

Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association

The Nor'wester



Convention Special Edition

2nd Quarter 2013
April—May—June



Introduction to 1959 Oregon Centennial Tokens ... See pp. 10-11

**PNNA 64th Annual Convention – April 12-14, 2013
Tukwila Community Center – Tukwila, Washington**



**Pacific Northwest
Numismatic Association**

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**The Nor'wester is published
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Association**

PNNA is an IRS 501 c(3) non-profit educational association registered in the State of Oregon.

For membership information please see page 4, the PNNA website, or attend the convention.



American Numismatic
Association Member
C-1000037 (old ANA
Life Club #37)

Dues are Past Due

PNNA dues are assessed annually in January. If you have not yet paid for 2013, you will receive a reminder letter from the PNNA's membership coordinator, Eric Holcomb, and this will be the last issue of *The Nor'wester* that you will receive until dues are paid. Individual dues are \$10; family groups and clubs are \$15. Life membership costs \$200.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome to Tukwila	3
PNNA News	4
PNNA President's Message	
Coin Show and Event Calendar	8
Introduction to 1959 Oregon Centennial Tokens	10-11
ANA News	12
More PNNA News / Info	14-15

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Appointed Positions

Dealer-Director – vacant

Editor/Webmaster – Eric Holcomb

Deadline for submission of material for 3rd Quarter 2013 Nor'wester: June 15, 2013.

Please send ad copy to Eric Holcomb (email Eric@Holcomb.com), and payment to the PNNA treasurer. Call Eric (541-647-1021) for more info.

Advertising rates (per regular/convention issue) are:

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Web advertising rates (per year on www.pnna.org):

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Welcome to Tukwila

by *General Chairman Mike Labosier*

Welcome to the 64th annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Spring Convention and Coin Show! This year's show hours are:

Friday	April 12	noon until 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	April 13	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	April 14	10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

The PNNA Spring Convention is the oldest and largest annual coin show in the Pacific Northwest. With 85 dealer tables, you will find national and regional dealers, as well as many of your favorite local dealers, providing a wide selection of numismatic material in all price ranges.

Temptations abound at this show! Collectors of U.S. coins will find everything from colonial coppers to gold double eagles and modern commemoratives. Coins of the Greek classical period and Roman coins of the Caesars will be well represented, along with coins of other ancient civilizations. Foreign coin enthusiasts will find dealers specializing in medieval coins, modern world coins, and everything in between. Currency collectors will find everything from colonial paper through the whole range of U.S. currency, as well as fascinating and colorful foreign bank notes. For collectors of exnumia, beautiful and historic medals and interesting tokens will be on display and available for sale.

While you're visiting the coin show, check out the carefully prepared collector exhibits on view Saturday and Sunday. Free numismatic theater presentations are also offered on Saturday. Our highlight this year is a presentation by Jeff Shevlin, Executive Director of the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Jeff will speak about the future of the ANA and the Association's efforts to provide more value to its members. Also on Saturday, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can attend clinics to earn their coin collecting merit badge.

For the younger crowd, the popular Young Numismatist (YN) Treasure Hunt will run all three days of the show, providing YNs under age 18 with a chance to earn free coins. This program is run by Walter Ostromecki, current Vice President of the ANA and candidate for President in this year's election. To get started, just stop by the YN table and see Walt.

The PNNA is grateful for the hard work of the convention co-host's volunteers. The King County Coin Club (KCCC) has co-hosted the Spring Convention for many years, and its members contribute greatly to the success of the show. You will find the KCCC and other clubs listed on the PNNA website, along with their meeting locations and times. The local clubs always welcome new members, and joining a club in your area is a great way to meet fellow coin enthusiasts and make new friends.

The annual convention brings together many of our members. The PNNA annual meeting on Saturday is open to all, and your comments and suggestions on how the PNNA can best promote our wonderful hobby are most welcome.

We're happy to see you — enjoy the show!

For show address — see page 8.

For collector exhibit information — see page 14.

