

We meet at the El Segundo Library on Mariposa Avenue, West of Sepulveda, South of LAX. Next meeting: Thursday, July 10th, 7 PM

**--CULVER CITY COIN CLUB'S SECOND 50TH ANNIVERSARY OUTING--
OUR TOUR OF THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OFFICE
OF THE SAN FRANCISCO FEDERAL RESERVE**

On Wednesday, June 18th, four club members, six family friends of Jack vB along with a few Rotary Club members toured the Federal Reserve facilities at 950 S. Grand Avenue in downtown Los Angeles. The tour started at 10 AM and lasted around 90 minutes.

We arrived early so that we could take a group photo inside the lobby. We couldn't enter right away so we lounged around the lobby. Jack's wife spied some comfortable lounge chairs further in so she started moving toward the chairs. That's when all HELL broke loose from one of the Federal Reserve Policemen who began yelling at her. That was because she entered a secure area without going through the inspection station. She quickly exited the area after giving our group a big laugh.



John Sherman, Jack von Bloeker, Steve Demmer and Garn Anderson

We were then told by the inspection station attendant that we would have to wait outside until around 9:45 AM, which we did. Outside we met and introduced ourselves to the Rotarians that were going to join our group tour. (The Rotarians were having a convention in downtown Los Angeles at the time so some of them wanted to join the tour.)

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FEDERAL RESERVE TOUR*(Continued from page 1)*

The appointed time came so we were processed through the inspection station (same as at the airport) and then our name were checked against the list we sent them earlier along with our photo ID. We were given visitor passes to stick on our clothes and then met our guide, John. He escorted us into the building, showed us an old currency shredder machine and then took us to a locker where we put our cell phones, cameras, purses, etc.

Next we walked up to a "man-trap" where official visitors (not tour members) are sent through to check their credentials, etc. At that time we added an additional member to our group—an armed Federal Reserve Policeman. After introducing himself, he explained the rules of conduct that we had to abide by while in the next section of the building—the cash vault.

We stopped at an old currency counting machine before proceeding to the cash receiving area. The area was similar in operation to a teller at a bank; there was an area to enter the bundles of cash and coins. While there, Garn A was dying to get hold of the bags of coins so that he could search them for "good" dates. Steve D. asked if the employees could exchange "silver" coins for non-silver ones like he does where he works. The answer was NO! Jack vB wanted to know when we were going to receive our free samples.

The bundles were then placed in what they called a "bus" which was really a plastic and metal cart. Each cart was numbered and tracked as it flowed through the facility. They were approximately three feet wide, four feet long and four feet tall (my estimation). Our tour guide said that each "bus" could contain as much as 45 million dollars in stacked 100 dollar bills.

Next we looked through a Plexiglas window to see more U.S. currency than we will ever see again. We saw a huge warehouse with metal racks holding those "buses" four high that contained many bundles of currency. That was IMPRESSIVE!

We then saw a machine that processed currency at a very rapid pace, counting it and checking for counterfeits and whether the bills should be taken out of circulation (shredded).

That completed our cash vault tour so we proceeded on to the check processing operations. There we saw IBM machines processing checks at another high speed of operation. The machines were reading the magnetic encoding on the bottom of the checks. The encoding is known as MICR (magnetic ink character recognition). The checks that are not readable are sent to other machines that try reading them at a slower speed. The checks that fail the second operation are manually processed to have a small strip of paper added to the check with the same MICR encoding as the original, but now readable.

That completed the tour of the building itself. But before we went to the lobby exhibits we were told that when the current building was completed in 1984 they had to move from their old building that was right next door. They had a problem about how to transfer the money in the carts. They thought it was too risky to push the carts outside the building down the sidewalk and then into the new building. So they had a tunnel dug under both buildings and then moved the money in the carts undetected by the outside world.

The lobby exhibit had one case that contained two pieces of fractional currency, about five old coins and about ten old currency notes. The currency notes were: a five hundred, a one thousand, a five thousand, a ten thousand and a one hundred thousand bill. There were several other old "horse blanket" bills plus a HAWAII and a North Africa note.

There was an exhibit of the "paper" (actually linen) that our currency is printed on and a do-it-yourself exhibit for counterfeit note detection. There were several other exhibits plus a small theater for video viewing.

FEDERAL RESERVE TOUR

(Continued from page 2)

And so that ended our tour, but wait—there were some free samples after all. Our tour guide passed out Federal Reserve pens and small packets of shredded currency. Boy, I'm glad I asked about the free samples. Ha ha!

