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UNSAFE PLASTIC CONTAINERS

By W. H. McDonald

This could perhaps be described as a report indicating lack of progress -- quite a lot of information but nothing too clear-cut or definite yet.

Perhaps it would be timely to furnish an outline of the valuable information on the subject and what led up to the announcement in the last issue of the Canadian Paper Money Journal, page No. 113, that some containers are unsafe for paper money.

This subject has been raised on different occasions in the past. In the Rag Picker, the official publication of the Paper Money Collectors of Michigan, Volume IV, Issue No. 3, of July, 1969, Mr. John H. Bragg wrote that he had notes ruined after being stored in plastic pages. He described the problem as an oily film on the surface of the plastic. Apparently he was inserting notes directly, without plastic containers of their own, into the pages of three ring binders.

In the next issue of the Rag Picker, at page No. 147, Mr. Frank G. Burke reported similar damage. This was followed up by a further confirmation of the presence of an oily substance on these plastic pages, the "soft" plastic, by the way, by Mati Titus (Volume V, No. 1, Jan. 1970) who had an alternative suggestion on what can be used. He suggested acetate sheets used to house postage stamp first-day covers. Mr. Titus included in his article some excellent criteria on what constitutes the 'ideal' paper money album that is well worth reading.

One of the reports that caused concern was a brief reference in the Winter 1971 issue of the Easy-Proof Journal, Volume 28, No. 1, which reads as follows:

BETTER PROTECTION FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION

The valuable collection of stamps housed in London's National Postal Museum is to be better protected from long-term deterioration. Laboratory tests by the British

Post Office have shown that the use of polyethelene terephthalate a type of transparent film, is the most suitable method of protecting stamps from physical damage without itself being dangerous to the collection.

At present polyvinyl chloride is used for this purpose, and although there is no evidence of its actually causing damage, it may with age produce hydrochloric acid. Another danger is that substances which are added to soften certain plastics may exude and affect dyes.

(The announcement in the above paragraph is merely a warning that paper money stored in certain containers may be suffering damage).

Barbara R. Mueller, the able Editor of the Easy-Proof Journal has since warningly advised that this information was taken from British Post Office press releases adding her concern about the properties of the various products used to house paper money, particularly vinyl plastics. She kindly suggested some additional sources of information which are being followed up.

The evidence was thus building up and came to a head when the result of some research by Harry M. Eisenhammer of Oromocto, N.B., one of our Executive Directors, was made known. Because of his concern about his fine collection, Harry made a number of enquiries and is now making some tests, himself. He took the matter up with the Dow Chemical Co. of Sarnia, Ont., furnishing them with all known plastic containers including the vinyl and cellophane types. The response he got was that all of them could be harmful. He then sent one of the "no-glare" kinds, (frosted) obtainable in the United States (perhaps only from Wm. Donlon?), and this was cleared by Dow as suitable to use. It is not clear from Harry's correspondence what tests Dow performed and exactly what they found wrong with each. This is being followed up also.

It was at this point that the warning was sounded because it seemed possible that many collectors were likely using one or more of these holders and thereby running the risk, depending on how dangerous they are, of damaging or ruining good and valuable notes.

Since then, a number of enquiries have been made, the chief of which has been to the National Research Council of Canada. Four different holders were furnished and the initial report indicates "visual surface contaminates" were present on three of the four. It has not yet been determined what damage these contaminates might do. The plastic holder given a clean bill of health was the same one cleared by Dow Chemical. N.C.R. has also furnished technical reports from "Modern Plastics Encyclopedia 1970-1971" covering cellulosic film and sheet and polyester film which "are recommended plastic film for your type of application". These reports are highly technical and need further clarification to determine their relevance to this problem.

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Further enquiries are being made and attempts will be continued to clarify some of the information already obtained. A further report, hopefully the final one, will be continued in the next issue of the Bulletin.

NEWS AROUND THE COIN CLUBS

BRANTFORD NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The last meeting featured some slides of Brantford medals, tokens and postal history items and on display were some documents pre-1850. These were presented by our Editor, John Barchilo. This was the last meeting until fall.

