Summer F.U.N. for Young and Old Alike

OHNS was well represented at the Summer F.U.N. Show in Orlando, Florida, July 8th-10th. Board members Don Haley, Sandy Pearl Rollie Taylor, and Doc Yancho faithfully manned the OHNS bourse table. Rollie spent a lot of time giving carving demonstrations. The OHNS table seemed to draw the young and old alike. Everyone was fascinated by Rollie’s carving demonstrations. We had the distinguished (Abe Lincoln) and the young hobo Hayden who finished the background on the nickel shown on the right. Rollie loaned him a hammer, chisel and some nickels to work with and bring back to the January 2011 show. ❖

Young Hayden did the background work on above hobo nickel

Thomas, Kyler and Giovanni stop to visit with Rollie

Aileen liked the hobo nickels and also Rollie’s hat
BoTales Banner Banter and Editor’s Remarks

The two classic hobo nickels on the left side of the front happen to both be recent acquisitions by your BoTales editor. They are both examples of carvings done by an OHNS nicknamed carver that don’t precisely match the carver’s published carving’s characteristics. The left most is by the carver nicknamed “Big Nose” (see page 56 of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by Stephen Alpert). What makes this particular carving so unique is the added good luck symbol and the lettering. Yes, the symbol is a Swastika, but not the one used by the Nazis. The “Swastika” is the oldest cross and emblem in the world. It forms a combination of four “L’s” standing for Luck, Light, Love and Life. It has been found in ancient Rome, excavations in Grecian cities, on Buddhist idols, on Chinese coins dated 315 B.C., and our own Southwest Indians use it as an amulet. This symbol also helps to date when this particular nickel was carved. The reverse has a full horn Buffalo and is very nearly an AU coin. This example was probably carved in 1929 or the early 1930’s before Hitler and Nazis came to the attention of most Americans. By the way, I picked this coin up in a Michigan coin auction.

The classic next to the “Big Nose” carving is by another nicknamed carver, “Braidy,” so nicknamed by Art DelFavero (see the Summer 2008 issue of BoTales, Volume 17, #2). This is also an unusual carving in that the pawn broker symbol (three spheres suspended from a bar) has been incorporated in the hat design. A gamble on a bad eBay photo helped me acquire this particular specimen.

The carving on the right side of the front page banner is by OHNS member Steven Ellsworth of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. This beautiful rendering depicts an American Indian and an eagle. Like the classic carvings, there is symbology depicted in this contemporary carving. Most all Native American Indian Peoples attach special significance to the Eagle and its feathers. Images of eagles and their feathers are used on many tribal logos as symbols of the Native American Indian. To be given an Eagle feather is the highest honor that can be awarded within indigenous cultures. Both Bald and Golden Eagles (and their feathers) are highly revered and considered sacred within American Indian traditions, culture and religion. They are honored with great care and shown the deepest respect. They represent honesty, trust, majesty, strength, courage, wisdom, power and freedom. By the way, regardless of where or how an Indian Brave accumulated Eagle feathers, he was not allowed, according to Tribal Law, to wear them until he won them by a brave deed.

As always I want to thank “V-Dubya” Walrafen for creating the front page banner and all his photo editing. I really appreciate all he does to help make BoTales a quality publication. By the way, check out Verne’s Ethnic “Peanut Ear” Carvings article on the back cover of this issue. ✴

New members Since BoTales 2010 #2

| RM-1135 | Donnie M. Davis | IL |
| RM-1136 | Penny L. Campbell | FL |
| RM-1137 | Jimmy C. Broyles | CO |
| JM-1138 | Zach Norris | CO |
| RM-1139 | David C. London | CO |
| RM-1140 | Mike Kavanaugh | FL |
| RM-1141 | Joshua M. Weinstein | CA |
| JM-1142 | Joshua Bently | FL |
| RM-1143 | Steven VanDyke | MO |
| RM-1144 | Michael E. Dunmire | WA |

BoTales Publishing Schedule

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This schedule is dependent on the timely submission of articles and pictures for each issue. Please submit your articles as soon as you can and as often as you would like so this Editor has them to publish. Send your material to OHNS Editor – Ralph Winter. (See page 7 for contact information)

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BoTales 2 2010
President’s Message

Well, I sure messed up last year by not going to Summer FUN in 2009. That’s what I was told, and I learned for myself after going to Orlando, 2010.

I have been doing shows for a lot of years; our table is becoming the place to visit. One parent said, “I told my son we were going to the coin show.” His son’s response, “We have to see the HOBO!”

I was full of smiles as the kids from the past few years have shown up again and wanted to see what was new. The older crowd remembered the candy, by far the Best at the Show, and sat and watched the CD playing on the screen.

We gave out the elongated pennies, buffalo nickels and information. We sold elongated nickels and signed up new members. Thanks to Don Haley, we have over 600 buffalo nickels to give out in January in Tampa.

There are two people that have ten buffalo nickels to carve and bring into the Tampa show. Hayden has a hammer and chisel to work on. Another artist has coins to work on to bring in with his designs on.

To our members, put the Summer show on your list of things to do, along with January FUN.

Carvers, contact me regarding the honorarium, I have had only one email to ask for membership into an elite group of carvers, those that are willing to show how you carve. It doesn’t matter if you use hammer and chisel, Dremel tool, hand gravers, or even air powered gravers. The crowds that come to the table want to see how it is done. They have some tools at home already. We can start a whole new group to bring us into the future (see page 9 of this issue for details).

If anyone has old buffalo nickels (no dates okay), I would like to get them in 2x2’s for the January show. Send them to my home address and I will staple them to hand out at the show.

Rollie

If any one has questions of me or the board, please email me: rollieshobos@tampabay.rr.com.

Address: Archie Taylor, 4852 Rolling Meadow Dr, Lakeland FL 33810

There’s Still Time!

Auction 19 Submission Deadline Fast Approaching

Auction Manager Steve Alpert has announced that the lot submission deadline for OHNS Auction 19 to be held in conjunction with the 2011 FUN Show on Saturday, January 8, 2011 is September 30, 2010. Hobo nickels without OHNS Quality Designation papers must be submitted and received by Bill Fivaz (see page 8).

