

Dear Jack,

September 16, 2023

Grandma and I wish you a Happy Birthday and hope you have a wonderful day today on your 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. We wish we could celebrate your birthday with you in person.

You asked me at the end of Claire's birthday if I was going to write a story for you. I told you that yes, I was going to write a story for you too. So today I'm going to tell you a story about coin collecting, a hobby I had when I was young.

My story begins when I was a paper boy that delivered newspapers each day to people in my neighborhood. I was probably 10 years old at the time. I got up early around 6 am before school and rolled newspapers into bundles, put a rubber band around each paper, and put them in a bag. I rode my bicycle to their houses and tossed the newspaper on to their front porches. When the weather was bad, my parents would drive me around on the route. On the weekend I would collect money from them by knocking on their door and getting paid for the week's papers I delivered. Over time, I had saved up a good bit of money, lots of it in the form of coins.

There was an older man on my route that I became friends with. He paid me with coins each week. He had boxes and boxes of coins, and I liked to look through the coins he had. Sometimes, but not always, he would let me pick out coins from his boxes as payment for the papers I delivered. I had a friend, his name was Bruce, who also liked coins. We would visit the elder gentleman together and ask him if we could look through some of his coins and trade coins we had for coins he had. Gradually we started putting coins together in a set. Bruce liked to collect pennies, and I liked half dollar coins. My friend and I would sometimes go downtown and gaze upon coins on display for sale at the coin shop store. Sometimes we would go to coin shows that came to our town. We would buy or trade coins we had for coins that we were missing in our sets. As I grew older, I worked in other places that paid more, and I found myself trading and buying coins that were in better shape and cost more. By my junior year in high school, I had put together two sets of Uncirculated half dollar coins, one complete set of Walking Liberty half dollars from 1941-1945, and a complete set of Franklin half dollars from 1949-1963. Uncirculated coins are coins which were never used as money to buy things but instead were saved and kept in pristine condition by collectors. Uncirculated coins are rare and hard to find.

You remember about the red Fender guitar I had which I told Ivy about on her birthday. Well, when I was a junior in high school, I wanted a car. My dad had a friend he worked with who had a beautiful yellow 1969 Chevelle SS for sale, which I loved. It was a one year old used car that cost \$2,900. To buy the car, I had to sell my guitar and my two coin collections. I got \$600 for the guitar, and \$300 for each coin collection, for a total of \$1,200. I gave that money to my dad, and he put in the rest of the money I needed to buy the car. I drove that car to Arizona when I went to college at ASU, and later drove it around all over the country from Arizona through the West Coast to Canada, and to Virginia after I graduated from Purdue. Your grandma Sharon and I drove that car on our honeymoon to Michigan when we got married in 1976. I still had that car in 1983, the year your dad was born. In 1986 when your uncle Joshua was born I sold the car. I wish I still had my guitar, my coin collections, and my car today, but in life we must all live with the choices we make and move on.

Coin collecting is a fun hobby. You learn about all the different coins that are made, where coins are made, how they're made, how many coins are made each year, how coins are graded, and what coins cost at the different grade levels. I liked to research coins and bought books about coins. Usually a collector decides what coins he really likes most and tries to put together a set of all the coins in that series. Some people like to collect one coin from different series of coins. I remember looking through my parents' change to see if they had what I needed and would trade my coins for theirs. I saved money I got from my grandparents on birthdays and Christmas and used it to buy the coins I wanted. As I got older, I did still occasionally collect coins that appealed to me, and still have some of those coins.

Your grandma and I want to give you some of the coins from our collections to help get you started with a collection of your own. Your grandma and I inherited some of these coins and paper bills from our parents, and our grandparents, and our great-grandparents. We want to give you some books and some Internet links for you to look at that will help you get started with your research into the hobby and its' history. The more you know about coins the better coin collector you might become one day.

We hope you enjoy researching coins and looking at the coins in your collection. Find a good place to put them where everyone in your family can see them on display. Ask your parents to take you to a coin shop or a coin show sometime. You'll see all kinds of coins there that you won't see in circulation today. Maybe you can trade some you have for other coins you would like to have.

So on the pages that follow I'll tell you a little about the gifts your grandma and I have put together for you. We hope you like learning about coins and paper money and the history of how they were made and collected over hundreds of years.

Have fun today, and we hope you have a very Happy Birthday !!!