CHAMPLAIN ORILLIA COIN CLUB

The O.N.A. slides on "medals of Israel" was enjoyed by all at the last meeting. At the big show on May 13th there were many fine things for sale, such as, a set of five and ten dollar uncirculated gold pieces, stamps from around the world, paper money from Canada, antiques and imports from India and other countries. The whole show was a great success.

CENTRAL COIN CLUB

There were 86 members and guests present at the last meeting. Jim Hayes gave a short talk on displaying and starting at the next meeting there will again be a junior and senior display competition at which points will be given and a trophy awarded at the end. The winner must have at least 65 points to win.

LONDON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

There were 43 members and guests at the last meeting. The president of the Ingersoll Club, Jim Finch, gave an interesting talk with coloured slides on "British Orders of Chivalry". It was noted that a member of the club, Roy Stewart, won Best of Show at the Welland Coin Show. An interesting article "Who Do You Exhibit For?" was read by President Smith from Coin World.

HURONIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The President, Bill Gage, gave a report on the O.N.A. Convention at Niagara Falls and Richard Ford, who was the delegate to the Convention also added some comments. An interesting talk was given on Shinplasters, their Origin and Purpose by Bill Gage.

INGERSOLL COIN CLUB

The highlight of the last meeting was the Junior speaker's competition. The topic was "Coins" and the trophy was won by Miss Chris Mortimer, a grade eight student and also a silver dollar. The runner up was from Tillsonburg. A lively auction was conducted by Howard Whitfield.

NIAGARA FALLS COIN CLUB

The last meeting took a little different angle with an auction in two parts, one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end. The President, Mel Fiske, reported on the success of the recent O.N.A. Convention and it was understood that an over-all profit was made. There will be no more meetings until the fall.

NORTH YORK COIN CLUB

At the last meeting Harvey Farrow gave a talk on the Housing and Storing of Coins. There was also an exhibit of war ration books and the new signatures on the five dollar bills was noted. There will be no more meetings now until fall.

PETERBOROUGH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The special Show on May 27 was a great success with 12 dealers and about 40 displays. The winners were:- Canadian - Howard Toaz, Foreign - Ray Pleau, Paper Money - Fred Barley, Miscellaneous - George Moore-Gough, Medals - Norm Wells, Junior - Ted Banning, Best of Show - Norm Wells. Best Junior - Chris Dobbin, and Paul Johnson was rewarded for his work by being presented with the Peterborough Award of Merit.

PORT CREDIT COIN CLUB

The annual strawberry social was a great success. The Junior Competition was won by :- First - Bill Hotson and Ian Symons, Second - Bruce Petch, Third - Ron Baily, Fourth - David Schramm. The auction was enjoyed by all and the bidding was very lively.

RICHMOND HILL COIN CLUB

At the last meeting a very interesting film on "The Rise and Fall of the Great Lakes" was shown and enjoyed by all. Talk on the new signatures on the two and five dollar bills was enjoyed by all. This will be the last meeting until September.

ST. CATHARINES COIN CLUB

A very interesting talk was given by Bill Lavelle on how he first became interested in coins and brought back part of his collection from Europe. Jan Nielson thanked the speaker. There were 54 members and guests present. A "Point System" has been developed to indicate the interest of members and to keep account of who gets the most points. A lively auction was conducted by Lloyd Dorsey assisted by some members of the club.

ST. THOMAS NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

The feature of the last meeting was the film "State Medals of Israel" by Arthur Leff. The winners at the annual coin show were :- Junior - Robert Steward, Medals - Art Leff, Foreign - Sam Smith, Paper Money - A. O'Neil, Canadian - Jim Hayes, U.S. A. Money - Howard Whitfield, Miscellaneous - Art Leff, Grand Award - Jim Hayes.

TORONTO COIN CLUB

The slides "The Canadian Silver Dollars" by Bill English was the feature of the meeting. Louise Graham had her Award of Merit Medal received at the O.N.A. Convention on display and a visitor displayed an 8 piece coin proof set dated 1970 of British coinage. Plans were made for the October 28th show before closing.

WELLAND DISTRICT COIN CLUB

The first Coin Show for the club proved to be a great success. Prizes were as follows :- Canadian Currency - Fred Barley, Foreign Money & Medals - Jan Nielson, Best of Show - Roy Stewart of London. All seemed to enjoy themselves and the children were made happy with the distribution of sets of Antique Cars and sets of football stars.

