



The thrill of the hunt

>> Armed with their metal detectors, Westman Treasure Hunters are helping people search out their lost bounty

CANDY IRWIN

for South Mountain Press

With the help of the Westman Treasure Hunters (WTH), Jennifer Kelly (nee Carlson) was so awfully excited that she was, inelegantly, screeching and jumping up and down – with both delight and relief – when the ‘very special treasure’ was finally located.

You see, Carlson felt quite badly when a time capsule that she and her friends buried on the occasion of her 12th birthday party couldn't be located, despite several attempts.

On that auspicious day in 1995 Jennifer, and her group of ‘best buds’ from Onanole Elementary School decided to make a time capsule. It was also the last birthday that she would spend in the family home where she grew up. Thinking about their eventual retirement, her parents, Debbie, and Jim Carlson decided to sell and relocate to a smaller house in town.

So, into a very snazzy, lidded, plastic Electrasol dishwasher detergent bucket went a variety of ‘treasures’ contributed by each girl. It was topped off with a metal disc, to facilitate location by a metal detector, if that might ever be necessary.

Together, they chose the perfect spot, making a map so as to be able to find their time capsule again. With

shovels and industriousness, they buried it, with a rock marking the spot, with the intention of unearthing together it when they graduated in 2001.

But, “Oh No!” When the time came, they couldn't find it.

Armed with that disappointment, they optimistically made yet another time capsule. This time, though – both older and smarter – they placed the container in Jennifer's parents garden shed, where it has been, untouched, for the past 21 years.

Earlier this summer, a distraught lady posted on Facebook that her husband had lost his wedding ring in Riding Mountain National Park, and that, after searching for it without success, they had enlisted the services of the WTH to help find it.

We don't know how that particular story ended, but upon reading it that day, Jennifer had a flash of brilliance!

She herself contacted the WTH, a group of metal detecting hobbyists formed in 2019, now boasting 747 members.

Enter Robin Burnett-Klyzub, her husband Johnny and their friend James Cochrane, all WTH club members, ‘armed’ with metal detectors and a camera.

With permission from the current homeowners, Sandi and Len Carlson, the trio set about their search in the

company of Jennifer, her husband Brad and their six-year-old son, Mason.

As the ‘detectorists’ wielded their metal detectors, there was a wee ‘ping’ here and another ‘ping’ there, but ultimately, a little to the north of where searches were previously performed, they had a ‘sighting,’ delineating a location with different types of metal.

A little bit of digging and there it was! Everyone was overjoyed and took a peek inside, except for Jennifer, who steadfastly declined, refusing to look – or even overhear any details.

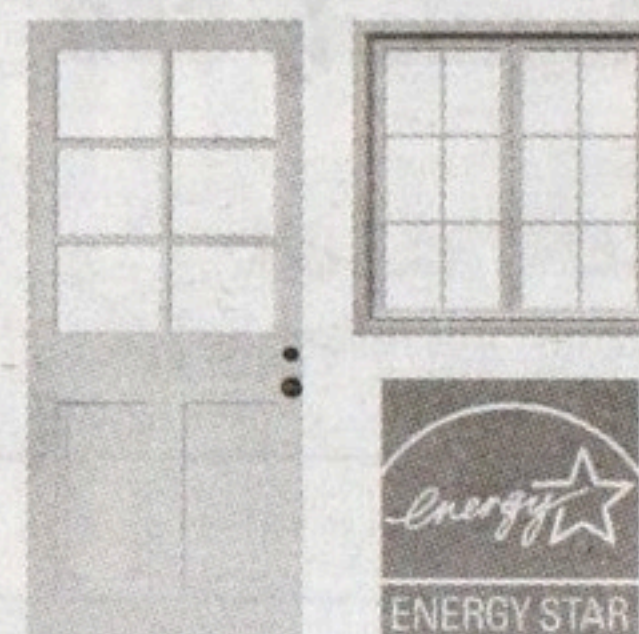
“This was such a fun, and first, opportunity to hunt for a time capsule. Much to everyone's delight, we were successful! The opportunity to reunite people with their lost treasures is always a welcome adventure for (WTH members),” said Burnett-Klyzub.

With one ‘lost treasure’ found and another safely ensconced in the garden shed, Jennifer and her nine compatriots are going to wait until 2023. Then, on the occasion of their 40th birthdays, they will meet, celebrate, and open up the capsules with, they hope, excitement, laughter and joy.

When that happens, the South Mountain Press hopes to be there to get a ‘happy ending’ picture for its’ readers.



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