Additional Show Information

- Parking is free, and admission is only \$2.00 per day, \$5.00 for all three days. Children 12 and under are free. "Early Bird" admission (9:00 AM Fri/Sat/Sun) is usually \$30.00.
- The YN program will be conducted all three days of the convention by ANA Vice President Walt Ostromecki. The program is being hosted by the PNNA and by participating local coin clubs.
- A Boy Scout Merit Badge workshop is scheduled 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday. A flyer is available on the PNNA website. A Girl Scout workshop may also be scheduled upon request.
- The PNNA is sponsoring a club table in the exhibit area. Local area clubs will have the opportunity to put out information about their clubs as well as have a representative at the table if they so choose.
- There will be both a numismatic theater and club meetings this year — see page 14 as well as what Mike wrote about Jeff Shevlin's ANA talk.
- ANACS (grading service) will be at the show, with a bourse table! According to the ANACS website (www.anacs.com), they will be accepting submissions, but there will not be a grader present.

PNNA News

PNNA President's Message

by *Danny Bisgaard*

A big thank you goes to Mike Labosier and his team for organizing the PNNA annual convention April 12-14 at the Tukwila Community Center. In addition, Scott Loos deserves our thanks for his leadership in organizing the bourse dealers. I encourage every member to attend the board meeting Saturday at 8:00 a.m. and the general membership meeting that evening at 6:15 p.m. We will continue the format of an open Q & A forum. We as a Board want to hear from our members.

The annual awards presentations will be made at the membership meeting. Come out and give your support to this year's winners.

As the Board gets ready to meet at the Tukwila Show, we continue to need the memberships' help:

Contact Mike Labosier about volunteer opportunities for the PNNA convention in Tukwila, April 2014. Your participation takes some of the workload off the Convention Committee.

Contact Ed Fischer about the redesign of the PNNA logo and medal designs for the upcoming 75th PNNA anniversary in 2015. (email edoregon@comcast.net)

Please consider serving on the Board; new elections will be held in 2014.

As mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, the Northwest has been honored by the awarding of the ANA National Money Show in Portland, Oregon, March 3-7, 2015. Please contact us if you are willing to serve on the various committees that are needed to make this show a success. More information will be forthcoming on the needs. In addition, if you have ideas for the PNNA medal, you might want to consider a design that will benefit the ANA convention as well, since both activities are taking place in 2015.

Projected Board Meetings Dates and Locations:

- April 13, 2013 (8:00 a.m.) Tukwila Annual Convention, Tukwila Community Center.

Have a great "numismatic" spring – consider attending the ANA National Money Show in New Orleans, May 9-11, 2013 or the ANA World's Fair of Money in Chicago, August 13-17, 2013. Hope to see many of you in Tukwila.

PNNA Annual Awards

The winner of the PNNA's annual Bob Everett Memorial Award, made for integrity and demonstrated commitment to numismatics in the Pacific NW, will be announced at the convention on Saturday, April 13.

For more information about Bob Everett, about the award, for a list of past winners from 1999 to 2012, or to nominate someone, please see the PNNA website at:

<http://www.pnna.org/awards/everett.html>

Other PNNA annual awards, including the Nina Nystrom Memorial Goodwill Ambassador Award and the ANA Summer Seminar scholarship awards, will also be announced at the convention.

National Coin Week Contest

Every year the ANA sponsors National Coin Week and selects a theme for the promotion of our hobby. This year the 90th annual celebration is the week of April 21-27, and the theme, appropriately, is *Buffalo Nickel Centennial: Black Diamond Shines Again*.

The PNNA sponsors an annual contest whereby local clubs can win monetary awards for promotion of National Coin Week. (The awards are \$100-\$75-\$50 for the top three club efforts. The annual theme does not have to be part of your club's effort.) Local clubs should take this opportunity to enhance their club treasury by preparing an eye-popping exhibit and display it in their local community.

Local clubs that do participate should send their information to the attention of Danny Bisgaard, c/o Skip Caldwell, PO Box 2051, Salem, OR 97308. Information should include pictures of the display and a written narrative on where the display was placed as well as other activities the club did to promote NCW.

Deadline for information is April 30, 2013.

Let us increase the activity! The Olympia Coin Club has been the winner the last few years.