Love you,

**Open Gift #1 - A Commemorative Proof Set (Bought Special just for Your Birthday):**

- A complete **2006-S** U.S. Mint Silver Proof Set, consisting of 10 coins in total
- This Proof Set was minted in San Francisco in 2006, **the year you were born.**
- The complete Proof Set contains two sets of coins in Original Government Packaging:
  - ❖ One set consisting of Five Statehood Silver Quarters,
  - ❖ A second set consisting of Five coins, One Penny, One Nickel, One Silver Dime, One Silver Half Dollar, and one Sacagawea Dollar, and
  - ❖ A “Certificate of Authenticity for the 2006 US Mint Silver Proof Set”
- Proof coins are struck twice using specially prepared dies and planchets delivering coins with mirror-like finishes in exquisite detail
- Proof set are struck for collectors and never released into circulation
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof\\_coinage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_coinage)

## **Open Gift # 2 - Individual Coins from Bill and Sharon's Collections:**

### From Grandpa Bill's Collection

- 1888 Morgan Silver Dollar in almost Uncirculated (AU) condition
- 1776-1976 Commemorative Eisenhower Dollar in Circulated condition
- 1776-1976 Commemorative Washington quarter in almost Uncirculated condition
- 1964 Kennedy Silver Half Dollar in almost Uncirculated condition
- 1962 Franklin Silver Half Dollar in Circulated condition
- 1953-D Roosevelt Silver Dime in Circulated condition (Year I was born)
- 1941-D Mercury Head Dime in Circulated condition
- 1944-P Jefferson Silver Nickel in Circulated condition
- 1940 Lincoln Wheat Penny in Circulated condition

### From Grandma Sharon's Collection

- 1958-D Lincoln Wheat Penny in Circulated condition  
(This coin was owned by your great-great-grandfather John C.V. Sutton who always told your grandma Sharon ***'Penny for your thoughts...'***)
- 1919 Mercury Head Dime in Circulated condition  
(This was the year your great-grandfather C.V. Sutton was born)
- 1937 Buffalo Nickel in Circulated condition  
(Your grandma Sharon liked coins related to the US Indians)
- 1901-O Morgan Silver Dollar in Circulated condition, and  
1922 Peace Silver Dollar in Circulated condition  
(These coins were owned by your great-great-grandfather Gavis (Gus) Cadwell)

**Open Gift # 3 Now - Paper Currency Notes from Grandpa Bill's Collection:**

- 1995-F Series Jefferson **\$2 Bill** in Uncirculated condition  
(This is an unusual bill that is real money that is still being printed. But they are not often seen in circulation because collectors tend to snatch them up and hold on to them.)

\* (All the paper bills below were once owned by your great-grandfather Jerry Waggoner)

- 1977-G Series A Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 1981-G Series Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 1988-G Series A Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 1995-G Series Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 2001-D Series Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 2003-B Series A Washington \$1 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*
- 1996-FW Series \$20 Bill in Uncirculated condition \*

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_two-dollar\\_bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_two-dollar_bill)
- <https://www.uscurrency.gov/denominations/bank-note-identifiers>

## **Open Gift # 4 Now - Everything Left in the Box**

### **Education Materials for Your Reading Research**

#### From Grandpa Bill's Library

- The History of United States Coinage, by Q. David Bowers dated 1979
- Official A.N.A Grading Standards for United States Coins dated 1977

#### Latest Edition Bought for Your Library

- A Guide Book of United States Coins , 77<sup>th</sup> Edition dated 2024, by R.S. Yeoman
- <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/production-process/coin-production>

#### Supplies for Your Collection

- 100 Vinyl 2x2” Coin Flips to place your coins in

### **Cool Coin Coasters (Great for a Birthday Party !!!)**

\* (These coasters were once used by your great-grandparents Betty and Jerry Waggoner)

### **Interesting Coin Facts**

The list below shows coin mint mark letters for each of the Mint's current and historic facilities and the date period each mark was used

<b>Mint Branch</b>	<b>Mint Mark</b>	<b>Years Mark Used</b>
Carson City (NV)	CC	1870-1893
Charlotte (NC)	C	1838-1861
Dahlonega (GA)	D	1838-1861
Denver (CO)	D	1906-Present
New Orleans (LA)	O	1838-1861, 1879-1909
Philadelphia (PA)	P	1942-45, 1979-Present
San Francisco (CA)	S	1854-1955, 1968-Present
West Point (NY)	W	1984-Present

### **Interesting Paper Currency Facts**

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing prepares all the paper money for the U.S and is one of the largest currency printers in the world.

Paper currency is printed on three offset printing presses at the **Washington, D.C.** facility, and on four offset printing presses at the **Fort Worth, Texas** facility. There are extensive security features built into the printed bills to hamper counterfeit printing by criminals.

Uncut sheets of \$1, \$2, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 paper notes, but not \$5 notes, can be purchased directly from the government. Sheets of (32) \$2 bills are currently sold out (collectors really like them). However sheets of (4) \$2 bills are available currently.

### **Coin Collecting Rules**

- Never clean a coin to make it look shiny or better. Doing so always reduces the value of the coin, and most people won't want to buy it
- Always handle coins by their edge, not their front and back faces