editor, a fifth generation Houstonian by birth, suggests a visit to this location which once again stands proudly in the city its original occupants pledged themselves to protect. The Buffalo Museum is amazing history in itself.)



By the 1890's Inter-State Drill enthusiasm had about passed on. The Spanish-American War saw to its final demise with many of those trained so ably in light guard units heading off to service in the Gulf and Caribbean in order to send the Spanish occupier of places such as Cuba and Puerto Rico packing.

Your editor started his research some time ago when first locating a large bronze commemorative medal from the event hosted in Austin in 1888, a piece the reader will see in a subsequent *Your Two Cents Worth*. Another medal, which I pictured in this article several months ago, recognized a like event championed by Galvestonians. The medal pictured below is therefore the third such item acquired by your editor, which means at three this must be another "collection." (In my wife's opinion)

I'm assuming that marketing was well in place even in the 1880's. I don't know how many of these commemorative medals are out in the collector world. I was only able to locate one other pictured on line, and it had been holed, and converted into a watch fob.



(Medal presented or sold as a souvenir at the 1884 Inter-State Drill competition held in the City of Houston, Texas for a week starting on May 6. The Houston Light Guard won the contest with a "near perfect score" of 2.66 out of 3.00 and therefore won the first prize of \$5,000.

It is interesting to note that one of the participants in the Houston Light Guard was a young man named Samuel Oliver Young who in 1912 compiled and published the first major history of early Houston; *A Thumb-Nail History of the City of Houston*. S. O. Young was one of the premier and earliest surgeons in the city.)

#### References:

Olson, Bruce A., *The Houston Light Guard: A Case Study of the Texas Militia, 1873 – 1903*. (M.A. thesis, University of Houston, 1975) (Available on line)

Young, Dr. S.O., *A Thumb-Nail History of the City of Houston*. Rein and Sons, Houston, 1912 (First edition from your editor's Texana book collection)