DID YOU KNOW

The Caesars ruled the largest empire ever known for over 200 years, 1-Julius, 2-Augustus, 3-Tiberius, 4-Caligula, 5 - Claudius, 6 - Nero, 7 - Galba, 8 - Otho, 9 - Vitellus, 10 - Vesasian, 11 - Titus and 12 - Domitian, in that order. Collectors are warned that replicas exist and may fool if not knowing the originals. Beware!!

IN MEMORIAM

On June 12th the numismatic world was shocked to receive the sad news of the death of Byron Swayze.

Byron was one of the most enthusiastic collectors who had travelled to most of the world's Capitals attending shows and furthering his knowledge of our hobby. He passed on this knowledge to clubs all over Canada and fortunate indeed was the club who had him as a speaker.

He helped form many of the clubs throughout Ontario. He was the first President of the London Numismatic Society, served as Director for National and International Associations, giving his time freely and travelling many miles to help some club who needed a boost.

We extend our sympathy to Byron's family, and to Byron we say "Thank You, it was a pleasure knowing you".

THE ROYAL MAUNDY MONEY

THE CEREMONY

"A new commandment I give unto you" will be the first words spoken at the Royal Maundy ceremony to be held this year on Maundy Thursday, April 3rd. As the season of Lent closes and Good Friday approaches, the British as well as other christian peoples are reminded of the humbleness and example set by Christ when he washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper.

The custom is followed today by the Queen and her Lord High Almoner, leading the ceremony, distributing alms to the poor and observing a beautiful and historical church service.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin "Mandatum", meaning command or order as given in John XIII, verse 34. The Ceremony dates from the 5th century and gradually became more and more elaborate until it included gifts of food and clothing as well as money. St. Oswald, Archbishop of York observed the Maundy by feeding twelve poor men every day from 972 until his death during a Maundy Ceremony in 992. Aelfrio, Archbishop of Canterbury from 996 to 1005 instructed his priests to observe the Maundy custom once a week.

The Norman kings of England observed a form of Maundy, as did the Plantagenets. Edward 11, 1307-1327 was the first English king to wash the feet of the poor. In the period from about 1370 to 1485 the custom was observed on very few occasions. Henry VII revived the ceremony in 1486 and it was held amidst great pomp and splendor, especially during the reign of Henry VIII.

During the reign of Elizabeth I, a red purse containing 20 shillings was given in place of clothing, a green purse containing 2 pounds 5 shillings was given in place of cloth and a white purse containing the number of pence as the queen's age was given -- this being the actual Maundy Money. These purses and values are still the same to-day.

The ceremony of Elizabeth I held in 1572 records that the feet of a number of poor people were first washed by the laundress, then by the Sub-Almoner, next by the Lord High Almoner and finally (after a careful inspection), by the Queen herself. William III gave the task

completely to his Lord Almoner and in 1754, during the reign of George II, the ceremony as such was discontinued.

The present day Maundy Ceremony contains all the tradition and pageantry of the ages. The ceremony starts with the Procession of the Royal Almonry which includes such persons as the verger, the Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, the Yeoman, the Wandsman, The Clergy, Sergeant of the Vestry of H.M. Chapel Royal, the Queen's Bodyguard, the Sub-Scrist and the Sub-Almoner. A hymn is sung during the processional.

The Precenter opens the ceremony with the words "A new Commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you, that ye also love one another," from John XIII, verse 34.

A prayer is followed by the Lord's Prayer, then the audience rises and sings the Gloria Patria and Psalm 91. After another prayer and a hymn, the first distribution takes place. Green purses are distributed to the women in lieu of clothing and contain one pound fifteen shillings; and white purses are distributed to the men and contain two pounds five shillings. Two more hymns are sung by the audience during this distribution. Following the reading of the scriptures, the second distribution takes place. This time the red purses containing one pound as part of the maundy and thirty shillings as an allowance for other provisions formerly given are distributed. Finally, the white purses containing as many pence as the Queen's age are given. This amount is made up of the denominations of 1, 2, 3 and 4 pence silver pieces and represent the balance of the Maundy.

