

To find buried treasures, 'you've gotta work for it'

By Anne Harvey
News staff writer

It didn't take Andy Bobyarchick Jr. long to realize he wasn't going to get rich quick hunting for buried treasure.

"At first I was gonna wrap my detector around a tree," said the 68-year-old veteran of treasure hunting.

But he stuck with it and became successful. With his metal detector just inches from the ground, Bobyarchick has tracked hundreds and maybe thousands of miles. He's collected thousands of valuables, including jewelry, artifacts and coins.

His most precious coin is a Roman dollar that possibly dates back to between 180 and 250 A.D., he said. It could be worth a bundle, but "it could be worth only a dollar."

Bobyarchick is president and founder of The Warrior Basin Treasure Hunters Association. The club, which has about 40 family memberships, holds monthly treasure hunts.

The group's 10th annual Deep South Treasure Hunt is planned for October 14, 15 and 16 at Brookside Ball Park in Brookside.

Most likely, each hunter in the October competition will find valuable silver coins, although the park was once common ground for treasure hunters.

That's because silver coins will be planted beforehand, Bobyarchick said.

Even without that kind of help, however, Bobyarchick has also enjoyed some success at treasure hunting.

In one day, he and another hunter found 400 rings, most of them gold, in a lake that had been drained. Drained lakes, school grounds and historical spots are some of the best places to look for treasures, he said.

"Kids lose a lot of coins around those schools," he said.

Bobyarchick, of 440 Merry Wood Drive, said most people become interested in the sport because "they get that rich gleam in their eye about getting rich quick. But you've gotta work for it."

And you've got to know what to listen for. The clicking, buzzing sounds can throw an untrained ear.

Different kinds of detectors have different sounds, some of which can be regulated by the machine's operator.



FINOY
Club members hold monthly hunts
BOB MARCHEK

TERRY
MORRIS

AJ BRY
BATLEY

DAVID
EWING

FRANK
WALSH

Tom Ed
~~Harbin~~ Harbin