Hobo nickels are still needed to fill out the auction catalog. To be listed as individual lots, contemporary carvings must be above average or better in quality. Classic carvings must be at least of average quality. A contemporary carver may only submit three of their own works unless they are donation lots.

If you have nickels that already have quality designation papers, you need to submit those directly to Auction Manager Steve Alpert (see page 8). Please contact Steve if you have any questions (see page 7 for contact information).

Guidebook Reprints Available

New reprints (3rd Printing) of the HOBO NICKEL GUIDEBOOK by Stephen P. Alpert are available for purchase. Although no new material has been added, these reprints have new front and back glossy color covers designed by Verne Walrafen. The member price is still only $28 including shipping. An additional $2 is required for priority mail shipping. Please contact Don Haley, 5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33463-7368. Don's email address is DonLHaley@aol.com.
My Summer Adventure
By Ralph Winter, LM37

This past summer I had the opportunity to attend my first ANA Summer Seminar. This event is held annually in Colorado, Springs Colorado. There are two Summer Seminar sessions where one can sign up for various numismatic related classes. I also was fortunate to have been awarded a scholarship by OHNS to attend one of this year’s sessions. I am most appreciative of OHNS for this wonderful grant.

On Saturday morning June 26th I boarded my flight at Detroit Metropolitan Airport bound for Denver, Colorado. After a short wait, I boarded another plane for the short flight to Colorado Springs. I proceeded to Baggage Pickup where I spotted Daniel “Tiny” Cross waving his ANA Summer Seminar sign to gather for the shuttle to Colorado College. I showed “Tiny” my large (3” diameter) hobo nickel carved by Keith Pedersen and “Tiny” showed me his beautiful train engine hobo nickel that had been carved by OHNS member John Carter.

After checking in at Loomis Hall and dropping off my bag, I walked several blocks to find the Leechpit, the vintage clothing, music and collectibles store owned by OHNS member and nickel carver Adam Leech. It was a pleasure to meet Adam in person and see the Leechpit (a really cool establishment). Adam didn’t have many hobo nickels for sale, but I did pick up this nice example, “Berty Goes ‘Round the Bend.”

I left the Leechpit and visited the ANA Money Museum and Library. This is fabulous place you don’t want to miss if you visit Colorado Springs. While there I ran into OHNS member John Petrox, who was also attending the ANA Summer Seminar. I then went to the opening orientation where I ran into OHNS members Bill Fivaz and Dan Freeland and his wife Kathy. Bill was there in the capacity as a teaching assistant and Dan and Kathy were also attending as students.

One of the extra fun events, Numismatic Jeopardy, began Saturday night. On each of several evenings, three contestants played “Jeopardy,” but with Numismatic categories. My Summer Seminar roommate Steve (I stayed in one of the Colorado College residence halls) got chosen as a contestant that first night and won. This qualified him for the runoff session Thursday night where he came in second. The ultimate winner won a scholarship to next year’s Summer Seminar. By the way, the ultimate winner, Richard Snow, donated his scholarship for a YN (Young Numismatist) to be able to attend next year.

Sunday afternoon was the first session for the primary class I choose to attend, “Introduction to Digital Numismatic Photography” being taught by Clark Fogg and Thomas Mulvaney. Thomas Mulvaney is a professional numismatic photographer; and Clark Fogg is a forensic photographer and director of the crime lab for the Beverly Hills (California)
who was also taking the same class. I quickly learned that both Tom and Clark each had years of experience photographing coins, paper money, medals and other numismatic related material. I knew right away this was going to be a great class, and believe me, I was not disappointed in the days that followed.

On Monday evening I attended a Mini Seminar (two night class) on “Editing Digital Images 101” taught by ANA Museum Curator Douglas Mudd. By the way, most all of the various numismatic classes are held in classrooms on the Colorado College campus.

Worner Center houses the campus dining commons. Most of the tables are round and can accommodate 6-8 adults. At breakfast, lunch and dinner I had the opportunity to sit with persons from all over the country and even elsewhere in the world, like Australia. The individuals had innumerable varied numismatic interests. Some were experts in their fields. Others were relatively new to numismatics. These meal sessions were some of my very best experiences at this year’s ANA Summer Seminar. One of these meal sessions led to me “scoring” two old classic hobo nickels. I was wearing the large hobo nickel pendant that Keith Pedersen had carved for me. A major national coin dealer saw and admired it. He mentioned he had two hobo nickels that he would be offering for sale at the upcoming weekend coin show being held in Colorado Springs. I told him I would be leaving to go home Friday morning and would be unable to attend the coin show. So the next morning we walked over to ANA headquarters after breakfast where his coins were being kept in the vault (This service is provided free for anyone attending summer Seminar.). He pulled out the two hobo nickels for me to take for a day or two and then make an offer if I was so inclined. It only took me until dinnertime to decide I wanted these nickels to add to my collection. We were able to agree on price. You can see that one specimen is above average (high) while the other is below average.

Wednesday night was the auction benefiting YNs. This is an annual event at each of the two Summer Seminar sessions. The money raised provides scholarships for the following year YNs to be able to attend Summer Seminar. I donated a half dozen coins to the auction which were divided into three different lots. Some very generous people bought many of the lots and then donated a number of them to various YNs attending the session. This year’s first seminar session raised over $20,000 toward scholarships for next year. Sometimes there are added “special lots,” that if won, allow the winner to award someone else with a unique wardrobe item or two to be worn at the closing reception and banquet. OHNS member and founder Bill Fivaz and several of his friends were recipients of one of these special auction lots (see photo on right).

At the auction there were two fortunate occurrences. The first was a chance chat with ANA President Clifford Mishler, during which he invited me to join himself and a few others for breakfast and a brisk two mile walk afterwards before class. At the opening orientation Saturday afternoon, there had been a drawing for an opportunity to have breakfast with Cliff (Tuesday-Thursday mornings) and then join him for a walk in Monument Valley Park afterwards, and of course to join in on some conversation. I did not win one of those slots but was still able to partake anyway thanks to the generosity of Mr. Mishler. It was a most enjoyable experience.