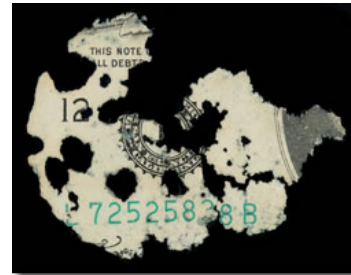


We then walked a few blocks over to 9th and Figueroa where we had lunch at the Original Pantry. The Pantry is world-famous for its steaks and is owned by the former mayor of Los Angeles, Richard Riordan (1993-2001). The restaurant was quite noisy and the food was too expensive. However, we had a good time visiting with our group before heading home.



Skyjacker D.B. Cooper \$20 Dollar Bills and Now Parachute Appears

By CoinNews.net on Mar 26th, 2008



It was "PCGS C.S.I." as fragments of the "D. B. Cooper" ransom notes were carefully pieced together to reveal apparently previously unrecorded serial numbers.
(Photo credit: Phil Arnold/PCGS Currency.)

The infamous skyjacker D.B. Cooper case is making headlines once again. This year the FBI was notified about the discovery of nearly three dozen D.B. Cooper serial numbers from stolen banknotes. Now the FBI has a possible D.B. Cooper torn and tangled parachute that was found buried by children in southwest Washington.

Cooper hijacked a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 flight from Portland to Seattle in 1971. During the flight to Seattle, Cooper said he had a bomb and demanded \$200,000 and parachutes. When the plane landed, he released the passengers in exchange for the money and ordered the pilot to Mexico. While in flight, he jumped from the rear stairway.

The drama of the 36-year-old mystery continues. The discovery of the parachute could finally settle the fate of Cooper — did he die from his 10,000 foot jump out of the 727 or survive with the \$200,000 worth of \$20's strapped to his body.

The 727 Cooper jumped from was flying at a speed of nearly 200 mph. His odds of surviving were given as low considering the complexity of the jump and the fact that it happened at night and during stormy weather with a wind chill well below zero.

An FBI statement by Special Agent Carr summed it up:

"We originally thought Cooper was an experienced jumper, perhaps even a paratrooper. We concluded after a few years this was simply not true. No experienced parachutist would have jumped in the pitch-black night, in the rain, with a 200-mile-an-hour wind in his face, wearing loafers and a trench coat. It was simply too risky. He also missed that his reserve chute was only for training and had been sewn shut—something a skilled skydiver would have checked."

Cooper was never found. Neither was the money with the exception of \$5,800 in decomposed \$20 notes discovered by Brian Ingram in 1980. Mr. Ingram was then an eight year old boy enjoying a family outing by the Columbia River, near Vancouver, Washington.

But was it really \$5,800 or was it more that Brian found as a boy? In February of this year, a new examination of the fragmented and pieced together ransom money was conducted by PCGS Currency. It turned up 35 additional full serial numbers that are on the FBI's 1971 complete list of notes given as ransom. That information was turned over to FBI Special Agent Larry Carr — the lead agent now investigating the parachute find.

And in a further twist of mystery, the location of those notes and that of the parachute, should it be confirmed as the one Cooper used, are at odds with each other.

In a seattlepi.com report, Possible D.B. Cooper chute investigated, Agent Larry Carr said that if Cooper landed where the parachute was found, it would be impossible for the ransom money to end up where it did by natural means.

The intrigue continues ...

D.B. Cooper Notes for auction

Fifteen of the \$20 Federal Reserve Notes found by Brian Ingram in 1980 will be offered to the public for the first time in June by Heritage Auction Galleries of Dallas, Texas. In the Heritage release announcing the D.B. Cooper notes up for auction, Mr. Ingram said the money almost didn't survive its discovery.

Club News From June

The June meeting was called to order at 7:18 PM with 14 members and 5 guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard N. The membership drawing of \$3 was won by Jack dB which he took in raffle tickets.

Steve welcomed the guests, starting with Carol Craft who works for the El Segundo Library. She noticed the club meeting on the library's calendar and decided to check us out. Her father collected coins and she thought she would possibly get interested in collecting them too.

The next guest that introduced herself was Hazel McQueen. She said that her ex-husband was a coin collector and a long time after her divorce she found his coins in their safety deposit box. She wanted to find out what the coins were worth and she said that she will probably give them to her son later on. She brought with her a silver Pancho Villa commemorative medal that was quite striking that she thought she might make a pendant out of.

Another guest, Steve Gornick, said that his family inherited boxes that contained Canadian, Newfoundland and some U.S. coins that he is interested in finding out their worth.

Lastly, Barry Solomon and his wife brought in a book of Israeli philatelic/numismatic first-day combinations that he wants to sell. Jack vB is going to find the telephone number for the person that puts on the Long Beach Coin Show in the hopes that he will be able to help sell them.