PNNA Membership Information — If you have questions about your PNNA membership or would like to join, please contact: Eric Holcomb, 1900 NE 3rd St STE 106 PMB 361, Bend, OR 97701-3889, phone (541) 647-1021, email eric@holcomb.com. Individuals, families and clubs can join PNNA for 3 years and save money! See the PNNA website memberships page for details.

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Many thanks to the PNNA dealers advertising on this page and elsewhere in *The Nor'wester* for helping to make this convention edition possible. If you wish to buy, sell or trade numismatic items with the dealers at the PNNA convention, please consider carefully all of your options before making a decision.

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Visit us at the Tukwila PNNA convention, Table 14

COIN SHOW and EVENT CALENDAR

April 2013

APR 12-14 PACIFIC NORTHWEST NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION (64th Annual), Tukwila Community Center 12424 42nd Ave. So., Tukwila, WA

APR 14 FENWICK STAMP & COIN SHOW, Holiday Inn, 1 South Grady Way, Renton, WA

APR 18-21 Chicago International Coin Fair, Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare, 5440 N River Rd, Rosemont, IL

APR 19-21 SANTA CLARA COIN & COLLECTABLES SHOW, Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA

APR 21-27 ANA National Coin Week, Theme: *Buffalo Nickel Centennial: Black Diamond Shines Again.*

APR 24-27 Central States Numismatic Society 74th Annual Convention, Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL

APR 28 COWLITZ COIN CLUB'S 45TH ANNUAL SHOW, AWPPW Hall 724 - 15th Ave, Longview, WA

Welcome to the PNNA! — Email info@pnna.org for info, or visit www.pnna.org for updates.

May 2013

MAY 4-5 TRI-CITY COIN CLUB SHOW, Hampton Inn, 486 Bradley Blvd., Richland, WA

MAY 4-5 SOUTHERN IDAHO COIN SHOW, Hilton Garden Inn, 7699 W. Spectrum St., Boise, ID

MAY 5 (9AM-Noon) NORTHWEST TOKEN & MEDAL SOCIETY, King Oscar Motel, 8820 So. Hosmer, Tacoma, WA

MAY 9-11 ANA National Money Show™, New Orleans, Louisiana

MAY 11 KENT VALLEY COIN SHOW, Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N, Kent, WA Bob Kinsedahl

MAY 17-19 DENVER COIN EXPO, National Western Complex, I-70 & Brighton, Denver, CO

MAY 18-19 GREATER TACOMA COIN SHOW, King Oscar Convention Center, 88th & So. Hosmer, Tacoma, WA

MAY 25-26 MID VALLEY COIN CLUB 47th Annual Coin, Currency and Token Show, Linn County Fair and Expo Center, 3700 Knox Butte Rd, Albany, OR

June-July 2013

JUN 6-8 LONG BEACH COIN, STAMP & COLLECTIBLES EXPO, Long Beach, CA

JUN 9 FENWICK STAMP & COIN SHOW, Holiday Inn, 1 South Grady Way, Renton, WA

JUN 9 COIN AND CURRENCY SHOW, Clackamas Banquet Center, 15815 SE 82nd Dr, Clackamas, OR

JUN 9 North Shore Numismatic Soc. Oakridge Stamp & Coin Fair, Oakridge Auditorium, 41st & Cambie, Vancouver, BC

JUN 13-16 Memphis International Paper Money Show, Cook Convention Center East Hall, 225 N. Main, Memphis, TN

JUN 22-JUL 5 ANA Summer Seminar (two sessions; pre-registration and tuition required to take courses), Colorado Springs, CO

JUL 6 COIN FEST, King Oscar Convention Center, 88th & So. Hosmer, Tacoma, WA

JUL 13-14 NORTHWEST TOKEN & MEDAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONV. & AUCTION, Clackamas Banquet and Catering Center, 12 miles south of the Portland Airport, just off I-205 (exit 12 or 12A)

JUL 18-20 SO-CAL COIN and CURRENCY SHOW, Ontario Convention Center, 2000 Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA

JUL 24-27 Royal Canadian Numismatic Association convention, Delta Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba

August 2013

AUG 11 FENWICK STAMP & COIN SHOW, Holiday Inn, 1 South Grady Way, Renton, WA

AUG 13-17 ANA World's Fair of Money®, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Chicago/Rosemont, IL

AUG 17-18 16TH ANNUAL FLORENCE COIN SHOW, Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St., Florence, OR

AUG 24-25 TACOMA-LAKEWOOD COIN CLUB SHOW, King Oscar Convention Center, 88th & So. Hosmer, Tacoma, WA

AUG 30-SEP 1 NTCA ANNUAL TOKEN & MEDAL SHOW

For more news of PNNA events, sign up for the **PNNA Email Announcement List** at <http://www.pnna.org/announce/announce.html>, or just use the link on the PNNA homepage.