In attendance at the auction, along with his father, was a young man (eleven years old) named Zach Norris. While viewing the auction lots, I learned Zach was interested in hobo nickels. He was eyeing the two Romines books (“The Hobo Nickel” and “Hobo Carvings: An Exclusive Upgrade of Hobo Nickel Artistry”) that Gail Baker had donated to the auction. A very generous bidder had also

Continued on page 6
noted Zach’s interest in hobo nickels, and after winning the bid, gave the books to Zach. I spoke to Zach’s dad and Zach has become our newest OHNS junior member.

Another really fun thing at Summer Seminar is the “Minting Mayhem” orchestrated by OHNS member Joe Paonessa and George Cuhaj of the Badger Mint. Besides being one of the Mini Seminars offered, most of other classes arrange a time to visit Joe and George and learn how ancient and early coins were made. My class went to a Wednesday morning session where we tried our hand at rolling out the metal into thin flat sheets, cut our planchets and struck our coins or error coins if we so choose. We also hammered our “ancient coins.” This is a great way to learn how coins are made today and in the past.

One unofficial evening activity was the “discussions” held at the “Lunar Lounge.” The Lunar Lounge was an outdoor area overlooking Pikes Peak between two dormitories where there were outdoor metal tables and chairs. After the day and evening official activities were concluded, 20-40 seminar students and instructors would gather for lively conversation, jokes and perhaps a libation or two.

I almost forgot to mention the great book sale the ANA has annually during the Summer Seminar sessions. You have the opportunity to purchase slightly used books and media on various numismatic subjects at greatly reduced prices. I didn’t think I would find anything, but I was pleasantly surprised with my book finds.

Thursday evening, after all our classes were done, we were treated to a very nice reception and dinner. It was a great way to finish a wonderful week.

When Friday morning arrived, sadly I boarded the shuttle back to the Colorado Springs airport and my flight home to Detroit. What a truly great experience! I can’t wait to go back again, hopefully again next summer.

Again, my grateful thanks to OHNS for the ANA scholarship this year. Remember that the proceeds from the buyer’s and seller’s fees at our annual OHNS auction make such scholarships possible.

## ANA Summer Seminar Scholarship

It’s time to apply for an OHNS Scholarship to one of the 2011 American Numismatic Association (ANA) Summer Seminar sessions in Colorado Springs. To do so, you need to have been an OHNS member for at least three years and not be in arrears on dues. Additionally, you need to submit in writing (not email) a short essay (approximately 150 words) on why you should receive a scholarship and what course you would be interested in taking. 2010 offerings can be found at the ANA website: [www.money.org](http://www.money.org).

In addition to the essay, you need to include your name, age (if less 18 or less), mailing address, phone number, and, if you have one, your email address. Please also provide both your ANA (if applicable) and OHNS member numbers. Please mail to Bill Fivaz, PO Box 888660, Atlanta, GA 30356-0660. Applications must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2010.

After the net proceeds from the annual OHNS FUN Show Auction are made available, the board will determine the number of scholarships and notify the winners. The scholarship will pay for the tuition, room, and meals at Colorado College, and possibly some extra for travel expenses.

**Please understand that being fully qualified and having successfully applied does not guarantee that you will be awarded a scholarship.**

Finally, if you win a scholarship, ANA requires that you be an ANA member to attend the seminar. ANA dues are $28 a year with online delivery of *The Numismatist* or $46 a year with monthly mail delivery of the magazine. See [www.money.org](http://www.money.org) for details.
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Hobo Tokens Available

2010 as well as 2009, 2008 and 2007 tokens are available for purchase by OHNS members. The price remains at $27.50 per set (copper and silver) or $20 for the silver and $15 for the copper plus postage of $1.50.

2009

2008

2007

Please submit your order to: Don Haley  
5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33463-7368. Don’s email address is DonLHaley@aol.com. Don also has a few 2005 copper tokens.

2005

Don also has OHNS Pinback Buttons for sale postage paid at $5.00 each or $7.50 for the pair.
Please enroll or renew me as a member in the Original Hobo Nickel Society, as indicated.

___ 1 Year...$15 ___ 3 Years...$42 ___ 5 Years...$65 ___ Life Membership...$250 ___ Youth under 19...$7.50
___ Associate...$7.50 (shares all mailings) I am enclosing $________ as a donation for the OHNS scholarship program.

2010 reprints of the Hobo Nickel Guidebook are now available!

I am enclosing ___$28* for the Hobo Nickel Guidebook by regular mail and ___$2 additional for Priority Mail.

I agree to abide by the Society's Code of Ethics. * OHNS Member pricing.

Signature_________________________OHNS#________Sponsor (optional)

Quality Designation services ...send to OHNS QD Examiner Bill Fivaz

Bill Fivaz, P.O. Box 88660, Atlanta, GA 30356-0660
Steve Alpert, P.O. Box 335441, North Las Vegas, NV 89033-5441

If your coin already has original QD papers and is being submitted for the next annual OHNS auction, then please send it directly to Steve Alpert because it does NOT need renewed QD processing.

Submissions will be reviewed by two OHNS QD Examiners who will give independent opinions as to the quality of the carving (with explanation and/or observations). Subject, and probable artist. A photograph of the coin will be taken to accompany the report. Originals of the report and photograph will be returned along with the coin to the owner and copies will be kept (1) by the first OHNS QD Examiner and (2) in the OHNS archives. Please fill out one of these forms for each coin submitted and mail coin(s), form(s) and payment to OHNS QD Examiner Bill Fivaz.

For ADDITIONAL INSURANCE and/or REGISTERED MAIL: Please enclose an additional $5 per coin, per each additional $500 of insurance (or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of $25 for all coins submitted). If Registered Mail is desired on a single coin submission, add an additional $10.

I understand the opinions rendered are strictly that, and are not a guarantee of value or authenticity. It is, however, the best considered judgment by qualified specialists in the field; but, others may reach different conclusions.

I authorize OHNS to use ___ a photograph of my coin ...and... ___ my name (not address).

I want this coin ___ returned to me ...or... ___ placed in the next annual OHNS auction. ← Crucial Information!