The ceremony closes with the singing of an anthem, a prayer for the Queen, a general prayer of thanksgiving, a hymn, a benediction and the National Anthem.

THE COINAGE

The first actual Maundy Coins were struck during the reign of Charles II, just after the Restoration in 1660. These coins were undated. The first dated coins were struck in 1670 and were of 4, 3, 2 and 1 penny denominations. The first undated coins have the value in Roman numerals behind the King's head on the obverse. The dated issue is designed so that the value is shown in the linking of the "C's" on the reverse. Four "C's" being four pence, three "C's" three pence, etc.

The James II Maundy coins have the value in large Roman numerals on the reverse. Since that time, however, the value has always been shown in Arabic numerals.

Until the reign of George III, 1760-1820, the Maundy penny was the only official Maundy coin. Since that time, the set of four denominations are considered as the Maundy coinage.

This Maundy coinage of Victoria and Edward VII are more common than others because it was the practice of the Mint to issue more sets than necessary. These sets were sold through the banks. In 1909 Edward VII put restrictions on the amount of Maundy coins that were to be struck. The sets not used during the ceremony are usually presented to ceremony officials or visiting foreign government representatives.

The Maundy coins are the last official coins of the monarch. They are 925/1000 fine silver and are legal tender.

(The above article is taken from the London Numismatic Society's Bulletin, thanks to Mr. W. H. Clarke and Mr. Lloyd T. Smith)

PROPOSED COIN SHOWS

Listed below are the proposed coin club annual show dates and banquets. Please check to see if any of these dates will conflict with your club's proposed dates.

- Aug. 2-5 - Joint C.N.A.-C.P.M.S. Convention at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Toronto. Details re bourse to Jack Veffler, P.O. Box 7, Station "S", Toronto. General Chairman - Victor Snell, P.O. Box 2186, Station "B", St. Catharines, Ont.
- Sept. 17 - London Numismatic Society Coin Club show at the Carousel Motor Hotel, Wellington Road South near Highway 401, London. Information re bourse, displays, etc., to Lloyd T. Smith, 123 Arundel Street, London 41, Ont.
- Sept. 23 - Huronia Numismatic Association Annual Show and Banquet, at the Continental Inn, Highway 90 and 400, Barrie, Ont. Details re Bourse, Banquet, Displays and Auction contact Secretary, P.O. Box 243, Barrie, Ont.
- Oct. 1 - Sarnia Bluewater International Coin Show at the Village, 751 N. Christine St., Sarnia. Details re bourse to Norm. Scott, Box 89, Corunna. Exhibits - Robt. Sargent, 1212 Hancock St., Port Huron, Michigan and General Chairman - Carl Williamson, 931 Greendale St., Sarnia, Ont.
- Oct. 1 - Kitchener Coin Club Annual Show and Banquet at the Holiday Inn, Fairway Road, Kitchener. Details re bourse, etc., to Ted Turonski, 111 Lancaster St. East, Kitchener, Ont.
- Oct. 21 - St. Catharines Coin Club 13th Annual Banquet and Coin Exhibit in Westminster United Church Parish Hall, 182 Queenston Street, St. Catharines. Details re bourse, etc. to the President, R. Voaden, 63 Highland Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.
- Oct. 22 - Stratford Coin Club Annual Show and Auction with eight bourse dealers and a 100 lot auction. Details re bourse, etc. to Stratford Coin Club, P.O. Box 262, Stratford, Ont.
- Oct. 29 - Tillsonburg Numismatic Society Annual Coin and Antique Show in the Orange Hall, Brock St., Tillsonburg. Details re bourse to Chas. B. Laister, No. 3 Highway, Tillsonburg. General Chairman - George Reynaert, 41 Park Ave., Delhi.
- Nov. 4 - Oshawa and District Coin Club 12th Annual Coin-A-Rama to be held at the Mid-Town Mall in Oshawa. Details re bourse, exhibits, etc. to Henry Burke, P.O. Box 212, Oshawa, Ontario.

DID YOU KNOW

That Mr. James Richardson, Minister of Supply and Services, announced that the site of the new mint purchased for \$1,076,000 from the City of Winnipeg, will not only house the Mint, but a rolling mill and other light fabricating operations, plus a high rise office building. The suburban location was picked because Ottawa wants to develop a highly visible mint that will be a stopping-off point for tourists from across Canada and the United States.