To list a show email info@pnna.org, or call 541-647-1021. Shows will normally be open to the public from 10 AM until at least 4 PM unless otherwise indicated. Highlighted shows and events are PNNA, ANA or RCNA sponsored or co-sponsored. Events may be subject to changes or cancellations.

Have a great summer!

Sep-Dec 2013 ... Please visit PNNA website

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David joined the Tacoma Coin Club in 1968 and for the past 19 years has been President of the merged Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club.

Memberships: ANA Member 70071, PNNA 108, TLCC LM-7, CSNS 6428
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Introduction to 1959 Oregon Centennial Tokens

In 1845, Asa Lovejoy and Francis Pettygrove flipped an 1835 large cent to determine the name of a new settlement. Pettygrove won best two out of three and so the developing community was named Portland after his hometown in Maine. Fourteen years later, Portland was growing fast, and on Valentines Day of 1859 Oregon became the 33rd state admitted to the union, with Portland being its major port. Portland grew to be the largest city in the state because it was a hub for transportation and because of its industrial prowess. Today, it is still the largest city in the state but it is now famous for being a leading “green city” with its massive public parks, sustainable buildings, city wide composting program, and extensive mass transit system, distancing itself far from its past which was tied directly to the forestry industry that built up the state. While Oregon as a whole developed largely because of logging, Portland was always an industrial leader, and it was a model city as the rest of the state diversified. In 1959, Oregon celebrated the centennial of its statehood with a large budget granted by the state government; the central element was the Oregon Centennial Exposition, held at the Portland Expo center.



*Photo:
Official
Centennial
Emblem as
depicted on
the tokens.*

The Oregon Centennial Emblem was commissioned by the state and was used to on exhibition materials and souvenirs. The emblem depicted a harbor with various technologies: a plane, smokestacks, and ships, but it also has a covered wagon, remembering the past. Underneath it read “Frontier of the Future,” an appropriate slogan for a western state that was fast in development. One of the many things that the emblem

was used on was a series of tokens and medals produced not by the state, but by the Northwest Specialty Sales Co, which in turn successfully marketed them to 38 localities that purchased the pieces. Many localities sold them as a fundraiser to finance their local Centennial celebrations. Each locality had the option of using the standard obverse and a customizable standard reverse that said “Good for 50 ¢” and a slogan of their choice.



*Photo:
Uniface tokens
were made as
sample pieces to
market to the lo-
calities. Most are
found with origi-
nal holes.*

The locations were each able to represent their region with the short slogan, and gave visitors to their celebrations mementos of the area. Lebanon proudly declared themselves “home of the worlds largest strawberry short-cake,” and Milton-Freewater was “The Pea Capitol of the World.” Arlington oddly wrote “Flooded by the John Day Damn in 1967” predicting the destruction of their city by the damn that had been under construction for a year. The construction of the damn was delayed and the town was flooded in 1968. Grants Pass was the only location to be creative with its customization of the obverse, replacing the scene of the emblem with a caveman.

Four locations produced medals now recognized as so-called dollars: Eugene, Salem, Independence, and Roseburg. Eugene used the Oregon Trail commemorative reverse design, Salem depicted the state capitol building, Independence depicted a wagon train, “From Independence Missouri to Independence Oregon,” and Roseburg’s dubbed the “Wagon Train Dollar” because of its classic image of a covered wagon. A fifth so-called dollar, without a location mentioned, also depicts the Oregon centennial emblem on the obverse, with Buchanan and Eisenhower’s portraits on the reverse, commemorating the president in office when Oregon achieved statehood, and the president during the centennial.



Examples of reverses with “Good for 50¢” and slogans chosen by each city.