Owner's Signature_________________________OHNS#________Date________

Owner's value of coin (necessary for insurance)...$____________ ← Must Be Provided!
Fees...$15 per coin, 10 or more coins @ $12.50 ea.; $25 per coin for non-members.
Fee includes first class postage and $100 insurance per coin.

Personal Contact information

Name_________________________OHNS#________Moniker (nickname)_________________________
Address_________________________OHNS#_________________________

City_________________________State________________ZIP________
Phone (optional)...Daytime________Evenings________
EMail address (optional)_________________________

Please PRINT plainly...EMail is totally unforgiving!

Please make all checks payable to...Original Hobo Nickel Society


**OHNS “Engraver's Honorarium”**

The OHNS Board recently approved the creation of an Engraver’s Honorarium.

The OHNS “Engraver's Honorarium” project is to be managed with complete autonomy by the OHNS President or his designee. The purpose of this project is to perpetuate the synergy, which occurred at the OHNS table during the 2010 January FUN Convention, between the viewing public and our member volunteers. The fact that something interesting was going on at the OHNS table made our organization really shine in the spotlight.

Foremost, OHNS would provide an annual budget for our President to award up to a maximum of four individual $300 Engraver's Honorariums for OHNS members who have engraving skills adequate, in the sole judgment of our President, to share in providing engraving demonstrations at the OHNS table.

The only constraints on the applicants would be that: 1) they have been an OHNS member for a minimum of three years, 2) their annual dues are not in arrears at the time of the January FUN Convention and 3) they are willing and able to participate actively in demonstrating how nickels are carved.

The OHNS President has the responsibility to restrict the number of available honorariums, at any point during the process, depending upon a multitude of factors including but not limited to: 1) the availability of funds as determined by the OHNS Treasurer, 2) the availability of space at the OHNS table as determined by the OHNS President with input from the other OHNS volunteer's working at the January FUN Convention, and 3) any limitations set by any FUN Convention official.

Honorariums not awarded in any given year do not accumulate thus becoming available for awarding in a subsequent year.

Any engraver who is offered an honorarium but is, regardless of the reason, unable to attend the specified January FUN Convention will not have an honorarium reserved to be awarded at a subsequent January FUN Convention.

If OHNS receives more than four applicants for an honorarium in any year our President would select from the applicants by first dropping any he selects from those who had received an honorarium the previous year. If there remain more than four applicants our President has authority to select from among them as he sees fit and not necessarily on a first-come first-serve basis.

Additionally, in the first year of the project OHNS would allow for a one time budget, up to a maximum of $500, to acquire any engraving tools and supplies needed in the judgment of Keith Pedersen and Art DelFavero with the concurrence with our President. The $500 budget would remain available until exhausted.

The OHNS Treasurer would be responsible for keeping an account of OHNS funds expended for tools and supplies. The OHNS President would be responsible to: 1) report expenditures to the OHNS Treasurer, 2) keep the acquired tools and supplies preserved and accounted for and 3) have the tools available from one year to the next.

Finally, regardless of any commitments made by the OHNS President, until the successful applicant has reported to the OHNS table at the January FUN Convention: 1) any individual honorarium can be cancelled without showing due cause and 2) the entire project can be discontinued by a simple majority vote by the OHNS Board at any point during its annual cycle, without liability assigned or damages due.

The OHNS President is not required, or expected, to seek approval of the OHNS Board for any individual actions taken under this on-going project with-in its stated guidelines unless in his sole judgment such is desirable.

If interested in applying for an honorarium, please contact President Rollie Taylor (see contact information on page7 of this issue). ◇

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**The Hobo Nickel**

A Tribute to “Bo Hughes” and Other Hobo Nickel Artists

Back in the mid 1980’s Bill Fivaz created a series of 35mm slide presentations on Hobo Nickels. Over the years he has loaned these out to OHNS members for personal viewing and showing at their local coin club meetings. These same slides were shown by Bill at the 1992 ANA Summer Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado which led to the formation of OHNS.

At this year’s annual meeting the OHNS Board approved copying this material into a digital format. Board and OHNS Life Member Candace Kagin graciously donated the cost of having the slides converted into digital media.

Now available is a DVD/CD-ROM with four presentations. These include “The ‘HOBO NICKEL’” (an introduction to hobo nickels); “Bo’s Best;” “Hobo Nickels on Other Than Buffalo 5¢;” and the OHNS “Grading Set of Hobo Nickels.” The presentations are in PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat formats. There are also files of the photos only and the written accompanying text.). “The ‘HOBO NICKEL’” is also presented in a MPG audio/video format. If your Windows Media Player is unable to open the MPG file, you may need to down load an updated codec (short for coder-decoder) such as http://download.cnet.com/Media-Player-Codec-Pack/3000-13632_4-10749065.html. A free PowerPoint viewer can be obtained at http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint/HA100966951033.aspx or by searching for free PowerPoint viewer using Google or some other Internet search engine. Get Adobe Acrobat free at http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/.

Purchase cost for the CD-ROM is $10. Order from Don Haley, 5929 Wedgewood Village Circle, Lake Worth, Florida 33463-7368. Don's email is DonLHaley@aol.com.
Introducing “Rails”  
By Don Wolfe RM981

In December of 2007 I purchased my coin thru eBay from an East coast coin dealer for $208. The second coin I found was Lot #11 in OHNS Auction #16 in 2008 and it sold for $330 (unknown owner at this time). The third coin (the one smoking a cigarette) was found by Art DelFavero in the OHNS archives. Art located a QD form from 2004 that showed it belonged to OHNS member Bob Entuch. All the coins look to be average – high average carvings. After looking and comparing all three together, I thought that the hat band reminded me of a railroad track with the rails and cross ties, therefore the name of “Rails.”

The Carving Characteristics for “Rails” are listed as follows:
1) Domed hat with hatband and bow. Hatband has vertical lines and the bow has both vertical & horizontal lines.
2) Hat brim is flat or nearly so formed with two lines.
3) Large ear set back on the head with about half of the ear covered by the hat.
4) Profile may be altered by notch at top of the nose.
5) Punched hair and beard.
6) Stickpin with radiating lines from it on a well defined collar.
7) Date removed and LIBERTY partially or fully removed.