WHAT EVERY YOUNG NUMISMATIST SHOULD KNOW

By R.C. Willey, F.R.N.S., F.C.N.R.S.

HOW TO BEGIN

Young people become interested in coins in many ways. Some are given a handful of foreign coins by an older brother, uncle or other relative who was overseas in the Second World War or the Korean War. A gift of such coins as these often creates an interest in Canadian coins as well. If the boy is interested in geography or history, he soon learns the value of coins in teaching history and geography, as well as such subjects as art and economics.

A few boys get interested in coins as a result of seeing an adult's collection. Usually they have never thought of coins except as current money, and the sight of specimens of the money of other countries and other periods in history reveals an interest which might not otherwise have a chance to develop. Such boys go back again and again to visit the owner of the collection and learn the fundamentals of numismatics.

Then there are the rare individuals, such as myself, who cannot remember a time when they did not have an interest in collecting coins. As very little children they kept a cent or a five-cent piece because of the design or colour, and began to keep a few coins as a collection of children's "pretty things". These young collectors never lose interest in coins at any time during their childhood and adolescence, and they quickly discover how useful coins can be in assisting their studies of history and geography in school. For such young collectors, the privilege of seeing an adult's collection is an intellectual treat, and they soon become full-fledged numismatists.

How does a person acquire coins? The usual way is to try and find from circulation every cent, in as good condition as possible, minted since 1937. Then a collector turns to nickels, dimes, quarters, and fifty-cent pieces since 1937, and the silver dollars. Current coins in their original mint state can be procured from the Royal Canadian Mint in sets each year as they are issued. While gathering coins dated since 1937, one snaps up from circulation any coin dated before 1937 in good condition.

Sooner or later, a youth has nearly everything he can get from circulation. What then? One course, and a very wise one, is to look for specimens of the same coins in better condition than those he already has. This is called improving or upgrading the collection. This is important, since a coin is more valuable if its condition is good than if it is worn.

Then comes a time when the collection is in the best condition its owner can afford. At this point, trading duplicates with other collectors enables the owner to obtain many pieces he could not get from circulation. As soon as one cannot get what he needs by swapping with others, it is necessary to go to a coin dealer.

(With special thanks to the Editor of the C.N.A. Journal, David Ashe)

DID YOU KNOW

That there is a new signature on the Five-Dollar bill, it is signed G. K. Bouey, and as this will be the last of the old Five-Dollar bills we suggest you put one or two away, they could be valuable.

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION & O.N.A. MEMBERS EXHIBITS

Although it is only July, now is the time to be planning your exhibit for the C.N.E. this year, and although I must pass this year, due to health reasons, I am most anxious that everyone interested be given the chance to get this in order, because, don't forget, time passes so quickly -- For those who have given so freely of their time in years past, let me say "Thank You". Perhaps this year you would do one more thing for the Association -- Would you try to get another exhibitor to enter this year? We have never had too many that we cannot make room for one more -- Will you please try?

This year the "Ex" is on from Aug. 16th to Sept. 4th, but exhibitors are asked to place their exhibits on display on the Sunday prior to opening (the 13th of August). Albert Fuller has again offered to man the table this year, with help from his friend as in past years -- If you have any queries write to -- Albert Fuller, 80 Water Street North, Kitchener. O.N.A. cases will be supplied as in the past -- We hope this year will see another successful one. -- Insurance will be covered by the C.N.E. so members do not have this expense to contend with -- Also the O.N.A. will be selling C.N.E. medals -- Don't forget yours, to keep your collection complete. -- Finally, clubs are invited to send us details of your club meetings - Where - When and What Time - also the name and address of the Club's Secretary, which will be displayed prominently on the board at the exhibit area -- Send by August 1st, please.