Left: Eugene so-called dollar with classic Oregon Trail design.
Center: Salem so-called dollar depicting the state capitol.
Right: Grants Pass “caveman” obverse.



Left: “From Independence Missouri to Independence Oregon” so-called dollar.
Center: Roseburg’s “Wagon Train Dollar.”
Right: Buchanan and Eisenhower portrait reverse so-called dollar.

centennial emblem, are also part of my collection of centennial material. Included in that category are my personal favorites, the beautiful Pendleton Roundup dollars, which I am saving for a future article. Personally I love collecting local material because so much of the fun is in the hunt and the research, they are generally speaking rather inexpensive, and because I get to learn so many local stories and facts.

Article written by YN Katie Reinders for the PNNA, December 2012. (This article is also available on the PNNA website as a PDF file.)

Katie also exhibited this material at the local and national level in 2010 and 2011. See the “Exhibit” section of the PNNA website, and also the ANA convention reports (see “PNNA Info”), for details and photos!

I’ve been collecting Oregon Centennial material for about three years now and I now have a complete set of issuing locations. Most of the tokens can be picked up quite cheap at coin shops or local shows, and they’re great pieces because of the interesting stories behind them. There are some tokens with contemporary after-market plating that can still be found as well, although they are scarcer and a little harder to find, and there are also die varieties that add interest to the difficulty of attaining a truly complete collection. While most of the tokens will run no more than \$10, the so-called dollars command a premium and some of them are extremely rare. For example only 175 Buchanan/Eisenhower piece were struck in silver, which is the most common, and now very few are seen on the market. Many other tokens and medals, that do not depict the

American Numismatic Association News

2013 National Coin Week

“Buffalo Nickel Centennial: Black Diamond Shines Again” is the theme for the 2013 National Coin Week, April 21-27. The American Numismatic Association will host a variety of fun, education-based activities online and at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum in Colorado Springs.

Activities and resources for the 90th annual National Coin Week include:

- A video treasure hunt. Collectors will be able to watch video clues via the ANA’s YouTube page and website to find numismatic objects and answers.
- An ANA club challenge, where member clubs test their numismatic knowledge and compete for prizes.
- A promotional kit for clubs with educational materials, buttons, bookmarks and more.
- An open house at the Money Museum on April 27, which will include free admission, activities for children and adults, and the minting of the 2013 National Coin Week medallion in the museum’s Mini-Mint.
- A variety of promotional information at www.money.org/NationalCoinWeek, including a sample press release, proclamation, interactive flyer and exhibit panels.

ANA Summer Seminar

For many, Summer Seminar is a life-changing event. It has catapulted the careers of many of the nation’s most successful numismatic collectors, authors and dealers, and guided young numismatists to become hobby leaders.

Now celebrating its 45th year, Summer Seminar features a lineup of classes to meet virtually every collector’s needs, including ancients, paper money, counterfeit detection, grading, digital photography, U.S. coins, errors and varieties, medals, tokens, and more. Students meet and learn from the hobby’s most prominent scholars, rising young stars and successful business leaders.

Your class experience is a true seminar: students gathered in small groups where everyone actively participates. You’ll learn not only from instructors who are recognized leaders in their fields, but also from the collective experiences of fellow students, who range in age from 13 to 90.

Enroll in Summer Seminar today and have the numismatic time of your life. This year’s sessions are June 22-June 28 and June 29-July 5. See the ANA website for more information and course listings.

Club Rep Program

The ANA Club Representative Program is being revitalized, and a PNNA Club Representative Program has also started! For more information, attend the general membership meeting scheduled at the PNNA convention, speak with Eric Holcomb or ANA V.P. Walt Ostromecki at the show, or watch the ANA and PNNA websites for more information as it becomes available.

To read the ANA club rep quarterly newsletter, *MintMark*, simply visit the ANA website (www.money.org), select “Membership / Club Directory,” then click on “Latest issue of MintMark.” Contributions of written material and photos from ANA clubs for future editions of *MintMark* are welcome.

As part of the ANA Club Rep Program, monthly summaries of “What’s going on at the ANA?” are available to clubs. If your club isn’t receiving this communication, contact the ANA or the PNNA for more information.