Introducing “The Flapper”  
By Nick Pyle LM69

Hobo nickels are very intriguing to me. My wife got us started three years ago with interest and the purchase of a Ray Castro reverse dog carving that resembles our Weimaraner “Willow.” We continue to hunt for carved coins regularly and in our frequent travels we seek out coin shops all over in search of hobo nickels and Love tokens – what we consider Americana folk art.

The first of the three nickels shown below came to my attention in February of this year in an eBay auction which I was fortunate enough to win for $377.12 including shipping. Shortly after the auction closed, Verne Walrafen called me and alerted me to the existence of a second example by this same (as yet unnamed) carver. That coin is the second one shown below and was Lot 7 in OHNS Auction 13 in January 2005. This carving was deemed Average/Average(H) and executed
"The Flapper" Continued from the previous page

on an XF 1913 Type 1 Buffalo nickel. This coin sold to a mail bidder for $143. Art DelFavero later located the third example shown below in the OHNS QD archives. Member Jim Nye, RM382, submitted this example for authentication in 1997. It’s an Average(H) example executed on a 1913 Type 2 Buffalo nickel. Jim shared that it was one of 21 hobo nickels he purchased from a Mr. R. Hapner at the January 1997 F.U.N. Show. Mr. Hapner was a onetime coin dealer who lived in Florida. I want to thank Verne and Art for helping me to come up with the nickname of "The Flapper."

The Carving Characteristics for “The Flapper” are listed as follows:

1) A nicely made high collar with a large “flap” towards the front.
2) All work done on 1913 dated host coins (thus far).
3) A well made ear that overlaps the hat brim.
4) Nicely shaped Derby hat with band (feather remains at the back on two specimens).
5) Coarsely punched hair, beard, and moustache (appears like pock marks).
6) Date and liberty remain intact.
7) Minor changes to the profile.
8) Fields nicely dressed.

Introducing “Droopy”

By Marc Banks RM538 with Art DelFavero RM522

Among the carved nickels I brought with me to this past January’s Fun Show is one I call “Droopy” after the hobo’s lazy eyelid. I had purchased the classic carving at a coin show the previous fall for $150. When I showed the nickel to OHNS DQ Examiner Art DelFavero, he said he thought there was a match by the same artist. In no time at all, Art appeared with the 2009 Volume 18 Issue 1 of Bo Tales. Among the pictures of Hobo Nickels recently purchased on EBay for $124 on page 21 was a carving that clearly had been carved by the same person (2nd specimen below). With hope that a third example might appear, I returned home to Connecticut. Later in January, I received an email from Art with a picture of a third example from the collection of Warren Stabler.

In addition to the modified eye, the three nickels shared a number of characteristics that show that they are the work of the same previously unnamed artist.

The Carving Characteristics for “Droopy” are listed as follows:

1) Punched eyelid.
2) Domed hats whose outlines meets the brim which curves back behind the hat creating a three dimensional effect.
3) Horizontal accent lines across portions of the hats.
4) A hat band with vertical accents lines.
5) The left fields of these carvings have been nicely dressed. Different portions of the word “Liberty” remain in the right field on each specimen.
6) Punched hair, moustaches and beards and eyebrows.
7) Altered profiles with enlarge nostrils.
8) A slightly open mouth.
9) Ears created with a small punch.
10) The collars vary from elaborate to a simple double incised line.
11) The first example brought to the Fun Show has a bow tie added.
Q&A: Mark Wyman

Author links London and homeless in ‘Hoboes’

By Louise Continelli
BUFFALO NEWS Staff Reporter

NIAGARA FALLS — One of Niagara Falls most famous prisoners was none other than the celebrated writer Jack London.


The early rail-riding author, Wyman notes, “was ‘pinched’ when he could not tell a policeman which hotel he was staying in. The next morning, as [London] awaited his turn in police court, he watched hoboes each being sentenced to 30 days of hard labor for vagrancy.

“One was a Lock-port teamster out of work since the 1893 Depression, who had traveled to the ‘lakes’ to find work. As the judge left the courtroom, he asked the Lockport man why he had quit his job. When the teamster replied, ‘Your Honor, isn’t that a funny question to ask?’ the judge added another 30 days to his sentence.

‘The machine of justice was grinding smoothly,’ London wrote.”

London was sentenced to 30 days and taken to Buffalo, where he worked in jailhouse stripes with other prisoners on the Erie Canal, carrying railroad ties.

Wyman also discusses evangelist Billy Sunday, who helped begin Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier, determined to prevent “that [even] one man should freeze.”

His book is subtitled, “Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West.”

Wyman plans to speak soon about the role hoboes played on the Niagara Frontier, when it was the gateway to the West. A date and place have yet to be finalized.

Q&A got a preview in an interview:

Your examination of “transients” resonates in Niagara County as our unemployment rate hovers near double digits in today’s difficult economy. Do you think we might return to the harsh conditions that the hoboes suffered?

We’re already there. Penniless immigrants are the obvious “chosen people” for harvest jobs, but with high long-term unemployment, more and more people are forced to do anything—not point out safety lapses and not complain about low pay.

Are there differences between hoboes and today’s homeless?

Not too many differences.

It’s not many years ago that there were no requirements for having toilets in the fields, so today that’s an improvement. Government regulations are better today, but desperate people will take a job even if the regulations are being ignored. This puts enormous pressure on the regulators, who are told, over and over, that enforcing protective regulations will hurt the local economy. That argument is put forward as often today—and as dishonestly—as it was a century ago.

Not all the poor you studied were white, male Americans, like Jack London?

I found that more than white hoboes were involved in harvests. Indians were paddling down from Alaska, women and children were picking berries and hops, Japanese were involved, and in general hoboes had to share the workplaces with others.

How did you write your history?

It took me 12 years. At first I focused on hoboes and railroads, then saw that there was the earlier period before automobiles came into much use among migrant workers. So I decided to write about the pre-automobile period, when the “hobo” was someone looking for work. There’s been a lot written about the hoboes of the 1930s, which I found that people already know something about.