Both Barry & Hazel heard about the club meeting via the Daily Breeze.

The minutes for May were approved, followed by the Treasurer's report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jack vB.—Apologized to any and all members that may have been offended by the life-story of Kurt Hiller that was in the June newsletter. He then talked about our club's upcoming tour of the Los Angeles branch office of the Federal Reserve Board. The tour will take place on Wednesday, June 18th. Those people that want to carpool with Garn are to meet him in the Fox Hills parking lot. Garn's phone number will be sent to all attendees so they can make further arrangements if they wish. Jack will email maps and further instructions to all of the people that signed up to go.

Steve D.—Mentioned that the library needs telephone numbers to give to people that call there to inquire about the coin club. He mentioned several upcoming coin shows and said that he would have a table at the San Diego show. He brought three different coin show flyers for people to take. He then requested that George G. pass out three free drawing tickets to the guests.

BREAK TIME

Jack dB.—Brought the goodies—two bags of cookies along with sodas. Thanks Jack.

SHOW AND TELL

Jack vB.—Two currency notes that he purchased during the month on eBay. There was a 1953 \$2 note along with an 1862 State of Georgia (Confederate) \$5 note.

Eric A.—A group of small ancient coins that he purchased. They are all circa 500 B.C. whereas the very first coins were minted around 650 B.C. There were three silver coins from Ionia, one from the Black Sea area and one from Northern Greece.

John R.—A \$1 Sacagawea that he received in change from a vending machine that was the wrong color. He wanted help determining if it was plated or was struck on the wrong planchet.

Steve D.—A Covina Coin Club 50th Anniversary (2007) medal that had a red, white and blue necklace. Also 25 2000-S Silver Proof quarters that he found at work that someone used as quarters for the bus or parking meter.

June Club News-Continued

SHOW AND TELL (continued)

John F.—Metal detecting finds at a Boy Scout camp items and at Tonopah, NV. While at Tonopah he had strange weather—sleet, hail, hot, cold and he stepped on a rattlesnake that scared the heck out of him. After he calmed down he found out that it was a dead rattlesnake that someone had killed and cut off both ends—the head and the rattle. He showed us a piece of Nevada picture stone from there that was quite pretty. He also went to a ghost town called Miller, where he found a two-piece buckle and some crucibles. Next he went to an old Army Air Force WWII base where he found a lock with U.S. on it, some WWII brass buttons with eagles on them and a token for the Palace Bar in Tonopah NV. The last find earned him an award from his metal detecting club. He also brought in new rolls of New Mexico quarters and John Adams dollar coins that he was willing to sell for face value to anyone that wanted them. Thanks John.

COIN AUCTION

Wow, what a great coin auction! We had 22 lots that were auctioned off with some lively bidding on several items. Many thanks to all to brought in items for the auction.

COIN RAFFLE

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1.) 1933—Ireland 1c-Jack dB. | 7.) 1944-P—Mercury 10c-Richard N. |
| 2.) 1908-P—Indian head 1c-Hazel (guest) | 8.) 1955-P—Roosevelt 10c-George G. |
| 3.) 1955-S—Lincoln 1c-Richard N. | 9.) 1927-P—St. Liberty 25c-George G. |
| 4.) 1937-P—Buffalo 5c-John R. | 10.) 1921-P—Morgan \$1-Steve D. |
| 5.) 1939-D—Jefferson 5c-Eric A. | 11.) Two penny rolls—Steve D. |
| 6.) 1902-P—Barber 10c-John F. | (donated by Lou B.) |

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

JvB

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A US marine in Iraq has been removed from duty following claims that he handed out coins inscribed with biblical verses in Arabic

Residents in Falluja had complained that the coins were being distributed at a checkpoint, the US military said. (US troops are forbidden from proselytizing any religion.) A report from McClatchy News Service carried a photo of a silver coin it said had been distributed in the Iraqi city.

Written in Arabic script on one side of the coin were the words: "Where will you spend eternity?" On the other side, the news service said there was a Bible verse referring to Jesus: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16."

Koran shooting

Military spokesman Mike Isho told McClatchy that marines at the western gate in Falluja had been searched following a report about the coins. One man found with the coins was reassigned and would no longer be working in the central Anbar province, he said. The military said coalition forces were prohibited from "proselytizing any religion, faith or practices, and our troops are trained on those guidelines before they deploy". It is still investigating the incident and says "appropriate action will be taken" if claims about the coins are substantiated.