POTPOURRI

This week, while searching for some information back in the 1967-69 era, I came across some rather interesting data supplied by one "J. H." of the City of Ottawa Coin Club (for which many thanks from me to J.H.). It appears that friend "J.H." was given a little homework by Paul Sullivan (presently Area Director #8), in the course of which he got side-tracked by reading back issues of the C.N.A. Journals and, well I'll let J.H. tell his traumatic experience himself-

"RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT"

I have just passed a traumatic evening -- thanks to Paul Sullivan. Our President asked me to get him the names of all the former Presidents of the City of Ottawa Coin Club and the Capital City Coin Club. He suggested I could get most of the information from C.N.A. Bulletins and Journals in our basement (another penalty for being married to the C.N.A. Librarian). Still it sounded like an interesting job, hardly a task to reduce a grown man to tears-- until I got to Vol. 2 of the Bulletin (March 1950). Included was an article by SSC (no prize awarded for guessing who the writer is) as he comments on the auction prices at the Frank J. Katen sale "in many cases, the highest prices at which some Canadian Coins and Tokens have ever been sold at a public or mail bid auction". Well, it was bad enough coming across an Unc City Bank token for \$3.00 and an XF Lesslie halfpenny for \$2.65 but when I saw a 1921 5¢ silver, VG, for \$38.00 and thought of the one hole in my 5 cent silver collection I can never fill, I began to wish Paul Sullivan would do his own President hunting.

As SSC said in the article "If you want to complete your sets, you had better get your specimens soon". If only I had belonged to the C.N.A. in 1950. It didn't get any better. In the April issue, there was news of a Hudson By Co. set of Beaver tokens (4 of them VF-Unc)

for \$17.50. An Unc 1921 50¢ was auctioned off for \$200. in 1951 and an 1889 dime in Unc went for \$67. An Unc 1921 5¢ silver was estimated to be worth \$80. and at that point I decided to see if there was any sherry left from our Christmas party. When I had enough courage to resume my task, I was determined to ignore coin prices and concentrate on Ottawa Coin Club Presidents. However, I did notice some interesting numismatic and near-numismatic facts --- the story that one GRLP took a \$10. gold piece his favourite aunt gave him on his wedding day and gave it immediately and very impetuously to the minister who tied the knot. (I wonder where that piece is today). Then there was the speech by Dr. Kaye Lamb, who told of a boy throwing dies for the B.C. \$10. gold piece into the river (skin-diving anyone?), and the discovery of the 1936-25¢ dot by a pioneer collector in the C.M.A., James A. Hector. In fact, there was enough material for a number of short articles in our bulletin (if the editor is interested) and I am sure this was a Sullivan plot to make me pull my weight and write something for our Bulletin. The final prick to my conscience came when I came across a report from the London chapter in 1965. Their meeting was spent discussing an article in the Financial Post, entitled "Fancy Prieseof Coins, Stamps and Books Can Dupe You". The name of the writer was a seer named - Jeffrey Holmes. Nuff said. I'll try to get a copy of this illuminating prose and if it looks good, I will offer it to your busy editor and if not I'll hide it under a bushel of unanswered critics letters.

NEW MEMBERS

Applications published in the June issue of the Ontario Numismatist have now been accepted. New members will be published in the next issue of the Ontario Numismatist.

THIS 'N THAT

Last month Ye Ed had himself a ball, Mrs. Ye Ed not only had to type this Bulletin but had to do the majority of the ("BRAIN-WORK", Gee, I bet it was tough). However, I cannot in all fairness plead the same excuse this month so here goes -- Firstly, I would like to express appreciation to the many members of the O.N.A. and its executive for their kind expressions of (Get well soon, Quit loafing on the job, Stop chasing the pretty nurses, etc.) ad nauseum, but seriously, I did appreciate the many kindnesses shown to me --- The DATE IS AUGUST 2,3,4,5 are the magic dates for the C.N.A. & C.P.M.S. CONVENTION AT TORONTO AT THE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY INN -- I hope to see many of my old friends there and trust that this year will prove to be one of the most successful conventions ever --- Sometime ago I requested articles from coin collectors everywhere and to date the response has been rather poor, to be precise I received five articles which were all used by the February Bulletin; do you feel the urge to become a budding author? Would you like to contribute to this Bulletin a small article on ANY subject to do with numismatics? If you are holding back because 'you're English ain't so good' we shall be pleased to edit any article if so desired, so let's hear from you --- Hope to see you all at the C.N.A. in August, meanwhile, have a good summer and a safe return home from your vacations.