You’ve distinguished yourself in academia (not to mention your other books, including “DPs: Europe’s Displaced Persons,” and “Round-Trip to America: The Immigrants Return to Europe”), but we understand your first profession was journalism?

My career choice was newspapering, and I had short stints on weekly papers in Wisconsin, then, after the Army, was hired by the Livingston [Mont.] Enterprise, and soon got on at the Minneapolis Tribune. After two years on the copy desk I received a scholarship from the Inter-American Press Association to spend 1964 in Chile. Upon returning—with a wife (Eva, from Chile)—I went back to the U. of Wisconsin to get a master’s degree in political science, then went back to the Minneapolis Tribune as labor reporter.

But I was getting unhappy with the runaround of daily newspapering by 1968, especially on a morning paper, and so I began to think about becoming a history teacher, like my dad [Walker], where I could take more time to write. So I went to the U. of Washington in Seattle, and in 1971 graduated with a Ph. D., and was luckily hired by Illinois State University. I stayed 33 years, retiring in 2004.

How old are you?

I’m 71 now, going on 72.

Continued on page 13
What sparked your interest in “hoboes” and “fruit tramps?” Was it your previous labor research?

Probably this grew out of my earlier labor reporting on the Tribune, but there were germs of this interest earlier. My mother [Helen] once gave me a term paper she wrote around 1924, when she was in the teacher education program at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, “The Hobo College” . . . I began looking at hoboes as a Western labor force, but concentrating on Great Plains wheat. The book began to take shape in my mind.

Is there a common thread running through both teaching and writing?

Probably I’ve tried to shy away from teaching the “great man” approach to history. I did some of this, of course, but I did much more trying to tell history through stories of people who never reached “great man” status. This was easier in my immigration history, labor history and frontier history courses, a bit more difficult in my Gilded Age course, which I really came to enjoy in my latter years of teaching.

Changing technology and how it affected workers was a subtopic I always hit on, as well as the work that desperate people are willing to do.

Why look at the past?

To understand the present.

This article originally appeared in The Buffalo News May 16, 2010. Reprinted with permission of Louise Continelli and The Buffalo News. Thanks goes out to OHNS member Dave Boulay for spotting the article in his local newspaper and bringing it your editor’s attention.

Submit Coins for QD

PLEASE NOTE: When submitting coins for Quality Designation, although it is not required, it makes it a great deal easier to remove the coin(s) for photographing if they are housed in plastic “flips” rather than in 2x2 cardboard holders.

Also, at times the processing of coins may be somewhat delayed if a new roll of film is in my camera and only a few frames have been used. In cases like this, I have to wait until the rest of the roll is used up before sending the coin and photos on to Stave for his comments.

I would be glad to update you on the status if an inordinate amount of time has passed and you have not received your coin(s) back. Just e-mail me at: feev@webtv.net and I’ll be happy to help.

Thanks very much — Bill Fivaz.

Hobo’s Lullaby
By Goebel Reeves

Go to sleep you weary hobo
Let the towns drift slowly by
Can’t you hear the steel rail humming
That’s a hobo’s lullaby

Do not think about tomorrow
Let tomorrow come and go
Tonight you’re in a nice warm boxcar
Safe from all the wind and snow

I know the police cause you trouble
They cause trouble everywhere
But when you die and go to heaven
You won’t find no policemen there

I know your clothes are torn and ragged
And your hair is turning grey
Lift your head and smile at trouble
You’ll find happiness some day

So go to sleep you weary hobo
Let the towns drift slowly by
Don’t you feel the steel rail humming
That’s a hobo’s lullaby
Member Quests

Three’s A Match

If you know of two examples of hobo nickels carved by the same artist, we’ll publish those photos in issues of BoTales to see if other members might have a nickel carved by that same artist. If so, you can collaborate on the nicknaming of said artist once you have three or more examples. Below is a “two of a kind” sent in by one of our members: Do you perhaps hold the 3rd example in your collection? Please contact the editor if you have a match. Contact information can be found on page 7.

Here’s a pair of hobo nickels executed by the same carver. These were submitted by OHNS Member Don Wolfe, RM981.

Hotel Information for 2011 F.U.N.

The Florida United Numismatists have released hotel information for the 2011 FUN Show being held at the Tampa, Florida Convention Center (333 South Franklin Street) January 6-9, 2011. The hotels with special FUN rates are the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina, Embassy Suites Downtown Tampa Convention Center and the Howard Johnson Plaza. The Marriott and Embassy Suites are across the street from the convention center. Howard Johnson’s is one mile from the convention center. There will be NO shuttle bus service provided. Online reservations can be made at the F.U.N. website www.FunTopics.com or Call toll free 866-260-3874 Weekdays 9:00 am – 8:00 pm EST.

It’s Not Too Late to Enter Contest!

The November 30th deadline for submitting a story about a best ever or unusual find of a hobo nickel or your favorite hobo nickel (or hobo type carving) is fast approaching.

What you need to do is send a photo of the hobo nickel to the BoTales editor along with a short story (a paragraph or two is enough) describing why the hobo nickel is your favorite or how you made your great find. Maybe you found a superior classic hobo nickel on eBay with a $25 Buy It Now. Maybe you found a hobo nickel at a flea market mixed in with some tokens and junk coins. Maybe that favorite hobo nickel was given to you by your father, grandfather, or uncle. Maybe that hobo nickel or token is special for some other reason. Whatever the case, we want to hear your story. We’ll publish your story and picture of your special nickel in a future issue of BoTales.

At the end of 2010, the OHNS Board will judge the entries and award a silver medal, engraved with your name on it, for the best story along with two year’s paid dues to any regular, associate or junior OHNS member. You can also apply the equivalent of two years paid dues toward a life membership. If a life member wins, they will only receive the engraved medal. By the way, all stories that were received in 2009 will be considered for judging along with those received in 2010.

There will also be a runner-up award of the same medal pictured above but rendered in copper rather than silver.