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Our show schedule for 2013 includes:

(Please call for detailed information including other regional/national shows not listed):

PNNA Tukwila, WA, April 12-14 — Table #43

Santa Clara, CA (Apr 19-21); Central States Schaumburg, IL (Apr 24-27); Pittsburgh, PA (May 10-12); Denver, CO (May 17-19); TNA Fort Worth, TX (May 31, Jun 1-2); Long Beach, CA (Jun 6-8); Memphis International Paper Money Show (Jun 14-16); Baltimore, MD (Jun 20-23) and various other summer and fall shows.

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The 64th Annual Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association Convention & Coin Show

**Our club welcomes all visitors
to the convention!**

**We meet at the
Tukwila Community Center**

Second Wednesdays (new date) - 7:00 PM

Information at www.kingcountycoinclub.org, or on Facebook

More PNNA News

PNNA Convention Exhibits

by Eric Holcomb, PNNA Chief Judge

Collector exhibits are encouraged at the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association convention and coin show, April 12-14, 2013 in Tukwila. Exhibits will be displayed in a separate room across from the bourse area. This room will only be for exhibits, and for club tables for clubs that would like to participate. This arrangement allows more space for exhibits and makes it easier for the public to view your display.

Exhibiting is not complicated. Just bring your display and register it at the Exhibit Chairman table. Exhibits need to be in place by noon on Saturday to be eligible for exhibit awards. A limited number of standard Allstate cases will be available if needed. Exhibits can be competitive or non-competitive. Remember that the PNNA best of show winner receives \$200 in assistance to take the winning exhibit to the ANA anniversary convention in the same year. (The 2013 convention is in Chicago.)

Note: If you would like to complete the simplified one-page exhibit application in advance (recommended), please see the PNNA website as explained below. If you intend to have someone else place or remove your exhibit or if you are a multiple winner of first place exhibit awards at previous PNNA conventions, please contact chief judge Eric Holcomb for the necessary information and forms.

For additional information about collector exhibits at the PNNA convention, please see the PNNA website exhibit page, <http://www.pnna.org/exhibits/exhibits.html>—you will find lots of useful information including upcoming events, completed events, past PNNA best-of-show exhibit award winners, a Numismatic Exhibiting Guide (“How to Exhibit”) by ANA Chief Judge Joseph E.

Boling, the PNNA rules for exhibiting and judging, an exhibit application and a sample exhibit rating sheet.

Tukwila Meeting Schedule

Saturday, April 13, 2013

PNNA board meeting..... 8:00 AM

Tacoma-Lakewood Coin Club..... Noon
“Best of TLCC Show & Tell”

Pacific Ancient Numismatists..... 11:00 AM

“Adding value to the ANA”

by Jeff Shevlin (see page 3)..... 1:00 PM

Colonial Coin Collector's Club 2:00 PM

Exhibitors and Judges meeting 5:00 PM

PNNA General Membership Meeting and
Awards Presentation 6:15 PM

Other speakers/club meetings to be announced.

PNNA/WCC Fall Convention

The PNNA and the Willamette Coin Club are pleased to announce their 9th annual fall convention/coin show, October 5-6, 2013 at the DoubleTree Hotel at Lloyd Center in Portland, OR. The fall show has many of the same features as the spring convention – an outstanding bourse of local, regional, and national dealers; a numismatic theater; a YN program; and exhibits.

PNNA Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes from past PNNA board meetings, including at the Boeing club show in January, are available on the website (<http://www.pnna.org/minutes/board.html>), or PNNA members may request copies of the minutes from secretary Michael Labosier (pnnasecretary@gmail.com), or via the PNNA's information email, info@pnna.org.



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Road Warrior 3: The Detour

by Ed Fischer

In making plans, one should always think of personal safety. It is a good motto to have in many facets of life's adventures. Maybe picking up a strange hitchhiker off Craigslist wasn't the smartest of choices, but the memories if not the odors linger on.

One of my personal goals was to visit as many of the regional clubs as possible. And I have a good start. Winter on the other hand had something to say about my intended plans.