Earlier this month, a soldier was sent home from Iraq after a Koran was found riddled with bullets in a shooting range near Baghdad. The incident triggered a violent protest by more than 1,000 people in Afghanistan in which three people died.

President's Message
JULY 2008

The smell of barbecue, fireworks in the air, it must be July. Can you believe it? The year is half over! As we drove home from Seal Beach on the 605, we saw fireworks all the way home. Every Freeway had a show off the side. Some were quite elaborate for fireworks bought in other states or countries. I don't see how the cops could arrest anyone. EVERYONE was putting on a show in their neighborhoods! So much for illegal fireworks...

The next big coin show is in San Diego, at the end of this month. A far drive for the folks from this part of the world, but it is a big show, and this year it won't be the same weekend as Comic Con, which created madness last year. It was still a real good show, and is held in a large hall about twice the size of Arcadia's Masonic Center. Next month I'll be in Arcadia for the Golden State Coin Show. I'll have to get some Gold Drawing tickets for our meeting, so remember to get yours in August.

The club took a trip to the Federal Reserve, and it was interesting, but our tour guide should have had a little more knowledge of the workings. He was a Tech worker, working with computer systems, and didn't have a lot of the practical knowledge of the Federal Reserve System. It was still interesting, I'm sure Jack will discuss it in detail in the newsletter. This was the second of our events for the 50th Anniversary Celebration, maybe we could come up with another get together, and it could even be a cookout/pot luck at a park, when it's not 102 degrees. Bring some suggestions to the next meeting and we'll see what everyone thinks.

Last month, the Library had people calling them asking about our meetings, and what we do, etc. The folks at the library didn't have an idea what our meetings consist of, and the gentleman even got angry. Jack doesn't put a number in the ad in the Daily Breeze, so we might want to put one of our numbers in the ad for information, so we can get those calls. It's tough when people get irate with the library folks, it's frustrating when you call someone and they don't have information on the groups that rent the rooms. Their job is to just provide the location for the organizations. We did have an employee at our last meeting which was interesting! We are generating a lot of interest with the ads, so they are definitely a good draw for the club, keep it up Jack!! We have had guests regularly showing up at the meetings, so maybe the club is catching on and starting a growth spurt. There aren't many resources for collectors on the West side, and we do help fill a void. Now if I could only afford to open a shop.....

My schedule has been busy, taking a class on Tuesdays, and chorus on Wednesdays, which will change soon. We're putting on an Ice Cream Social Saturday in Sherman Oaks, if anyone wants to come, My Quartet will be singing along with other foursomes, you can ask me for info. It's always a fun time, and ice cream on a hot day is great!

I'll see you all on Thursday, keep on collectin'!

Steve

Coin Facts

Since its inception in 1792, the U.S. Mint has produced more than 390 billion coins for circulation.

Susan B. Anthony and the American Indian guide Sacagawea are the only women honored on circulating coins — and they're dollars at that!

The first coin to feature an African-American was the Booker T. Washington memorial half-dollar, minted from 1946 to 1951.

Lincoln beat Washington to the punch, becoming, in 1909, the first president on a circulating coin.

The life expectancy of a circulating coin is 30 years. (Paper money usually lasts only 18 months.)

REFRESHMENTS

July—George Gill
August—???

COIN SHOWS

Jul 19-20 San Diego

51st COINARAMA. Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1895 Camino Del Rio S. Hrs: 10AM-5:30PM. ADM

Aug 23-24 Arcadia

Golden State Coin Show. Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd. Hrs: Sat. 10AM-6PM; Sun. 10AM-4PM. ADM

Interesting Facts

7/7/1880—French national lottery completes funding for Statue of Liberty.

7/8/1944—Bureau of Engraving & Printing releases last \$10,000 Federal Reserve note.

7/9/1795—James Swan pays off entire \$2,024,899 U.S. national debt.

7/10/1920—Republican National Convention adopts plank in favor of lowering "the high cost of living".

7/11/1962—Congress redesignates San Francisco Mint as assay office.

7/12/1933—Congress establishes first minimum wage law at 33 cents per hour.

Any items of interest for this newsletter can be mailed or emailed to:

CCCC Journal
c/o Jack von Bloeker III
5714 Apia Drive
Cypress, CA 90630
Email: jvonb3@ca.rr.com

The Culver City Coin Club normally meets on the second Thursday of every month in the El Segundo Library on Mariposa Avenue, West of Sepulveda, South of LAX. Next meeting Thursday, July 10th @ 7 PM

Take the 105 Freeway West to the end, go about a mile or so to Main Street, turn left, the Library will be after you make a right turn on Mariposa.

We will be in the Meeting Room downstairs.



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