

Metal Detecting

Our goal has always been to get people moving and enjoy the outdoors. I can remember my first big find with a metal detector. I found what I believed was a Daughters of the American Revolution silver ring. As I kept rubbing the black tarnish off of the silver, gold inlay of a palm tree started to emerge. Still rubbing the ring like trying to get a genie out of a lamp, the letters came out DAK. The R at the end became a K, a swastika and 1941 started to appear so the American Revolution was out and World War II was in. That is when the research began, on the internet of course. I punched in DAK ring and it immediately popped up Deutsche Afrika Korps. The history started to flow and it was really interesting to know that German soldiers bought these rings in Libya and Tunisia for their service in Africa. As they say on Scooby Doo, "this mystery was history".

It sure is neat to rediscover items of such history. To dig in the dirt and come up with an item is definitely treasure hunting and my daughter thinks she is a pirate discovering what has been buried on purpose just for her to find! Recently, I had the pleasure to hold a rifle from the Civil War era as well as a sword thought to be much older than Dr. Curtis Varnell had in his possession for safe keeping. The sword was worn and you could tell the steel had been used from the small nicks in the blade. Dr. Varnell has been researching a civil war battle on the outskirts of Paris and has been finding cannon balls as well as lots of lead bullets. Again, metal detectors are being used to rediscover and helping to fill in the gaps of yet another important piece of military history. It is fascinating to me that such history can still be in the ground after all these years. Archeology has always been on my, "to do" list. So metal detecting may be as close as I get to do such work.

Well, as promised in the last issue of The Greenwood Tradition, I asked you to stay tuned to an announcement. Well, the news is that Jim Reynolds Outdoors will be on two new radio stations. The AM station will be 1650 on your dial along with the Clark Howard and Mike Huckabee show. The FM station will be Mix 105.1. It will begin the week of June 10. It will be on weekend mornings, but the times were still being worked on as of press time. Mix 105.1 will be a mixture of country and southern rock. It's always exciting to be a part of something new. Wait, there's more news, because of the support of listeners, readers, and sponsors Jim Reynolds has retired from public education and is jumping head first into bringing you full time coverage of the outdoors. Don't worry, the decision wasn't taken lightly and has taken many years of planning to start this adventure. It has been a dream to make a living focusing on the outdoor opportunities that we have. Tourism is a major driving force in our area of ArkLahoma and it will be my job to help businesses grow and take advantage of these opportunities. My daughter will be starting first grade as a Greenwood Bulldog and we are proud to be becoming more involved in the community.