Entries need to be received by the editor no later than November 30, 2010 so the Board had time to judge them prior to the 2011 Annual Meeting. The winner and runner up will be announced at that meeting. The editor prefers an electronic format photo, but a hard copy is acceptable. A hard copy will be returned if requested. If you have no way to photograph or scan your nickel, please contact the editor who can suggest a way to obtain a photo. Contact information for the editor can be found on page 7 of this issue.

“We’re up in car 6940158 — drop in on us any time”
MEET ELMER VILLARIN ~ By Wayne “The Gosling” Stafford, RM673

HOBOS GO INTERNATIONAL....AGAIN

There’s a HOBO CARVER on the OTHER SIDE OF THE LARGER POND

Marcus Hunt is the British carver who was introduced to us in BoTales two years ago (BoTales Summer 2008, Volume 17, Issue No. 2). He is a superb artist, and his carvings have been well accepted and appreciated by hobo nickel collectors. There is another international carver that I have been hesitant to introduce until now. I recently visited Bob Shamey, and he convinced me that collectors of these pieces of art will appreciate the artist no matter where he/she lives.

Elmer Villarin is a Filipino who is a cousin of my wife, Nenet. I first met Elmer in the year 2000 when we decided to buy a winter home on Nenet’s native island of Negros in the Philippines. Since then we have spent every winter there. Elmer is a freelance jeweler working as a stone setter, ring maker, and engraver. I asked him to try his hand at making hobo nickels about six years ago. At that point we both had a lot to learn. Elmer is a very talented artist and developed the skill of carving hobo nickels very rapidly. He is a young fellow, only 32 years old married with two young children. He says that his favorite subject to carve is native Americans partly because many Filipinos, himself included, look like American Indians.

The Philippines is an interesting country. Few Americans seem to know that it is the third largest English speaking country in the world, the United States and England being number one and two. It is a country where the people still like Americans. All of the Filipino Americans who I know make good U.S. citizens.

Getting back to Elmer, he carves his hobos at our house. I had a workbench built for him, and I furnished his equipment except for the small chisels that he makes from hacksaw blades. He averages about 25 hours work in each hobo nickel. Another subject that Elmer likes to carve is anything with a railroad theme. He says that they tend to be difficult, but he likes the challenge of the intricate work.

Some Elmer Villarin Native American Carvings

Lakota Chief Gall
Sitting Bull
The James Whitcomb Riley
Edaville Railroad Caboose
Baldwin 1860’s 10-Wheeler
Mick Jagger

Bob Shamey said that Elmer Villarin is a master carver and Bob has encouraged me to introduce him in BoTales. So, thank you Bob. Elmer and I admire your work too! ◆
Some Recent eBay Sales of Hobo Nickels

Unknown $81  Howard Thomas $279  “Beady Eye” $307  Bob Shamey $512  Unknown $145

Keith Pedersen $156  Unknown $22  Howard Thomas 2-sided carving $240  Unknown $79

Unknown $245  Larry Foster 2-sided carving $400  Unknown $81  Marcus Hunt $393

Steve Ellsworth $206  Unknown $409  Steve Cox $234  Unknown $181  Howard Thomas $300

Unknown $152  Doug Sutherland $155  Unknown $105  John Schipp $158  Unknown $245

Howard Thomas $210  “Tufty” $190  Keith Pedersen $166  Unknown $66  Bob Shamey $185
TALES OF THE ROAD*
By William Rudolph, “The Brake Beam Kid”

The kid listened to what they were saying intently. The engineer glanced at him as the kid stood with his back against the storm curtain.

The engineer said, “When we’re pulling into the yards just before we pull into the terminal, you get off on the fireman’s side. I’ll slow down the train, but watch your step anyway – anything can happen in weather like this. So be careful getting off.”

“Okay, mister,” the kid said. “Thanks a lot.” The snow kept falling steadily and the wind whipped it across the tracks. The fireman invited the kid to share his seat with him and he accepted eagerly.

“Boy, oh boy, it’s a hell of a night out,” the kid said. “That snow is coming down real hard.”

“Sure is,” the fireman agreed, as he reaches over and worked the automatic stoker feeding coal into the firebox. “It’s slowin’ us down. We’re thirty-two minutes late already. If this keeps up we’ll be almost an hour behind the schedule when we pull into Elkhart.”

The kid looked at the speedometer and noticed that the engineer kept the train rolling steadily along at 65 to 70 miles per hour. Once the needle pointed to 72, then dropped back to 58 as the engineer pinched the speed of the train down as it swung around a curve. He released the air-brakes, pulled open the throttle several notches wider and the speedometer needle started to climb again... 60; 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 and then gradually to 75, then dropped back to 69. Then it rose to 83.

Block Signal

A thrill surged through the kid’s body as the thought struck him that he was riding in a cab speeding along at 80 miles an hour. Suddenly the engineer reached over and, working the air-brakes, began cutting the speed of the train down until the speedometer needle pointed to 35. It was still dropping when the fireman shouted to the engineer, “Cut her down to about twenty or twenty-five miles. The last signal block we passed was yellow; the next might be red.”

The next block signal ahead was red. Applying the brakes, the engineer brought the train to a stop as the engine’s air pumps throbbed. The engineer signaled with several blasts of the whistle for the flagman to get out and protect the rear end of the train.

“Looks like our first section is having trouble,” the engineer said to the fireman as he slid the cab window open and stuck his head out into the darkness.

The snow was still falling steadily. It covered the railroad’s right-of-way over a foot and a half in certain areas.

“Can you see anything?” the fireman asked. “Can’t see a thing,” the engineer replied. “Can’t see one hundred feet ahead of the engine.”

Picking Up Speed

The sound of an engine whistling, calling in the flagman, was heard. Several minutes later the whistle screamed again in two short blasts, a highball signal that the train was ready to start rolling once more. Next came the puffing of an engine’s exhaust. Several minutes later the signal block in front of the engine changed from red to yellow. Signaling with the whistle blasts the engineer called in the flagman. By this time the signal block shone green, indicating “clear track ahead.”

The engineer released the brakes and then worked the throttle. Sand was sprayed on the snow-covered rails. The 5300 Hudson-type engine’s exhausts began to chatter as the train got under way. The speedometer needle climbed until it reached forty, then stayed there until the engineer, seeing that the next block signal ahead was green, pulled the throttle a few notches wider and the train picked up speed.