I was getting really hyped about a visit to Bend. One because it's always great to see other numismatists in action and second, I wanted to revisit Central Oregon, site of the "winter of '79" ski bum winter adventure. The high desert can be one of the most remarkable climates, with its sun packed winters, wide open spaces and arguably the best powder skiing in Oregon. The weather Gods had other plans.

Sunday, plans were laid out for the upcoming week and a forecast of SNOW on the Pass was in the future. The thought of traversing Santiam pass on my way home at midnight under chain controls didn't seem a wise decision. I was feeling as if I was letting PNNA people down if all I was attending was five meetings a month. This trip is definitely going to happen when the pass is clear of challenges!

That Thursday was our monthly Willamette Coin Club meeting in Portland. One of the members, David Snow, shared that the upcoming forum being held at the original Wasco County Courthouse of 1859 included a discussion of the U.S. Mint in The Dalles and the Oregon City minter of the "Oregon Beaver." Sorry Leila, but we're road tripping up the Gorge this Saturday. My wife wasn't all that upset that we would spend a day together off to another numismatic sojourn.

That Saturday we were on the road under gray skies and intermittent rain showers. After a few stops and visits in Portland, we were barreling down Interstate 84 through the snow covered walls of the Columbia Gorge. Roads were merely wet and not a challenge for driving.

We arrived with time to spare and drove by our destination to confirm the forum location. The old courthouse we found was well preserved and very active as a museum.

We continued downtown to search out the Original U.S. Mint building. I was saddened that the site is now in the private hands of Erin Glen Vineyards and used as tasting room and reception hall. I pounded on the front door in desperate hope that someone would discover my yearnings to inspect the inside of the Mint Building. No one responded.

Returning to the forum location, we found the area in a buzz of activity. We wandered through the jail cells, looked over the antiquated restraints used and read about the Oregon Territorial seat that was held in this little building. The treaty of 1846

with Great Britain had laid out an area that extended from the Pacific Ocean to include parts of Montana, and from the current California border to the present Canadian border.

I was able to contact our forum hosts before they started their discussions and found both to be warm, gregarious and a wealth of information. Sandy Bisset described herself as an historian who had researched the Oregon Provisional Mint and Oregon Exchange Company (OPMOEC) of Oregon City with no numismatic background. Her talk was detailed and invited numerous rabbit trails as she put it. Rodger Nichols is a numismatist and did an equally fabulous presentation of the history and dynamics of the old U.S. Mint building.

The presentations were conducted in the 2nd floor court room amongst a packed crowd. Sandy started off with "The Mint that shouldn't have been." Her research detailed the purpose of the Oregon City Mint located at 5th and Water. There was a serious need to replace wheat and other commodities as the currency of the day. The U.S. Mint had numerous delays, causing the poor support for the merchants needs. Foreign money made of silver and gold actually supplemented the official monetary system of wheat and was allowed until 1876. \$5 and \$10 denominations were produced for circulation from Oregon native gold. Sadly these overweight gems were bought up at a premium by the U.S. Mint when the San Francisco Mint went into production in 1854. The Provisional Government could no longer use the "necessity knows no law" declaration to produce non-sanctioned coinage. Sandy left us hanging with many side rabbit trails and there was a lively Q&A session.

The U.S. mint story told by Rodger Nichols was a sad tail that hasn't differed much from current state of affairs in our Government. The project was fraught with delays by workers running off to the gold fields and cost overruns. The Mint was planning to utilize the local gold coming from Canyon City where land prices were reported to reach \$500 per square yard. The Mint building and land were eventually transferred to the State of Oregon in 1970. Local mint plans were replaced by the Carson City and San Francisco Mint productions. Rodger had some great pictures of old-time The Dalles and of mint construction.

It was a pleasure to meet both of these fine historians and I tried to absorb all they had to offer. I apologize to both of them on the incomplete nature of my story telling. They had the crowd entertained, informed and sitting on the edge of those 1940's folding chairs. I had a nice talk with them afterwards and they had display materials for our perusal. I hope to count both of them as future resources for research. Rodger and I talked about the upcoming ANA Convention in 2015 and discussed a desire to carry on future numismatic conversations. David Snow from the Willamette Coin Club also made the trip and it was good to chat and hear his perspective on the forum.

(We'll add a photo of Rodger and Sandy to the PNNA website.)



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