Charles Rowe Catches the Westbound

I’m sad to report the passing of OHNS member Charles H. Rowe, Sr., RM439 on June 25, 2010 at the age of 83.

Charles discovered hobo nickels at the Classic Coins and Stamp Show in Greenhills, Ohio. Charles and some of his co-workers from Continental Can used to regularly attend this monthly show. He joined OHNS in 1997.

Besides being a coin collector, Charles loved music and had an extensive record collection.

Charles was a WWII Army veteran with service in Korea, Okinawa and the Philippines. He was a lifetime member of Paul Vail VFW post 4369 in Sharonville, Ohio.

He is survived by four children and eight grandchildren. His daughter Jackie had inherited his love for hobo nickels and is assuming Charles’s OHNS member number.
Some Recent eBay Sales of Hobo Nickels

Marcus Hunt $499
"Braidy" $170
Howard Thomas $213
Unknown $286
James Stewart $170

Unknown $70
John Carter 2-sided carving $184
Unknown $103
Darin Bilstad $148

Amy Armstrong $175
Unknown $152
Dave Jones $160
"Smoothie" $19
Joe Mercado $160

Unknown $228
Howard Thomas $250
Unknown $157
Keith Pedersen $158
Unknown $70

Bob Shamey $274
Unknown $323
John Schipp 2-sided carving $209
"Slim Shady" $143

"Bert Prisoner" $421
Larry Foster $202
Unknown $166
Elmer Villarin $128
Unknown $89
Some Recent eBay Sales of Hobo Nickels

Elmer Villarin $136
Unknown $82
Howard Thomas $510
“Peanut Ear” $570
Steve Cox $190

“Bo” Hughes $70
Marcus Hunt $289
Unknown $259
Howard Thomas $395
Unknown $57

Steve Ellsworth $307
“Flatnose” $405
Marcus Hunt 2-sided carving $718
Unknown $213

A Wooden Hobo Nickel
By Jon “DelMo” Phipps, RM1088

At the January 2010 FUN Show, I was working at the Georgia Numismatic Association table. Our location was four or five tables down from the OHNS tables and next to the Cuban Numismatic Association table. During slow times at our table I did a variety of things including watching the carvers at the OHNS table, talking with the Cuban Numismatic Association table workers and reviewing the auction lots in BoTales to plan my bidding in the auction later in the week. The Cubans were passing out wooden (5 Centavo) nickels to passers-by. As I was reading about the auction lots, I was also playing with one of the CAN’s wooden nickels. I accidently dropped the wooden nickel and it completely covered the auction lot image I was reading about. Instantly the thought came to me, “Why not a Hobo Wooden Nickel?”

After I returned home from the FUN Show, I continued to think about a Hobo Wooden Nickel. I decided to give it a try. First I removed the printed image with sandpaper. Then I decided to copy the image of a Hobo Nickel from the recent auction, Lot 36—Bearded Man Wearing a Derby by “Flat Nose.” So I sketched the image on to the wooden nickel. Now it was time to carve the image. I thought about using my electric Dremel rotary tool but since it was a “classic” image I decided to go with “classic” tools. I only used a pocket knife, a razor blade and a nail. After I was satisfied with the carving, I decided that the Hobo Wooden Nickel needed some toning. I tried rubbing with coffee grounds but that just washed off leaving very little stain. I tried tobacco snuff but that didn’t work either. Next I tried brown shoe polish with much better results. I felt so good about this effort that I flipped it over and signed and dated the piece.

Here are the scans of my first carving of a Hobo Wooden Nickel.

2011 OHNS Elongated “rolled” Tokens

Elongated “rolled” OHNS tokens dated 2011 are available for purchase. There are a few of the rolled nickels available at $6.50 including postage for a single nickel ($10.50 for two nickels.) Order two rolled nickels and get a single rolled penny FREE! Contact Don Haley (see page 7 of this issue for contact information).
One should ALWAYS keep their eyes open for examples of carvings done by an OHNS nicknamed carver that don’t precisely match the carver’s published carving’s characteristics. Finding such is one thing that makes this hobby so enthralling to me. My pleasure is mostly in the search rather than simply the acquisition.

First... a quote from Steve Alpert’s Hobo Nickel Guidebook: “Peanut Ear” was probably the most prolific of the early nicknamed hobo nickel artists. {Actually he was the FIRST unknown carver given a nickname by OHNS. – v-dubya} This artist was nicknamed “Peanut Ear” by Dave Wilson, and published by Bill Fivaz, in the December 1995 issue of BoTales. The main diagnostic feature is the ear which resembles a peanut in shape.

Other characteristics of “Peanut Ear’s” hobo nickels are:

• the distinctive hat and hat band (usually with a little notch in the top of the hat);
• a distinctive punched beard and mustache;
• a V-shaped collar;
• an enlarged nostril;
• profile unaltered; and
• a thin-line extension of the hair from the ear to the forehead just below the hat brim.

Second... Pictured here on the right is a superb example of the “typical” carvings done by this artist. A generic bearded hobo sporting a derby hat. The OHNS annual auction provenances for the carvings (left to right) in the above montage are as follows: 1) 2005 Lot122 $770, 2) 2006 Lot22 $1,100, 3) 2006 Lot41 $522.50, 4) 2007 Lot25 $495, 5) 2008 Lot62 $522.50, 6) 2008 Lot67 $550, 7) 2008 Lot70 $660, 8) 2008 Lot96 $412.50, 9) 2009 Lot2 $522.50 and 10) 2010 Lot31 $550.

Third... In the spring of 2009 the Irishman carving pictured here on the left was offered on eBay and I was fortunate to win it for what was a bargain price in my opinion, a nominal $154. Almost certainly this was because it was not identified as having been done by “Peanut Ear.”

Fourth... In the spring of 2010 Nickolas Pyle showed me the Chinaman carving pictured here on the right which he had acquired from a small coin shop in Florida for $300. ANOTHER bargain purchase since it also was not identified as having been done by “Peanut Ear.”

Tallyho! – V-Dubya